

## **Management response:**

### **Independent evaluation of economic valuation activities of the GM**

#### **Overview**

Economic valuation activities were an important component in the GM efforts to increase understanding of the multiple benefits of managing land sustainably, and through this increased understanding, to catalyze more political interest and investment in land.

This evaluation presents a skilled analysis of the underlying assumptions and practical use of the GM economic valuation activities at country and global levels. Its consideration of the role and potential of economic valuation, as well as those of the GM itself, in the context of the land degradation neutrality target, provide valuable inputs to future planning in this field and are particularly appreciated.

#### **Recommendations**

Evaluation recommendation 1. While demonstrating the economic value of land is not the key to unlocking committed implementation of the Convention, it is a useful argument to deploy in a context which may be becoming more favorable. In trying to ensure that the findings of economic valuation studies are acted upon and are translated into strong LDN plans and targets, the GM needs to

- be sensitive to the need to tailor findings to national political and cultural context; and
- remain committed to utility of methodology (over absolute methodological precision) and simplicity of output.

Management response: Accepted. Any GM upcoming work dealing with economic valuation will seek to ensure that “right messages reach the right people”, and that the arguments building on the economic valuation information are carefully targeted and responsive to specific demand. In the future the GM is planning to shift its focus from country/local level data collection to analyzing existing data and generating more comprehensive cost-benefit assessments to support effective implementation toward the LDN targets in a given country. The question of methodology will be less important in this context than it was during the activities that were evaluated.

Evaluation recommendation 2. The GM should consider the value of a short report summarizing the experience of the six countries and / or a checklist of lessons learned to aid other states intent on embarking on economic valuation analysis.

Management response: Accepted. Such short report will be prepared.

Evaluation recommendation 3. The GM should, in the first instance, work with a cohort of states to test how intense the process of developing economic valuation-based LDN plans is and how feasible it is for states to develop such plans with lighter forms of support. It should do so with a clear understanding at the outset how it expects to move from a phase of working with these pioneers / champions to enabling a larger number of states to develop LDN plans. It should also plot a more systematic approach to transmitting findings to the international level, either through a reinvigorated OSLO Consortium or through other channels.

Management response: Accepted. The GM has limited capacity and would rather produce in-depth, high quality analyses on a small number of countries than spread its resources broadly and thinly. However, this approach may change because of two factors: if there's a good availability of existing information and data, the GM is enabled to carry out its analysis swiftly and may thereby cover more countries; or if suitable partners are involved to share the workload.

On transmitting findings more systematically at the international level, the LDN target provides a new reference framework for many GM "products", against which these products are not only achieving better publicity but also becoming linked to practical needs and use more directly. This setting will facilitate the transmitting of GM findings in the future, notably through the UNCCD-led intergovernmental process on LDN, and possibly also through the OSLO consortium, collaboration with the ELD Initiative or other suitable channels.

Evaluation recommendation 4. The GM needs to be clearer as to how it works with others. Whatever the exact role it takes in the next phase, its choice about the space to occupy should be taken in conscious awareness of, and as a result of dialogue with, other key actors.

Management response: Accepted. The GM is re-defining its role as the LDN target-setting process advances and related needs become more visible. Eventually the GM priorities will depend on the decisions of the UNCCD Parties. The GM has also already started re-thinking its approach to partnerships, with the aim to optimize their results and cost-effectiveness. The cooperation and coordination with the UNCCD secretariat is intensifying as well, and particularly in the LDN process the roles of the two are clearly defined.