

Keeping land in balance – how German development cooperation contributes

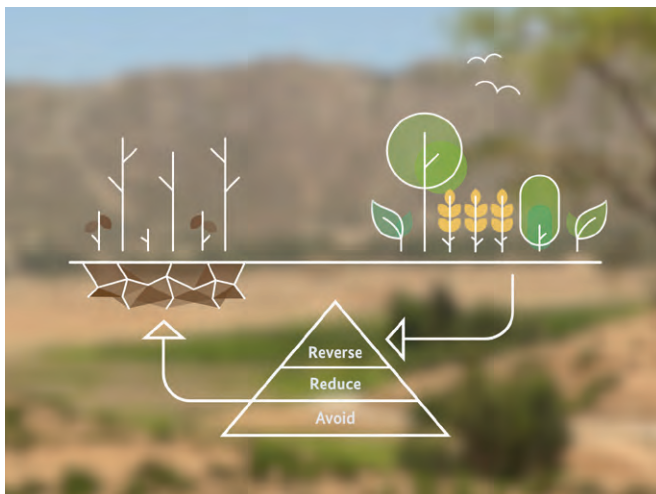
The challenge

Land degradation has become a global threat. This is evident in the decline of soil quality, vegetation, water resources, and biodiversity. The drivers of land degradation are mainly human activities – deforestation, overgrazing, the overuse and contamination of soil and groundwater – and are often related to inadequate agricultural practices. It affects land-based ecosystem services and the livelihoods of rural communities, translating into economic damage for land users as well as society as a whole. Annually, the respective costs of land degradation is estimated to be between 6.3 and 10.6 trillion USD per year, an amount equal to 10-17% of global GDP.

UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality

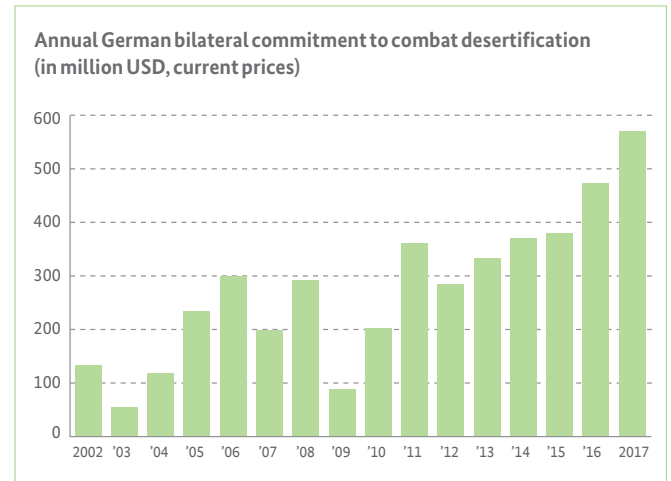
In 1994, the United Nations established the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as the “sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.” It serves as a framework to address desertification, land degradation, and drought in an internationally coordinated manner.

Since 2015, UNCCD has been closely linked to Agenda 2030, specifically SDG 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). This supports countries worldwide in setting up and monitoring national LDN targets to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation. It aims for a balance of no net land loss.



German support in implementing the UNCCD

Germany supports the largest bilateral portfolio of development projects contributing to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, Germany hosts the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn and contributes to the funding of the Convention process itself.



Source: German National Report to UNCCD 2018 and OECD database

Land degradation neutrality contributes to the following sustainable development goals





Juliane Wiesenhütter
ccd-projekt@giz.de
+49 (0) 228 44603441

ONE WORLD – No Hunger:

Soil protection and rehabilitation for food security

Eine Welt
ohne Hunger
One World – No Hunger
Un seul Monde sans faim

The ONE WORLD – No Hunger initiative of the German Development Minister Gerd Müller targets the conservation and rehabilitation of up to 800,000 hectares of land through sustainable land management, thereby increasing yields by an average of 37%. Eleven projects in seven countries support partners in including soil conservation in their agendas, political strategies and agricultural advisory services. The overall budget amounts to approx. 200 million Euros.

Economic benefits of sustainable land management



The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative highlights the value of land and its services through research, capacity development, and active knowledge exchange. It offers a global approach for cost-benefit analyses of different land management scenarios, thereby providing policy and decision-makers with economic arguments to support sustainable land management.

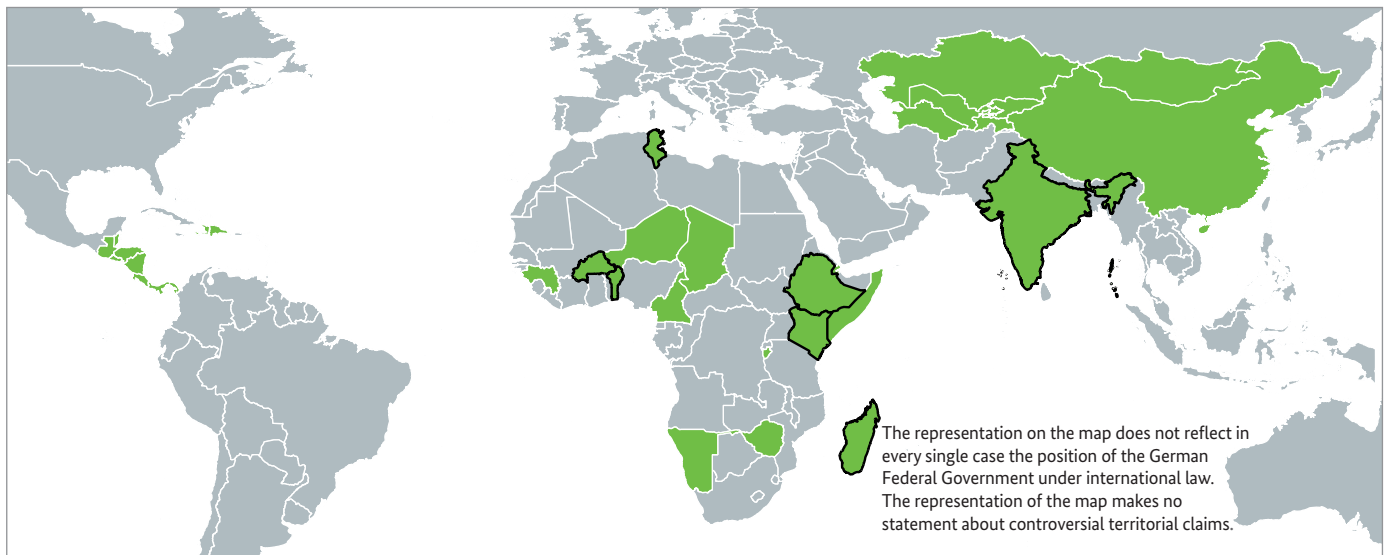
Strengthening the enabling environment



Sustainable land management techniques alone do not ensure the long-term improvement of global land resources. Land users, consumers, policymakers and the private sector all need an enabling environment that favors sustainable practices and products over unsustainable ones. To this end, the Global Soil Week highlights successful examples for SLM upscaling through land governance, local governance, extension services as well as finance and markets.

German development cooperation supporting soil conservation

(One World No Hunger initiative highlighted)



Source: BMZ Portfolio analysis 2018

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Sector project Soil conservation,
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Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone +49 (0)228 4460 3441
Fax +49 (0) 228 4460 80 3441
ccd-projekt@giz.de
www.giz.de

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Text

Jutta Schmitz

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