

Monthly Newsletter on LDN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

This is the May issue of monthly letter from UNCCD CSOs for 2017. This letter aims to deliver issues especially on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and related updates of civil society from all around the world. This letter is being sent to the focal points of the convention and to the responsible of the LDN Target Setting Programme.

For more information about LDN Target Setting Programme:

<http://www2.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme>

To the UNCCD National Focal Points participating in the LDN Target Setting Program

The Secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD are supporting your countries in the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting process through the LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP).

Currently, more than 100 countries are participating in the LDN TSP, which is being implemented in cooperation with numerous partners, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others.

Under the LDN TSP, all participating country Parties are receiving technical guidance on how to assess and define national baselines related to the LDN indicator framework and to establish national targets to achieve LDN by 2030. One of the expected outcomes of LDN TSP is to secure multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure full participation of key stakeholders throughout the LDN process.

In order to contribute to this technical guidance, the Global Mechanism has developed and released a set of guidelines titled “***Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality at the country level. Building blocks for LDN target setting***”¹

We would like to draw your attention in the ***Building Block 1 - Leveraging LDN***, which states that a wide range of stakeholders and sectors must be actively involved in LDN target setting and implementation, taking into account the variety of functions of land.

This LDN Building Block also mentions that **LDN national working groups** should bring these stakeholders together and serve as platforms for information exchange among representatives of all interested parties directly connected to land degradation processes and able to contribute to the achievement of LDN.

We the members of the UNCCD CSO panel would like to encourage the Parties to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the LDN national working groups, as they are key partners in this process. They can support national focal points in the engagement of stakeholders on land-related issues at every level, particularly at local level, where the decisions that will allow LDN achievement are being taken every day. In addition, CSOs hold updated information and knowledge about land issues and they are cooperating directly with local land users, scientific organizations among other relevant stakeholders.

The participation of CSOs in the LDN process at national level is fundamental in order to facilitate the development of an institutionalized dialogue mechanism at the national level between the UNCCD focal points and civil society constituency. Hence the UNCCD CSO Panel would like to encourage the Parties to invite national CSOs which are accredited to the UNCCD to be part of **LDN national working groups**.

As representatives of the CSOs accredited to the UNCCD we remain at your disposal in case you need assistance in ensuring the involvement of our constituencies.

Sincerely yours,

UNCCD CSO panel (csopanel@unccd.int)

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¹ http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/18102016_LDN%20country%20level_ENG.pdf