



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



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FAO as Lead Agency for GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL IP) will guide the GEF partnership in ensuring resilience of agro-ecological systems and forests in the drylands.

GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL)

Drylands are characterized by water scarcity, which affects both natural and managed ecosystems and constrains the production of livestock as well as crops, wood, forage and other plants and affects the delivery of environmental services.

Drylands extend over 40% of the earth's surface, containing some of the most fragile and threatened ecosystems on the planet, including over one quarter of global biodiversity hotspots and many threatened species.

More than 25% of the world's population lives and derives their livelihood in drylands, mostly in developing countries. The majority of these people depend directly on forests, rangelands, grasslands, and rain-fed agriculture for subsistence, shelter, fodder, heating and cooking, and income.

The drylands face many challenges and are highly vulnerable to land degradation, including deforestation, with higher dependence on goods and services (energy, food, and income), and expansion of agriculture and infrastructure development.

Program Objectives

1. Integrated landscape management with particular focus on sustainable forest management and restoration, rangelands, and livestock production;
2. Promotion of diversified agro-ecological food production systems in drylands considering their biodiversity;
3. Creation of an enabling environment to support the two objectives above.

The future impacts of climate change and increasing variability in rainfall will expand drylands between 11% to 23% by the end of this century¹



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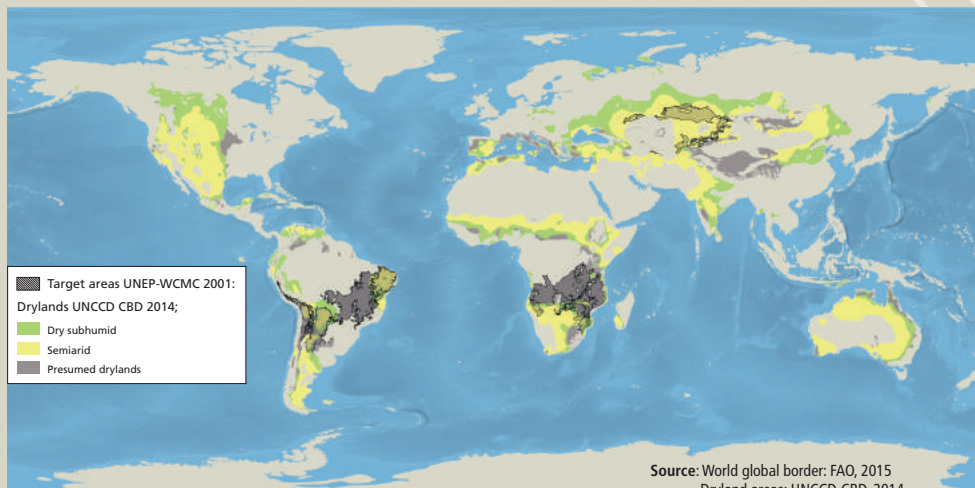
¹ Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283633091_Accelerated_dryland_expansion_under_climate_change

Program Incentives

The DSL will provide US\$ 32 million in incentives to key drylands ecoregions across the world namely:

- Central Asian steppes and grasslands
- Miombo and Mopane, and Fynbos woodlands
- Cerrado/Caatinga and Matto Grosso seasonal forests
- Chaco seasonal forests
- Central Andean grasslands and shrublands

Global Drylands Areas



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Program Framework

The program framework uses a three-pronged approach to achieve transformational system change:

1. It will support the development of effective governance systems, including improved coordination and collaboration across sectors and strengthening of land/resource tenure;
2. It will mobilize national and international stakeholders, strengthen important dryland value-chains and leverage investments from the private sector by catalyzing public/grant funds to upscale SLM and SFM strategies in target countries;
3. It will implement comprehensive monitoring, assessment and knowledge management programs based on innovative spatial assessment tools developed by FAO and partners supporting shared learning and co-production of knowledge with local stakeholders – contributing directly to the achievement of SDG15 and SDG2.



FAO's Drylands Impact Programming, a Global Strategy

This strategy will lead to improved conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sequestration and storage of carbon, improved water infiltration and regulation, control of forest fires pest and diseases affecting dryland crops and livestock, improved soil health and in particular improved livelihoods, within a vision of achieving national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets.

FAO will leverage the convening power and deploy the policy setting of the [Committee on Forestry \(COFO\)](#) and the [Committee on Agriculture \(COAG\)](#), its [Regional Forestry Commissions](#) and Agriculture Committees, in order to facilitate the DSL Program implementation, ensure overall coherence, and drive consistent Program-wide outcomes on the ground.

In particular, the FAO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, an inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder body established under COFO, will play an essential role in coordinating this effort.

FAO will make available to countries its network of experts, tools and approaches:

- The Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Forest Management toolboxes;
- New tools for LDN planning and monitoring such as [Collect Earth](#), [EarthMap](#), [LADA](#), [SHARP](#) and others.

In order to ensure sustainability of investments on the ground, FAO will make available its broad experience with community-based planning and management, including support to program implementation via strengthening of extension Services through approaches such as Farmer and Forest Field Schools, Community Based and Participatory natural resource management.

Partnerships

Besides other GEF Agencies, FAO will mobilize existing partnerships such as:

- Forest and Farm Facility
- Action Against Desertification
- Green Great Wall Initiative
- The Forest and Landscape Mechanism
- The Global Soil Partnership
- WOCAT
- Google Earth
- Regional programs and others to support the objective of the program

Private sector engagement

The DSL Program aims to build enabling conditions for farmers and resource users to participate in national (and global) markets through improving the sustainability and quality of supply, and de-risking investments from agricultural marketing and manufacturing companies. This is accomplished through partnerships with small to medium scale agricultural input companies, which often play key roles in sustainable agriculture at community level in countries without functioning extension services. In addition, an essential ingredient in creating successful enabling conditions for private sector investment is clarifying tenure rights to land and resources 6 one of the most effective ways to reduce farmers' vulnerability, support sustainable and long term investment, and promote more productive practices.

FAO works actively at both the supply and production ends of pro-poor and environmentally sustainable agricultural value chains – working directly with what is essentially the world's largest private sector, the over 750 million small holder farmers and the community cooperatives and associations, which support these important food systems.



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Countries must submit their Expressions of Interest by 31 January 2019 to be considered under the DSL Impact Program.

How to Participate

Only a single Expression of Interest (EOI) will be considered from a country for each of the Impact Programs. Countries are welcome to submit EOIs for more than one Impact Program, provided they commit the minimum threshold of US\$ 4 million from the country's STAR allocation to each of the intended child projects.

The EOI should be submitted by the GEF agency selected by the country as the implementing entity for its proposed project under the Impact Program.

The completed EOI must be signed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and submitted as an email attachment to the following address: impactprogramsei@thegef.org.

Countries will be notified of a decision on their EOIs by February 28, 2019.

The EOI process is intended to serve two major purposes:

1. Enable countries to provide adequate information on the suitability of their proposed child projects within the Impact Programs;
2. Enable the GEF Secretariat and the Lead Agency to assess eligibility and strategic positioning of the country for advancing the transformational change expected for the Impact Program as described in the GEF-7 Programming Directions.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided **over US\$ 17.9 billion in grants and mobilized an additional US\$ 93.2 billion in co-financing** for more than 4 500 projects in 170 countries.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to end hunger and poverty. Our goal is to achieve food and nutrition security for all, ensuring that people have regular to enough high-quality food to have active and quality healthy lives. With **194 member states**, FAO works in over **130 countries worldwide**. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

FAO has been involved in GEF projects since 1992 when it provided technical support to GEF Agencies. In 2002, FAO became a GEF Agency for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) projects, and in 2007 it became a fully-fledged agency. Currently, it **manages a portfolio worth US\$ 750+ million globally** covering all GEF focal areas, and implements **GEF projects in more than 120 countries**. Join us in creating a **#ZeroHunger** world.



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