

A Global Call to Action for Healthy Soils

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United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

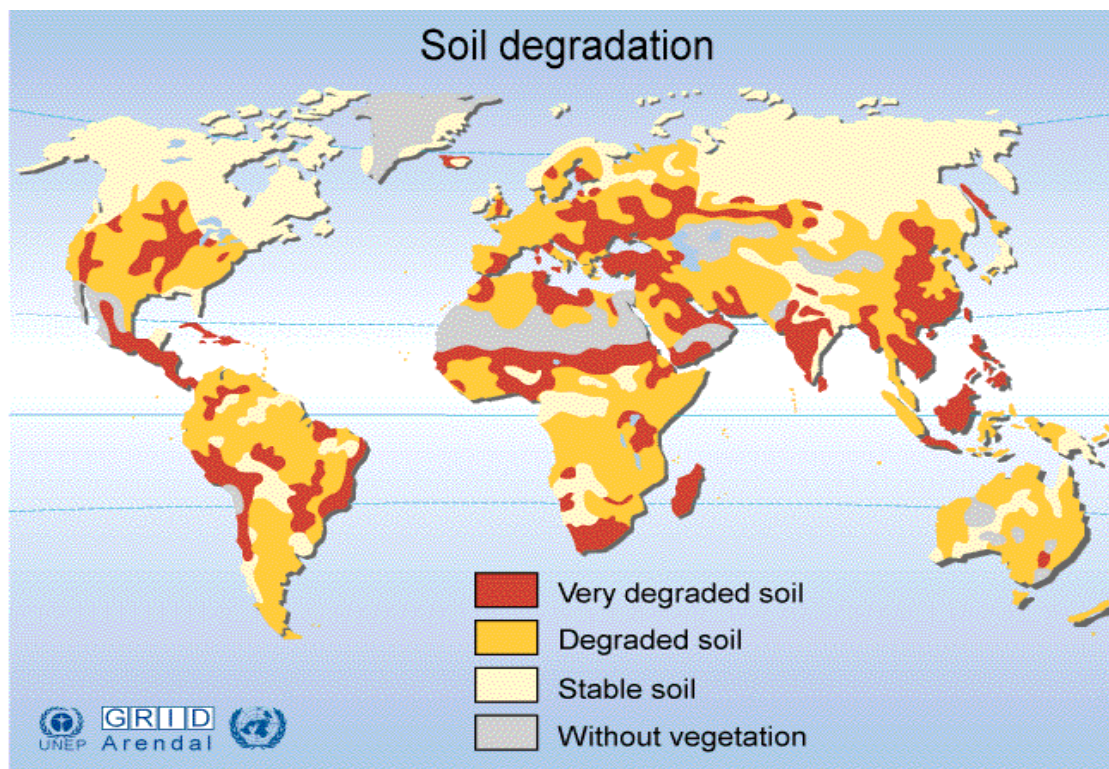
Overview

- Land Degradation: A global challenge
- A collaborative global effort to achieve the SDGs: Land Degradation Neutrality
- Stepping up actions on soils: towards a global movement



Land degradation – a global challenge

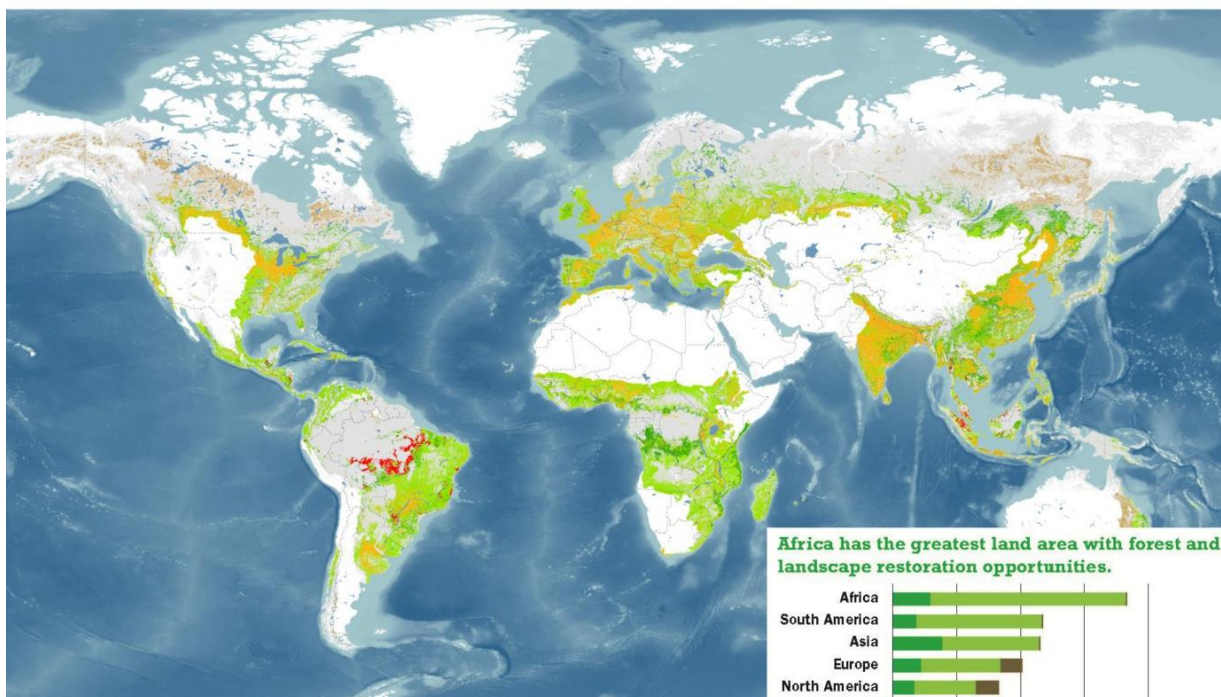
Estimates indicate that up to **25%** of all land is currently **highly degraded**, **36%** is **slightly** or **moderately degraded** but in stable condition, while only 10% is improving



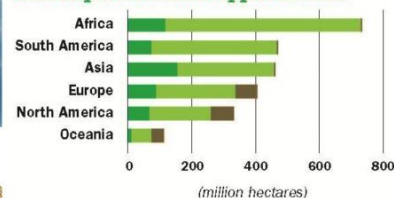
Land Degradation Neutrality – an opportunity



A World of Opportunity for Forest and Landscape Restoration



Africa has the greatest land area with forest and landscape restoration opportunities.



FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Wide-scale restoration
- Mosaic restoration
- Remote restoration

OTHER AREAS

- Agricultural lands
- Recent tropical deforestation
- Urban areas
- Forest without restoration needs



- Wide-scale restoration
- Mosaic-type restoration
- Remote, unpopulated areas

- **2 billion hectares** of land can be restored
- **500 million hectares** of degraded land are abandoned agriculture land
- LDN actions have the potential to reduce up to **35% of global GHG emissions**
- LDN is an efficient way to halt on-going **biodiversity collapse** through re-building sustainable landscapes



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Land Degradation Neutrality: The Concept

- LDN: 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.
- LDN aims to **maintain or enhance** the land based natural capital and associated ecosystem functions and services.
- Counterbalance ongoing land degradation (**loss**) with restoration of degraded and (**gain**)
- LDN response hierarchy: **avoid-reduce-reverse**
- LDN is recognized as an accelerator and integrator of the wider **SDG process**



land which may degrade



**anticipated
future losses**

Land where new and
unavoidable degradation
is likely

land to be improved



**proposed
future gains**

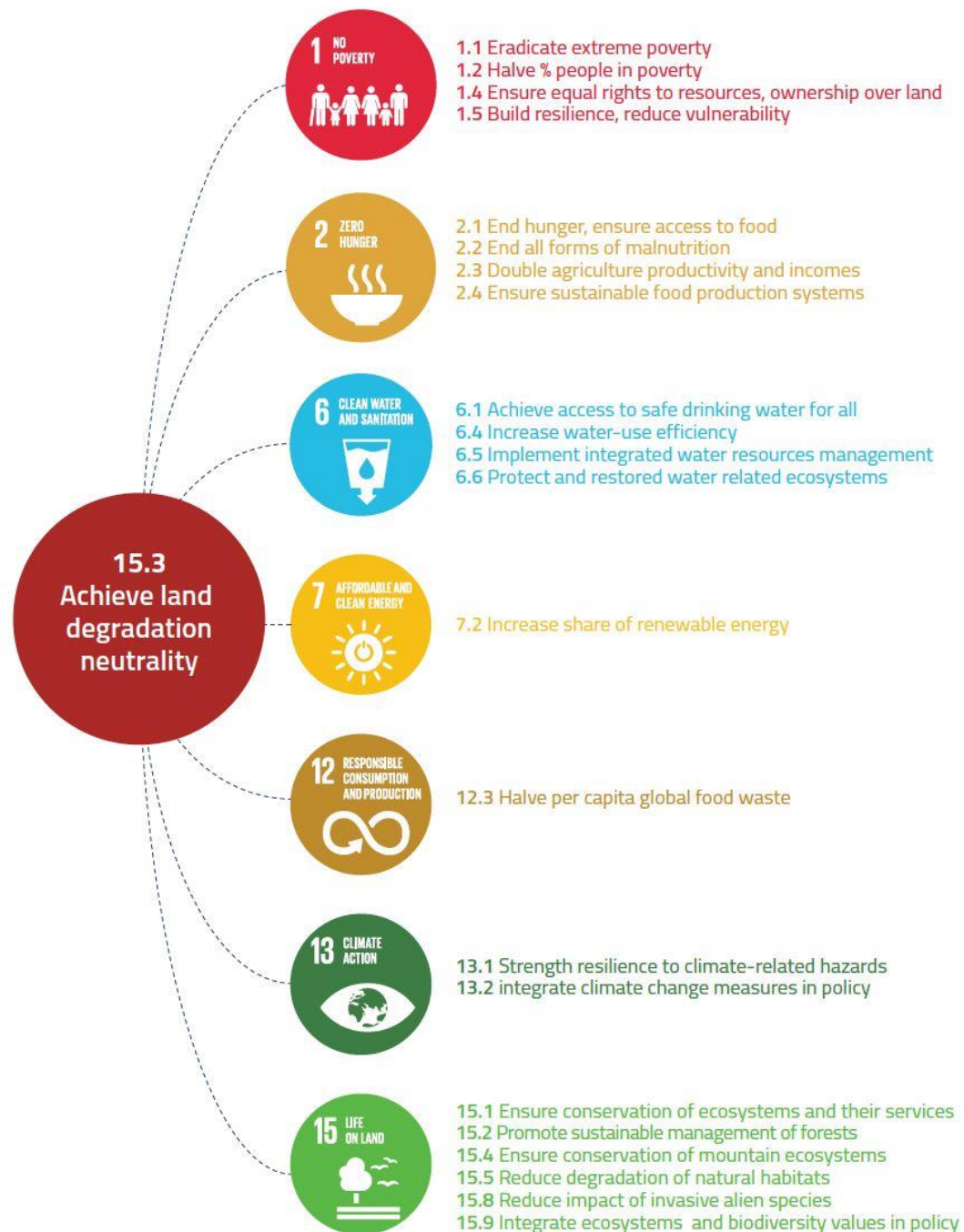
Land where efforts to
avoid, reduce or reverse
degradation may lead to
improvements

LDN and SDGs



- **SDG 15** “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** “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”
- **Indicator 15.3.1** “Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area”
- **Sub-indicators** Land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon

Figure 3: LDN as a catalyst for achieving other SDGs, adapted from⁹



Setting National Targets for Land Degradation Neutrality

- **122 countries** are engaged in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme – to meet target 15.3 of the SDG target 15 “Life on Land”
- **80 countries** have already set targets (EU: Italy)
- Parties commit to establish **national voluntary targets** for Land Degradation Neutrality



Main achievements

- **Enhanced national capacities to manage land-related data**
- **Baselines established to provide a systematic approach to monitor progress towards LDN**
 - ✓ 70+ countries validated LDN baseline based on three biophysical LDN indicators (land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon) and identified LDN “hotspots”
- **Provides an avenue for identifying key measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation**
 - ✓ Most countries put forward technical and policy measures to improve people’s livelihood and enhance resilience of ecosystem functions, including sustainable land management and landscape restoration
- **Facilitates peer learning and strengthening regional coordination**
 - ✓ LDN TSP organizes workshops, webinars and provides technical guidance

A Global Call for Action on Soils

- ❖ Connecting soils to broader **global political processes** such as the G20 through linkages to issues such as climate change, food security, and security and stability
- ❖ Coherence of policies/ strategic and institutions: Important to create **cross-sectoral synergies** at the national level (line/ sector ministries/ research/data)
- ❖ **Communication**: Making soils cool! Developing a narrative for the general public linking soils to sustainable food production, climate resilience, water security, biodiversity conservation
- ❖ Making the **economic case** for sustainable land management/: cost of inaction/ benefits of action of investing in soils

