



WORKSHOP REPORT

Inception workshop
**NATIONAL TARGET SETTING TO ACHIEVE
LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY**
Nairobi, Kenya, 14th – 15th October 2016



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Workshop objectives and building block of LDN TSP.....	3
3. Workshop results	3
Annexes.....	7

1. Introduction

In view of the implementation of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP), an inception workshop for countries that recently committed to set national voluntary LDN targets and did not participate in previous workshops, was organized on 14th-15th October 2016, prior to 'The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention' (CRIC 15) at Nairobi, Kenya.

The workshop was organized by the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat of the UNCCD and supported by bilateral and multilateral partners.

The event brought together 22 participants, including UNCCD National Focal Points; LDN TSP country consultants as well as international partners (see Annex 1 for the list of participants).

2. Workshop objectives and building block of LDN TSP

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Discuss the scope and implementation arrangements of the support provided by the Programme;
- Review data and methodologies proposed to be used in the LDN target setting process;
- Facilitate the elaboration of draft country work plans, including deliverables, deadlines and budget.

Over the two days of the workshop, participants i) had the opportunity to familiarize with the four building blocks for LDN target setting at country level; ii) discussed on how to use the LDN target setting exercise as a vehicle to implement the UNCCD, mobilize resources and achieve SDG target 15.3; and iii) discussed on further methodological and operational developments related to the LDN target setting process.

3. Workshop results

Participants appreciated the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat of the UNCCD for the workshop that helped them to get more familiarized with the LDN target setting process. They acknowledged the support provided by LDN TSP as means to contribute to achieve SDG 15.3.

New developments for the LDN conceptual framework- As of 14 October, 102 country parties have committed to set national LDN targets and joined the Programme that provides huge opportunities particularly to foster coherence, move from pilots to scale and identifying transformative projects. The content of the two day workshop covered the four building blocks for LDN target setting and key expected outcomes/outputs. Participants were also informed about the launch of the three brochures: (i) Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality at the country level- Building blocks for LDN target setting;¹

¹ <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/achieving-land-degradation-neutrality-country-level-building-blocks-ldn-target-setting>.

(ii) Scaling up Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting - From Lessons to Actions: 14 Pilot Countries' Experiences²; and (iii) SPI- Science Policy Brief- Land in Balance³, which will facilitate country action and communication on LDN.

The discussions that followed during the presentations on the LDN target setting process are summarised according to the LDN TSP building blocks and expected outputs/outcomes as follows(see table 1).

Table 1. Building blocks of LDN target setting process

1. LEVERAGING LDN	2. ASSESSING LDN	3. SETTING LDN TARGETS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES	4. ACHIEVING LDN
Expected outcomes/outputs of LDN TSP			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'National LDN Target Setting Leverage Plan' is established to identify and tap into country specific opportunities for LDN leverage • Senior government and major international partners are mobilized to endorse and actively support the LDN target setting process • Multi-Stakeholder engagement is secured to ensure full participation of key stakeholders throughout the LDN target setting process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDN baseline is established and mapped to define the LDN frame of reference • The LDN legal and institutional environment is analyzed to identify key opportunities and threats to achieving LDN • LDN trends and drivers are mapped to identify priority areas for action to achieve LDN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDN targets are established to define the country's ambition to reach LDN • Key policy/technical measures to achieve LDN are identified • Governmental high level note of measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation is prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDN is included in selected national policies and commitments • Transformative LDN projects/programmes and innovative financing are mapped out

Building Block 1: Leveraging LDN

National LDN Target Setting Leverage Plan

Participants noted that the LDN target setting process is not stand-alone, but is consistent with international processes (e.g. SDGs and the Rio Conventions). It was outlined that the leverage plan for LDN target setting is to be guided by each country's own national development priorities and build on national sustainable development processes. Therefore, leverage plans should be clearly linked to the already carried out policies/ programmes, for e.g. National action programmes (NAPs); NAPs and Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

² <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/scaling-land-degradation-neutrality-target-setting-lessons-actions-14-pilot-countries>.

³ <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/land-balance>.

Mobilization of senior government and major international partners

Participants acknowledged that major stakeholders such as senior government officials, the planning agencies in national governments and international organizations are to be mobilized to actively support the LDN target setting process. They perceived LDN target setting as an opportunity to create synergies among processes to speak same language and to attract more funding opportunities for land degradation related issues.

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Participants highlighted the importance of getting all the key actors such as ministries (e.g. agriculture, finance, climate change); private companies (e.g. cement, mining) and development partners engaged in the national LDN working groups. They noted the LDN target setting implies a multi-sectoral and territorial approach. Existing examples from countries that are involving stakeholders based on their economic priorities were shared.

Building Block 2: Assessing LDN

Mapping and establishing LDN baseline

It was mentioned that countries are encouraged to use national level data on the three LDN indicators (i.e. land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon), when available. LDN target setting should be based on scientifically sound methodologies.

Participants shared their country specific experiences and appreciated the support provided by LDN TSP on country-tailored data derived from global datasets and technical backstopping.

Mapping land degradation trends and drivers

An overview of the methodological process to assess the land degradation trends and identify drivers was shared with the participants. It was mentioned that the same three indicators used for setting the baseline (i.e. land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon) are to be used to assessing trends which is a retrospective analysis of indicators for over 10-15 years.

The lessons learned from the pilot projects in setting baselines and assessing land degradation trends and drivers were shared with the participants.

Building Block 3: Setting LDN targets & measures

Defining voluntary LDN targets

It was emphasized that LDN target setting is a voluntary process led by the participating countries. The baseline to be established as part of the LDN target setting process is considered as the minimum level of ambition expected. However, countries are encouraged to go beyond this and set more ambitious targets when possible.

Identifying measures to achieve LDN targets

Participants discussed on the different possibilities and measures to achieve LDN, which cover a whole range of interventions to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation, including “policy measures” to ensure sustainable land use (e.g. prescribe land use practices in certain areas) and “technical measures” to address the direct drivers of land degradation.

Building Block 4: Achieving LDN

Mainstreaming LDN in national policies and commitments

The participants discussed on how the pathways for implementing LDN could be achieved through

- More generic measures that require systemic changes in the way land use planning is done
- More specific interventions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation.

Transformative projects

It was highlighted that to mobilize financial resources, LDN implementation projects should clearly articulate additional co-benefits that the project can offer, i.e. related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, water, food security etc. projects should be multifocal inclusive of co-benefits, climate change and biodiversity. Development partners shared their experiences and examples of ongoing country level projects that could provide effective channels to leverage LDN.

There were discussions on “bankable” projects; the financial opportunities through bilateral/multilateral partners; opportunities to tap into climate and biodiversity funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund); multifocal GEF projects; and upcoming LDN fund. The opportunities and challenges of private sector mobilization were discussed. There were suggestions to a get political endorsement from ministries of finance to have LDN line in the national budget are some of the ways to obtain required finance for the LDN target setting process and LDN implementation.

Representatives from UNDP, GIZ, GEF and Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) acknowledged the role of the LDN TSP and expressed their commitment to provide technical support. Participants were encouraged to seek for ongoing programmes/projects supported by partners in order to strengthen the LDN target setting and implementation process.

Annexes

Annex I

List of Participating Countries and Organizations

	Country
1.	Angola
2.	Comoros
3.	Iraq
4.	Kenya
5.	Lao People's Democratic Republic
6.	Mauritania
7.	Montenegro
8.	Mozambique
9.	Peru
10.	Togo
11.	Trinidad & Tobago
12.	Guatemala
13.	United Republic of Tanzania
14.	OSS
15.	GEF
16.	GIZ
17.	UNDP



DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

**WORKSHOP ON
NATIONAL TARGET SETTING TO ACHIEVE
LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY**

Nairobi, Kenya

14th – 15th October 2016



Land degradation is a global phenomenon, which is leading to the reduction and loss of the biological and economic productive capacity of land. It is caused by human activities, exacerbated by natural processes and magnified by climate change and biodiversity loss. Some 25% of the global land surface is considered to be degraded; every year, 12 million hectares are added to the total area of degraded land. The economic costs of land degradation are estimated at USD 490 billion per year, corresponding to three to six per cent of the global agriculture gross domestic product.

Recognizing that desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) are major global environmental and developmental concerns, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994 and is ratified by 196 member-states of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization (the European Union). The main mission of the Convention, as indicated by the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-18) is “to provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction”.

In September 2015, the global community agreed on “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets. Goal 15 urges countries to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Target 15.3 aims to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030. The proposed indicator to measure the achievement of SDG target 15.3 is “Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area”. The proposed sub-indicators for SDG target 15.3 are land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon stocks, which correspond to the progress indicators adopted by the UNCCD.

According to the Decisions 2 & 3/COP12 taken in October 2015 by the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD, held in Ankara, Turkey:

- Striving to achieve SDG target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD;
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is defined as “a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”;
- Countries are invited to “formulate [national] voluntary targets to achieve LDN”; and
- UNCCD bodies are requested i) to provide “guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiatives”; and ii) to facilitate “the use of UNCCD indicator framework as a contribution to the monitoring, evaluation and communication of progress towards the national LDN targets”.

In response to above decisions, the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat of the UNCCD have jointly established a global Programme in support of National Voluntary Target Setting for LDN. The main objective of the “LDN Target Setting Programme” (LDN-TSP) is to enable country Parties to define national baselines and to identify targets and measures to achieve LDN by 2030.

The GM, with support from the UNCCD secretariat and in cooperation with various partners and the respective host countries, conducted four regional inception workshops on the LDN target setting process:

1. Konya, Turkey, 28-30 May 2016 for African countries (Regional Annex 1),
2. Batumi, Georgia, 06-07 June 2016 for Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries (Regional Annexes IV and V),
3. Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13 July 2016 for Asian and Pacific countries (Regional Annex 3); and
4. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-21 July for Latin American and Caribbean countries (Regional Annex 2).

This workshop is for country Parties that are participating in the LDN TSP that did not attend the above mentioned regional inception workshops.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- Launch the LDN target setting process for the participating countries,
- Discuss the scope and implementation arrangements of the programme,
- Review data and methodologies proposed to be used in the LDN target setting process,
- Facilitate the elaboration of draft country work plans, including deliverables, deadlines and budget.

Participants:

- UNCCD National focal points for the LDN TSP countries that did not participate in the regional inception workshop,
- LDN TSP country consultants from the above mentioned countries,
- Regional/ international organizations that are interested in LDN TSP,
- UNCCD Secretariat/GM.

Venue:

The workshop will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14- 15 Oct 2016, at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Kenya, at the following address:

UNON, United Nations Avenue,

Gigiri PO Box 67578

Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (+ 254 20) 7621234

The workshop will be held in English. Interpretation services will be available in French. Additional information on logistical arrangements will be provided by the organizers prior to the workshop.

Draft Agenda:

The agenda will include the following items, which will be further defined and arranged within a 2 day workshop schedule.

- Opening remarks (by the GM/UNCCD) and quick round of introductions
- Objectives of the workshop, expected outcomes and review of the agenda
- Background: SDG process (adoption of target 15.3 and its monitoring indicator), UNCCD progress indicator framework, LDN Pilot Project, COP 12 (Decisions 2, 3 & 15)
- Defining LDN: the LDN conceptual framework
- Defining the right frame for national LDN target setting processes: building upon UNCCD National Action Programmes and Integrated Investment Frameworks, streamlining LDN in the national SDG implementation agenda, broad stakeholder participation through national LDN working groups including private sector
- Introduction of the four building blocks of LDN TSP:
 1. Leveraging LDN
 2. Assessing LDN
 3. Setting LDN targets and associated measures
 4. Achieving LDN
- Overview of the LDN target setting process at national level, work plan and timeframe
- Overview of the working modalities, communication and reporting procedures during the LDN target setting process
- Elaboration of draft country work plans for the LDN target setting process
- Any other business
- Closing remarks (GM/UNCCD)

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, 14th October 2016

Time	Session
08.00	Registration
09.00	Workshop opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD/GM
09.30	Workshop objectives and agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round of introduction of workshop participants, including statements on expectations • Presentation of workshop objectives, agenda and expected outcomes
10.30	Coffee Break
11.00	Introduction to LDN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to LDN: why, what for and how • Four Building blocks for LDN target setting <p style="text-align: center;">Q & A</p>
11.30	LDN Target Setting: Building blocks and the expected outputs/outcomes <p>BUILDING BLOCK 1: Leveraging LDN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government leadership and stakeholder engagement <p>BUILDING BLOCK 2: Assessing LDN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the LDN baseline • Identifying land degradation trends <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Q & A addressed during the presentations</i></p>
13.00	Lunch Break
14.30	LDN Target Setting: Building blocks and the expected outputs/outcomes <p>BUILDING BLOCK 2: Assessing LDN (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying drivers of land degradation • LDN monitoring and reporting <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Q & A addressed during the presentations</i></p>
15.30	Coffee Break
16.00	Interactive session: country positioning of the LDN agenda <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to ensure highest governmental commitment and leadership as well as engagement with key stakeholders? • How to create leverage opportunities through the LDN target setting process?
17.30	Wrap up

Saturday, 15th October 2016

Time	Session
09.00	Summary of day 1 and outlook for day 2
09.15	<p>LDN Target Setting: Building blocks and the expected outputs/outcomes</p> <p>BUILDING BLOCK 3: Setting LDN targets and associated measures (contd.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining national voluntary LDN targets • Identifying measures to achieve LDN targets <p><i>Note: Q & A addressed during the presentations</i></p>
10.30	Coffee Break
11.00	<p>BUILDING BLOCK 4: Achieving LDN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating action towards LDN • Mainstreaming LDN in land use planning <p><i>Note: Q & A addressed during the presentations</i></p>
12.00	<p>The way forward – creating the LDN target setting road map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the overall roadmap of the LDN target setting process and the proposed national work plans (building blocks, outcomes/ outputs, milestones, timeframe, etc.) <p><i>Note: Q & A addressed during the presentation</i></p>
13.00	Lunch Break
14.30	<p>The way forward – creating the LDN target setting road map (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open group discussion: agreements, commitments, requirements <p>In session coffee break @ 15.30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working session: preliminary elements of national LDN target setting work plans
17.00	<p>Workshop closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round of feedback from workshop participants • Closing remarks by UNCCD/GM