



Republic of Moldova

National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets

2017



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PREȘEDINTELE REPUBLICII MOLDOVA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

DECLARATION
***about the policy implications and main interventions at the
Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in the national environment
and development context of the Republic of Moldova***

Land degradation is a great challenge for all sectors of development in the Republic of Moldova. It has created increased and wide-ranging environmental and development impacts related to reduction in resilience and functional integrity of the agro ecosystems and severe decline soil fertility. Currently 26% (about 880,000 ha) of the total area of the country are degraded. Annual loss rate of productive lands and fertile soils in the Republic of Moldova is of 6,400 ha and 26 million tones, respectively.

In this context the Republic of Moldova is undertaking great efforts to strengthen the policies on land protection and to restore of degraded lands. The SDGs Target 15.3 „By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” is among the priority for the Republic of Moldova. At this backdrop, the Republic of Moldova has joined to the global initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, on Land Degradation Neutrality in 2016 with an objective to support nationally LDN target setting process aimed at prioritizing effective policy interventions to halt land degradation and to restore of degraded lands. The following national LDN target is proposed as the result of the national consultative process:

Improving land/soil conservation and ecological restoration of degraded lands and farmland buffer strips up to 100% to achieve by 2030 no net loss of productive land/soils and increase resiliency, adaptation capacity and biodiversity services of agricultural ecosystems.

Main interventions in line of promoting land sector sustainability and to achieve nationally downscaled Development Agenda 2030 provide for:

- creating a special „recovery fund” for an ecological restoration and improving condition and quality of about 880,000 ha of degraded land;
- creating the green belt of farmland buffer strips for land and soil conservation to reach the science-driven proportion of farmland buffer strips from total area of agricultural lands;
- increasing the national forest cover up 15% to promote land sector sustainability and to contribute to increasing biodiversity services and carbon stocks in a changing climate;

- remediating of 1,588 contaminated by persistent organic pollutants sites and prevention of new accumulations of pesticides, other hazardous substances and chemicals.

LDN policy efforts will have a significant implication in regional climate change as part of the carbon inventory requirements and biodiversity services conservation. The measures on increasing national land sector sustainability will promote to rising carbon dioxide removal capacity in the national land use and land use change sector by 25%.

In this context, achieving the regional climate change and biodiversity agenda depends heavily on successful LDN implementation supported by strong governance and wide stakeholders involvement at the national scale.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Igor Dodon', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Igor DODON