

# Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets – A Caribbean Overview



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**Webinar on “Enhancing a Coordinated Approach on Financing  
for Climate Action on Land in the Caribbean” 28th April 2021**

# Background: Land transformation, degradation & restoration

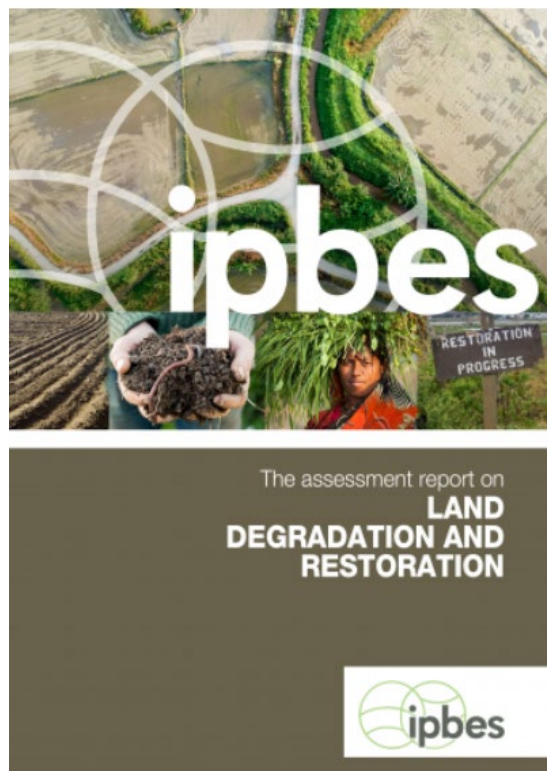
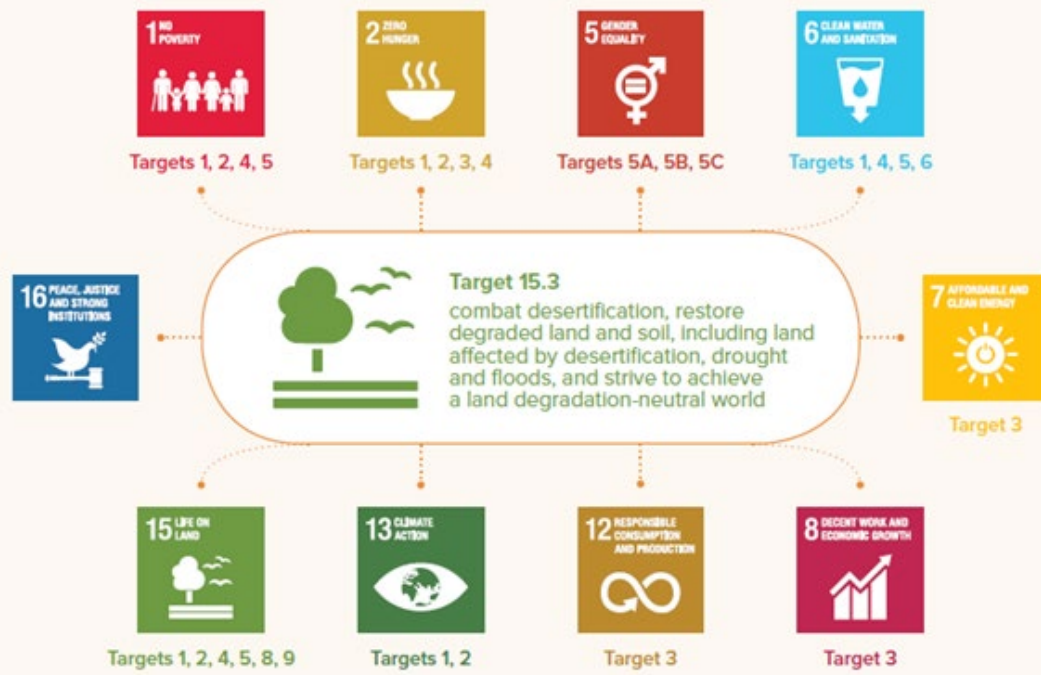


Figure 2

Land Degradation Neutrality, an accelerator of the Sustainable Development Goals



- Wellbeing of over **3.2 billion people** is **undermined** by land degradation.
- **Biodiversity loss** to reach **38–46%** by 2050. **Leading causes** are **habitat transformation** (i.e., conversions to farmland and settlements) **and habitat degradation**.
- **A landscape approach**, which includes targeting investments, **is the key** to increasing the total return on land restoration investments.
- **Land restoration and rehabilitation** can have **significant co-benefits** for all SDGs.
- **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** (SDG target 15.3) is considered an accelerator.



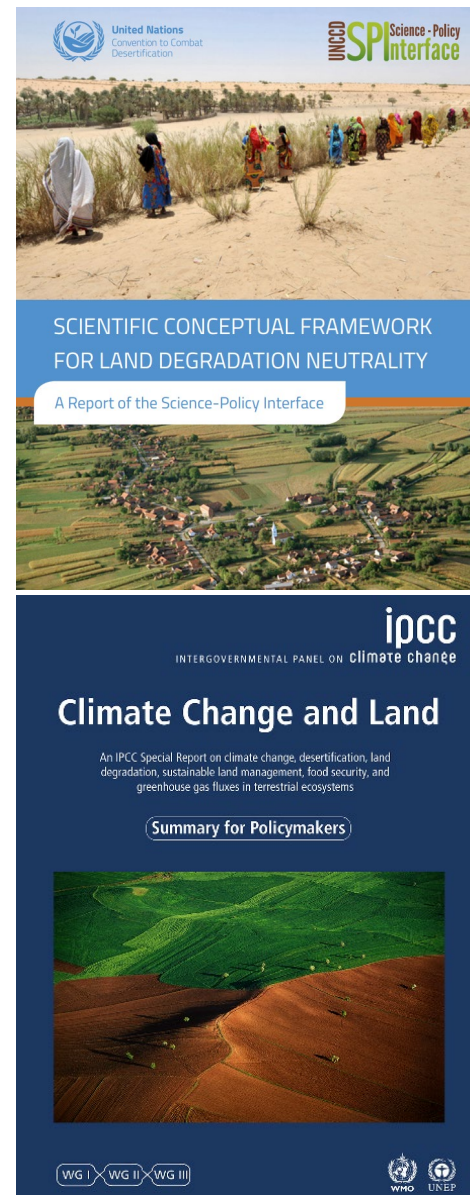
# Background: LDN concept, climate change and land

## But **what is LDN**?

- LDN is defined as a “state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.”

## And **how it relates to climate change**?

- Climate change exacerbates land degradation.
- Land degradation is a driver of climate change through emissions of GHGs and reduced uptake of carbon.
- Gross emissions from AFOLU sector make up 1/3 of total global emissions.
- Land accounts for 61% of anthropogenic methane emissions.
- 50% of the nitrogen applied to agricultural land is not taken up by the crop, resulting in NOx emissions.



# LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP): Status and update on progress at global level

Since adoption of SDGs and COP12 mandate in 2015:

- **Developed and implemented the LDN-TSP:** multidonor platform (USD +10 mill), 18 institutional/technical/financial partners
- **127 countries mobilized and committed to set voluntary LDN targets**
- **104 countries have already set voluntary LDN targets**
- **99 national LDN reports** have been **published** on the UNCCD Knowledge Hub
- **70 countries have adopted LDN targets** through a high-level note



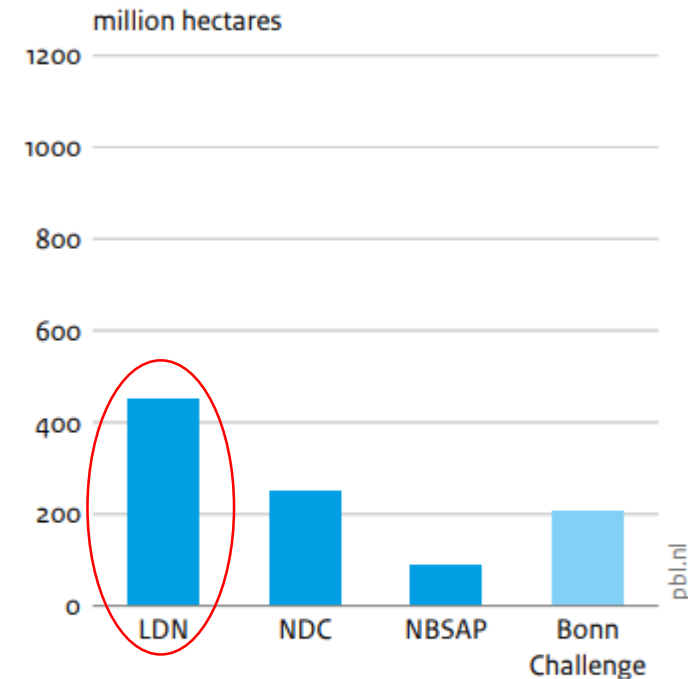
■ Countries setting LDN targets

Disclaimer: The information used in this map is not an official endorsement, recognition or the view or opinion of the UNCCD and the United Nations regarding the legal status of any territory or country. Care has been 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.

Figure 2.1

## Global restoration commitments, 2020

High estimate per data source



■ Total of national commitments under the Rio Conventions

■ Total of national commitments under the Bonn Challenge and the associated regional initiatives



# LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP):

## Status and update on progress at Caribbean level

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- **15 countries committed to set LDN targets:** Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
- **11 countries have successfully set their LDN targets:** information available at the UNCCD Knowledge Hub <https://knowledge.unccd.int/home/country-information/countries-with-voluntary-ldn-targets>
- **Dominica, Haiti, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines** in final stages; **Barbados** recently initiated; and **Bahamas** not participating yet.
- **Key focus of LDN targets and measures** (common areas across the Caribbean):

<b>Forestry and Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase forest cover through reforestation</li><li>• Develop agroforestry: crop production using bio-farming and smart agricultural practices</li></ul>
<b>Land restoration activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase land productivity and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks in shrubs, grasslands, pasture lands, croplands (farmlands)</li><li>• Maintain and restore coastal areas affected by coastal erosion and sea level rise using ecosystem-based adaptation</li><li>• Apply sustainable land management and integrated land use planning, including in urban/artificial areas</li></ul>
<b>Data and monitoring actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve local data (land productivity and soil organic carbon)</li><li>• Develop capacities/tools for LDN monitoring</li></ul>

# Technical report and briefing note: LDN in SIDS

Figure 9 LDN-SAMOA Pathway linkages

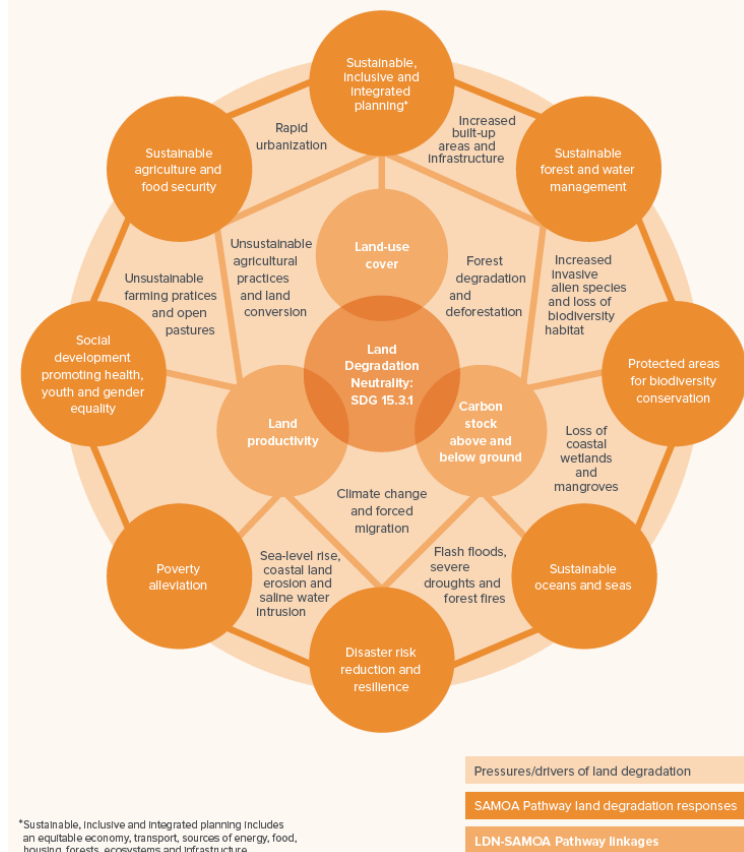
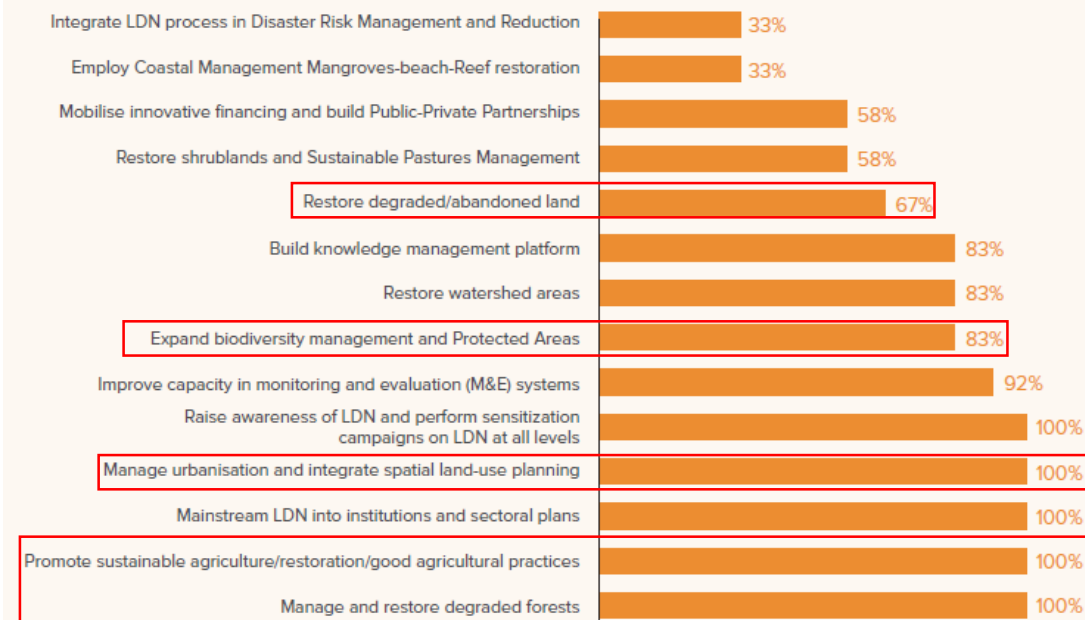


Figure 6 LDN measures among participating SIDS



LDN Measures in SIDs participating countries

# Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) to achieve LDN:

## Status and update on progress

**GM role:** assisting countries in translating their LDN targets into concrete actions on the ground through the development of gender-responsive TPPs, tapping into relevant funding sources.

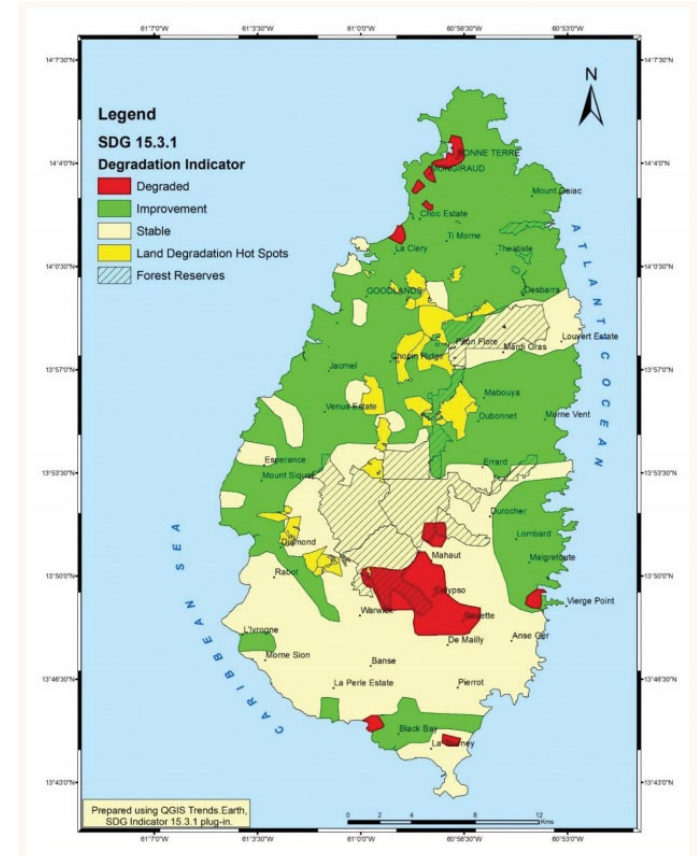
**Main selection criteria:** upon formal request and having LDN targets technically validated.

### Globally:

- **73 countries** are benefiting from the TPP support and are aiming to develop national and/or regional/sub-regional projects
- **56 national TPPs** involving 53 countries
- **7 regional LDN TPPs** involving 39 countries

### Caribbean portfolio (targeting approx. USD 150 mill)

- 2 countries developing a national LDN TPP
- Initiating preliminary consultations for developing 1 multi-country TPP for +10 Caribbean SIDS.



Source: Saint Lucia LDN Target Setting Programme Baseline Indicators, 2018/ECLAC, 2010  
Map conforms to UN World map, February 2020



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# Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) to achieve LDN:

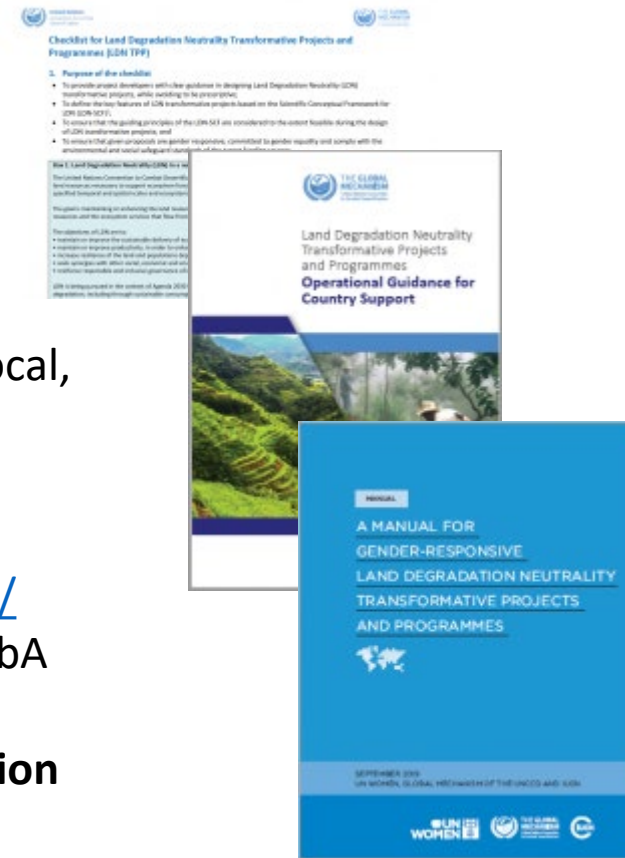
## Key guidance and funding mechanisms

### Key guidance:

- The **Checklist for LDN TPPs** (developed with the GEF)
- LDN TPPs – **Operational Guidance for Country Support**
- A Manual for **Gender-Responsive LDN TPPs**

### Funding mechanisms:

- The GEF (official UNCCD financial mechanism): LD, multifocal, Impact Programmes (Integrated Programmes planned for GEF8)
- LDN Fund and its TAF (focused on private sector):  
<https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes/ldn-taf/>
- Various funding sources: Adaptation Fund, WB, IKI (new EbA Fund from UNEP)
- **Increased focus from countries on GCF financing (mitigation and/or adaptation), particularly in the LAC region.**



### ***Decision 13/COP.14 on Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention***

*The Conference of the Parties,[...] Appreciating the role of the various international financial mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, in supporting country Parties on land issues, given the important role that land plays in climate change,[...] Requests the Global Mechanism to continue to engage with multilateral development banks and other relevant funding institutions, including the Green Climate Fund, to facilitate country Parties' access to funding in order to enhance national level synergies between addressing desertification/land degradation and drought and climate change mitigation and adaptation;*



# Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities - TPP

- **Additional technical and financial resources needed** to meet **high demand** for support to prepare bankable TPPs on LDN implementation, also linking to implementation of drought-related activities. Stock and scale up pipeline
- **Increasing dialogue and coordination between all stakeholders** (governments, implementing partners, funding sources) is critical for successful LDN implementation at country level.
- **Gender mainstreaming and gender equality** require continuous attention in the LDN process from project design, interventions and knowledge products.
- **Strong partnerships required to: accelerate and mobilize resources**, support country Parties in the preparation of bankable projects, and **boost capacity building efforts**



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# Thank you



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