



IUCN-UNCCD Joint Work Plan 2015-2020

Acronyms

- DLDD: Desertification, Land degradation and Drought
- LDN: Land Degradation Neutrality
- NBS: Nature Based Solutions
- SLM: Sustainable Land Management

Overview

Goal of the partnership: Support progress towards policies and programmes that deliver Land Degradation Neutrality through the application of Nature Based Solutions (at national and sub national levels)

NB: this assumes that LDN will become the principal vehicle for the delivery of national commitments to the Convention.

Results by 2020 are categorised as:

- 1. Nature-Based Solutions**
 - a. **Result 1:** LDN voluntary targets are established in at least 15 countries and NBS implementation strategies are developed and initiated
- 2. Enabling Environment**
 - a. **Result 2:** Stronger enabling environment for delivery of NBS to key land management challenges in pilot sites/countries
- 3. Indicators**
 - a. **Result 3:** A Land Degradation indicator framework incorporating biodiversity-related metrics and harmonised reporting requirements with other international commitments is established

Activities by result

Result 1: LDN voluntary targets are established in at least 15 countries and NBS implementation strategies are developed and initiated

Activity 1: Compilation of experiences, mapping of NBS approaches to LDN, and publication of NBS-LDN guidelines, including:

- a) Reviewing the role of the Conservation Sector in addressing DLDD, including Protected Areas, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, Forest Landscape Restoration, Integrated Water Resource Management.
- b) Enhancing the contribution of the Bonn Challenge and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration to meeting LDN targets.
- c) Documenting and valuing the benefits of LDN, restoration, sustainable land management etc. to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment, Food Security, Water Security, progress in the implementation of the Aichi Targets and other international goals, drawing on the Human Dependency on Nature knowledge product, ecosystem service modelling, economic valuation and other tools.

Activity 2: Engage a wider range of conservation actors in development of LDN guidelines, including tools for diagnosis, stock-taking of initiatives, options for progress etc.

- a) Strengthen engagement of IUCN members in UNCCD processes through key events and dialogue, including the World Conservation Congress 2016.
- b) Champion biodiversity in LDN dialogue through LDN-fora and initiatives including the Global Land Outlook, Soil Leadership Academy, Science Policy Interface etc.

Activity 3: Develop a funded initiative to support LDN target setting and development of implementation strategies in 15 countries

- a) Develop LDN targets based on multi-stakeholder consultation and ensuring safeguards delivered under Activity 1 and demonstrating contribution of LDN to other existing framework agreements (including Aichi targets).
- b) Demonstrate how the use of the Red List of Ecosystems, Red List of Threatened Species, Environment Gender Index and other IUCN tools, databases and products contributes to LDN prioritisation work by providing internationally (criteria and categories) accepted risk assessments.
- c) Demonstrate the contribution of different rehabilitation/restoration initiatives and other SLM and environmental strategies to achieving LDN and identify opportunities to strengthen these synergies through harmonisation of policy implementation and a coherent policy implementation framework
- d) Support countries and Regional Economic Communities to revise NAPs and SRAPs and align them with emerging LDN processes and other initiatives (e.g. the Great Green Wall)

Result 2: Stronger enabling environment for delivery of NBS to key land management challenges in pilot sites/countries

Activity 4: Develop initiatives for national-level capacity development to strengthen environmental governance for LDN

- a) Base the development of new initiatives on the IUCN Natural Resource Governance Framework and the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure and other tools
- b) Include a compilation of evidence on the role of governance and tenure in determining NBS-LDN outcomes
- c) Include an output (with CEESP) illustrating the importance of conflict resolution for SLM and providing guidance on conflict resolution.

- d) Use the launch of the “Technical Guide on implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure in Pastoral Lands” to convene multi-stakeholder dialogue on governance at UNCCD COPs in 2015 and 2017 and the IUCN WCC in 2016 and 2020, bringing lessons from practice to this discourse at the national and international level.

Activity 5: Develop funded initiatives to evaluate costs and benefits of different LDN strategies and to mobilise increased investments and financing on the ground for achieving LDN

- a) Through data collection and analysis, capacity building and dialogue on economic valuation of SLM and landscape restoration, and collaborate in the on-going Private Sector dialogue on LDN, including under the auspices of the LDN Fund and the WBCSD.
- b) Strengthen legal frameworks needed to address land degradation impacts and to mainstream land degradation neutrality into legal systems
- c) Finance – regulations (e.g. taxes), incentives, finance flows
- d) Explore how to finance LDN – assess the costs and benefits of options and tools to achieve LDN taking into account the nature and distribution of cost and benefits (public vs. private)

Result 3: A Land Degradation indicator framework incorporating biodiversity-related metrics and harmonised reporting requirements with other international commitments is established

Activity 6: Pilot an LDN monitoring framework at country level, integrating indicators on biodiversity and environmental governance, as well as indicators to report across multiple environmental obligations/targets

- a) Provide evidence of synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions through landscape restoration activities and use this to strengthen consensus on achieving LDN targets
- b) Support development of the three CCD indexes (biophysical, economic, governance)
- c) Tailored version of the Environmental Gender Index for LDN
- d) Report on synergies in work on the ground – e.g. to evaluate the impact on LD/SLM of projects addressing Climate Change and biodiversity
- e) National/sub-national validation of global data based on the 3 CCD indicators (Land Cover, Land Productivity, Soil Organic Carbon) and use for prioritisation through Nature Based Solutions actions
- f) Developing further indicators (together with soil science) for all threats to soil, including soil biodiversity loss and soil contamination

Operationalizing the Work Plan

- Collaborate in development of an LDN initiative funded by the GEF and other partners.
- Identify joint fundraising opportunities for implementation of other priority actions in the joint Work Plan, including joint discussions with bilateral and multilateral institutions.
- IUCN to continue active participation in UNCCD mechanisms and initiatives including the Science Policy Interface, the Inter Agency Task Force for the UNDDD, and communication products including the on-going UNCCD Panel Study on SLM.