



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# SEPAL module on SDG Indicator 15.3.1

## Monitoring land degradation neutrality with the good practice guidance version 2 (GPG v2)

SEPAL is a cloud computing platform (<https://sepal.io>) for accessing, processing and analyzing geospatial data for land monitoring. A module for monitoring and reporting land degradation in support to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target 15.3 (combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world) is now available under SEPAL.

The module calculates the indicator and sub-indicators based on the approach proposed in the second version of the Good Practice Guidance for indicator 15.3.1 under United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It provides various functions including:

- selection of earth observation data from multiple sensors (MODIS, Landsat 4, 5, 7, 8 and Sentinel 2),
- selection of a suitable vegetation index (NDVI/EVI/MSVI),
- selection of suitable land cover ecological functional units,
- using in-country land cover data including reclassification,
- an interactive map to visualize the results,
- a bar diagram to present the statistics by land cover type,
- a Sankey plot to present the land cover transitions between starting and ending years,
- option to export maps as Geotif files to use the information in subsequent analysis.

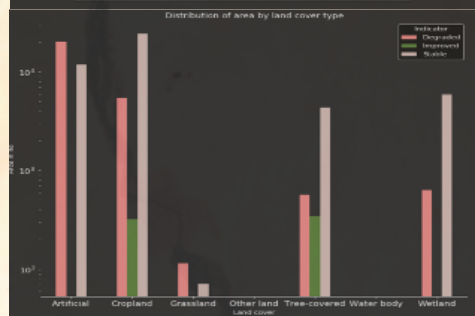
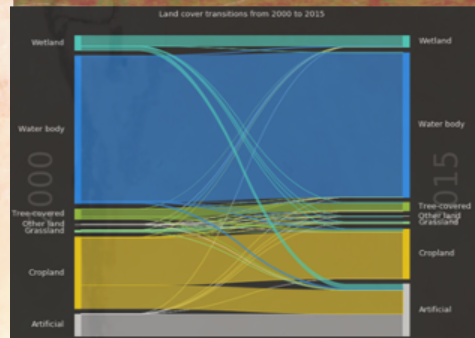
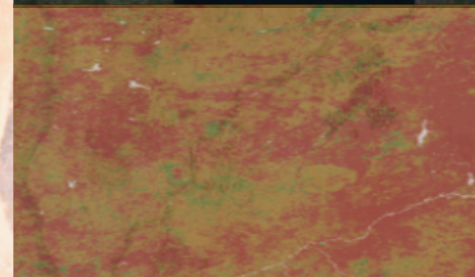
A separate land cover module is available to generate land cover map using the national or local legends. A comprehensive list of global and national legends is available in FAO Land Cover Legend Registry.

Trainings (from 5 days to longer time assistance) and capacity development programmes are conducted to support monitor land degradation, sustainable land management etc. More functions are being developed to validate and complement the results.

Users guide: [https://docs.sepal.io/en/latest/modules/dwn/sdg\\_indicator.html](https://docs.sepal.io/en/latest/modules/dwn/sdg_indicator.html)



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