Land Degradation Neutrality: a commitment in motion

INDUCING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
Mediterranean region: resources and challenges

6.5 % of global land area
2.2 % of the world’s total forest area in 2015
7.3 % of the global population in 2016
6.0 % of global carbon emission in 2014
9.6 % of global organic-production holdings in 2015

Extraordinary biodiversity, including a large number of endemic species

Increasing pressure driving environmental degradation and affecting livelihoods

➡ Human pressure and Climate change are the primary drivers of degradation
➡ Mediterranean forests are particularly endangered

Source: State of Mediterranean Forest 2018
Mediterranean forests: resources and challenges

2.2 % of the world’s total forest area in 2015

- 88 million ha of forest area
- 0.85 %/yr net increase
- 64 % of the region’s forests located in Spain, France, Turkey and Italy

Source: State of Mediterranean Forest 2018
Forest sector mainstreamed within the **Global commitments**

**Regional initiatives for Mediterranean Forests:**

- **The Ankara Initiative**
  - Strengthen the UNCCD implementation to achieve LDN

- **The Agadir Commitment (Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week, Agadir, March 2017)**
  - Restore at least **8 million** hectares of degraded forest ecosystems by 2030
Land Degradation Neutrality: Opportunities for Mediterranean Forests

LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework endorsed by UNCCD COP 12 in Turkey in 2015

LDN: Moving from a scientific concept to a reality on the ground
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LDN: Moving from a scientific concept to a reality on the ground
Land Degradation Neutrality: a balanced approach

LDN aims to maintain or enhance the land based natural capital and associated ecosystem functions and services:

- Anticipates new degradation even as we plan to reverse past degradation
- Considers tradeoffs among competing interests across the landscape
- Based on the LDN response hierarchy: avoid, reduce, reverse land degradation

Neutrality = “no net loss” (at least)
Land Degradation Neutrality: Opportunities for Mediterranean Forests

Balanced approach
Multiple benefits
Investment opportunities
Monitoring framework
National targets
LDN
Land Degradation Neutrality: Multiple benefits

1. Clean water
   - SLM for effective water use
   - Reducing LD in catchment

2. Opportunities for all
   - Green investment, green jobs
   - Employment for women

3. Fuel for life
   - Safeguarding fuelwood
   - Sustainable hydropower

4. Doing more and better with less
   - Pan-European global land footprint

LDN: an accelerator of Sustainable development

→ Provides a Way to Achieve SDGs in the Most Efficient and Environmentally Sustainable Way
Land Degradation Neutrality: Multiple benefits

Strong complementarity with global commitments in terms of:

Forests, food security, poverty alleviation, NRM, climate change mitigation and adaptation, financing opportunities, access to water, mitigating the impacts of flood and drought risks ...
### Land Degradation Neutrality: Multiple benefits

#### Forest
- Integrated approach tackling land and forest resources together
- Facilitate FLR actions
- Minimize trade-offs between forest ecosystem services and forests and other land use systems

#### Urbanization
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Strengthened rural-urban link
- Green spaces in urban areas and improvement of life quality
- Better preparedness for flood risks

#### Energy
- Improving the use of renewable energies
- Mitigation of the impacts of conventional energy sources
- Reducing pressure on forest resources for firewood

#### Drought
- Preparing for & respond to droughts
- Ensuring water for all uses incl. ecosystems are not threatened during droughts
- Outlining a triggering mechanism of actions for an efficient preparedness and response to drought
- Shifting drought management approach from reactive to pro-active
Land Degradation Neutrality: Opportunities for Mediterranean Forests
To date, 121 countries committed to set LDN targets

- 83 countries (70%) have set LDN Targets and associated measures
- 50 countries (40%) have adopted LDN targets by Government
Land Degradation Neutrality: Target Setting Process (LDN TSP)

11 Mediterranean countries have engaged in the process (Algeria*, Bosnia Herzegovina*, Egypt*, Italy*, Jordan, Lebanon*, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Syria and Turkey*)

6 countries have already set their LDN Targets*

Most of the LDN-TSP countries have set forest-related LDN targets – such as increasing the area of forests or boosting the productivity of forest lands

National reports are available on the UNCCD Website: https://knowledge.unccd.int/home/country-information/countries-with-voluntary-ldn-targets
### Land Degradation Neutrality: Target Setting Process (LDN TSP)

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⇒ 6 countries have already set their LDN Targets*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Forest-related targets (examples)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Algeria</strong></td>
<td>D’ici 2025, 475 000 ha seront reboisés, conformément au plan de reboisement validé en conseil interministériel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bosnia Herzegovina</strong></td>
<td>The area of forests and forest lands of the Republic of Srpska to reach 53% by 2030. Increase of afforested areas for Brčko District by 2030.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Egypt</strong></td>
<td>Increase by 25% forest cover / tree cover through agroforestry and SLM in existing forests by 2030 as compared to 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Italy</strong></td>
<td>Rehabilitation measures on 200 km2 of dryland forests by 2030.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lebanon</strong></td>
<td>Restore forest landscapes through reforestation and afforestation on at least 10,000 hectares.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
<td>Increase the ratio of country’s forest land by 5% by 2030.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
National Drought Plans in the Mediterranean Region

Five countries engaged in the Drought Initiative from the Mediterranean region:

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Mauritania
- Morocco
Drought severity and drought-associated forest disturbances increase with climatic change

- More intense drought and increased temperatures
  => reduce tree growth and drive tree dieback and mortality
  => reduce carbon exchange between atmosphere and biosphere

- Drought can also promote plant invasion
  => modifying the environment to favor non-native species

- Indirect effects of drought on forests can be:
  => Insect and pathogen outbreaks
  => Increased wildfire (risk with protracted effects that include significant timber market losses)
Land Degradation Neutrality: Opportunities for Mediterranean Forests

- Balanced approach
- Multiple benefits
- National targets
- Monitoring framework
- Investment opportunities

LDN
The LDN target setting process has allowed the countries to establish their LDN baseline and complete the land degradation trend analyses based on the 3 indicators and their associated metrics.

To day, 9 Mediterranean countries have established their baseline report.
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Achieving LDN: Transformative Projects and Programmes

- Sustainable and Climate Smart Agriculture
- Forestry and Agro-forestry Projects
- Green Infrastructure in Urban Areas

- Examples of LDN TPPs

- Examples of Targeted financing
  - GCF, GEF, AF, LDN Fund

- Example of innovative financing
  - Eco-tourism, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), carbon trading and payments, environmental taxes, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- 4 Mediterranean countries have mapped out opportunities for LDN transformative projects/programmes

- At least 3 Mediterranean countries are engaged in the process of elaboration of LDN TPPs proposals
  - Lebanon
  - Tunisia
  - Turkey
Achieving LDN + Increasing drought preparedness = Increasing resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean

Smart, coordinated land and water management provides a cost-effective, long-term solution to enhance climate change resilience in the Mediterranean.
THANK YOU