

Land-based transformative projects and programmes to achieve both climate change adaptation and mitigation

Context and rationale

The international community is mobilizing resources to support action to address climate change and biodiversity losses, including land degradation, a key driver of both adaptation and mitigation to climate change as well as biodiversity erosion, through many initiatives. These include the financial mechanisms supporting the multilateral environmental agreements, the Financing for Development process supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and blended finance approaches to crowd-in private sector funding. Implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) will require leveraging such initiatives to ensure countries can develop strong technical proposals to gain access to resources and the capacity to successfully implement projects. Unfortunately, Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) find themselves at a disadvantage in this process given their constrained capacities. Because of this, ability to prepare and implement projects rather than considerations of needs and vulnerability, may be driving the process of resource allocation.

Addressing this capacity gap among LDCs and SIDs is essential to ensure that the ongoing mobilization of resources in support of NBS can deliver results to the countries that need it the most, not just to those with higher capacity to design and implement transformative projects and programmes (TPP), through sustainable and inclusive interventions at scale (e.g., in landscapes) while featuring innovation in terms of locally adapted technology, practices and financial mechanisms (e.g., blended finance) to reverse land degradation trends, biodiversity losses and adapt to and mitigate climate change.

TPP seek to generate and sustain fundamental and sustainable positive change, transformation¹, in the coupled human-environmental system where interventions are targeted. The goal of such TPP is achieving Land Degradation Neutrality by maintaining or enhancing the land resource base, pursuing the following objectives: i) maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; ii) maintain or improve productivity, in order to enhance food security; iii) increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; iv) seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and v) reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land². Leaving no one behind is an overarching principle in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), embedded in land-based gender-responsive Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP).

¹ Transformation is defined as a change in the fundamental attributes of natural and human systems (IPCC 2014)

² LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework, Orr et al. 2017: 3

An overview of the contribution

Filling that gap to prepare sound TPPs, UNCCD is proposing to launch a Project Preparation Support Program to support LDCs and SIDS to prepare projects focused primarily on NBS addressing climate change, land degradation and biodiversity losses. Integrated approaches to climate change, land degradation and biodiversity can further enhance the effectiveness of interventions and avoid the additional costs on LDCs and SIDS imposed by fragmented approaches. During the past year, the UNCCD has been piloting this approach to support countries in developing projects to address land degradation, increasing multiple environmental, social and economic benefits.

How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

Implementing TPP is essential to protect, maintain and improve ecosystem services delivery for local livelihoods (food, fodder, fiber, wood and non-timber forest products with high value added) as well as for global benefits due to carbon storage function and water regulation.

How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years.

Supporting specifically SDG 15.3 achievement, TPP are closely related to many other SDGs, in particular those on poverty, food and water security, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources (see figure 1).

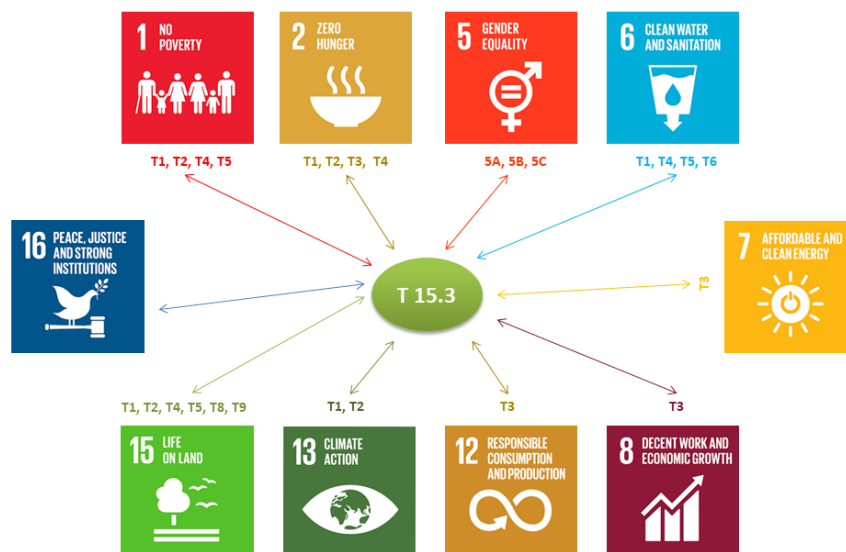


Figure 1. Land-based transformative projects and programmes, accelerator of SDGs

TPP contribute to achieve multiple benefits such as:

- Environmental benefits, including:

- Restoration of degraded landscapes and increasing ecological resilience of production landscapes and natural capital;
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity, in production landscapes;
- Mitigated/avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes.
- Social benefits, including:
 - Enhanced sustainable livelihoods (food security, nutrition, market access) for rural communities;
 - Increased social resilience of rural communities;
 - New employment opportunities in agriculture and other green-related activities for both men and women as well as young people,
 - Stemming of forced migrations.
- Economic benefits, including:
 - Creation of land-based green jobs;
 - Development of new income sources.

Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?

As of May 2019, 23 countries / regions are developing TPPs, including: Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Caribbean SIDS, Chad, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Indian Ocean SIDS, India, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, MERCOSUR, Nepal, Pacific SIDS, The Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Zambia.

Implementing partners and donors involved in this process include UNDP, FAO, GIZ, EPIU, World Bank, African Development Bank, GEF Secretariat...

How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?

Representatives from ministries to local community, civil society, implementing partners, are fully involved in TPP design thanks to a gender-responsive participatory approach.

Where the contribution can be put into action?

TPP can be implemented everywhere on Earth, with a view to reverse land degradation and biodiversity losses in hotspots and sequester carbon to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?

Country level implementation will be led by national governments and international implementing partners, involving local authorities and various stakeholders in decision processes. Future projects will be designed following the required gender-responsive and

participatory approach to meet with the needs of each community and adapted to ecosystem characteristics. Detailed interventions and activities in each community will be designed with local authorities under the leadership of the national governments.

TPP is a transformational initiative proving the interlinkages between land restoration, sustainable land management and climate change adaptation and mitigation, security and migration, poverty reduction and land-based green job creation; food and nutrition security and drought.

Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstream?

Nature-Based Solutions: Restoration of degraded land and applying sustainable land management in agro-sylvo-pastoral systems increasing carbon sequestration, enhancing resilience and promoting biodiversity conservation

Energy transition: Boosting access of local communities to renewable energy for basic household needs as well as communal and production needs

Resilience and adaptation: Building climate risk into a sustainable production of high-value drylands products to connect local producers to international markets

Examples of experiences to date: how does this contribution build upon this experience?

Since 2018, key progress include the support to the development of two full fledge projects for Armenia and Turkey and the development of several project concept notes to be submitted to Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF, the World Bank...

How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?

Land-based TPP contribute to achieve global, regional and national initiatives and targets worldwide, including: the Bonn Challenge, the initiative 20x20 in Latin America and the Caribbean, AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative), the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative, the African Union Agenda 2063, The Sahel and West Africa Program of the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank as well as NDCs, CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal and Land Degradation Neutrality voluntary targets.

Mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)

Through dedicated initiative, Korean and Turkish cooperation (Changwon initiative and Ankara initiative) currently support the design of TPP.

Means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring

The GGW initiative is implemented under the auspices of the African Union Commission. Each country is responsible for monitoring progress and impacts. A 'State of the Great Green Wall' Report will be launched in 2019, providing a comprehensive evaluation of the status of implementation. It will also propose a clear roadmap for achieving the 2030 Great Green Wall vision.

Communication strategy

After a first pilot phase in 2018, the UNCCD is launching a call for proposal with the aim to support much more countries in developing land-based TPP.

Contact details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).

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