



Federal Ministry of Environment

Federal Republic of Nigeria

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National Land Degradation Neutrality
Targets

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FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE
Headquarters Mabushi District, Abuja

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LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY PRELIMINARY TARGETS FOR NIGERIA

Recall that Nigeria joined the 102 countries committed to set national LDN targets with an expression of interest in participating in the LDN, through a letter dated 26th January, 2016 by the former Minister of Environment, Mrs Amina Mohamed.

Nigeria waste no time in commencing the LDN-TSP process on 9th March, 2017 with a national inception workshop and inauguration of the Working Group.

Despite some challenges encountered during the process, I am happy to inform you that Nigeria has set her preliminary national voluntary target to achieve LDN by 2030.

I want to thank the UNCCD, GM of UNCCD and their implementing partner for their technical and financial support for the success of this programme

We are committed in translating the Nigeria LDN preliminary targets to be achieved by 2030 into action. It is on this note, I want to formally forward Land Degradation Neutrality Preliminary Targets for Nigeria.

Please accept my warm regards.

Ibrahim Usman Jibril
Honourable Minister of State Environment

1. Introduction

Nigeria's environment is under increasing threat from natural hazards, such as drought, and human activities. There are already certain serious problems with the environment and visible scars associated with the destruction of the natural resource base (land, water and air) upon which all life depends are being noted. The country's large population about 182.2 million and its rapid growth rate (about 3 per cent) (NPC, 2016) are contributing to the process of environmental degradation. Land is by far the most important resource necessary for subsistence. Yet much of Nigeria's arable land is being degraded gradually of its productive potential through overuse and inappropriate technologies. Rapid deforestation, resulting from multiple uses of forest resources for human survival, is a major contributing factor to land degradation.

Also agricultural activities such as intensive grazing, over-ploughing and over-cultivation, is resulting to severe land degradation, usually referred to as desertification, particularly in the northern part of the country, apart from the present locations of many types of erosion sites and permanent inundation of some lands in the country. Hence, there is need to put in place short and long term disaster preparedness and environmental management plan. Nigeria is committed to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030, as it will go a long way to help the economy of the country and livelihood of the people because it would have recovered and restored many thousands of hectares of land by that benchmark target. The rate of land degradation in the country is growing at alarming rate that need to be tackled urgently. The government is seriously concerned about this problem, which made the country to join the TerrAfrica initiatives.

The TerrAfrica program has produced guidelines for best practices in sustainable land management (SLM), with an aim to disseminate these promising practices and create a framework for investment in SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The initiatives help to reduce vulnerability to soil erosion in targeted sub-watersheds. The initiative is innovative and multi-sectoral to prevent and reverse land degradation on a demand-driven basis, initially focusing on gully erosion sites in ready south-eastern States that threaten infrastructure and livelihoods. Furthermore, REDD+ is another programme that support the achievement of LDN which Nigeria is also into with it target to reduce emission by 20% by 2025. Achieving LDN by 2030 will also contribute to Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change mitigation and adaptation

2. National LDN baseline

In the period 2000 to 2010 more than 463,360ha of forestland has been lost, including 344,710 ha area converted to shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas, and 118,570 ha converted to cropland. Areas under bare land and other areas increased by 80 ha. For the land productivity dynamic, it was observed that 360,340ha of forestland had shown declining productivity while 178,620ha of forestland showed early signs of declining. It was also noted that the average soil organic carbon stock for the country is 37ton/ha.

3. Nigeria's LDN Targets and associated measures

Box 1: LDN Targets of Nigeria

LDN at the national scale

LDN is achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 20 % of the national territory has improved (net gain)

LDN at the sub-national scale

LDN is achieved in the following regions by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss) and an additional 20% of the following regions has improved (net gain): South western region, South East region, South Southern region, North western region, North Eastern region, North Central region, Imeko Game Reserve of Imeko/Afo LGA, Ogun state, Aworo Forest Reserve of Yewa North LGA, Ogun state, Saki of Saki East LGA, Oyo state, Ilesha Ibaruba of Baruten LGA, Ejeba of Ughilli North LGA, Delta, Oroma-Etiti of Anambra west LGA, Anambra state, Orishaeze of Ngor-Okpalla LGA, Imo state, Ifiang Nsung of Bakasi LGA, Cross Rivers, Badoko of Kachia LGA, Kaduna state, Amba of Nasarawa LGA, Nasarawa state, Banaga of Anka LGA, Zamfara State

Specific targets to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation

- Improve land productivity and soil organic carbon stocks(SOC) in 463,300 hectare of cropland and grasslands by 2030 as compared to 2015
- Rehabilitate 1,722,660 ha of cropland showing declining land productivity and 10,565,040 ha of cropland showing early signs of declining land productivity by 2030
- Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes by 2020
- Increase forest cover by 20% by 2030 as compared to 2015
- Reduce the rate of soil sealing (conversion to artificial land cover) by 40% by 2030 as compared to 2015

Table 1: Brief summary of the LDN associated measures identified, with proposed timeline

Negative trends	Area (Ha)	Corrective measures	LDN target Area (Ha)	LDN target Time (year)	Investments required (USD)
Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas with declining productivity	5280	Reforestation with local species	-5280	2030	47,520,000.00
Conversion of forests into cropland with early signs of declining productivity or stable and not stressed	37760	Reforestation with local species	-37760	2030	339,840,000.00
Forest showing early signs of decline and having a declining productivity	2146540	Avoiding further decline of forest through economic incentives (Rehabilitation)	-2146540	2030	19,318,860,000.00
Shrubs, grasslands and sparse vegetation (showing early signs of decline)	1,882,400	SLM practices to avoid overgrazing	-	2030	16,941,600,000.00
		SLM practices to avoid soil erosion			
		Consider enforcing compensation			
			1,882,400		

Cropland showing declining productivity and early signs of decline	12,287,700	Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity	-12,287,700	2030	110,589,300,000.00
Shrubs, grasslands and sparse vegetation increasing productivity (5)	5,202,640	Introduce financially viable alternative options for the prevention of bush Encroachment	-5,202,640	2030	46,823,760,000.00
					194,060,880,000.00

Table 2: Brief summary of the LDN hotspot targets set and associated measures identified, with proposed timeline

Hotspot	ID	Negative trends	Area (Ha)	Corrective measures	LDN target Area (sq km)	LDN target Time (year)	Investments required (USD)
Zamfara	25	Conversion of forests into cropland	65.27	Reforestation with local species SLM practices to avoid overgrazing	-65.27	2030	587,430
Kaduna	1205	Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas	18.73	Reforestation with local species SLM practices to avoid overgrazing	-18.73		168,570
Kwara	4470	Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and	47.33	Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland Productivity	-47.33		425,970

		sparsely vegetated areas				
Oyo	5268	Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas	66.29	Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity. Reforestation with local species	-66.29	596,610
Nasarawa	5592	Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas	337.96		-337.96	3,041,640
Ogun	8316	Conversion of forests into shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas	116.79	Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity. Reforestation with local species	116.79	1,051,110
Anambra	9270	Conversion of forests into cropland	94.48	SLM practices to avoid soil erosion, Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity, Consider enforcing Compensation	94.48	850,320

Delta	9403	Conversion of forests into cropland	85.22	SLM practices to avoid soil erosion, Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity, Consider enforcing Compensation	85.22	766,980
Imo	9465	Conversion of forests into cropland	170.31	SLM practices to avoid soil erosion, Use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity, Consider enforcing Compensation	170.31	1,532,790
Cross River	9522	Conversion of forests into cropland	104.03	SLM practices to avoid soil erosion, use agroforestry practices to improve cropland productivity, Consider enforcing compensation	104.03	936,270

4. Leveraging LDN targets through the national sustainable development agenda

A gap in some national policies has been identified which may hinder the achievement of LDN by 2030. Therefore, Nigeria has prioritized its effort to integrate LDN into the following policy:

- National Agricultural Policy
- National Housing Policy
- National Mining Policy

5. Joint bold action to achieve LDN in Nigeria

The Federal Government of Nigeria appreciates the effort and contribution of the private sector to the development of the country, especially in the area of their social responsibility. As we all know, land degradation is a serious and enormous problem that government alone cannot tackle as it affects life, food and livelihood of the people. Nigeria appreciates the public private partnership of Ogun state, Lafarge and NSIA on the ILEDOTUN project. It is on this note that the Government of Nigeria calls on the private sector and other stakeholder to contribute to the efforts to achieve LDN by 2030.