Earth Observation for the UNCCD 2018-2030
Strategic Framework
UNCCD background

• The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994 to protect and restore our land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future.

• One of the three Rio Conventions

• The UNCCD is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought. There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.
To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality.

To improve the living conditions of affected populations.

To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD.

To mobilize substantial and additional financial and nonfinancial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

UNCCD strategic objectives

UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework
Trends in:
- Land cover
- Land productivity
- Carbon stocks above and below ground
- SDG indicator 15.3.1 – Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

Trends in:
- Bilateral and multilateral public resources
- Domestic public resources
- International and domestic private resources
- Technology transfer
- Future support for activities related to the implementation of the Convention

Trends in:
- Population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas
- Access to safe drinking water in affected areas
- Proportion of the population exposed to land degradation, disaggregated by sex

Trends in:
- Proportion of land under drought over the total land area
- Proportion of the total population exposed to drought
- Degree of drought vulnerability

Trends in:
- Carbon stocks above and below ground
- Abundance and distribution of selected species
- Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
Trends in:
• Land cover
• Land productivity
• Carbon stocks above and below ground
• SDG indicator 15.3.1 – Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

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• Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
SDG Indicator 15.3.1 Approach

Tier 1

“ONE OUT ALL OUT”

SDG 15.3.1

Default data from PRAIS 4 - not validated by the country
UNCCD 2022 Reporting Process

- Regional and global aggregates compiled from 115 national reports and 52 government-approved estimates, all derived from Earth observations data sources.

- The benefits of open data, as espoused by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), have been demonstrated in this national reporting process with Parties having access to over 70 Earth observation data layers spanning 20 years and collated from the best available open data sources.

- UNCCD undergoing a data-driven transformation in line with the Secretary General’s ‘Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere’
Proportion of degraded land over the total land area (2015 - 2019)

- Eastern Asia (7)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (6)
- Central Asia
- South-Eastern Asia (5)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (4)
- Europe (3)
- Northern America (2)
- Western Asia
- Southern Asia (1)
- Australia and New Zealand


1 Excluding the Maldives
2 Excluding the United States of America
3 Excluding Belarus, Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Russian Federation and Switzerland
4 Excluding Angola and Comoros
5 Excluding Brunei Darussalam and Singapore
6 Excluding Barbados and Grenada
7 Excluding Japan and Republic of Korea
Drought hazard

Drought exposure

Source: Good Practice Guidance for National Reporting on UNCCD Strategic Objective 3: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNCCD_GPG_Strategic-Objective-3_2021_0.pdf
THANK YOU!

United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification

United for land

boconnor@unccd.int

UN-Space Open Day
19 October 2023
Proportion of degraded land over the total land area (2019)