



IUCN-UNCCD Joint Work Plan 2015-2020

Version 17/08/2015

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)

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, including improved natural resource governance

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

- a) Publish a review of the role of the conservation sector in addressing DLDD, including the role of Protected Areas, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, Forest Landscape Restoration, Integrated Water Resource Management, gender mainstreaming etc.

- b) Publish a report on enhancing the contribution of the Bonn Challenge and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration to meeting LDN targets, exploring how the targets are related and the development of action plans for the targets.
- c) Publish a handbook on the use of protected areas in protecting ecosystem services from land and their role in delivering LDN.
- d) Document the value of multiple environmental benefits of LDN, restoration and sustainable land management (e.g. 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.
- e) Publish guidelines to LDN target-setting and implementation, ensuring attention to biodiversity, ecosystems, governance, gender mainstreaming etc.

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 multistakeholder 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-accepted risk assessments.
- c) Demonstrate the contribution of different rehabilitation/restoration initiatives and other SLM and environmental initiatives in target countries 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: Evaluate key governance dimensions of land degradation and develop initiatives for national-level capacity development to strengthen environmental governance for LDN

- a) Publish a rigorous examination of governance failures as the structural drivers of land degradation and identify appropriate governance responses for achieving DLDD.
- b) Document evidence of the role of conflict resolution for SLM and provide guidance on conflict resolution to support progress towards LDN targets.
- c) Use the launch of the "Technical Guide on implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure in Pastoral Lands" to convene multistakeholder 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

- d) Support Parties to develop legal instruments to put LDN in concrete terms at country level and to influence legal reform related to the environment

Activity 5: Develop funded initiatives to mobilise increased investments and financing on the ground for achieving LDN

- a) Develop projects to evaluate the costs and benefits of approaches for achieving LDN, taking into account the nature and distribution of cost and benefits (public vs. private) (building on Activity 1).
- b) Develop projects to strengthen capacity for mobilising investments and financing on the ground for achieving LDN.
- c) Collaborate in the on-going Private Sector dialogue on LDN, including under the auspices of the LDN Fund and the WBCSD.
- d) Publish a review of experiences in financing LDN (or initiatives that contribute to LDN), including conservation finance, taxes and incentives

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) Document the 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 UNCCD indexes (biophysical, economic and governance)
- c) Mainstream the Environmental Gender Index in the LD indicator framework
- d) Report on synergies in work on the ground – e.g. to evaluate the impact on LD/SLM of projects addressing Climate Change, biodiversity, Disaster Risk Reduction etc.
- e) Conduct assessments to validate global data at the national or sub-national level based on the 3 UNCCD indicators (Land Cover, Land Productivity, Soil Organic Carbon) and use for prioritisation of 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, the Land Degradation Study of IPBES, and communication products including the on-going UNCCD Panel Study on SLM.