From tradeoffs to synergies through Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN): Food-energy-environment nexus

Marcelo Inacio da Cunha (PhD)

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Land – under pressure

Land is finite in quantity. Competing demands for its goods and services are increasing pressures on land resources in virtually every country.
Renewable energy has great potential to mitigate climate change impacts and reduce reliance on finite energy resources.
However, renewable energy also has tradeoffs

- The food-energy-environment “trilemma”
- Potential environmental impacts of renewable energy development:
  - Competition for land / increasing land scarcity
  - Risk of undesirable land use / land cover change
  - Degradation of valuable ecosystem services
  - Biodiversity loss

Murphy-Mariscal et al. 2018 & Hernandez et al. 2014
What is needed?

A balanced approach.

- One that **anticipates new degradation** even as we plan to reverse past degradation
- One that **considers tradeoffs** among competing interests across the landscape

LDN provides the framework for this
Land Degradation Neutrality

- LDN seeks to **maintain natural capital** and the **ecosystem services** that flow from it
- LDN is about keeping **land in balance**
- Keeping land in balance provides the basis for keeping **food, energy and biodiversity in balance** as well
- LDN is about achieving **multiple socioeconomic and environmental benefits**
Integrated land use planning is the key for achieving LDN and it relies on:
- Securing land tenure
- Optimizing the spatial mix of interventions for multiple benefits
- Overcoming sectoral silos.
Food-energy-environment nexus

- Integrated food-energy production while enhancing biodiversity through FLR in degraded areas
- Restoration with multiple species for rural subsistence & livelihoods
- Developing value chains of multiple land products e.g. viable agroforestry
- Sustainable use of co-products (e.g. organic fertilizers) while ensuring the provision of ecosystem services and bioenergy (e.g. briquetting)

Source: WOCAT
Countries are embracing LDN

122 countries have committed to set LDN targets so far

84 countries have validated targets

51 countries target adopted by Governments
Financial opportunities in the frame of LDN

1. Tapping into the environment/climate financial institutions that have mandates associated with FLR (e.g., GEF, GCF, AF, and other multilateral/bilateral development entities e.g. GIZ)

- GEF: LDN could be used as an entry point to access the GEF Land Degradation focal area resources

- Demonstrate a strong linkage between project proposals and countries’ voluntary LDN targets
Financial opportunities in the frame of LDN

2. Mobilizing funds from private impact investors active in the FLR space provided the proposals demonstrate strong bankability and has a private sector orientation.

- UNCCD has spearheaded the development of the first impact inv. for SDGs: **LDN Fund, managed independently by Mirova**

- Project proponents are strongly encouraged to review and consider the LDN Fund investment criteria (e.g., financially viable private projects on land rehabilitation and SLM, including sustainable forest management and **FLR**)

- LDN Fund has a dedicated technical assistance facility to provide pre-investment support.
Thank you!

Upcoming Events:

• World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June, 2019)
• International Soil Congress (17-19 June, 2019)
• UNCCD COP14 (2 - 13 September, 2019)

https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/unccd-cop14-new-delhi-india

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