

Side Event at UNCCD COP15

LDN reporting, target setting and monitoring: Experiences from Ecuador, Turkey and Kazakhstan in co-developing and applying FAO-WOCAT tools at national level for LDN

Land restoration Day May 17th, 17:45-19:15 – Rio Conventions Pavilion
<http://www.riopavilion.org/unccd-cop15-land-restoration/>



Summary: Countries are facing challenges to report and monitor progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at national level using their best available information. To tackle this issue, Ecuador and different countries in Latin America, Central Asia and Europe co-developed with FAO and WOCAT a tool to perform comprehensive, data-driven, and participatory assessments of land degradation at national scale, integrating qualitative and quantitative data and considering both the biophysical and socio economic dimensions of land degradation.

In this event, Ecuador and representatives of Kazakhstan and Turkey, will present their experiences in developing and applying this spatially explicit interactive tool that supports LDN monitoring and reporting as well as target setting and decision making. For each country, the process involved specialists from various institutions; as well as decision-makers from the public sector and other stakeholders. Cloud computing allowed the integration of different sources of available data in each country, which included (i) the results of participatory land degradation assessments based on expert knowledge; (ii) FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative maps on rural poverty and agricultural efficiency and potential; (iii) national data sets on land use, soil properties, and hydro-climatic indicators; and (iv) satellite derived LDN indicators.

The tool enabled decision-makers to easily compare results and obtain statistics at different spatial scales and landscapes, and to identify areas with specific characteristics to prioritise different types of interventions to achieve or set the country's LDN targets using the principle of convergence of evidence. The participatory processes contributed to strengthen multi-sector cooperation mechanisms and to guarantee ownership of the results. The tool, together with other approaches, is being refined and expanded in the context of the Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (DSL-IP) Community of Practice 1: LDN Assessments and Decision Taking, led by WOCAT and FAO. With this event we expect to share concrete insights with UNCCD parties and COP participants in general from countries that have successfully adapted and applied to their national context a tool that follows the same workflow required by the UNCCD (i) to monitor and report on progress towards LDN, and (ii) to set voluntary LDN targets using national and validated information.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Presentation	Responsible
17:45 - 17:50	Opening Remarks	Mr. Pablo Caza Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador
17:50 - 18:00	Co-development of FAO-WOCAT LDN Decision Support Systems with national experts	Ms. Ingrid Teich University of Bern, CDE/WOCAT
18:00 - 18:15	An interactive system to map land degradation and inform decision-making to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality via convergence of evidence across scales in Ecuador	Mr. Pablo Caza Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador
18:15 – 18:30	Turkey’s LDN DSS: integration of national indicators and monitoring systems to achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality in Turkey	Ms. Suna Morkoc M.SC. General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
18:30-18:40	Monitoring Land Degradation Neutrality in Kazakhstan	Mr. Murat Temirzhanov Chair of the Committee for Land Resources Management of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan/UNCCD focal point
18:40-18:50	Assessing land degradation and sustainable land management in Bangladesh: Challenges and way forward	Mr. Lutfor Rahman Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
18:50-19:00	Towards Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality, a case of Botswana Land Restoration Projects	Mr. Lesika Basalumi Principal Forest and Range Resources Officer from Department of Forestry and Range Resources
19:00 - 19:10	Launching of the Drylands Sustainable Landscapes IP Community of Practice on LDN	Ms. Nicole Harari University of Bern, CDE/WOCAT
19:10 – 19:15	Closing remarks	Ms. Vera Boerger Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



Opening Remarks by Mr. Pablo Caza, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador.

Part 1: Experiences co-developing FAO-WOCAT cloud based LDN Decision Support Systems

- 1. Co-development of FAO-WOCAT LDN Decision Support Systems with national experts**, by Ingrid Teich- World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) / Centre of Development and Environment, University of Bern.
- 2. An interactive system to map land degradation and inform decision-making to achieve LDN via convergence of evidence across scales in Ecuador** by Mr. Pablo Caza - Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador.
- 3. Turkey's LDN DSS: integration of national indicators and monitoring systems to achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality in Turkey**, by Ms. Suna Morkoc- General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
- 4. Monitoring Land Degradation Neutrality in Kazakhstan** by Ms. Zhanyl Bosayeva and Mr. Murat Temirzhanov - Chair of the Committee for Land Resources Management of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan/UNCCD focal point

Part 2: Towards a community of practice on LDN

- 1. Assessing land degradation and sustainable land management in Bangladesh: Challenges and way forward** by Mr. Lutfor Rahman - Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- 2. Towards Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality, a case of Botswana Land Restoration Projects** by Mr. Lesika Basalumi - Department of Forestry and Range Resources
- 3. Launching of the Drylands Sustainable Landscapes IP Community of Practice on LDN**, by Ms. Nicole Harari - World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) / Centre of Development and Environment, University of Bern.

Closing Remarks by Ms. Vera Boerger, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.