

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

UN-GGIM: Europe – SDG Line of Work Webinar Wednesday 14th May 2025, 10:00 – 12:00 CEST

Concept Note



Agenda

Introduction

• Welcome and introduction of the set of webinars [Célia Ferreira, Statistics Portugal & Gwendolin Seidner, BKG, Co-chairs of the SDG Line of Work]

• Overview of the session and orchestration of the webinar [Mónica Miguel-Lago, EARSC, member LoW SDGs]

• Setting the scene: the work of the UN-GGIM Europe - Line of Work on 'SDG' [Célia Ferreira, Statistics Portugal & Gwendolin Seidner, BKG, Co-chairs of the SDG Line of Work]

Theoretical Context [30 min approx.: Short presentations (10 min) + Discussion]

- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and SDG 15.3.1: From global commitments to national implementation [Sara Minelli, Brian O'Connor, UNCCD]
- Harmonizing Earth Observation for land degradation monitoring: GEO LDN tools, standards, and country-level implementation [Antje Hecheltjen, Bernd Eversmann, GEOLDN]
- Land degradation, climate resilience, and the role of geospatial information in achieving SDG 15.3.1 [James Norris, Ordnance Survey, UN-GGIM Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience] (TBC)

[Round table moderated by Steven Ramage, CEOS]

Q&A moderated:

-This moderated discussion will serve as a bridge between global policy frameworks, technical standards, and institutional commitments underpinning SDG Indicator 15.3.1, and the real-world implementation of land degradation neutrality monitoring. Building on the presentations from UNCCD, GEOLDN, and the UN-GGIM Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience, the round table will explore how to enhance coherence and coordination across policy, geospatial data systems, and monitoring practices.

-Some discussion topics may include: (i) translating global commitments like the LDN framework into nationally implemented processes (ii) harmonizing EO methodologies (e.g., GEO LDN) while respecting national and local contexts (iii) leveraging geospatial strategies and EO capabilities for climate resilience and land monitoring (iv) enhancing collaboration between international conventions, mapping agencies, and EO providers.

Use case contributions (Methodological Insights) [60 min approx.: Short presentations (10 min) + Discussion]

- SEN4LDN: Case study demonstrating EO applications for SDG 15.3.1 (Develop an integrated EO-based solution to assess land degradation at high resolution [Carolien Tote, VITO]
- Mapping land degradation in the EU [Calogero Schillaci and Arwyn Jones, European Commission- Joint Research Centre]

• Linking land tenure and degradation: The role of cadastral data in supporting SDG 15.3.1 monitoring [Rocio Rodriguez Molina, Cadaster Spain]

• Integrating soil erosion into land degradation monitoring: Insights from the SDGsEYES project (Eurostat code:15_50) [Melissa Latella, CMCC]

• Knowledge generation using satellite Earth Observations & the GEOSS platform to support Sustainable Development Goals: a use case on Land Degradation [Gregory Giuliani, University of Geneva]



[Round table moderated by Marc Paganini, ESA] Q&A moderated:

-The moderated discussion will serve as a bridge between the innovative methodological approaches presented and their practical integration into policy and operational frameworks for SDG 15.3.1. It will explore how these EO-driven use cases—ranging from national pilots and cadastral integration to erosion modelling and global platform applications—can support sustainable land management and inform national reporting processes. -Some discussion topics may include: (i) gaps and complementarities between EO, in situ, and socio-economic data, (ii) harmonizing approaches for monitoring land cover changes, land productivity/functionality, and carbon stock

trends, (iii) ensuring that methodological advancements translate into actionable insights, policy uptake, and reporting readiness, (iv) identifying pathways for scaling and transferring solutions across European and global contexts

Wrap-up and closing

Wrap-up: EARSC + Moderators to summarize the key points from the sessions Closing Remarks [Célia Ferreira, Statistics Portugal & Gwendolin Seidner, BKG, Co-chairs of the SDG Line of Work]

Background

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 15.3.1 – Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area is a cornerstone in the global commitment to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Monitoring land degradation effectively is essential to address interconnected challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable land use. Earth Observation (EO) and geospatial data offer critical tools to assess, monitor, and report on land degradation processes in a consistent, scalable, and evidence-based manner. These capabilities are increasingly being integrated into national monitoring systems to support both international reporting and local policy action. This UN-GGIM: Europe webinar brings together policy leaders, technical experts, and practitioners to explore the evolving institutional frameworks and methodological innovations shaping the use of EO for SDG 15.3.1. Through keynote presentations, real-world use cases, and moderated roundtables, the event will facilitate dialogue on how to enhance the role of EO in driving policy-relevant insights and supporting countries in meeting their LDN commitments.

Goals

- Present the evolving policy context and institutional frameworks supporting SDG 15.3.1
- Highlight the role of EO and geospatial data in monitoring land degradation
- Showcase use cases and tools supporting countries' efforts
- Discuss challenges and opportunities for bridging policy and operational monitoring

Institutions involved

By Alphabetical Order:

- •BKG, Germany
- •Cadaster Spain
- •CEOS
- •CMCC
- •EARSC
- •ESA
- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- •GEO-LDN
- •Statistics Portugal
- •UNCCD
- •UN-GGIM Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience
- University of Geneva
- •VITO