

# Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality at the country level

Building blocks for LDN target setting

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# 1

## Leveraging LDN

LDN target setting is not a stand-alone process but provides opportunities for coordination across ministries and sectors involved in land management. By finding common answers to: Why does LDN matter? What should we leverage? Who should be engaged? countries can succeed in leveraging LDN

### Outcomes/outputs

- 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

### What support does the LDN Target Setting Program provide to participating countries?

Support in identifying country-specific opportunities for creating LDN leverage, including the preparation and implementation of the 'National LDN Target Setting Leverage Plan'

Support in facilitating and fostering the engagement of key senior government and international partners in the LDN target setting process

Support in facilitating full stakeholder participation by establishing or mobilizing national LDN working groups and organizing national consultation workshops

# 2

## Assessing LDN

Assessing the current state of land degradation and its drivers is the basis for setting LDN targets, making informed decisions on what action to take, and tracking progress.

### Outcomes/outputs

- 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

### What support does the LDN Target Setting Program provide to participating countries?

Access to default estimates from global data sources on the LDN baseline and trends

Guidance on the use of sound methodologies and approaches for the assessment of the LDN baseline and trends at country level

Support in the implementation of targeted analysis of the LDN legal and institutional environment

# 3

## Setting LDN targets & associated measures

LDN targets define a country's ambitions in terms of combatting land degradation. LDN measures comprise a whole range of interventions to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation.

### Outcomes/outputs

- 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

### What support does the LDN Target Setting Program provide to participating countries?

Support in setting measurable, verifiable, time-bound national voluntary LDN targets

Support in identifying specific measures to achieve these targets

Support in elaborating a high level note on the implementation of the LDN response hierarchy at the country level

Establishes the LDN target setting help-desk platform for technical enquiries from participating countries and for peer learning

# 4

## Achieving LDN

An enabling environment is a prerequisite for achieving LDN. It makes integrating the LDN concept into national policies easier, and identifying transformative LDN programmes and projects possible.

### Outcomes/outputs

- LDN is included in selected national policies and commitments
- Transformative LDN projects/programmes and innovative financing are mapped out

### What support does the LDN Target Setting Program provide to participating countries?

Support in identifying global and national policy processes and country commitments with potential for LDN inclusion

Support in mapping of transformative LDN projects/programmes and innovative finance

Support in creating awareness of the benefits of LDN and the LDN target-setting process

Support in establishing partnerships with key stakeholders to promote and scale up implementation of the LDN response hierarchy

### **Why Land Degradation Neutrality?**

Desertification is threatening the livelihoods of 1 billion people in over 100 countries, and each year 12 million hectares of arable land are lost to drought. The extent and severity of land degradation worldwide combined with the impact of climate change, population growth and an increasing demand for natural resources, calls for immediate and assertive action. Numerous direct links exist between LDN and the Sustainable Development Goals, such as eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, protecting the environment and using natural resources sustainably.

### **What is Land Degradation Neutrality?**

The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP 12) defined LDN 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”. LDN is a simple idea and a powerful tool. It means securing enough healthy and productive natural resources by avoiding degradation whenever possible and restoring land that has already been degraded. At its core are better land management practices and better land use planning that will improve economic, social and ecological sustainability for present and future generations.

### **The LDN Target Setting Programme: How did the process begin?**

Policies and programmes to halt and reverse land degradation have long suffered from the absence of a clear overarching goal and quantitative, time-bound targets to guide action and make progress measurable. The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD (COP 12) agreed to integrate SDGs and the target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) into the implementation of the UNCCD and invite countries to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN by 2030.

### **What is the LDN Target Setting Programme?**

Over 100 Countries have committed to set LDN targets with the support of the LDN Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) led by the Global Mechanism. This Programme is currently supported by various bilateral and multi-lateral partners, who are assisting countries in making the LDN concept a reality by 2030, by providing practical tools and guidance for the establishment of voluntary LDN targets, accelerating the implementation of transformative programmes and projects, with positive changes.