



Republic of Sierra Leone

Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

Republic of Sierra Leone

National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets

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**THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM**
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1. Brief narrative on the motivations for the government to commit to LDN

The Government has remained committed to the UNCCD since it signed and ratified the convention in 1997. In fulfillment of one of the most important obligations of the UNCCD for country parties, Sierra Leone developed a National Action Programme (NAP) to serve as the basis for the implementation of the Convention. The NAP was adopted in 2008. As part of the global arrangement for the implementation of the Convention, the UNCCD secretariat at its 8th Conference of Parties (COP 8) in 2010 developed a 10-year Strategic Plan and directed each of the 52 least developed countries to align their National Action Plans to the 10-Year Strategic Plan. Sierra Leone fulfilled this obligation by aligning its NAP to the 10-Year Strategic Plan in 2014.

One of the most important national environmental challenges facing Sierra Leone is how to reverse / halt land degradation and promote sustainable land management practices in order to attain a land degradation neutrality status. The country recognizes and addresses this challenge in many of its policy statements, such as in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and its subsequent Agendas for Change and Prosperity, the New National Land Policy approved by Cabinet in 2015 and in its UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP), which was adopted in 2013.

The country envisions the current LDN TSP as an opportunity to rejuvenate its efforts and deepen its commitment to address land degradation at both national and regional levels. In this process, the dedicated focal Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment continues to demonstrate its highest commitment in ensuring that the required steps to establish LDN baselines and targets are undertaken judiciously in line with the UNCCD guidelines.

2. Brief summary of the national LDN baseline, including the current status of land degradation, based on the LDN indicators

The LDN TSP process has identified baselines of land degradation through analysis of default tier 1 global data on Sierra Leone, obtained from the UNCCD Secretariat. Analyses of the default data present a scenario of loss of land cover over a net area change of 125 sq.km; meaning that an area of 125 sq. km of originally forested land in 2000 has changed or lost its forest cover by 2010. The analyses also reveal that the land area covered by shrubs, grasslands and other sparse vegetation types increased by 71 sq. km, and the net area of croplands increased by 55 sq. km. over the decade (2000 - 2010). The increase in croplands can be linked to originally forested lands in 2000 changing into croplands by 2010.

Up to 3% of total land area is suggested as having declined or shown early signs of decline in net productivity between 2000 and 2010. This includes 353 sq.km of total land area having declined in land productivity and 2,161 sq. km showing early signs of decline between 2000 and 2010. 64% of the total land area is stable in net land productivity, 13%

of which are stable but stressed and 51% of which are stable and not stressed. A significant area of 31% is shown as having increased in net land productivity, 50% of this increasing occurred in cropland and only 25% in forests. Even more worrisome phenomenon is the soil organic carbon of 99,342 tons from the top 30 cm of soil through changing land cover from forests to croplands.

Hotspots of land degradation on the three indicators of land cover, land productivity dynamics and soil organic carbon were also established from analysis of tier 1 data, as follow:

Land Cover Change - Sulima, Wara Wara Bafodia, Diang and Mongo chiefdoms (Northern district of Koinadugu), Biriwa, Gbanti Kamranka, Sanda Magbolontor and Tonko Limba chiefdoms (Northern district of Bombali), and Barri, Soro Gbema, and Gallinas Perri chiefdoms (Southern district of Pujehun).

Land Productivity - Lower Bambara and Tunkia chiefdoms (Eastern district of Kenema), Nimiya chiefdom (Eastern district of Kono), Valunia (Southern district of Bo), Gbonkolenken (Northern district of Tonkolili), Malema (Eastern district of Kailahun) and the Western Area Peninsula.

Soil Organic Carbon - Nongoba Bullom chiefdom (Southern district of Bonthe), Kargboro (Southern district of Moyamba), Koya chiefdom (Northern district of Port Loko).

We have added mined-out degraded areas in the rutile mines as hotspots for degradation indicated by changes in land productivity dynamics and loss of Soil Organic Carbon in the degraded mined-out areas in southwest Sierra Leone by Sierra Rutile Mining Company Ltd.

In order to effectively combat land degradation, the government is committed to achieve the neutrality of land degradation on average by 2030 **with the following specific targets indicated in Section 3 below.**

3. Brief summary of the LDN targets set and associated measures identified, with proposed timeline

Target 1: By 2030, promote reforestation through agro-forestry and sustainable land management practices, and the implementation of alternative livelihood schemes to restore 175 sq. km originally forested land in 2000 that has changed or lost its forest cover by 2010.

Target 2: By 2035, ensure the rehabilitation of 12,237 sq.km of land area suggested as having declined, shown early signs of decline, or stable but stressed conditions in net productivity between 2000 and 2010. This includes 353 sq.km of total land area having declined in land productivity, 2,161 sq. km showing early signs of decline, and 9,723 Sq. Km showing stable but stressed conditions between 2000 and 2010.

Target 3: By the year 2030, improve the productivity of 1,864 sq.km of land area covered by shrubs, grasslands and sparse vegetation through controlled grazing, avoiding overgrazing, and adopting wild bush fire management practices.

Target 4: By 2030, ensure to improve the productivity of 8,464 sq.km. of croplands through sustainable land management practices, agro-forestry, and the establishment of green corridors, especially in large scale commercial farms.

Target 5: By 2035, implement wetlands conservation measures in order to improve 330 sq. km of wetlands showing decline, early signs of decline or stable but stressed conditions in net land productivity dynamics.

Target 6: By 2023, implement land reclamation and land rehabilitation programmes in the dredged mined-out areas degraded by Sierra Rutile Mining Company.

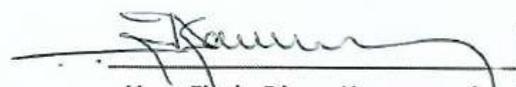
4. Outline of policy measures to integrate LDN into selected national priorities, such as sustainable development and poverty reduction

In relation to LDN-related policy measures in order to integrate LDN into selected national priorities, Sierra Leone emphasizes on the adoption and implementation of sustainable land management practices in the network of its policy framework, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Agricultural and Food Security Policy, the National Environmental Policy and the New Land Policy.

5. Call to other stakeholders, including the private sector, to contribute to the country efforts to achieve LDN

The LDN TSP will result to the identification of transformative projects that will aim at achieving land degradation neutrality for the country. The Technical Working Group consisting of professionals from a wide range of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies has been borne out of the TSP. This group will facilitate the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in the country, including academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations and civil society to collectively contribute to the attainment of LDN through the transformative projects.

Endorsed by



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