

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop

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DLDD Mitigation and GEF significance in Asia-Pacific Region

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United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

Outline

–Facts of DLDD in AP

–UNCCD and SDGs (dec 2/COP12)

**–IWG on Future Strategic Framework (dec. 7/COP12)
and synergy with other Rio-conventions (dec 9/COp12)**

–LDN Conceptual Framework and TSP

–Response measures to mitigate DLDD

–GEF Significance to implement the DLDD

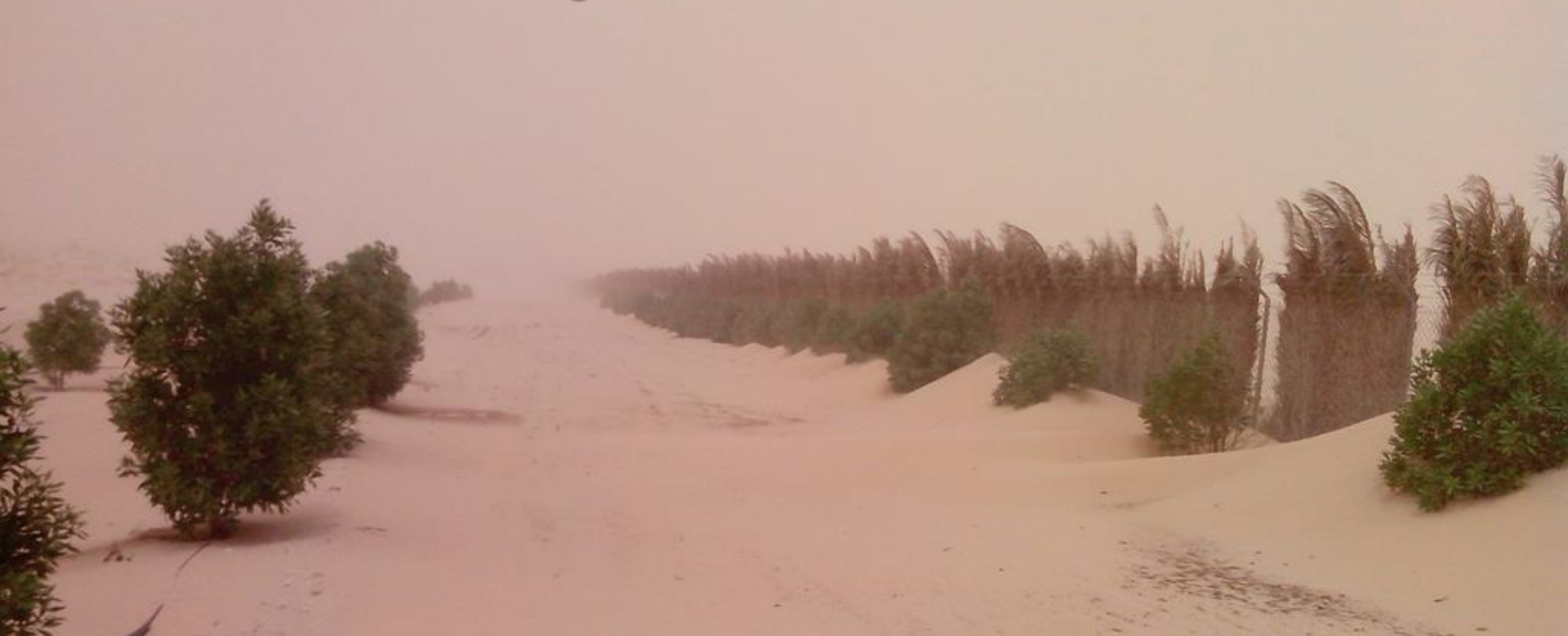


Fact of desertification in Asia and the Pacific Region

- 1. About 1.7 billion ha of land is affected by DLDD;**
- 2. 1/3 of the entire area is drylands;**
- 3. 71% of its drylands are affected;**
- 4. All Pacific islands states face deforestation, soil erosion, degradation, drought disaster and fresh water shortage;**

UNEP estimates that Desertification costs annually US\$42 Billion; Over 250 million people are directly affected; One billion populations are under threats or at risk.

This is a serious dust storm occurred on June 3rd, 2012 in Al-Hasa, KSA. The sandbreak plays effective role in stopping sand movement and reducing dust disaster.



DSS issue is common in many Asian countries. 23 of 58 Asia-Pacific countries are suffering from DSS disaster, include China, Mongolia, DPRK, ROK, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UEA, Yemen, and Australia.

Shifting Sands Stabilization at Baijitan, Lingwu, Ningxia



- **Impacts of DSS**
- Seriously affect natural and human environment (human health, agriculture, industries, transportation);
- Alter the climate by reducing surface net radiation;
- Enormous environmental, social and economic costs;
- Chinese researches estimate DSS cost annually alone at US\$70-230 Million.

Totally 1.633 billion population are living in NEA, which is directly affected by dust/sand disasters and many inhabitants in this vast region live under poverty line.

Covering a total land area of 28,837,000 sq. km in NEA, of which arable and permanent crops land covers 9%, permanent pasture/steppe represent 45%, forest and woodland occupy 16% and other land covers 30% of the region's total land area (Source: State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, p.5). This slide shows the significance of dune fixation by using mechanical, biological approaches at Baijitan, Ningxia.



UNCCD and SGDs:



major decisions calling for LDN



Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 15.3 (September 2015):

“by 2030, **combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil**, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to **achieve a land-degradation neutral world**”.

UNCCD COP 12 (October 2015):

- For operationalizing the SDG 15.3, UNCCD addresses/Integrates the LDN as the priority area and a future strategy framework will be developed with support from GEF, as substantive in coming years.
- Decided to make **LDN the guiding principle for the implementation of the Convention.**





- **COP12 invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the convention under GEF6 in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3;**
- **COP12 also invites the donors to the GEF to consider providing increased support to address country parties priorities relating to the implementation of the convention, in the light of the 2030 Agenda for SD, in particular target 15.3, during the planning process for GEF7;**
- **COP12 invite the GEF to continue the context of enabling activities under GEF6, to consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting.**
- **Invited country Parties to formulate and integrate in their NAP voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities.**

LDN definition

“a 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 and ecosystems”

Endorsed by UNCCD COP 12

Proposed by UNCCD Intergovernmental Working Group on LDN

Management options to achieve LDN:

- a) Prevent, avoid or minimize land degradation through land use planning and sustainable land management;
- b) Rehabilitate or restore degraded land

The most appropriate combination of options will vary depending upon:

- a) Drivers, types, degree and extent of land degradation;
- b) Underlying potential and resilience of land resources;
- c) National circumstances, priorities and capacities.

Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on SDG Target 15.3

Land Productivity refers to the biological productive capacity of the land, the source of all the food, fiber, and fuel that sustains humans. Land productivity can be calculated across large areas from Earth observation data on net primary productivity (NPP). Estimates of NPP, using vegetation indices, are influenced in the short-term by crop phenology, rainfall, nutrient fertilization and other variables which must be corrected for to accurately interpret trends. National authorities are best able to determine whether declining levels of land productivity are considered land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.

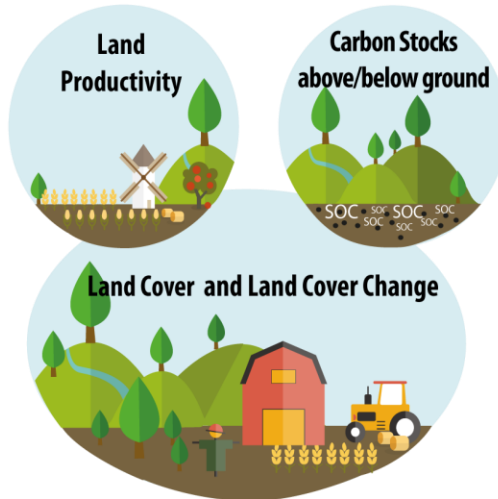
National Data is envisaged to be primarily used, to the greatest extent possible, to derive the sub-indicators and other relevant indicators and information at the country level, covering bio-physical, governance and socio-economic conditions as well as the status of land resources. National Data can be collected through existing sources (maps, databases, reports), including participatory inventories on existing land management systems and their characteristics

Indicator 15.3.1
Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area



Carbon Stocks (Above and Below Ground) give an indication of the amount of carbon in living and decomposing biomass above and below ground, including soil organic carbon. Carbon stocks are elementary to a wide range of ecosystem services and reflect land use and management practices. These stocks, including for soil organic carbon, can be estimated by applying carbon density values from ground-based measurements or national inventories in conjunction with land cover maps derived from Earth observation data. National authorities are best able to estimate trends in carbon stocks that indicate land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.

Sub -Indicators
UNCCD (CBD, UNFCCC)
Reporting Mechanisms



Land Cover and Land Cover Change, most often derived from Earth observation, is a fundamental parameter that assists with the interpretation and stratification of the other two sub-indicators. It is also essential for monitoring and reporting on multiple SDG targets focused on natural resource management, food and water security, environmental health and rural/urban planning for sustainable development. For global comparisons, countries are encouraged to use standardized land cover classification systems. National authorities are best able to determine whether land cover change is considered land degradation by taking into account local circumstances.

Data from multiple sources
FAO, GEF and other
Reporting Mechanisms



Why a LDN Conceptual

Framework is needed?

The conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality (LDN) is intended to:

- Provide a scientifically-sound basis for understanding LDN;
- Inform practical guidance for achieving LDN;
- Implementing LDN targets;
- Monitoring progress towards LDN targets.

A conceptual framework that (i) clarifies the **VISION** of LDN, (ii) outlines **IMPLEMENTATION** and **GOVERNANCE** forms, and (iii) builds the bridge to the already well-advanced **MONITORING** approach.

The GEF project is being developed with IUCN as GEF Implementing Agency and the project concept note has been accepted by GEF Sec for the current GEF work programme and has been shared with GEF council for comments.

Where are the knowledge gaps? (non-exhaustive)

(i) VISION LDN as a state):

- What is **ultimate objective of LDN**? How does a desirable LDN **state** look like?

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION and GOVERNANCE (LDN as an approach):

- What does **neutrality** mean in the context of land degradation? To what extent can/should LDN be a **compensation scheme**?
- At what **spatial scale** can/should LDN be achieved?
- What are the **pathways for implementing** LDN?

(iii) MONITORING:

- How can existing UNCCD progress **indicators** be linked or integrated into LDN conceptual framework?

LDN Target Setting Support Programme (LDN-TSP)

- **Scaling-up LDN target setting:** from 14 pilot countries to 60+ countries by COP 13 (2017)
- **Objective:** Country Parties are enabled to establish voluntary LDN targets and have identified measures and projects to achieve the target
- **3 components**
 - LDN baseline setting
 - Defining voluntary LDN targets and measures
 - Identifying concrete LDN projects
- Programme implementation will involve cooperation with numerous national and international stakeholders (ministries, planning authorities, development agencies) and technical partners.
- GEF provides co-funding of 3 Million US\$ and other donors committed funding for the LDN TSP which 60 countries of all Annex Groups will be involved.

GEF Significance to implement the UNCCD

GEF 5 has financed **66,981,786 US\$** for **39 projects** on **combating land degradation, SLM, national reporting and reforestation** in **22 countries in Asia-Pacific region**.

GEF 6: Focus on Land Degradation Results Framework

Goal: To contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

Impact: Sustained productivity of agro-ecosystems and forest landscapes in support of human livelihoods.

Corporate Level Target: 120 million hectares under Sustainable Land Management.

Indicators:

- (a) Change in land productivity (greenness measure as proxy - NPP, NDVI)
- (b) Improved livelihoods in rural areas (Farmer income – disaggregated by gender)
- (c) Value of investment in SLM (\$ generated from diverse sources, co-financing in projects)

GEF Significance to implement the UNCCD (cont.)

Objectives of GEF6:

LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agroecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods ;

LD-2: Forest Landscapes: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;

LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape

LD-4: Maximizing transformational impact: Maintain land resources and agroecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale

LD-EA: Adaptive Management and learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD Parties

Response Measures for DLDD Mitigation (Suggested for GEF funded projects in AP Region)

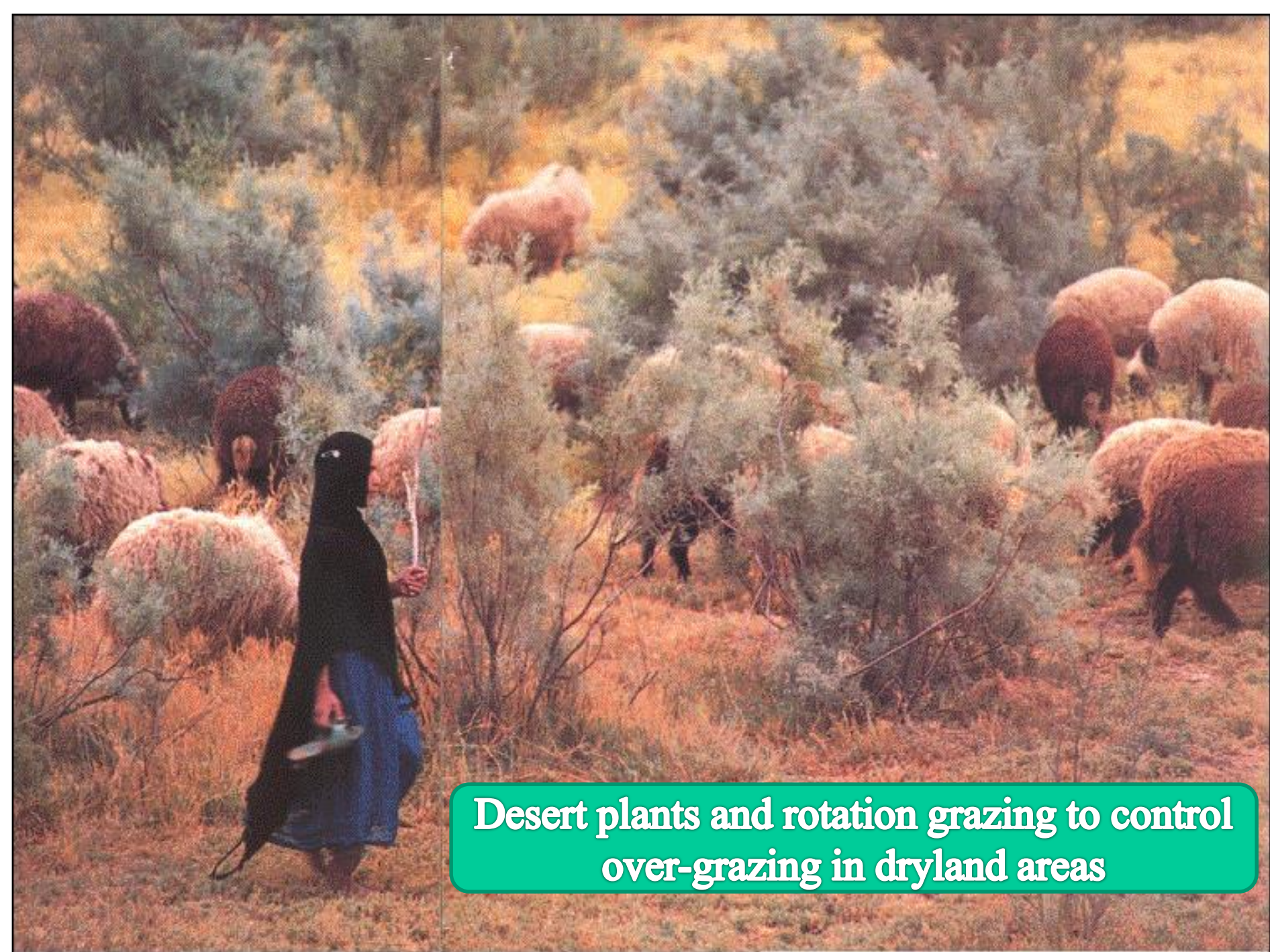
- ◎ Reforestation/aforestation/revegetation;**
- ◎ Agroforestry through public-private partnership;**
- ◎ Soil & Water Conservation;**
- ◎ Rotation grazing in desert steppe;**
- ◎ Protected Areas and Nature Reserve;**
- ◎ Active participation of local people and community;**
- ◎ Policy development and political willingness.**

Soil erosions in Nepali Mountain area





**Hand-spreading seeds on sand land before rainy season
--Case of Success Story in Iran**



Desert plants and rotation grazing to control over-grazing in dryland areas

Trees and shrubs plantation on salinized soil



Feed Me to Feed You



World Day to Combat Desertification
17 June