

## UNCCD inputs to ECOSOC 2016 Integration Segment 2-4 May 2016

*Highlight how your work has contributed to policy innovation and integration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This support for the operationalization of the Agenda could be through analytical or programmatic outputs. Inputs should be limited to two pages (around 1,000 words) and should highlight best practices and lessons learned.*

Our working landscapes have sustained us for millennia. Their health and productivity are closely linked to job creation, food and water security, migration and urbanization, climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic competition and resource conflict. We argue that by getting implementation of target 15.3 - on land degradation neutrality - right we can connect the dots between all of the goals. This target can serve as one of the sustainable development accelerators. While the 2030 agenda is global, solutions will also be needed at the national, landscape-scale and watershed level.

To address the multiple Sustainable Development Goals in a synergistic and cost effective manner, countries can now formulate voluntary targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), according to their specific national context and development priorities. The Convention institutions will support interested countries in their national LDN voluntary target setting, including the definition of national baselines, measures and targets to achieve LDN by 2030. The programme builds on the successful experience of the LDN pilot project that ran between May 2014 and October 2015 with 14 LDN champion countries.

This global programme is possible thanks to the commitment of partners such as the Global Environment Facility, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Government of the Republic of Turkey (through the Ankara Initiative), Trinidad and Tobago, and the Republic of Korea (through the Changwon Initiative).

Under the LDN Target Setting Programme, all participating country Parties will:

- Receive technical guidance on how to effectively assess and define national baselines related to the indicator frameworks of target 15.3 of the SDGs and the UNCCD, and how to establish relevant measures and targets to achieve LDN by 2030
- Have access to cutting-edge technical expertise on demand via an online LDN target setting help desk
- Have the opportunity to participate in international capacity building and knowledge exchange events through a private funding capacity building project.

Affected country Parties will also receive direct technical and financial support for their national LDN target setting processes, including:

- Specialized expertise

- Access to the best available global data sets
- Support for conducting a multi-stakeholder consultation process, mainstreaming LDN into national SDG agendas
- Assistance in identifying LDN investment opportunities, in order to link LDN target setting with LDN implementation.

Given the key cross-sectoral influence of the land sector, the process of setting national LDN targets must be anchored in the national portfolio for implementing the SDGs. It will also leverage both on the national processes for the implementation of the other Rio Conventions (the Convention on Biodiversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), and on the interventions of multiple development partners (on issues of rural development and food security) at the country level. The LDN Target Setting Programme will become fully operational during the first quarter of 2016.

Land Degradation Neutrality target achievement will be measured through affected country Parties' national reporting, utilizing agreed global data sources and methodologies. It will have a strong GIS component. When examining the information provided by country Parties and other reporting entities within the UNCCD reporting process, we place emphasis on measurement of public and private financial resources and an assessment of the enabling preconditions for mobilizing the resources to implement the Convention and now LDN.

In the absence of authoritative and comprehensive global databases and monitoring systems that capture all relevant private sector investments, an analysis of public sector enabling investments is a valuable 'proxy' indicator not just in terms of direct investments but in establishing a 'conducive' investment environment to leverage private sector capital.

The Impact Investment Fund for Land Degradation Neutrality (Land Degradation Neutrality Fund) is a collaborative initiative in the making. Through public and private investments, the Fund envisions the rehabilitation of 12 million hectares of degraded land per year and the sustainable and productive use of this land. The Land Degradation Neutrality Fund aims at taking a landscape approach to its operations. A landscape approach considers and manages trade-offs among all land use sectors, including sustainable agriculture, sustainable livestock management, agroforestry, sustainable forestry, renewable energy, infrastructure development, and eco-tourism. As a decisive first step – a private company [Mirova Natixis] is structuring the fund. This private-public partnership aims to combine funding and technical assistance.

The fund will have three arms. 1) An investment platform for triple bottom line projects. The investment platform will follow strict sustainability standards and performance criteria. A rigorous due diligence process will verify project compliance and that environmental safeguards are in place. 2) A smallholder component to ensure widespread access to opportunities for microfinance. 3) A Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to support stakeholder dialogue, to provide capacity building assistance, and to create an enabling environment for land rehabilitation and sustainable production. The TA facility will be co-

financed by public and private donors, such as bilateral/multilateral development agencies and foundations.

The Fund aims to:

- Generate revenue streams through sustainable production and the sustainable use of rehabilitated lands
- Contribute to the achievement of global and local food and water security by 2050
- Mitigate climate change by sequestering up to 20% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050
- Increase the resilience of vulnerable populations, species and ecosystems to climate change and other stressors