



**THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM**
United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

United Republic of Tanzania

**Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Targets and Associated Measures of the
United Republic of Tanzania**

**UNCCD National Focal Point
LDN National Working Group
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1.0 Introduction

In Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) including Tanzania, environmental challenges are one of the issues which affect economic development and the livelihoods of people as well as the ecosystem. The Tanzanian Government has undertaken various initiatives formulating and implementing various national policies, strategies and plans in order to utilize and protect land resources as a means of combating land degradation. This is a way of addressing issues such as poverty, income generation and equality, food security, resources availability and land productivity in the country. There are two drivers of land degradation; proximate drivers (direct) and underlying drivers (indirect). *Proximate drivers* affect the terrestrial ecosystem directly, and include; topography, climate change, settlement and agriculture expansion, overgrazing, uncontrolled fires, firewood, timber and charcoal extraction. *Underlying drivers* include increasing human population growth, education, poverty, political instability, insecure land tenure system, poor technology, market and institutional failures, weak policy and regulatory environment in the agricultural and environmental sectors (Majule et al., 2013; URT, 2014; Lambin & Geist, 2006; Lal & Stewart 2010). In Tanzania the major causes of land degradation are overgrazing, poor cultivation practices and deforestation, rapid population growth, rural poverty, climate change, unclear land tenure system and conflicting government policies that times exacerbate land degradation (Vice President's Office, 2014). However the Government has implemented specific key policy and technical issues that will help in combating land degradation challenges in the country.

2.0 Brief Narrative on the Motivations for the Government to Commit to LDN

The Tanzanian Government is committed to LDN to ensure a sustainable social economic development in the country by implementing strong national environmental policies to protect the ecosystem. For instance; agriculture is the backbone of Tanzanian economy, through the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) which is part of Tanzania's Kilimo Kwanza (Agriculture first) policy, aiming at increasing the productivity and value of agriculture for economic development and rural poverty alleviation. In addition the Government has formed an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee that is chaired by the Vice President's office, to promote sustainable land management practices and improvement of livestock management systems. And lastly, the Government has considered mobilizing financial resources and influencing partnerships with international partners, national and international non-governmental stakeholders as well private sectors.





3.0 Brief Summary of the National LDN Baseline, Including the Current Status of Land Degradation, Based on the LDN Indicators

There are three UNCCD indicators, namely land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon, that are used to assess the current status of land degradation. This constitutes forming strong national policy measures that prescribe land use practices in different parts of the country in order to prevent land degradation. The Government is committed to implementing strong technical measures that will assist in increasing land productivity, which has been identified as a negative LDN trend. Lastly, mobilizing financial resources, which can be national and international partners, to assist in offering climate change mitigation and adaptation, reducing disaster risk and the restoration of the ecosystem.

4.0 Brief Summary of the LDN Targets Set and Identified Measures, with Proposed Timeline

Tanzania is committed to achieving LDN Targets by 2030 through the implementation of LDN transformative projects/programmes. Furthermore, the following specific targets have been defined to reduce deforestation and improve land productivity in various land use classes.

- Restore 11,011,950ha of forests through sustainable forest management through transformative projects or programs such as; i) Strategic Investment Program for SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa (SIP); ii), Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa; iii) Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (PROGRAM) and others. These will implement measures such as promoting indigenous forestation practices, agro forestry, destocking, identify/promote alternative sources of energy, reinforce laws and bylaws of natural resource management, promote sustainable crop livestock intensification.
- Prevent and avoid decline of land productivity of forests on 2,640,600ha by 2030. Key measures include improve participatory forest management, strengthen implementation and supervision of forest and environment policies, promote regeneration of forest species and control selective encroachment.
- Improve land productivity of shrub and grassland on 1,714,500ha by 2030. Key measures include promote fodder bank, farm wood supply and efficient energy utilization, improvement of traditional rangeland management, promote sustainable livestock practices, support livestock infrastructure in the rangeland, SLM practices to avoid overgrazing and SLM practices to avoid soil erosion and fire control.





- Improve land productivity of croplands on 8,462,500.5 ha by 2025. Measures include adopt sustainable land and water management innovation and practices, promote integration of crop , livestock and fisheries, mixed farming practices, popularize climate smart agriculture practices, introduce landscape based agro forestry technologies, popularize integrated soil fertility management, use of improved crop seeds, sustainable management of natural resources, strengthen local agriculture innovative systems.
- Improve land productivity of wetlands on 361,275ha by 2030. Measures include promote conjunctive use of surface and ground water, promote rainwater harvesting technologies (construction of strategic dams), promote integrated water resources management and development, sustainable management of wetlands, controlled agriculture encroachment, avoid mining and waste dumping in water bodies, river training/river bank stabilization, sustainable fisheries, catchment conservation and restoration.
- Increase soil organic carbon in cropland to 54.5tons/ha by 2030 through cereal legume integration, crop livestock integration, crop residue management, cover crop, agro forestry, promote use of organic fertilizers (Green manuring, compost, and farm yard manure).
- Reduce soil erosion (loss of top soils) by 19tons/ha through sustainable land management practices, soil and water conservation practises, cover crop, intercropping, good agricultural practices, agro forestry, crop residue management.

5.0 Outline of Policy Measures to Integrate LDN into Selected National Priorities

The Tanzanian Government has taken active part in preparations of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which enshrined the integration of environmental concerns and economic development in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and Agenda 21. The Government is working closely with other countries in the region and the international community to contribute towards a peaceful and better global environment for present and future generations. It has become a party of and is implementing global and Regional Environmental Treaties and a host to important sub-regional programmes and projects.

6.0 Mobilizing other Stakeholders to Achieve National LDN

Land degradation is a serious and enormous problem that governments alone cannot tackle. There is a need for strong technical and financial support from both the government and international partners in order to succeed in setting LDN targets and implementing them. The Government should consider mobilizing other financial resources that have interests in combating land degradation. These





institutions involve private sectors, NGOs or CSOs that are nationally or internationally situated. Land degradation is a global challenge that attracts different countries globally.





Appendix 1: Draft measures identified by the UNCCD National Focal Point and LDN National Working Group

Negative trends	Area (hectares)	Drivers		Measure		
		Direct	Indirect	Choose item	Area (hectares)	Year to achieve
		Choose item	Choose item			
Forest showing early signs of decline and having a declining productivity	3,585,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deforestation and removal of natural vegetation Over-exploitation of vegetation for domestic use Uncontrolled fires Urbanisation and infrastructure development Natural causes (flood, earthquakes, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population pressure Migration Insecure land tenure system Poverty/wealth Population pressure overstocking, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and avoid decline of forest productivity through Improve participatory forest management Strengthen implementation and supervision of forest and environment polices Promote regeneration of forest species Control selective 	-2,640,600	2030





		landslides)		encroachment		
Shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetation showing early signs of decline	2,286,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-exploitation of vegetation for domestic use • Uncontrolled fires • Urbanisation and infrastructure development • Natural causes (flood, earthquakes, landslides) • Overgrazing and shifting cultivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population pressure • Insecure land tenure system • Land use conflict (crop producer and livestock keepers) • Lack of commitments • Inadequate awareness and lack of appropriate information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote fodder bank, farm wood supply and efficient energy utilization. • Improvement of traditional rangeland management. • Promote sustainable livestock practices. • Support livestock infrastructure in the rangeland. • SLM practices to avoid overgrazing • SLM practices to avoid soil erosion • Fire control 	-1,714,500 (75 %)	2030
Cropland showing declining productivity and early signs of	11,283,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper management of annual, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population pressure • Insecure land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt sustainable land and water management 	-8,462,500.5 (75 %)	2025





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<p>decline</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perennial, scrub and tree crops • Overgrazing and shifting cultivation • Uncontrolled fires • Continuous monocropping • Unsustainable farming practice • Natural causes (flood, earthquakes, landslides) • lack of awareness of the people 	<p>tenure system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs (including access to credit/financing) and infrastructure • Education and training • Access to knowledge and support services • Land use conflict (crop producer and livestock keepers) • Poor technology • Inadequate awareness and lack of appropriate information 	<p>innovations and practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote integration of crop, livestock and fisheries. • Mixed farming practices • Popularize Climate smart agriculture practices. • Introduce landscape based agro forestry technologies. • Popularize integrated soil fertility management. • Use of improved crop seeds. • Sustainable management of natural resources • Strengthen local agriculture 		
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				innovation systems		
Wetlands and water bodies showing declining productivity and early signs of decline	481,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural causes (flood, earthquakes, landslides) Disturbance of the water cycle Over-abstraction of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population pressure Access to knowledge and support services Land use conflict (crop producer and livestock keepers) Lack of commitments Inadequate awareness and lack of appropriate information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote conjunctive use of surface and ground water. Promote rainwater harvesting technologies (construction of strategic dams). Promote integrated water resource management and development. Sustainable management of wetlands Controlled agriculture encroachment Avoid mining and waste dumping in water bodies. 	-361,275	2030





				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River training/river bank stabilization. • Sustainable fisheries • Catchment conservation and restoration 		
Low soil organic carbon on croplands	43.6 ton/ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrazing and shifting cultivation • Uncontrolled fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training • Governance, institutional settings and policies (including taxes, subsidies, incentives) • Poor technology • Lack of commitments • Inadequate awareness and lack of appropriate information • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal legume integration. • Crop livestock integration. • Crop residue management. • Cover crop. • Agro forestry • Promote use of organic fertilizers (Green manuring, compost, Farm Yard Manure) 	Increase to 54.5 tons/ha	2030





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			believes.			
Loss of top soil/soil erosion	30 tons/ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper management of the soil • Deforestation and removal of natural vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population pressure • Migration • Insecure land tenure system • Education and training • Access to knowledge and support services • Land use conflict (crop producer and livestock keepers) • Poor technology • Lack of commitments • Inadequate awareness and lack of appropriate information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable land management practices • Soil and water conservation practices. • Cover crop. • Intercropping. • Good agricultural practices • Agro forestry • Crop residue management 	-19 tons/ha	2030

