



2018-2019 OUTCOMES OF LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT

Global Target: Achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030

Concept/Term/Indicator of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

- LDN Neutrality: a commitment to stop the excessive loss of productive land by 2030
- LDN Neutrality Outcome: amount of land degraded per year in each country is offset by restoring an equal amount of degraded land
- LDN target one of the 169 Targets of the Sustainable Development Goals
- LDN Target: linked to Goal 15 on Life on Land
- LDN Target: to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030
- How to do it: avoid degradation, reduce degradation, restore degraded land in order of priority
- What is measured: change in (i) land cover, (ii) amount of carbon in soil and (iii) productivity of the land

Political Will to achieve LDN expressed in Numbers

- 120: country Parties that have announced their commitment to LDN
- 82: country Parties that have set LDN targets
- 36: country Parties in in planning stages of target setting
- 68: countries that have set other targets, mostly at the national scale

Scope and impacts of land degradation¹

- 19.2%: area of land degraded equivalent to 17.5 million km² between 2000 and 2015
- 27%: decline in the number of people living below the poverty line²
- There has been an overall increase in population with access to safe drinking water – however, with gains in rural areas and some concerns in urban areas³
 - 13%: increase in the rural population with access to safe-drinking water
 - 1%: urban population that saw a decline in access to safe drinking water

Overall assessment: Taking into account growing population, there are more hotspots than brightspots reported in terms of both number and area. All rural populations in all regions saw improved access to safe drinking water.

Implication: Assessment could be used as baseline to assess global progress in future

Most cited direct human causes of Land Degradation for 2000-2015 period

- Deforestation

¹ Comparing the data from the earliest to latest reported periods

² From data submitted by 34% of the country Parties

³ Data reported by 72.7% of the country Parties



- overgrazing
- improper soil management

Most cited indirect human causes of land degradation for 2000-2015 period

- population pressure
- land tenure
- poverty
- bad governance
- lack of education

LDN as accelerator of SDG goals

- 93 countries: say 462 voluntary targets set to improve lives of affected people contribute to 10 of the SDGs
- Water and sanitation: goals is the most reported SDG benefiting from LDN actions

Land degradation actions that are direct decelerators (cause of slow pace) of SDGs leading to poverty and inequality

- Improper crop and soil management most cited drivers
- Urbanization cited as a common driver
- Several other non SDG related factors also cited to drive poverty and inequality

Land degradation actions that are indirect decelerators of SDG goals on poverty and on inequality

- population pressure
- education
- land tenure
- governance

Implication: creating an enabling environment for interventions designed to address land degradation improve achievement of SDGs

Path to Effective Drought Management

- 70 countries are regularly hit by drought
- 3 countries have comprehensive drought preparedness plans
- 44 countries are setting up national drought management plans
- 109 countries submitted reports about their drought indicators
- 71 countries have set targets related to mitigating, adapting and managing drought effects
- 182 targets are relevant to 7 SDGs
- Land management the most cited approach for this



Contribution to the global benefit of conserving species threatened by extinction

Most direct causes of downward or upward trends for most threatened plants and animal species

- Deforestation
- over - exploitation of vegetation
- urbanization and improper crop management

Implication: sustainable land and forest management influences the abundance and distribution of selected species

- 135 countries have targets related to assessing trends in species abundance
- 75%: of targets set relate to land management, nature conservation and biodiversity objectives.

Implication: Red List Index is useful for monitoring trends in abundance and distribution of selected species

Financing Achievement of LDN

- 13: number of developed countries that contributed aid towards combatting USD6.3 trillion: resources needed every year to fight land degradation
- desertification
- USD5.7 billion: total aid provided for desertification by developed countries from 2012 to 2016
- USD13.1 billion: total aid contributed for desertification by developed and other development partners from 2012 to 2016
- USD11.7 billion or 12%: increase in ODA for desertification (by all) in 2012–2016 compared to 2007–2011 period