



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**COMBATING  
LAND  
DEGRADATION**

**SECURING  
A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**





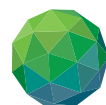
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# Global Challenge of Land Degradation

**Recent research and debates on land degradation have put a spotlight on the role of industrial agriculture and unsustainable management of cropland and grazing land as key drivers of land degradation.<sup>1</sup> The findings of the IPBES assessment report on Land Degradation and Restoration show that ‘the main direct drivers of land degradation and associated biodiversity loss are expansion of crop and grazing lands into native vegetation, unsustainable agricultural and forestry practices, climate change, and, in specific areas, urban expansion, infrastructure development and extractive industry.’<sup>2</sup>**

**T**he Global Land Outlook, published by the UNCCD, reveals that ‘pressures on global land resources are greater than at any other time in human history. From 1998 to 2013, approximately 20 per cent of the Earth’s vegetated land surface showed persistent declining trends in productivity, apparent in 20 per cent of cropland, 16 per cent of forest land, 19 per cent of grassland, and 27 per cent of rangeland. These trends are especially alarming in the face of the increased demand for land-intensive crops and livestock.’<sup>3</sup>

The most recent IPCC report on Climate Change and Land<sup>4</sup> presents a consensus among the scientific community, that land use and changes to land use, driven largely by commercial agricultural expansion, forestry, and consumption patterns, have not only contributed to food availability for a growing population, but also to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, loss of natural ecosystems and declining biodiversity. This report describes the role of land in climate change, as both a sink and a source of CO<sub>2</sub>, due to anthropogenic and natural drivers. Recent estimates show, with high levels of confidence, that agricultural production, forest and other land uses account for 23% of anthropogenic

1. International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (iPES Food), 2016. From Uniformity to Diversity: A paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems.

2. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Ecosystems and Biodiversity (IPBES), 2018. Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration - Summary for Policy Makers

3. UN Convention to Combat Desertification. 2017. Global Land Outlook

4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019. Climate Change and Land: An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. Summary for Policymakers.



emissions, and these are expected to increase, driven largely by population and income growth, and changes in consumption patterns.

Responses to land degradation must, therefore, confront these challenges, and promote interventions that avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, while at the same time meeting food production and economic growth demands, which are on the rise. These approaches and practices include, among others, agroecology, conservation measures, agroforestry and integrated animal and crop production systems that promote soil organic matter accumulation and nutrient cycling, restoration of degraded forests, rangelands and wetlands, and measures that enhance soil carbon storage in managed landscapes.

As an international agreement on good land stewardship, the UNCCD is leading the way on land degradation neutrality to help countries halt and reverse land degradation by 2030.

The Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), developed by the UNCCD, provides a scientific foundation for understanding, implementing and monitoring LDN.<sup>4</sup> Achieving land degradation neutrality will be a stepping stone towards land-based sustainable development, growth and prosperity beyond 2030.

Over the last few years, the implementation of the UNCCD's objectives has broadened beyond the focus on drylands, to draw attention to the major drivers of land degradation in other ecosystems across the globe. The UNCCD therefore addresses challenges that other global conventions seek to address. As the IPBES assessment report notes<sup>2</sup>, the various conventions that address land and environmental degradation, including the UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC and the Ramsar Convention 'have found a focus in target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account, among others, the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality.'

## LAND DEGRADATION: A BARRIER TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Approximately  
**20%**

of the Earth's vegetated surface is either highly degraded or undergoing high rates of degradation



**12 million**

hectares of land are lost each year to degradation processes



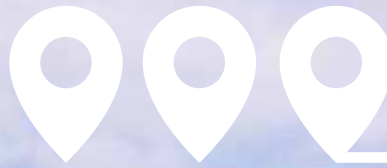
or **23**  
hectares per minute)





**40%**

of world's degraded lands are found in areas with the highest incidence of poverty, which remains overwhelmingly rural



Over **1.3 billion people**

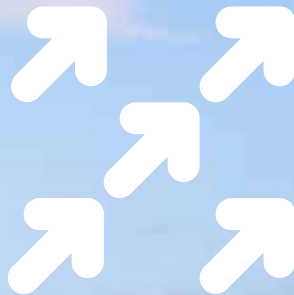
relying on land for their livelihoods are trapped on degrading agricultural land



By 2050, the combination of land degradation and climate change is predicted to reduce global crop yields by an average of

**10%**

and by up to 50% in some regions



By 2050,

**50 to 700 million people**

are projected to have migrated as a result of the combination of land degradation and climate change



The global community is losing up to **5%** of potential agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) due to land degradation, costing some USD 490 billion per year in lost income

Avoiding land degradation through sustainable land management and restoration can generate up to

**USD 1.4 trillion**

per year of economic benefits



# UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework

**The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its thirteenth session held in Ordos, China, in September 2017. The Framework will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular regarding Sustainable Development Goal 15 and target 15.3: “by 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.**

**L**and Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a positive aspirational goal that entails: adopting sustainable land management (SLM) policies and practices to minimize current, and avoid future, land degradation; and restoring degraded and abandoned lands. The innovative aspect of LDN, that differentiates it from previous efforts to tackle land degradation, is the adoption of neutrality as the goal. Success in achieving LDN within the framework of SDG 15 may be measured based on whether biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services are stable

or increasing in each of the focal ecosystems compared to their state in 2015.<sup>3</sup>

The UNCCD defines LDN as “a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”<sup>5</sup>

Meeting these long-term objectives will contribute to achieving the vision of the Strategic Framework of “striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention”.

UNDP contributed to the Convention’s preparatory work on LDN, leading to its adoption as a guiding principle for the implementation of the UNCCD in 2018-2030. This included support to the organization of regional capacity building workshops to introduce the “Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality”, piloting LDN target setting in selected countries and supporting national efforts on sustainable land management, sustainable agriculture and landscape restoration.

5. UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 2017, Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality

The following strategic objectives will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2018-2030:



## Strategic Objective 1

To improve the conditions of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality

## Strategic Objective 2

To improve the living conditions of affected populations



## Strategic Objective 3

To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems

## Strategic Objective 4

To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD



## Strategic Objective 5

To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level

# UNDP Response to the Global Land Degradation Challenge

**UNDP recognizes that land degradation is a barrier to sustainable development. Population growth, climate change, urban expansion, and unsustainable farming, mining and grazing practices are increasing pressure on land, leading to the degradation of productive land resources including water, generating greenhouse gas emissions, worsening inequalities among groups and nations and increasingly leading to major global challenges such as internal displacement and migration.**

**D**rawing on over 40 years of experience, UNDP assists countries to integrate land and related environmental concerns into national and sectoral development plans and strategies, secure resources, and implement programmes that advance inclusive, sustainable growth and development. This work supports governments to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The support to the countries is guided by UNDP's own strategic vision and goals, as outlined in its Strategic Plan (2018-2021), which sets out the six signature solutions for addressing development challenges, with poverty eradication as the highest priority. Signature solution 4 – Promote nature-based

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_11750](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_11750)

