

# Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on SDG Target 15.3

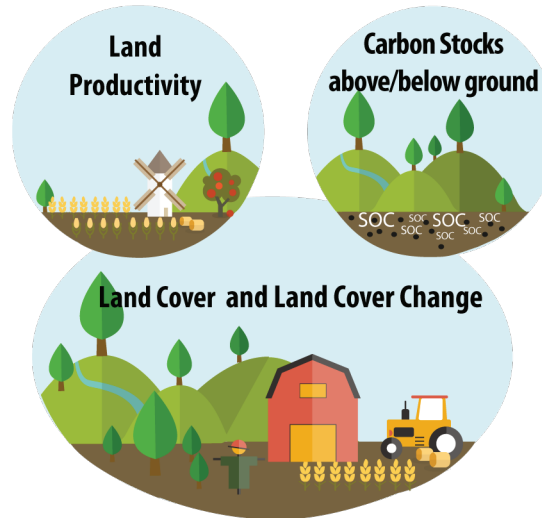
**Land Productivity** refers to the biological productive capacity of the land, the source of all the food, fiber, and fuel that sustains humans. Land productivity can be calculated across large areas from Earth observation data on net primary productivity (NPP). Estimates of NPP, using vegetation indices, are influenced in the short-term by crop phenology, rainfall, nutrient fertilization and other variables which must be corrected for to accurately interpret trends. National authorities are best able to determine whether declining levels of land productivity are considered land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.

**National Data** is envisaged to be primarily used, to the greatest extent possible, to derive the sub-indicators and other relevant indicators and information at the country level, covering bio-physical, governance and socio-economic conditions as well as the status of land resources. National Data can be collected through existing sources (maps, databases, reports), including participatory inventories on existing land management systems and their characteristics

**Indicator 15.3.1**  
Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area



**Sub-Indicators**  
UNCCD (CBD, UNFCCC)  
Reporting Mechanisms



**Data from multiple sources**  
FAO, GEF and other  
Reporting Mechanisms



**Carbon Stocks (Above and Below Ground)** give an indication of the amount of carbon in living and decomposing biomass above and below ground, including soil organic carbon. Carbon stocks are elementary to a wide range of ecosystem services and reflect land use and management practices. These stocks, including for soil organic carbon, can be estimated by applying carbon density values from ground-based measurements or national inventories in conjunction with land cover maps derived from Earth observation data. National authorities are best able to estimate trends in carbon stocks that indicate land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.

**Land Cover and Land Cover Change**, most often derived from Earth observation, is a fundamental parameter that assists with the interpretation and stratification of the other two sub-indicators. It is also essential for monitoring and reporting on multiple SDG targets focused on natural resource management, food and water security, environmental health and rural/urban planning for sustainable development. For global comparisons, countries are encouraged to use standardized land cover classification systems. National authorities are best able to determine whether land cover change is considered land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.