

Land Degradation Neutrality in the SDGs

ESCWA celebrates World Day to Combat Desertification 2016

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Food and Environment Policies Section,
Sustainable Development Policies Division

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA

Coining the term of Land Degradation Neutrality

1994 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established → Aim: halt land degradation

2011 – launch of Changwon Initiative to enhance the implementation of the Convention and emphasize the need for achieving land degradation neutrality

Land degradation neutrality aims to maintain or increase the amount of healthy and productive land resources, in line with national development priorities

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater [ecosystems](#) and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of [forests](#), [halt deforestation](#), restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation

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

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of [mountain ecosystems](#), including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of [biodiversity](#) and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of [threatened species](#)

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of [genetic resources](#) and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end [poaching and trafficking](#) of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of [invasive alien species](#) on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, [integrate](#) ecosystem and biodiversity values into [national and local planning](#), development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

References relating to land degradation in other SDGs



2.3 By 2030, double the **agricultural productivity** and incomes of small-scale food producers...

2.4 By 2030, ensure **sustainable food production systems** and implement **resilient agricultural practices** that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for **adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters** and that progressively improve land and soil quality



6.4 By 2030, substantially **increase water-use efficiency** across all sectors and ensure **sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater** to address water scarcity

6.6 By 202 protect and restore **water related ecosystems**, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes



8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, **global resource efficiency in consumption and production** and endeavour to decouple economic growth from **environmental degradation**

References relating to land degradation in other SDGs



9.4 By 2030, upgrade **infrastructure** and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with **increased resource-use efficiency** and greater **adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies**



11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and **sustainable urbanization**
11.4 Strengthen efforts to **protect and safeguard** the world's cultural and **natural heritage**



12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources



13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to **climate-related hazards and natural disasters** in all countries
13.2 Integrate **climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning**

Land Degradation Neutrality – implementation and indicators

SDG 15.3 proposed indicator: **Annual change in degraded or desertified arable land (% or ha)**

Baseline to describe the initial status of land degradation

Proposed indicator composition:

- Land cover/land cover change,
 - Land productivity
 - Carbon stocks above and below ground
- +
- FAO LADA2 (Soil erosion, Chemical/Physical soil deterioration, water and biological degradation...)
 - Data from the national and sub-national level (ground measurements and remote sensing)

+

Supplementary national governance and socio-economic indicators



Thank you

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