



Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

An International Resource Panel Think Piece



Sustainable
Development
Goals

About the International Resource Panel

The International Resource Panel (IRP), a global scientific panel hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, was created in 2007 to contribute to a better understanding of sustainable development from a natural resources perspective. It provides science-based policy options on how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation while enhancing human well-being. With more than 20 scientific publications, the work of the panel has shed light on growing environmental challenges related to natural resources, their socio-economic implications and potential new pathways towards their sustainable management.

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Lead Authors: Jeffrey E. Herrick (USA) and Tanya Abrahamse (South Africa)

Contributing Authors: P.C. Abhilash (India), Saleem H. Ali (USA), Porfirio Alvarez-Torres (Mexico), Aliyu S. Barau (Nigeria), Cristina Branquinho (Portugal), Ashwini Chhatre (India), Jean-Luc Chotte (France), Annette Cowie (Australia), Kyle F. Davis (USA), Sheikh A. Edrisi (India), Siobhan Fennessy (USA), Steve Fletcher (UK), Adriana Flores-Díaz (Mexico), Isabel B. Franco (Japan), Amy Ganguli (USA), Chinwe Ifejika Speranza (Switzerland), Margaret Kamar (Kenya), Alice A. Kaudia (Kenya), David W. Kimiti (Kenya), Ana C. Luz (Portugal), Paula Matos (Portugal), Graciela Metternicht (Australia), Jason Neff (USA), Alice Nunes (Portugal), Akeem O. Olaniyi (Nigeria), Pedro Pinho (Portugal), Eeva Primmer (Finland), Amy Quandt (USA), Priyanka Sarkar (India), Sara Scherr (USA), Ajeet Singh (India), Vincent Sudoi (Kenya), Graham von Maltitz (South Africa), Louis Wertz (USA), Gete Zeleke (Ethiopia).

Recommended citation: IRP (2019). Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: An International Resource Panel Think Piece. Herrick, J.E., Abrahamse, T., Abhilash, P.C., Ali, S.H., Alvarez-Torres, P., Barau, A.S., Branquinho, C., Chhatre, A., Chotte, J.L., Cowie, A.L., Davis, K.F., Edrisi, S.A., Fennessy, M.S., Fletcher, S., Flores-Díaz, A.C., Franco, I.B., Ganguli, A.C., Speranza, C.I., Kamar, M.J., Kaudia, A.A., Kimiti, D.W., Luz, A.C., Matos, P., Metternicht, G., Neff, J., Nunes, A., Olaniyi, A.O., Pinho, P., Primmer, E., Quandt, A., Sarkar, P., Scherr, S.J., Singh, A., Sudoi, V., von Maltitz, G.P., Wertz, L., Zeleke, G. A think piece of the International Resource Panel. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

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Design and Layout: Ana Carrasco
Printed and Proofread by: UNESCO

Job No.: DTI/2247/PA

ISBN: 978-92-807-3758-5

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Acronyms

ACS	Advanced cook stove
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
CCS	Carbon capture and storage
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOM	Government of Malawi
HLPF	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IEA	International Energy Agency
ILM	Integrated landscape management
INBAR	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IRP	International Resource Panel
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRMP	Integrated Water Resources Management Plans
LDN	Land degradation neutrality
LRP	Land restoration program
MBI	Market based instruments
MINERENA	Ministry of National Resources of Rwanda
NGO	Non-government Organization
NRT	Northern Rangelands Trust
PES	Payments for ecosystems services
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
ROI	Return on investment
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SANBI	South African Biodiversity Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
URAD	Recovery Units of Degraded Areas and Reduction of Climate Vulnerability
WHO	World Health Organization
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies
WRI	World Resources Institute

About this think piece

This think piece from the International Resource Panel (IRP) was developed based on IRP scientific studies and assessments including “Unlocking the Sustainable Potential of Land Resources: Evaluation Systems, Strategies and Tools” and other relevant literature. It provides science-based reflections to policymakers, academics and practitioners highlighting the strategic importance of land restoration efforts for the achievement of every single sustainable development goal included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was prepared under the leadership of Jeffrey Herrick with Tanya Abrahamse (members of the International Resource Panel), Hala Razian (UNEP) and the support of Maria Jose Baptista (UNEP), Simone Retif (UNEP), Moira O’Brien-Malone (UNEP) and written inputs from 27 chapter authors and co-authors listed on the acknowledgements page of this document. Chapter authors responded to an open call from the International Resource Panel to ensure a diverse and interdisciplinary perspective, a first of its kind on this topic.

The final document also benefited significantly from the suggestions of three independent reviewers, and comments from both the UNCCD and UNEP staff.



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