Economics of Land Degradation – ELD Initiative

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Background of the ELD Initiative

- The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative
  - is a global initiative, induced in 2012 by UNCCD, EC and BMZ
  - was created by a network of partners thinking and working for a joint vision:

  to transform global understanding of the economic value of productive land based on both market and non-market values, and to improve stakeholder awareness for socio-economic arguments to improve sustainable land management, prevent the loss of natural capital, preserve ecosystem services, combat climate change, and address food, energy and water security.
An inclusive partnership

- ELD calls on economists and scientists from universities and research institutes different disciplines to create a robust scientific information base.

- Furthermore, in addition to working with partners from the political decision-making processes, the ELD initiative engages NGOs, farmers and agricultural associations, international businesses and finance institutions,
Core partners and contributors
ELD activities

Through an open inter-disciplinary partnership:

- ELD developed a **holistic framework** for the consideration of the economic values of land in political decision-making processes;
- ELD sharpens **awareness** of the socio-economic value of land and related ecosystem services;
- ELD estimates **economic benefits deriving from sustainable land management practices** and compares them to the costs of these practices (cost-benefit analysis – **considering all environmental services**) ;
- ELD works with **scenario techniques** (“business-as-usual” compared to “action”) ;
- ELD works from the **local to the global level** ;
- ELD proposes effective **solutions, policies, and activities to reduce land degradation**, mitigate climate change and deliver food, energy, and water security worldwide.

...because economic arguments for policies and incentives can be strong drivers for sustainable land use!
Outputs

- **Target group specific reports on demand** (for decision makers, scientific community and the private sector)
- **International studies** on the Economics of Land Degradation with a breakdown of the results to **national and regional level**.
- Well-informed risk **assessment strategies**
- A long-term, **proactive view of environmental change processes**
- **Actor specific policy advice** and **communication strategy**.
ELD’s 6+1 steps approach

1. Inception
2. Geographical characteristics
3. Types of ecosystem services
4. Role of ecosystem services in community livelihoods and economic valuation
5. Land degradation patterns and pressures (+ scenarios)
6. Cost-benefit analysis and decision-making

+1 step: Take action!

Read more: ELD User Guide
International approach

Objectives:

Raising further awareness on the costs of Land degradation and the benefits derived from SLM, linking different agendas (Land Management, Climate Change, Biodiversity) and different SDGs (15.3 and 15.9 with SDGs 1 & 2)

and

Facilitating international decision making on land with economic arguments, building an enabling environment framework
National level approach

Objectives:

- Awareness raising for the DLDD issue in relevant institutions
- Strengthening the ability to assess the costs of land degradation and the benefits of SLM and utilize this information in decision making
- Facilitating decision processes for implementing SLM with economic arguments
Modules of the ELD component

- Capacity Development

*International experts from the ELD network provide training for key institutions (implementing, decision making, research) to enable them to create and utilize information on the economic costs of land degradation and benefits of Sustainable Land Management. Participants will be introduced to the ongoing international debate on SDGS and aspects relevant for their sphere of influence in India.*

- Trainees: particularly young professionals and post-docs as future decision makers

- ELD Campus > follow-up activities

- National Case Study

*ELD case study is created in close cooperation with national key partners from research and politics.*

*Results from the ELD component of the project will be coordinated closely with and communicated to political decision makers and fed into ongoing political debates and the national LDN process.*
Implementation methods and partners

- **Partners:**
  - National experts and researchers
  - International experts for case studies
  - Policy dialogue facilitators

- **Coordinating institutions (selection):**
  - **WOTR:** Main driver in Indian context, research on the ground, activity implementation and policy dialogue
  - **ICARDA:** Scientific supervision and study review
  - **Stockholm Environment Institute:** Assist in context + stakeholder analysis, initiating/follow-up policy dialogues, develop policy briefs, create synergies, prepare communication tools
  - **Australian National University:** Capacity building, modelling
Thank you!

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