

Economics of Land Degradation

A global initiative for sustainable land management





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“Economics of Land Degradation-ELD” is a **global initiative on the base of an economic study**, to create a **framework** to measure the economic costs of land degradation and create **greater awareness** for the pressing issue of land degradation

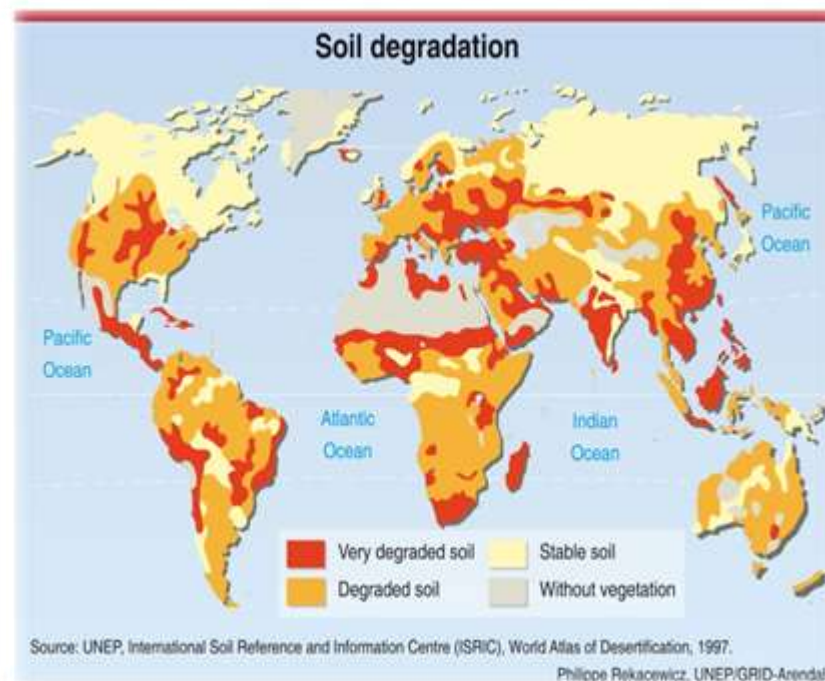


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The Challenge

- Address the gaps on awareness and knowledge about the economic impacts of land degradation and the value of productive land
- The need to argue the case for making the economics of land degradation an **integral part of policy strategies and decision-making**





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Initial Response

Partnership meeting on the “Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (E-DLDD)”

in December 2010 in Bonn, Germany

Results:

- Outspoken support and call for a global initiative
- First analysis by IFPRI/ZEF
- Establishment of the ELD Secretariat under GIZ, Convention Project to Combat Desertification
- ELD Joint Partnership





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Launch of ELD

On 20 September 2011, the *Economics of Land Degradation Initiative* was **officially launched** during the ELD Side Event of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Desertification.



7/11/2012





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ELD – Mission Statement

Through an open inter-disciplinary partnership:

- *We develop a holistic framework for the consideration of the economic values of land in political decision making processes;*
- *We compile and build a compelling economics case for benefits derived from sustainable management practices the sustainable management of land and soil on a global and local scale ;*
- *We estimate the economic costs resulting from the degradation of land and related ecosystem services and compare them to costs of protecting the land;*
- *We sharpen awareness of the value of land and related ecosystem services;*
- *We will propose effective solutions, policies and activities to reduce land degradation, mitigate climate change and deliver food, energy and water security worldwide.*



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Objectives

- Overall project approach follows *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change* and *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB), by **putting a figure on the social and economic costs.**
- The economic side of land degradation must become an **integral part of policy-making and business decision taking – locally, nationally and internationally.**

ELD thus will consider **institutional and political arrangements** as well.





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Vision

To transform global understanding of the value of land and to create awareness of the economic case for sustainable land management in preventing loss of natural capital, preserving ecosystem services, combatting climate change and in addressing food, energy and water security.





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The Scope

- Cover the problem of **land degradation worldwide, including desertification, and drought**
- Demonstrate economic consequences of land degradation and the added economic value of better **sustainable land management**.





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An inclusive partnership

- ELD calls on **scientists** in different disciplines, **economists** and experts from the world of **business**
- The ELD initiative seeks **cooperation** with universities and research institutions, NGOs, international businesses, finance institutions, farmers and agricultural associations, in addition to engaging partners from the political decision-making process.



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Target groups

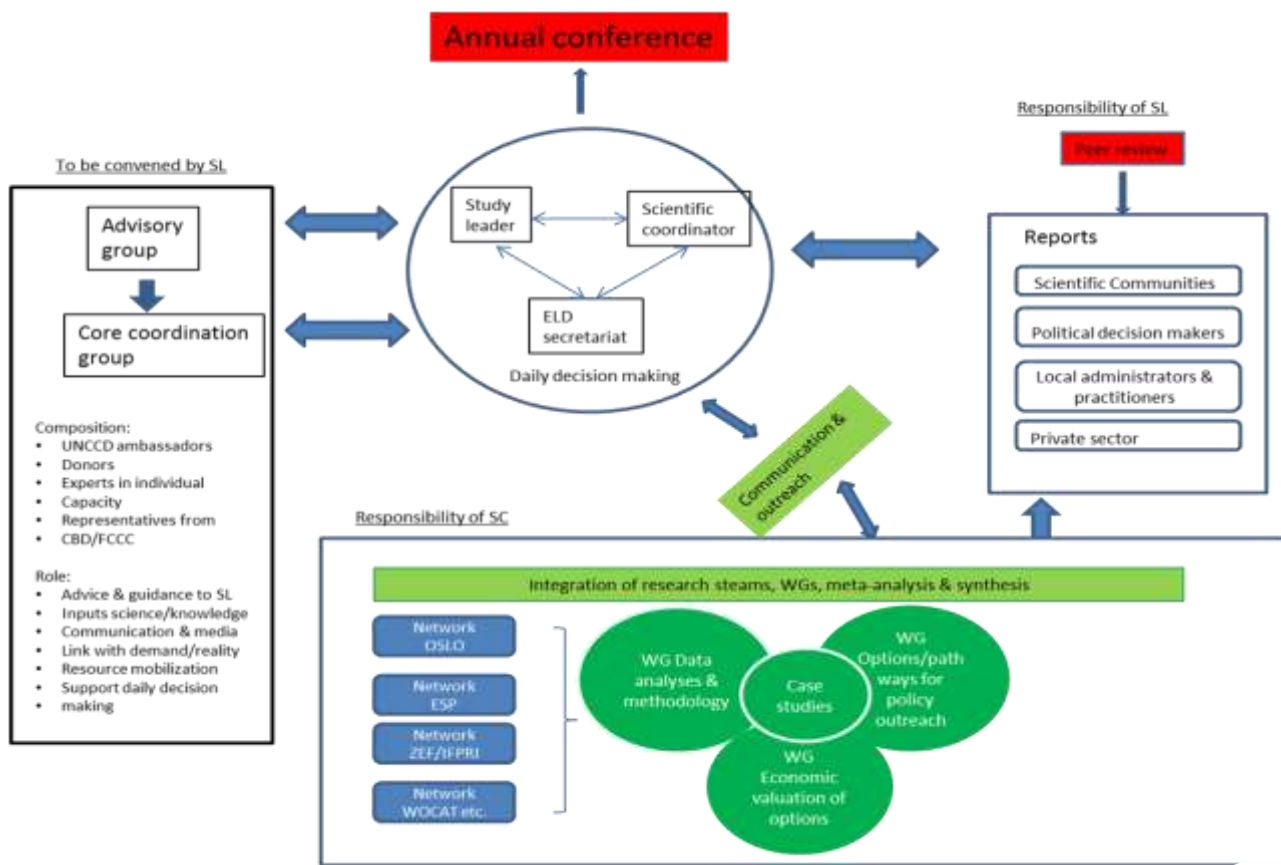
- ELD initiative serves decision makers from both **policy on all levels and the private sector**
- Four targeted reports to
 - i) scientific community,
 - ii) international policy makers,
 - iii) local and regional decision makers and practitioners
 - iv) private sector



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Governance of the ELD Initiative

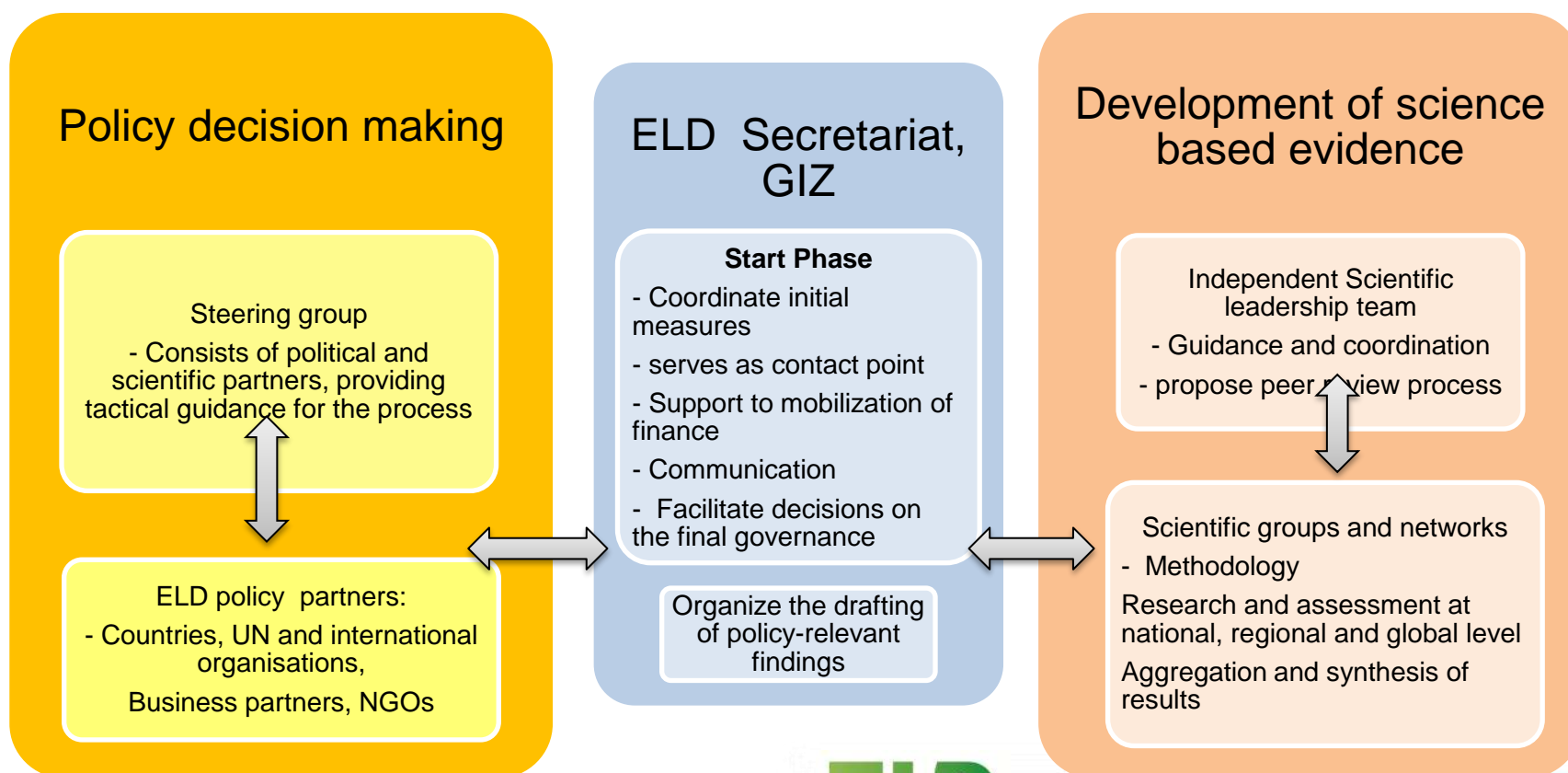




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ELD Initiative Work flow





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Ultimately,

ELD aims to **raise sustainable land management to a higher level of priority on global and national agendas** and to draw attention of decision-makers, the private sector, media and the public to the urgent need for **sustainable management of and greater investment** in agriculture and soil productivity.





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Additional Outputs

- **Global Study** on the Economics of Land Degradation
- well-informed risk **assessment strategies**
- a long-term, **proactive view of environmental change processes**
- **policy advice** and **communication strategy**.



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Partners and contributors



korea



Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung
Center for Development Research
University of Bonn



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH





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