



The People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets



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THE GLOBAL MECHANISM
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to Combat Desertification



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The views and content expressed in this document are solely those of the authors of this document and do not necessarily represent the views of the LDN TSP or any of its partners.

To,
Ms Monique Barbut
Executive Secretary
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
P.O.Box 260129
53153 Bonn
Germany

The Land Degradation Neutrality- National Targets for Bangladesh

In order to halt, reverse or restore land degradation to assure ecosystem services and food security of the nation, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), the National Focal Point (NFP) institution of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bangladesh, requested the support of the UNCCD on 25th April 2016 to help develop Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. We are appreciative of the support from the UNCCD through the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN-TSP).

Bangladesh was able to formulate national LDN targets and measures through a very comprehensive, inclusive process involving various stakeholders. To fulfill our commitment towards achieving the LDN targets by 2030, we hereby officially submit the preliminary targets on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh. These targets and measures would be refined by getting more information, both through the international and local organizations as we move forward with the implementation process.

We are happy to note that the MoEF has taken note of land degradation as a major issue to be addressed within next few years. The commitment towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality was also highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Forests during COP 13 in Ordos, China. We have already established a National Steering Committee and a National Working Group to implement the activities of the National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Land Degradation in Bangladesh with the objective of being able to co-ordinate successful implementation of LDN targets. This would also help us to accomplish multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), more specifically the target 15.3. I am sure that we could count on your continuous support to achieve the LDN by 2030.

Thank you very much.
Sincerely yours,

(Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)
The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Coherence with other National Commitments from Bangladesh

Between now and 2030 Bangladesh reaffirms the commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in the context of the UNCCD.

It also confirms to adapt mutually inclusive processes at all levels of the country that contribute to achieve the objectives of all other international commitments as CBD, UNFCCC, REDD+, etc. by updating the National Action Programs and implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda (which are integrated and indivisible), in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 – “Land for life” and its target 15.3 - “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.

Notably, the UNCCD National Action Program (NAP) of Bangladesh has been updated and National Development Strategies were reorganized particularly in the sectors concerned with Agriculture, Natural Resources (Biodiversity) and Climate Change. These plans and strategies call for targeted policy interventions, strong awareness regarding policy compliance and technology adoption, adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the commitments.

Strong effective implementation mechanisms will be established with all institutions/stakeholders, including the public and private institutions; regional, sub-regional and local authorities; international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups etc.) to address land degradation and seasonal drought (desertification) in the country.

The default global data was preferred for setting national LDN targets taking into account the three LDN indicators, i.e. Land Cover, Land Productivity Dynamics (LPD) and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC). The LDN baseline will be revised as national data will be available. The LDN targets were accepted provisionally and may be adjusted in future once additional data becomes available.

Voluntary National LDN Targets

Based on the national commitment to achieve LDN by 2030, the following preliminary LDN targets have been defined for Bangladesh:

Target 1): To improve soil fertility and Carbon stock in 2000 km² of cropland area by 2030.

Target 2): To reduce land use/ cover conversion in 600 km² of forest area by 2030.

Target 3): To reduce waterlogging in 600 km² area by 2030.

Target 4): To reduce soil erosion in hilly areas in 600 km² area by 2030.

Target 5): To protect non-saline land areas from salinity intrusion in 1200 km² in coastal zone area by 2030.

Target 6): To reduce river bank erosion @100ha/year covering 100 km² areas by 2030.

In order to meet the commitments stated above, the following areas will be strengthened to be able to successfully co-ordinate the implementation of measures to achieve the identified national targets:

- Political ownership to strengthen compliance of LDN with broader socioeconomic perspectives.
- National institutions will be given authority and ensure accountability to implement measures to achieve LDN ;
- LDN principles will be blended to design and / or implement sectorial policies / strategies at all levels vide public and private sectors, academia, research, civil societies etc. through establishing better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities;
- Up scaling the capacity for cross-sectorial innovation through the National Working Group (NWG) on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and promote gender equality, empowerment, .shared prosperity and decent work for all, considering different levels of national development and capacities between now and 2030;
- Financial incentives will be provided to promote research and development (R&D) on sustainable land management in relation to land degradation, biodiversity and climate change;

- Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) and national accredited entities (Green Climate Fund) will be strengthened and blended to all other funding sectors, vide National and least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), and/or global partnerships, especially from the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) and Global Mechanism (GM) as an accelerator to link up the financial resources.

Associated measures identified to achieve LDN

Associated measures of the above targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030 are as follows:

Target-1 To reduce soil fertility and Carbon in 2000 km² of cropland area by 2030.

<i>1a. Agronomic measures</i>		<i>1500 km²</i>
1a.1	Balance fertilizer usage @ 10000 farmers per year following online and offline fertilizer recommendation system or fertilizer recommendation Guide	800km ²
1a.2	Use of organic manure, Farm compost, vermicomposting, Bio char	300 km ²
1a.3	Alternate wet and drying (AWD) of winter rice (boro) areas	200 km ²
1a.4	Leguminous crop in crop rotation	200 km ²
 <i>1b. Vegetative measures</i>		 <i>500 km²</i>
1b.1	Agroforestry/rural forestry	400 km ²
1b.2	Introduction Leguminous shrubs/tree plantation or growing vegetables on field bunds as appropriate	100 km ²

Target-2 To reduce land use/ cover conversion in 600 km² of forest area by 2030.

<i>2a. Vegetative measures</i>		<i>250 km²</i>
2a.1	Afforestation, Reforestation, Social Forestry, Agroforestry, horticulture	250 km ²
 <i>2b. Management measures</i>		 <i>350km²</i>
2b.1	Alternative to brick manufacture Effective advocacy on existing policy and implementation;	250 km ²
2b.2	Enforcement of existing policy/laws and/or National Land policies and associated directives	100 km ²

Target-3: Reducing waterlogging in 600 km² area.

<i>3a. Structural Measures</i>		<i>600 km²</i>
3a.1	Alternative Provision of adequate culverts or water out lets, Excavation of channels and ponds (Kash); to brick manufacture Effective advocacy on existing policy and implementation	600 km ²

Target-4: To reduce soil erosion in hilly areas in 600 km² area by 2030.

<i>4a. Agronomic measures</i>		<i>300 km²</i>
4a.1	Agroforestry/horticulture and no tillage on slope	300 km ²

	<i>4b. Vegetative measures</i>	<i>200km²</i>
	4b.1 Introducing hedgerow across the slope by leguminous shrubs	100 km ²
	4b.2 Afforestation	100 km ²
	<i>4c. Management measures</i>	<i>100 km²</i>
	4c.1 Advocacy on SLM to avoid shifting cultivation	100 km ²
Target-5: Protecting non saline land areas from salinity intrusion in 1200 km²		
	<i>5a. Management measures</i>	<i>1200 km²</i>
	5a.1 Restricting salt and shrimp land area	1200km ²
	5a.2 Introducing High value salt tolerant crops	
Target-6: Reducing river bank erosion @100 ha Per year in 100 km²	5.3 Increasing surface (fresh) water reserve in channels and ponds	
	5a.4 Community base polder management	
	<i>6a. Vegetative measures</i>	
	6a.1 Establishing green belt, Afforestation along river banks and char lands	
	<i>6b. Management measures</i>	
	6b.1 River/channel dredging	

Institutional arrangements to achieve LDN

The following Ministries and departments will be involved in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):

Ministry of Environment and Forests(MoEF) as lead Institution, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Land (MoL), Ministry of Water Resources(MoWR), Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Planning (MoP)- IMED, Ministry of Local Government Engineering Department (LGRD) and Cooperatives, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Department of Environment (DoE), Forest Department (FD), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI), Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO), Bangladesh Bureau Statistics (BBS), Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

In addition, Private Institutions, Academic, Non-Government Organizations, development partners and others that are engaged in natural resource management and research, will also be included in the LDN process.