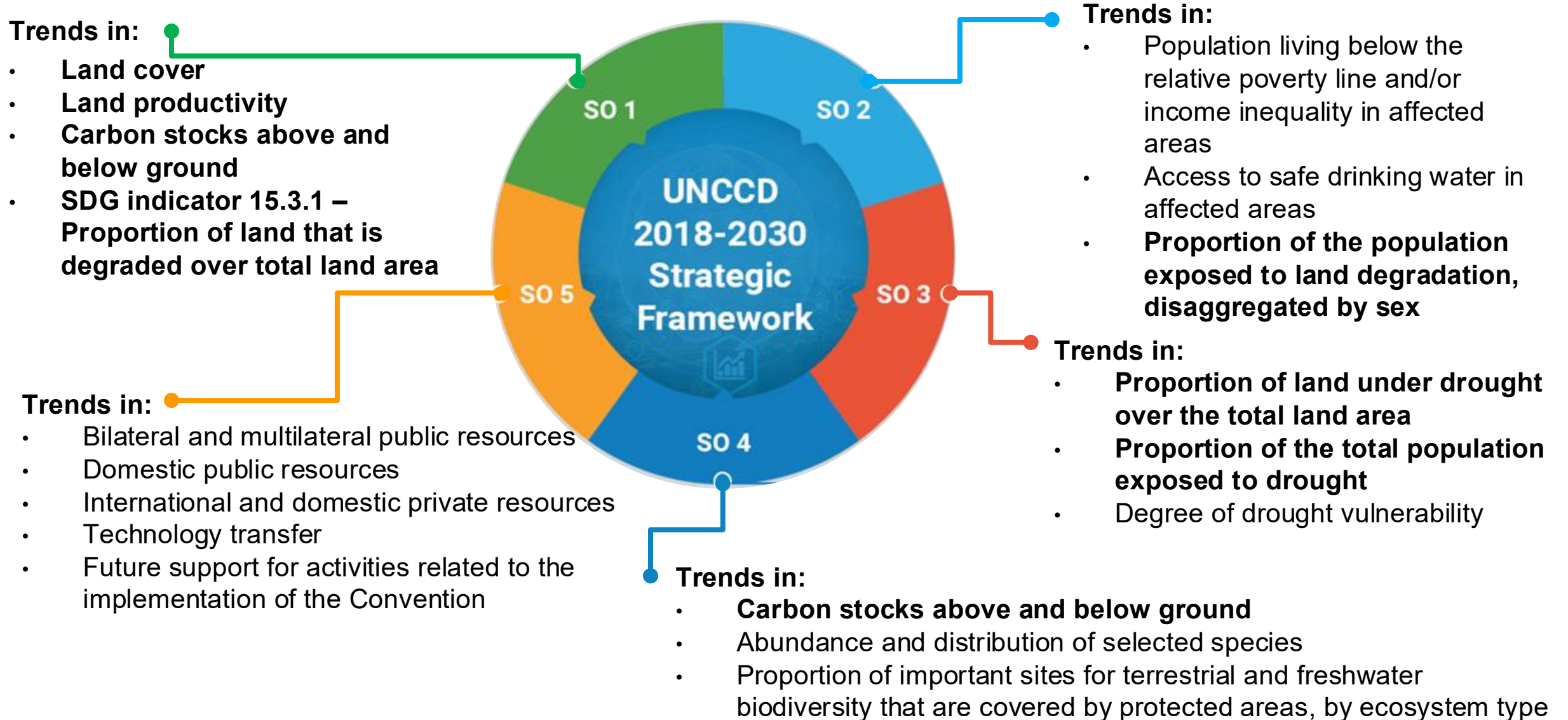# Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and SDG Indicator 15.3.1: From global commitments to national implementation

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UNCCD Secretariat, Bonn, Germany

United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification

United for land

UNCCD Indicator Framework

Trends in:
- **Land cover**
- **Land productivity**
- **Carbon stocks above and below ground**
- **SDG indicator 15.3.1 – Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area**

SO 1

SO 2

SO 5

UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework

SO 3

SO 4

Trends in:
- Population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas
- Access to safe drinking water in affected areas
- **Proportion of the population exposed to land degradation, disaggregated by sex**

Trends in:
- **Proportion of land under drought over the total land area**
- **Proportion of the total population exposed to drought**
- Degree of drought vulnerability

Trends in:
- Bilateral and multilateral public resources
- Domestic public resources
- International and domestic private resources
- Technology transfer
- Future support for activities related to the implementation of the Convention

Trends in:
- **Carbon stocks above and below ground**
- Abundance and distribution of selected species
- Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

Overview of LDN target setting work

- Supporting countries since 2015 (LDN pilot project - 14 pilot countries)

- **LDN Target Setting Programme since 2016** (LDN TSP – global scale)

- **131 countries** engaged in setting LDN targets

- **113 countries have successfully completed this voluntary process**

- **LDN Target Setting Programme 2.0** since 2024 (18 countries for enhanced targets)
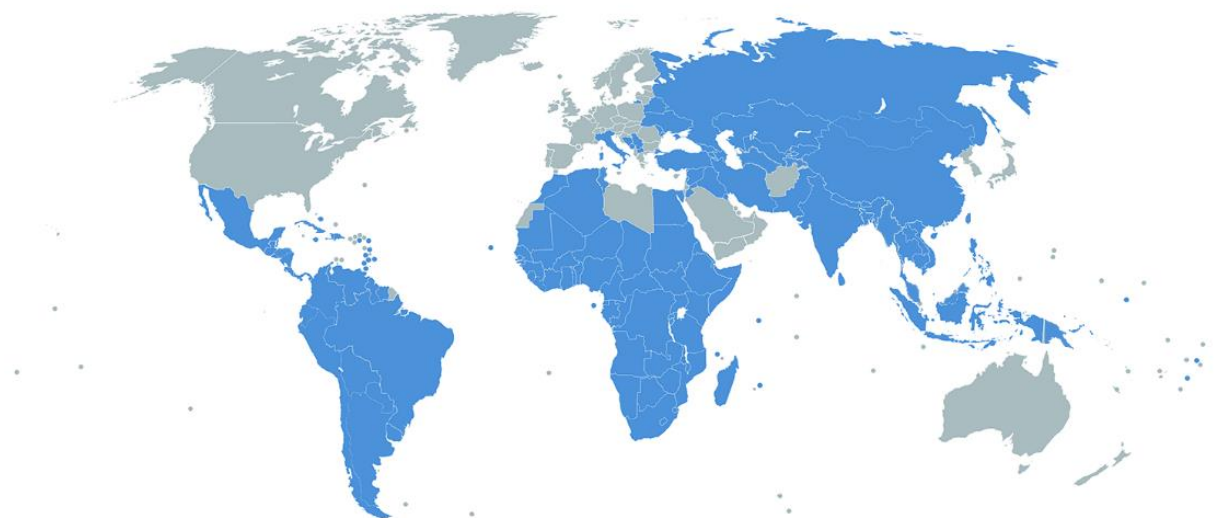

Countries setting LDN targets

Disclaimer: the boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement, acceptance or the views or opinions of the UNCCD and the United Nations regarding the legal status of any territory or country. Care was taken in the creation of this map and is for display purposes only. The UNCCD, its staff and contractors cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy or be held responsible for any damages due to errors or omissions in this map.

Overview of LDN-TSP: global impact

LDN TSP received the 2018 IUCN **Global Impact Award**.

Globally, this work has resulted **in voluntary commitments to restore almost 600 million hectares of degraded land**.
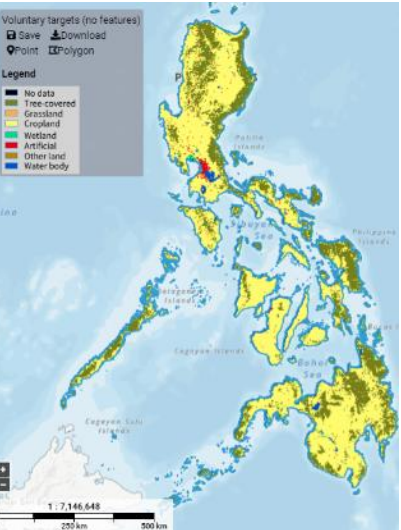
This constitutes the single **largest contribution of country commitments to the global ecosystem restoration agenda** and to the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.

Global land restoration commitments
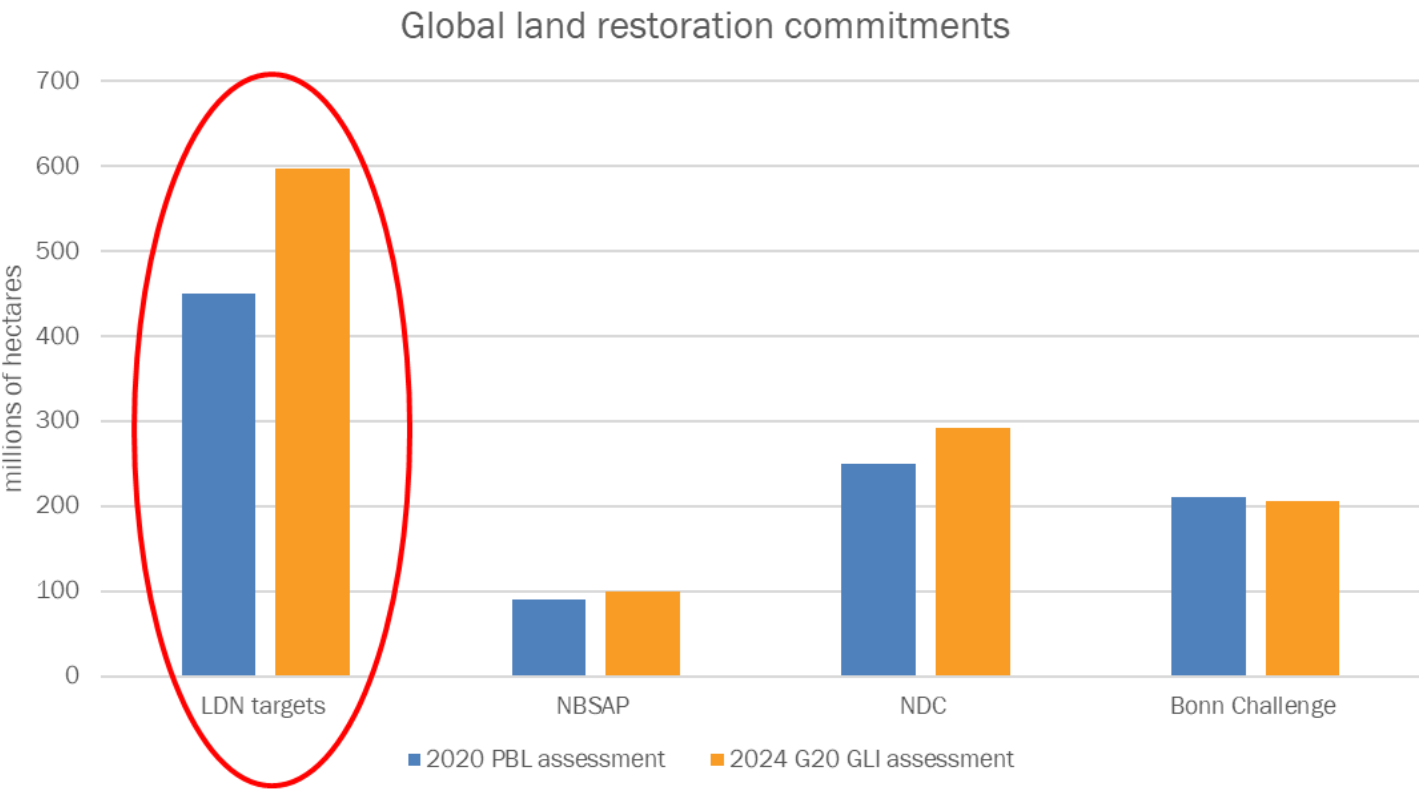
	LDN targets	NBSAP	NDC	Bonn Challenge
2020 PBL assessment	450	90	250	210
2024 G20 GLI assessment	596	99	291	205

(Sources: PBL 2020 https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/goals-and-commitments-for-the-restoration-decade and G20 GLI 2024 https://grih.info/reports/)

SDG indicator 15.3.1

Good practice guidance

- The Good Practice Guidance (Version 2) provides the analytical methods for calculating SDG Indicator 15.3.1 using Earth Observation data

- An addendum to the GPG will shed new light on specific methodological challenges faced by countries in 2022 reporting

Addendum to the GPG SDG 15.3.1 (in progress)

INTEGRATING LAND CONDITION ASSESSMENTS OVER TIME

TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS LDN

ENHANCEMENT OF DATASETS AND METHODOLOGIES

SDG indicator 15.3.1: Status and Trends
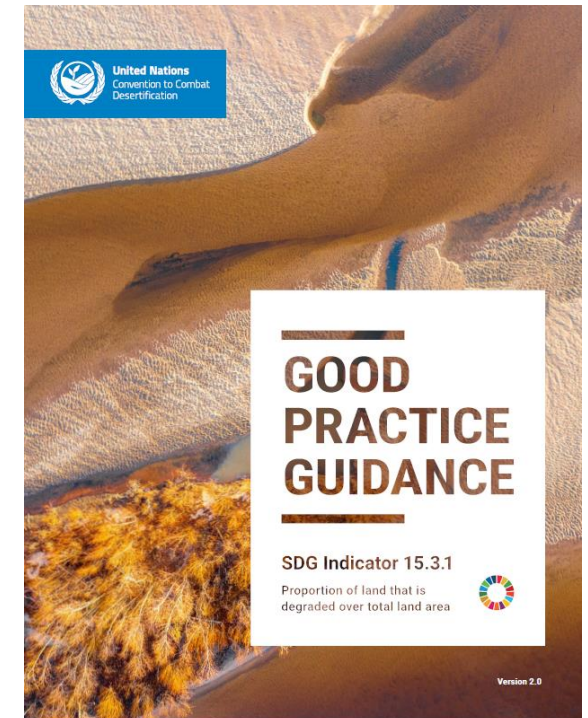
2x Between 2015 and 2019, the world lost at least **100 million** hectares of healthy and productive land each year, adding up to **twice the size of Greenland.**

https://data.unccd.int

100 More than **100 football fields** worth of healthy land lost **in Africa every minute.**

If current trends persist, we will need to restore **1.5 billion hectares** of degraded land by 2030.

Proportion of degraded land over total land area

2019

Not reported   Estimated data   0%   20%   40%   60%

Source: data.unccd.int

Country example: Colombia

Colombia – SO1-1.M1
Land cover in the initial year of the baseline period

Legend
- Bosque
- Arbustal
- Herbazal
- Agroforesteria
- Pastos
- Cultivos
- Mosaico
- Artificial
- Sin Cobertura
- Nival
- Humedales
- Agua

International Boundary

Projection: EPSG:3857 (Web Mercator)
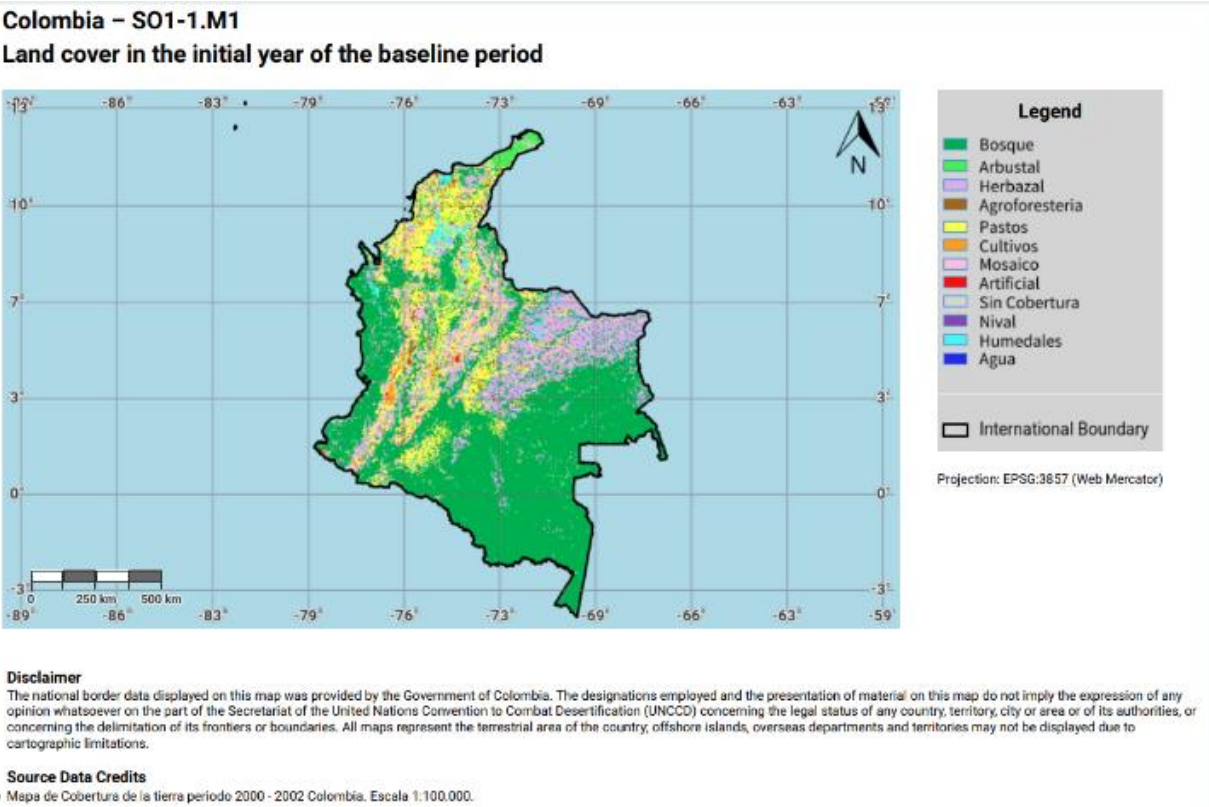
National land cover data for 2001, 2012 and 2019

12 land cover classes to capture key degradation processes

Land over transition matrix developed using a participatory approach

High level of confidence in the estimates

GROUP 1 GROUP 2 GROUP 3 GROUP 4

|	Forests	Shrublands	Grasslands	Agroforestry	Pastures	Cropland	Productive Mosaics	Artificial	Bareland	Snow and glaciers	Wetlands	Water
Forests	4n	2-2n	2n2-	3-1n	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	3n1+	3n1-	3-1n
Shrublands	1+3n	4n	2-2n	3-1+	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	3n1+	3n1-	3-1n
Grasslands	2+2n	2n2+	4n	1+3-	4-	3-1n	2n2-	4-	4-	3n1+	2-1n1+	3-1n
Agroforestry	4+	4+	2+1n1-	4n	3-1n	3-1n	2n2-	4-	4-	4n	3+1-	3-1n
Pastures	4+	4+	3+1n	4+	4n	1+1-2n	3+1n	4-	4-	4n	3+1-	3-1n
Cropland	4+	4+	2+2n	4+	4n	4n	3+1n	4-	4-	4n	3+1-	3-1n
Productive Mosaics	4+	4+	3+1n	2+2n	4-	3-1n	4n	4-	4-	4n	3+1-	3-1n
Artificial	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4n	2n1-1+	4n	3+1-	3-1n
Bareland	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	3n1+	4n	4n	4+	2-2n
Snow and glaciers	2n2-	2n2-	2n2-	3-1n	3-1n	3-1n	3-1n	3-1n	3-1n	4n	3n1-	2-2n
Wetlands	4+	3n1-	2n2-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4n	4n	4n
Water	4+	2-2+	2-2+	2-2+	2-2+	2-2+	2-2+	3n1-	3n1-	4n	3+1-	4n

n NEUTRAL + POSITIVE - NEGATIVE

Country example: Colombia

Colombia – SO1-3.M7
Soil organic carbon degradation in the reporting period
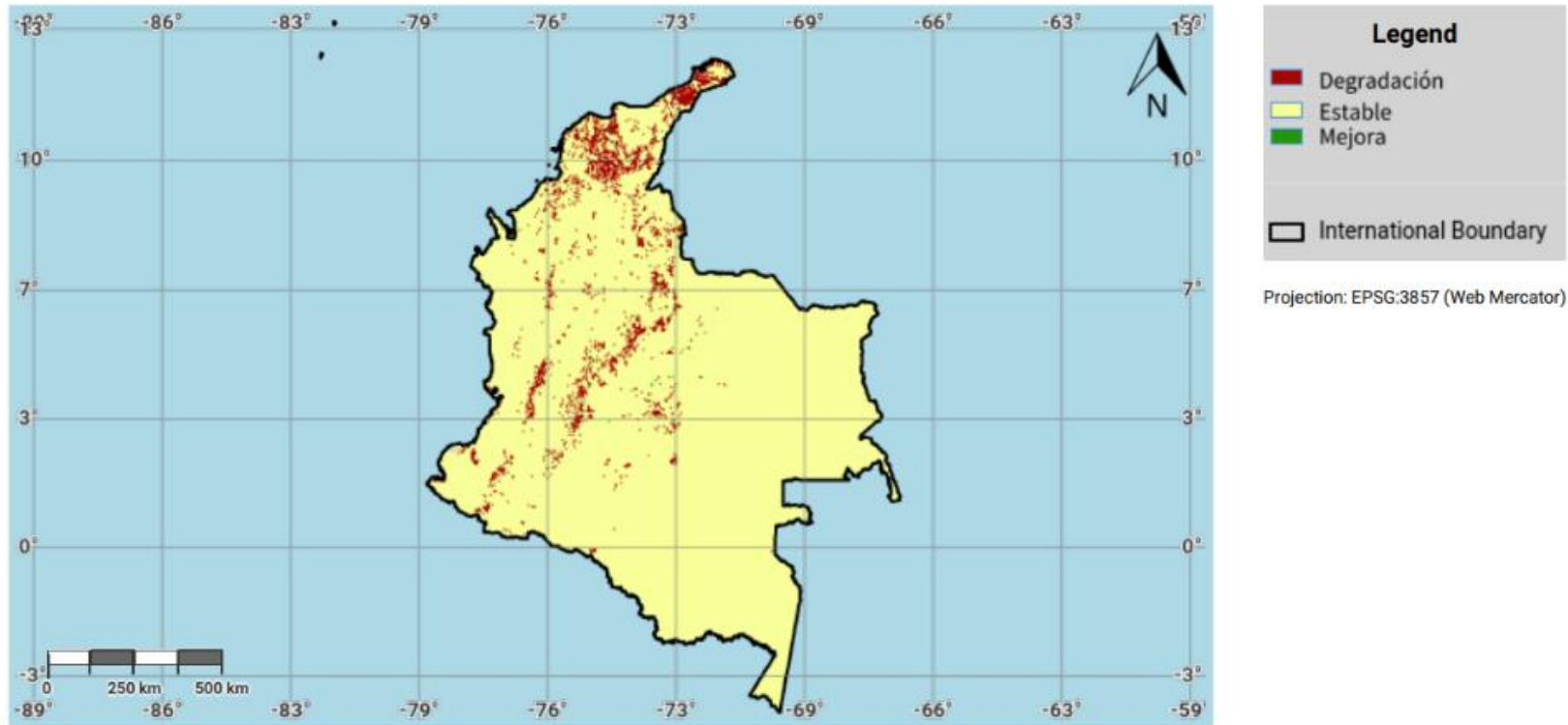
Legend
- Degradación
- Estable
- Mejora

☐ International Boundary

Projection: EPSG:3857 (Web Mercator)

Disclaimer
The national border data displayed on this map was provided by the Government of Colombia. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. All maps represent the terrestrial area of the country; offshore islands, overseas departments and territories may not be displayed due to cartographic limitations.

Source Data Credits
- Mapa Degradación del carbono orgánico del suelo a partir de información nacional. periodo de Referencia.
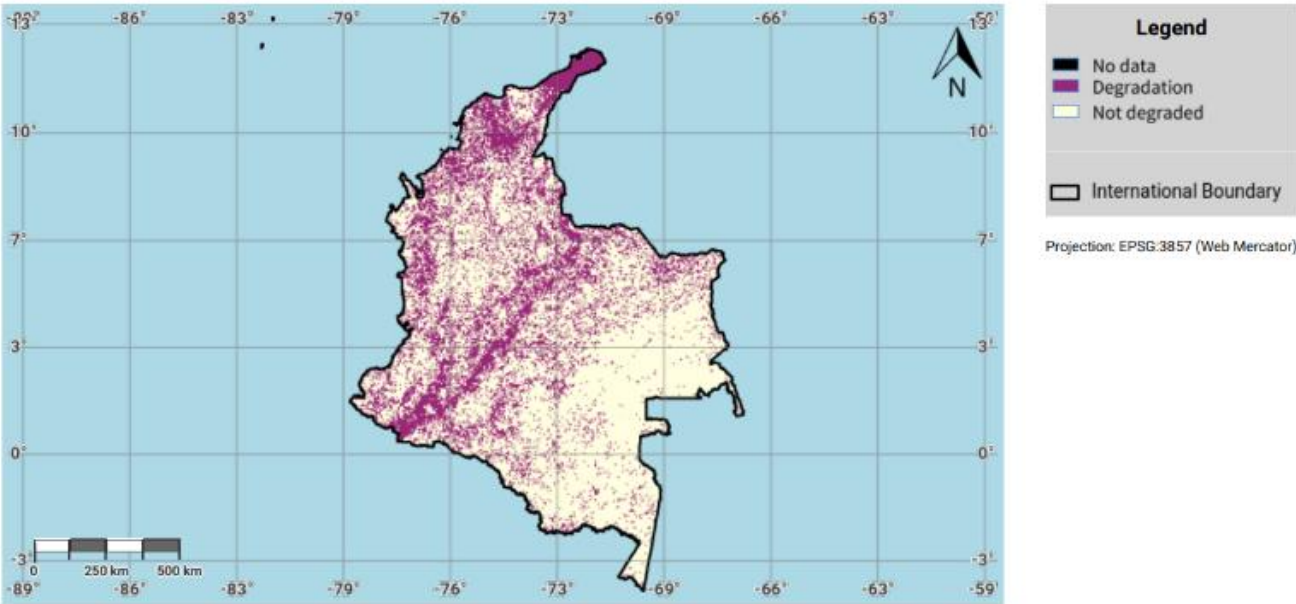
National soil organic carbon stock data

Changes in SOC stock were estimated taking into consideration soil erosion and salinization processes, as well as the potential for carbon sequestration

Medium level of confidence in the estimates

Country example: Colombia

Colombia – SO1-4.M2

Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (SDG Indicator 15.3.1) in the reporting period

Legend
- No data
- Degradation
- Not degraded

International Boundary

Projection: EPSG:3857 (Web Mercator)

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Source Data Credits
- Indicador 15.3.1 de los ODS (Reporte 2015 - 2019)

As of 2019, almost 30 % of the land was degraded in Colombia (vs 9% default estimates)

Medium level of confidence in the estimates

SO1-4.T1: National estimates of the total area of degraded land (in km²), and the proportion of degraded land relative to t[...]

	Total area of degraded land (km²)	Proportion of degraded land over the total land area (%) ⓘ
Baseline Period ⓘ	85348	7.6
Reporting Period ⓘ	98370	8.8
Change in degraded extent ⓘ	13022	

Default

SO1-4.T1: Estimaciones nacionales de la superficie total de las tierras degradadas (en kilómetros cuadrados), y proporción de tierras degradadas en comparación con la superficie terrestre total

	Superficie total de las tierras degradadas (km²)	Proporción de tierras degradadas en comparación con la superficie terrestre total (%)
Período de Referencia	331 897	28,8
Período sobre el que se informa	343 934	29,8
Variación de la extensión de las tierras degradadas	12037	

Reported

National experiences of reporting

Publication year: 2024

This publication **showcases experiences from some 30 countries during the 2022 reporting process** on the status and trends in land degradation and drought. It provides an insight to the range of approaches that countries have taken to overcome challenges related to data availability, reliability, analysis and upload, digital and geospatial literacy, as well as sufficient and timely financial resources.

Regional geographies pose unique challenges

Hyper arid regions

Source: USGS/ESA

Small island developing states

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2018), processed by ESA, CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO

Conclusion

LDN Targets are a cornerstone for the achievement of SDG Target 15.3 and contribute the highest share to the global restoration commitment
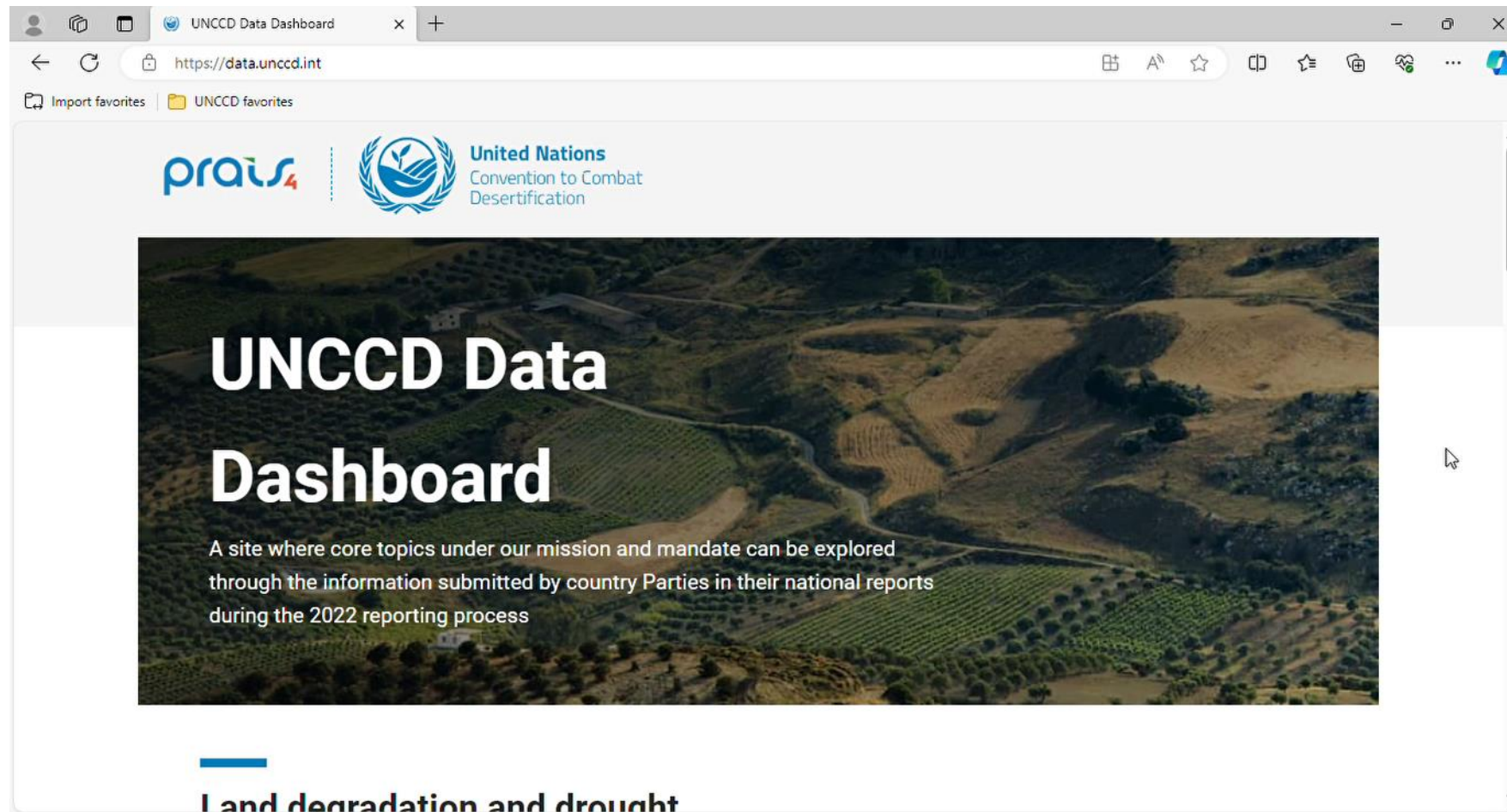
An analysis of SDG Indicator 15.3.1 suggest **at least 1.5. billion hectares of degraded land will need to be restored by 2030 for LDN to be achieved**

National reporting using EO saw a major step forward in the 2022 reporting process, but **challenges persist especially for certain regions**

Thank you

https://data.unccd.int/