



The sustainable management and restoration of production systems –crop, rangelands, forest and agro-silvo-pastoral systems– and their associated natural resources provide multiple goods and services with ecological, social and economic benefits.

Land users and managers who maintain healthy soils and make effective use of water resources and biodiversity, have more means to adapt to climate change and are better buffered against extreme events such as drought.

FAO@COP12

FAO develops and implements programmes to eradicate hunger and alleviate rural poverty. This requires sustainably increasing production of food and other products from crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry systems to meet the growing demand. But only when soils, water and biodiversity are sustainably managed and restored, these objectives can be met.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) together with Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) are important pillars of FAO's engagement in supporting food security and poverty alleviation. They contribute directly to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on Food Security (SDG2) and Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG15).

COP12: Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought

FAO's main actions and partnerships to support UNCCD objectives

→ Develop, document and disseminate sustainable agricultural and forest practices



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FAO promotes adapted technologies, approaches, integrated systems through field projects backed up by technical guidelines, information systems, case studies and policy support.

FAO supports cooperation platforms and knowledge sharing mechanisms for the implementation of SLM practices and policies in the range of production systems. (i.e. WOCAT, TerrAfrica and Great Green Wall knowledge platforms, Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM), and Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox).

→ Promote alliances and strong global partnerships



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FAO is actively supporting the Global Soil Partnership (and its regional networks), the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Collaboration is also being renewed through the Rome Promise on Monitoring and Assessment for Sustainable Management and Restoration in Drylands and the Global Assessment of Grasslands.

FAO is engaged in advocacy and global awareness raising campaigns such as the UN declarations and worldwide celebrations for the International Years of Soils (2015), Family Farming (2014) and Pulses (2016).

→ Develop capacity in monitoring and assessment

FAO builds capacity in effective monitoring and assessment to inform on status and trends and effectiveness of ecosystem management and restoration efforts (impacts, costs and benefits). Such an evidence base enables actors to design /select beneficial strategies and to assess progress towards SDG targets and indicators.

Examples of tools include: **Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)**: for the assessment and mapping of land degradation and SLM from national to local levels (<http://www.fao.org/nr/lada/>);

World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT): for the assessment and documentation of best practices that are validated on the ground and made available through a global standardised database (www.wocat.net); **Collect Earth**: a new, free and easy to use software for measuring and monitoring land use and its change in drylands and elsewhere (<http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth>).



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→ Strengthen land tenure security and access over resources

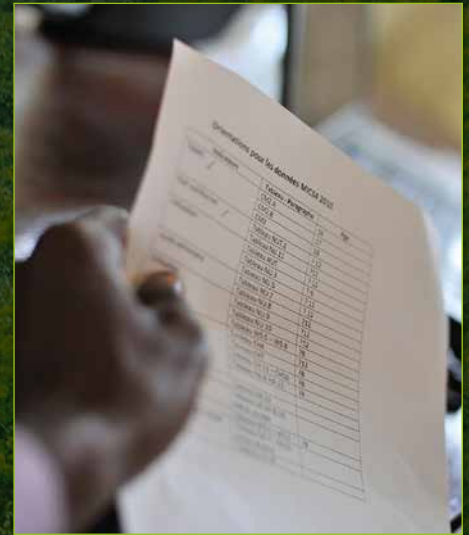
The 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security' is a valuable instrument in the process for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in countries.



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Key messages for policymakers and other decision-makers

- **Invest in assessment and monitoring to evaluate** progress and impacts of interventions and identify priority areas for SLM and the restoration of degraded lands
- **Engage in cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder dialogue and planning processes** to address drivers of land degradation through collaborative platforms and decision support mechanisms
- **Enable and invest in capacity development of all key stakeholders** to ensure delivery of harmonized policies, regulations, technical support services and financing instruments
- **Improve land tenure and governance**, to encourage responsible investments by land users in SLM and restoration at various scales
- **Create suitable conditions for strategic investment frameworks for SLM/ forest and integrated landscape management** and restoration across private and public sectors and interest groups
- **Encourage knowledge sharing, research, learning and experimenting** through technology transfer, advisory services, farmer field schools and networks, communication strategies and south-south cooperation
- **Strengthen engagement with networks and partnerships** to join forces, make effective use of resources, and foster visibility across stakeholders (community, technical, institutional, policy)
- **Involve practitioners in formulation and planning processes**, recognizing their role as both stewards over natural resources and the implementing force for sustainable landscape management and restoration initiatives



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Key messages for practitioners

- **Engage all land users in participatory planning and negotiation processes** to enhance and sustain production and meet divergent needs in a fair and equitable manner
- **Enable communities to select best practices** and to design and implement SLM action plans at farm and catchment /territorial level
- **Adapt and scale up sustainable crop, grazing and forest practices** and diversified production systems as a win-win to reduce land degradation, sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services, increase socio-economic benefits and enhance resilience, food security and global environmental benefits
- **Promote natural and/or assisted regeneration measures**, as they require little investment and pay special attention to sustainable supply of quality genetic material and the use of native species in order to maximize genetic, species and habitat diversity and enhance resilience and sustainable livelihoods



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For more information of FAO's work on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought, contact FAO's Land and Water Division - NRL-Director@fao.org - www.fao.org