

Steering Committee Tools4LDN Meeting Minutes

Introductions

- 1) Antje Hecheltjen (GIZ), also one of the co-chairs of the GEO LDN initiative, supporting the work on data quality standards for the three sub-indicators of LDN, have finished the expert consultation process, and will be engaging with the user consultation process. Sustainable land management at GIZ, linkages to make data more usable for local land use planning.
- 2) Narcisa Pricope (UNCW) Part of the UCSB team, a partner on this project who will be contributing to this project in Component 2, drought LD and poverty, David health and SE modeling
- 3) Harifidy Rakoto Ratsimba (Regional representative) based on Uni if Tana in Madagascar, involved in the UNCCD LDN Target setting program
- 4) Jason Neff (CU-LandPKS) - PI for the LandPKS project from University of Colorado
- 5) Jeff Herrick (USDAOLandPKS) on chat – works for USDA and is the overall project leader for LandPKS
- 6) Marcello Rezende (FAO) works in drylands give trainings on data collection and analysis, and tools for assessing land degradation, formerly worked closely with development of Collect Earth.
- 7) Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich (CI) PI of the overall project, leads technical development of Trends.Earth
- 8) Sara Minelli (UNCCD Secretariat) was involved in early development of Trends.Earth to communicate the technical needs of the UNCCD country Parties, invited CI to demonstrate the use of Trends.Earth in the regional trainings for national reporting which were held in 2018, excited to be part of this second phase.
- 9) Tatenda Lemann (WOCAT Secretariat, Bern University) - WOCAT component coordination
- 10) Hanspeter Liniger (WOCAT Secretariat, Bern University)- we are excited in this project, would like to provide harmonized support to the countries
- 11) Vivek Vyas (Regional representative) - India representative – have been using national data for UNCCD Reporting and we were one of the few countries to use national data for all three indicators. Also participated in CRIC in Guyana in 2019. Was part of the organizing committee for COP-14 in India.
- 12) Monica Noon (CI) Project Manager of the overall project, supports technical development of Trends.Earth.

David Felipe Olarte Amaya (Ministry of Environment in Colombia) was not on the call but is the focal point of contact for this project.

Overview of Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Mariano - highlights the main components, project governance, steering committee (presentation attached).



Strengthening Land Degradation Neutrality data and decision-making through free and open access platforms

Tools4LDN



UC SANTA BARBARA
Earth Science



UNCCD Strategic Objectives

Strategic objective 1: To improve the conditions of affected ecosystems

- SD 1.4 Trends in land cover
- SD 1.5 Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land
- SD 1.6 Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground

Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations

- SD 2.1 Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas
- SD 2.2 Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas

Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems

Monitored through qualitative information

Strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- SD 4.1 Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground
- SD 4.2 Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species

Strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level

- SD 5.1 Trends in international bilateral and multilateral official development assistance
- SD 5.2 Trends in domestic public resources
- SD 5.3 Trends in number of co-financing partners
- SD 5.4 Resources mobilized from innovative sources of finance, including from the private sector



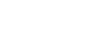
United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



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Main components

1. Improvement of land degradation **biophysical indicators** to support monitoring towards land degradation neutrality
2. Understanding the **socio-environmental interactions between drought, land degradation, and poverty** to support development of monitoring frameworks for UNCCD strategic objectives 2 and 3.



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Main components

1. Improvement of land degradation **biophysical indicators** to support monitoring towards land degradation neutrality
2. Understanding the **socio-environmental interactions between drought, land degradation, and poverty** to support development of monitoring frameworks for UNCCD strategic objectives 2 and 3.
3. **Support planning and monitoring** of land degradation neutrality (LDN) priorities from field to national scales
4. Support the UNCCD and its signatory countries by **building capacity** on planning, monitoring, and reporting of LDN



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Objective

To provide improved methods and tools for assessing land degradation and understanding the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable communities in affected areas through the integration of free and open platforms to support country level implementation and reporting to the UNCCD



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

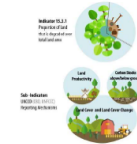


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Main components

1. Improvement of land degradation **biophysical indicators** to support monitoring towards land degradation neutrality

Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on SDG Target 15.3



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Main components

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2. Understanding the **socio-environmental interactions between drought, land degradation, and poverty** to support development of monitoring frameworks for UNCCD strategic objectives 2 and 3.
3. **Support planning and monitoring** of land degradation neutrality (LDN) priorities from field to national scales



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The Team

Trends.Earth

Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich
Monica Noon
Alex Zvoleff
Gabriel Daldegan

LandPKS

Jeff Herrick
Jason Neff
Meghan Mize

Planetary Health Institute, UC

David Lopez-Carr
Narcisca Pricope
Kevin Mwenda



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Project Governance

Executive team

- Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich
- Tatenda Lemann
- Jeff Herrick
- David Lopez-Carr

Science Advisory Board

- GEF STAP
- ESA
- UNCCD SPI
- CSIRO

Steering Committee team

- Executive team
- Colombia, India and Madagascar
- FAO
- GEO LDN
- UNCCD Sec



Steering Committee

Roles:

- 1) Secure project activities and deliverable align, to the extent possible, with other major LDN related activities underway
- 2) Review and approve annual workplan

Steering Committee

Time commitment (estimate)

- 1) Two 2-hour online meeting per project year (2-year project October 2019-September 2021, total of 8 hours)
- 2) Review of materials before meetings (4 hours per meeting, total 16 hours)
- 3) Other ad-hoc participation and feedback in the form of emails and calls (10 hours a year, total 20 hours).

Science Advisory Board

Roles:

- 1) Review project reports to secure scientific quality and relevance of results and recommendations for the achievement of LDN by 2030
- 2) Review and provide feedback on main technological developments to be implemented as part of the project to secure scientific quality and relevance of results and recommendations for the achievement of LDN by 2030:
 - i) SO1 (productivity, land cover, soil organic C) at 10-30 m resolution (July 31, 2020)
 - ii) Global climate and weather datasets (July 31, 2020)
- 3) Secure project activities and deliverable align, to the extent possible, with other major LDN related scientific and technical initiatives underway.

Science Advisory Board

Time commitment (estimate)

- 1) Two 2-hour online meeting per project year (2-year project October 2019-September 2021, total of 8 hours)
- 2) Review of project reports (6 hours per report, total of 24 hours, not all members of the SAB may be asked to review every report, they will be identified based on specific areas of expertise and interest).
- 3) Other ad-hoc participation and feedback in the form of emails and calls (10 hours a year, total 20 hours).

The Timeline

OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS	Timeline											
	Year 1						Year 2					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Outcome 1.1:												
Output 1.1.1: Identify current data and algorithms for assessing changes in primary productivity at high spatial resolution (30-50m available through Trends Earth)												
Output 1.1.2: Global land cover products at high spatial resolution (30-50m available through Trends Earth)												
Output 1.1.3: Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) degradation indicators at high spatial resolution (30-50m available through Trends Earth)												
Output 1.1.4: Global documentation and data for crop guidelines for using high spatial resolution (30-50m available through project website)												
Outcome 2.1:												
Output 2.1.1: Evaluation of approaches for assessing socio-economic vulnerability to drought and integrate with land information												
Output 2.1.2: Global drought and early warning datasets added to Trends Earth for supporting analysis and evaluation of analysis results												
Output 2.1.3: Global socio-economic datasets to support UNCCD Strategic Objective (SO2) address Trends Earth for supporting analysis and evaluation of analysis results												
Output 2.1.4: Case study performed in a LDC country												
Output 2.1.5: Documentation and data for crop guidelines for using climate and socioeconomic variables available through project website												

The Timeline

OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS	Timeline											
	Year 1						Year 2					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Outcome 1.1:												
Output 1.1.1: LandPKS mobile platform with functionalities to archive data addition assessment from Trends Earth and other land data product countries to create data archive among website												
Output 1.1.2: LandPKS mobile platform with functionalities to collect and distribute data on sustainable land management practices harmonized with simplified version of WOCAT SIM database												
Output 1.1.3: Integrated workflows for assessing changes in land condition combining Trends Earth indicators with other monitoring tools, such as Global Earth Observations												
Output 1.1.4: Documentation and guidelines for performing integrated assessments of land conditions at national and sub-national scales using WOCAT, LandPKS, Trends Earth, Global Earth and other tools available through project website												
Outcome 2.1:												
Output 2.1.1: New version of Trends Earth optimized for Quantum GIS software version 3												
Output 2.1.2: LDC priority setting decision support functionalities based on multi-criteria evaluation of potential sites, feasibility and participation experiences of national level available through Trends Earth												
Output 2.1.3: Documentation and data for crop guidelines for performing prioritization of LDC activities available through project website												

The Timeline

OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS	Timeline											
	Year 1						Year 2					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 3.1:												
Output 3.1.1: Topographic assessment for different geographies within the pilot country using improved topographic indicators												
Output 3.1.2: The design of mobile platform and WOCAT integration for working topographic degradation indicators and collection of land management information												
Output 3.1.3: LDC prioritization analysis using decision support tool and participatory process with local stakeholders												
Output 3.1.4: Capacity building workshop targeting 10 participants from five user groups (20 male and 10 female)												
Output 4.1:												
Output 4.1.1: Online module training approach with videos and written materials available in three languages												
Output 4.1.2: Implementation of a community of user' problems to maintain and facilitate trouble shooting and sharing of experiences and continued learning												
Output 4.1.3: Capacity building workshop on tools for supporting NREX 2019-2022 reporting cycle												

Review of the Extended Work Plan

Monica went through the major components, outputs and activities of the extended Work Plan, stopping at each Component to discuss follow up questions.

Component 1:

Sara – There will be some work on the framework of the GEO LDN initiative, emerged of the minimum data quality standard for land cover, SOC, this medium resolution datasets, 250m/300m, medium resolution for developing this report and for inclusion in Trends.Earth. Not requested for Steering Committees need to keep these parties connected, SPI on one side, CSIRO for GPG, UNCCD Secretariat and would like to have a look at these reports.

Component 2:

Antje - will you take consideration of the international working group on drought, will have the first report ready for the CRIC at the end of this year. More than 90 projects related to drought. Action (Antje) to share information on this working group on drought and report for the CRIC.

Sara – A data provider and user consultation held in the framework of the GEO LDN initiative has concluded that while global data for reporting should remain as per the current standards, the minimum data quality standard for national land cover and land productivity products should be 100m, but aim for 30 m. National SOC stocks should aim for a 100m grid, but this will depend in part on the *in situ* data collection. While it is not requested for the Steering Committee to review the reports prepared in the framework of the Tools4LDN project, in order to keep all LDN ongoing activities (e.g. SPI work on land use planning, CSIRO revision and update of the Good Practice Guidance for SDG 15.3.1, GEO LDN initiative) aligned, the UNCCD Secretariat would like to have a look at these reports.

Component 2:

Antje - will you take consideration of the Intergovernmental Working Group on drought, will have the first report ready for the CRIC at the end of this year. More than 90 projects related to drought. Action (Antje) to share information on this working group on drought and report for the CRIC.

Sara – The UNCCD has recently adopted an indicator and monitoring framework for its strategic objective on drought ([decision 11/COP.14](#) and document [ICCD/COP\(14\)/CST/7](#)) and it is going to develop associated Good Practice Guidance (GPG) to provide more detailed information on definitions and concepts, methods of calculation, data sources and collection, etc.; collaboration with the Tools4LDN project will be sought to ensure that Trends.Earth supports the guidance and calculations described in the GPG . Gender-related indicators and land tenure-related indicators will also be added to the UNCCD indicator framework for national reporting. I would be curious to see which type of global socioeconomic datasets you will propose to include in Trends.Earth, especially considering the limitations in terms of available geospatial data and gender-disaggregated data.

Mariano – The first activity will be online workshop to kick off the work on strategic objectives 2 and 3 in the framework of the project and that the UNCCD could be invited to attend.

Harifidy - how to meet the needs of the countries, are all the tools that we are creating meeting the needs of the countries? With the planning element, the key things will be to move along. Field data in a solution space. These datasets added into an integrated dataset format.

Antje - principles of development, guidance on how to design and co-develop with users.

Marcelo – Will LandPKS data, be ingested into Trends.Earth to be used for training data or for validation?

Jeff: Planning - all 3 tools are being used by different countries in different ways but are not integrated. For example, in Ethiopia the Ministry of Agriculture uses the LandPKS Land Capability Classification function for land use planning, and WOCAT and other tools also used.

Mariano - LandPKS for doing assessments on the ground for land potential, pulling information for different databases to assess potential of the land, once the user can put the user.

Marcelo - Collect Earth - degradation aspect, coming from the ground, high res image interpretation, LD conditions - they are still searching for the right tool, not more on the team, but working closely with them. Releasing land use/land use change for Africa ~400k plots. This goes to 2018. FAO and the Collect Earth team are working on the global level and have datasets up to 2016. Everything will be freely available, does not fill the gap of the ground truth data. LandPKS has potential to be brought into current work in drylands that FAO is doing in the GEF7 Impact Program. to bring into the program.

Component 4:

No questions

Project Website

Monica briefly showed the [Tools4LDN website](#) and highlighted some sections:

Resources: Location for sharing the Project Identification Form, Work Plan and Reports

News: Blogs on updates to the project

Contact: Form to contact project team or to submit grievances.

Follow up items

Antje: For Capacity Development, I wanted to make you aware of the current call for membership to the new GEO Working Group on Capacity Building:

http://www.earthobservations.org/geo_blog_obs.php?id=417

I will also be interested to have a look at the report of component 1. We will also extend the contract of Alastair in GEO-LDN to review datasets and tools - are you in contact with him on this?

Action (CI) to share the report of component 1 to Steering Committee if they would like to review it.

Please note:

We will hold future Steering Committee Meetings at 12pm (ET) to accommodate the time zones for all Steering Committee members.