

UNCCD/ELD Session for Rio Conventions Pavilion CBD COP15

Synergies Day, 18 November 2022, 0900-1030

Title: Maximizing synergies among Rio Conventions to accelerate the biodiversity, climate, and land agendas

Organizers: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative, University of Bonn

Moderation: Nina Bisom (ELD Coordinator)

Land is the common denominator between the three Rio Conventions: UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD. Only if there is a fundamental change in the way we manage land can we reach climate targets, avert the dramatic loss of biodiversity, achieve land degradation neutrality, and make the global food system sustainable. The new Global Biodiversity Framework is a huge opportunity to revisit synergies and make them work at the national level.

Each of the conventions and their national level action plans – Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) – pursue land-related targets and make use of common approaches to implementation. Given this significant overlap, a harmonized and coherent implementation bears considerable synergy potential, both in terms of financial savings opportunities, but also for efficiency gains - reducing costs and maximizing returns on joint activities.

This side event showcases the experience of Rwanda and the interim results of a first of its kind assessment in Rwanda on costs and benefits of siloed versus integrated programming of Rio Convention national targets and commitments, with a special focus on sustainable land management and terrestrial ecosystem restoration. Departing from the practical case, the event will draw general conclusions, explore the entry points and challenges for inter-ministerial and institutional collaboration as well as the conditions that facilitate it, and discuss options for strengthening coherent implementation of land targets in other countries inspired by the Rwanda case. The discussion will include the different perspectives of science, national focal points, the Rio Conventions, donors, and international experts.

Expected outcomes

- Awareness raising. The event will present evidence and arguments that can help boost efforts to increase coherence between land-based target systems of the Rio Conventions.
- Enhanced understanding of synergy potentials. Based on the findings of the Rwanda case study, participants have a better understanding of the potential to advance the implementation of the Rio conventions by better, strategic dovetailing of the Rio target systems at national level.
- Awareness of windows of opportunity. National focal points of the Rio Conventions are aware of opportunities, challenges, and practical steps for a joint implementation.

- More policy coherence. Relevant actors reflect on what they can, and already do, to contribute to enhanced coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- Pathways for implementation identified. Ideas are discussed on how to take this topic forward and take it to implementation.

Key questions

- What do the findings from Rwanda tell us with regards to opportunities and challenges for synergistic target achievement?
- What are recommendations that can be drawn from the case of Rwanda?
- What are experiences from other countries? What are enabling factors for better coherence? What works, where are the bottlenecks?
- What are the levers to boost action towards better harmonized planning and implementation?
- What support programmes do other actors - international organisations, donors, initiatives – can do to support/facilitate implementation?
- What are processes at the level of the Conventions to support this effort?
- What are the ideas, recommendations, and next steps to take this forward?

Tentative agenda:

Time	
10	Welcome and Background
20	Keynote Address: The Economics of Harmonised land restoration targets in Rwanda – Preliminary study results <i>Preliminary study results</i> <i>Alisher Mirzabaev, Acting Professor and Chair of the Production Economics Group, Institute of Food and Resource Economics (ILR), University of Bonn</i>
10	Reactions on study findings
35	Enabling synergies at country level <i>Panel discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat</i> - <i>Dirk Nemitz, Team Leader, Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use in Transparency Division, UNFCCC Secretariat (Video statement)</i> - <i>Jamal Annagylyjova, Forest Biodiversity Officer, UNCBD Secretariat</i> - <i>Heike Henn, Head of the Subdivision for Climate Policy, Energy, Urban Development and Environment at Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany</i> - <i>Annie Kairaba, Executive Director, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)</i>
10	Q&A with audience
5	Closing