



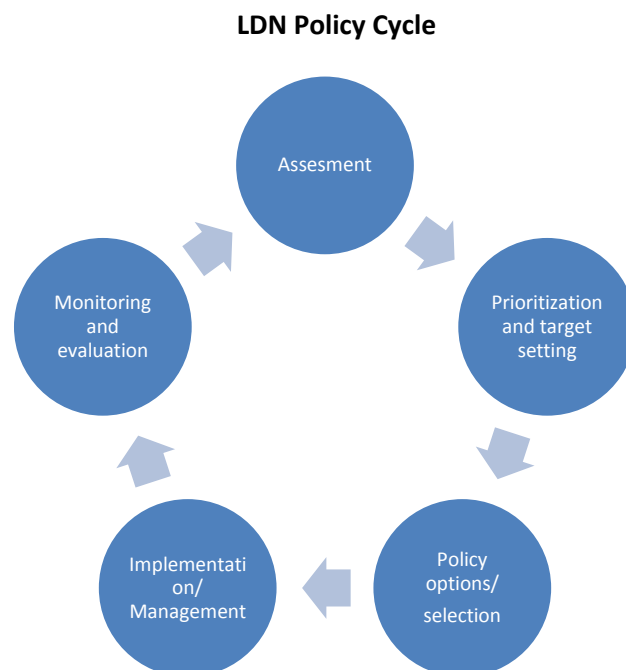
Soil Leadership Academy – LDN Policy Cycle

This document sets out the approach of Soil Leadership Academy (SLA) to identifying a Land Degradation Neutral (LDN) policy cycle and the related curriculum that would be promoted in support to the parties that decide to engage in the achieving of LDN objective.

OBJECTIVE: The support provided will enhance the capacity of policymakers to strengthen decision-making frameworks and processes in order to better conserve soil resources and promote sustainable land and water management practices that combat desertification and land degradation. SLA will use this curriculum to provide policymakers with the essential knowledge to design and implement policies and programmes for adopting and scaling up sustainable land management. It will not define policy but offer participants an opportunity to be exposed to best practices in sustainable land management to inform more effective policymaking.

Soil Leadership Academy Events

The SLA curriculum elements will be integrated in an interactive simulation exercise, tailored to meet the needs of the specific participants. This innovative approach will support participants to navigate through the complexity of achieving LDN and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by providing clear and pragmatic steps integrated in the policy cycle as well as to provide information on the existing knowledge to fulfil those steps.



Stage / Modules	Rationale	Topics	Objectives
1. ASSESSMENT			
Module 1.1 Mapping land degradation	Understanding the extent of the land degradation and its determining factors	Available global data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use and land use change - Land cover - Productivity dynamics - Trends in soil organic carbon stocks 	Describing the existing global data sources and their potential for the evaluation of the extent and tendencies in land degradation.
		Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Decision Support System (DSS) tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum requirements for a functional GIS - Available technologies for mapping: satellite imagery; aerial photography; GPS referencing; etc. - Costs 	Providing a clear picture of the main elements of a functional GIS to be used in the assessment of land degradation.
		Soil quality information – soil quality testing methodologies and mapping of degraded land	Review of the existing knowledge in soil testing and mapping to provide meaningful tools to evaluate the extent of land degradation and the related causal factors.
Module 1.2 The Economics of Land	Gathering of information on the economic consequences of land degradation; costs and benefits of addressing the issue as well as the financial instruments that can be used to develop a sound LDN strategy	Economics of Land Degradation – Cost Benefit Analysis	Providing an insight in the methodologies to evaluate the land degradation impact on the economy and methodologies to evaluate costs and benefits of a LDN strategy. Case studies.
		Investment & Financing Sustainable Land Management	Describing mechanisms and models to stimulate investment and financing for the uptake of SLM.
		Incentives and Market Based Mechanisms – including access to markets and basic infrastructure (information, physical and institutional)	Review of the needs of the individual actor groups for incentives to implement SLM and the efficient mechanisms available for their delivery. Case studies.
Module 1.3	Exploring social and	Food security	Explore the impact of land degradation on food

The social and environmental implications of land degradation	environmental implications of land degradation has the potential of creating synergies and multiplying effects with other actions and policies in achieving national or global sustainable development goals		security
		Land at the frontier of Conflict & Insecurity	Evaluate the link between land degradation and conflicts or security threats.
		Land and Migration Dynamics, land and employment	Describe the contribution of land degradation to migration dynamics and employment.
		Ecosystem services and biodiversity impact and dependence evaluation	Explore the links between land degradation processes and impact on ecosystem services and biodiversity.
Module 1.4 Evaluation of the driving factors for land degradation	Addressing the causal factors that drive land degradation contributes to the success of a LDN strategy	KAP (knowledge, attitudes, practices) survey	Insights on methodologies for evaluation and on data describing drivers for land degradation with focus on knowledge, attitudes, practices.
Module 1.5 Impact of land degradation on business	Identification of the impact of land degradation on businesses is essential in ensuring their involvement in the LDN strategy implementation	Life Cycle Assessment	Describe tools and methods to evaluate the contribution of land to the value of the end product.
		Land materiality tool	Describe use of the materiality tool to evaluate the economic relevance of land to the business.
2. PRIORITIZATION AND TARGET SETTING			
Module 2.1 Global policy and land management	Addressing land degradation has the potential of contributing to the achievement of multiple global targets and goals. Hence, links and synergies must be explored.	Principles and Policy frameworks (international and national) for sustainable land and soil management	Review of existing commitments and possible synergies.
		Land for Food, Energy and Water Security	
		Post 2015 Development Agenda - the MDGs and SDGs, Aichi targets, BONN Challenge	
		The Role of Business in Sustainable Development: the case of Land Management	Review of existing commitments and potential role of business.
Module 2.2 LDN strategy	A successful strategy for LDN needs to consider	Techniques for effective policy design (multi-stakeholder platforms; policy/dialogue	Insight on multi-stakeholder involvement strategies and best practices.



building	the involvement of stakeholders, clear planning and ex-ante evaluation of the impact	forums etc.)	
		Planning & Target Setting	Best practices in efficient planning and target setting, sharing examples of effective policies
		Impact Assessment – a priori direct and indirect	Exploring essential elements of policy impact assessment.
3. POLICY OPTIONS/ SELECTION			
Module 3.1 Good Land Management practices and approaches	Evaluation of land management practices to be considered in building policy options and consideration of all possible alternatives will contribute to the success of LDN strategy	SLM Techniques for Soil and Land Restoration – exploring case-study examples.	Review and comparative analysis of case studies and best practices. Pragmatic recommendations.
		Agricultural and Agro-Forestry Systems, Approaches and Techniques – conservation agriculture; organic; evergreen, etc.	
		Closing the Yield Gap - enhancing soil quality and productivity; input efficiency (nutrients)	
		The Mosaic (Landscape) Approach	
		Integrated Water Resource Management	
		National Drought Management planning and policy	
		Land and Soil as tools for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	
		Blending traditional knowledge and new techniques	
Module 3.2 Lessons learned	Existing expertise and lessons learned contribute significantly to tailoring the strategy to the existing background situation and avoidance of implementation bottlenecks	Formulation and alignment of NAPs to achieve LDN	Learning from the experience of the UNCCD LDN pilot project.
		Integrated investment frameworks for LDN	Explore the various solutions for investment frameworks to contribute to the achievement of LDN objectives.
4. IMPLEMENTATION/ MANAGEMENT			
Module 4.1 Effective	Various aspects of strategy implementation	Project Management	Explore the best practices and relevant case studies in project management.

strategy implementation	play a key role in achieving its objectives	Going to Scale – replication and mainstreaming of international policy and good practice into national policy and development agendas; ensuring delivery on commitments.	Evaluate constraints in scaling-up Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and possible solutions. Case studies and best practices.
		Partnership Development and Management	Best practices in building partnerships for LDN.
		Advocacy, Communications and Behavioural Change strategies	Explore principles and identify tools for effective communication and awareness rising.
		Resource Mobilization	Identification of key resources: material, human and capital; and strategies for their mobilization. Case studies.
		Negotiation skills	Explore multi-stakeholder processes and identify key negotiation skills to ensure involvement and partnership.
Module 4.2 Responsibilities and rights	Implementation of LDN strategy depends on defining clear responsibilities and rights in land management. Addressing the issue creates enabling frameworks to achieving LDN objectives	Environmental (and societal) Ethics	Review of principles and practical implementation of international guidance.
		Gender Aspects of Land Management	
		Land Governance – especially Rights and Tenure	
5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION			
Module 5.1 Data collection	Evaluation of progress and monitoring of implementation are essential to provide feedback in the LDN policy cycle so as to ensure achievement of LDN objectives	Methodologies and tools available for the calculation of the LDN relevant indicators	Practical review of methodologies and global data sources available as well as identification of new data sets needed.
		Progress analysis against LDN targets	Practical methodologies for establishing baselines and evaluation of progress against LDN targets. Communication.