



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification

**Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing
on inclusive and sustainable development
in drylands and other fragile ecosystems**



 **Annual Report 2018**

ACRONYMS

AADP	Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network
AI-CD	African Initiative for Combating Desertification
BES	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
BES-Net	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network
BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
COP	Conference of the Parties
COW	Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ELD	Economics of Land Degradation
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GC-RED	Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification
GLO	Global Land Outlook
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPN	Global Policy Network
JRC	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IDM	Integrated Drought Management
IDMP	Integrated Drought Management Programme
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NEA	National Ecosystems Assessment
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PBL	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
PEA	Poverty-Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals
PEI	Poverty-Environment Initiative
PEP	Poverty Environment Partnership
RAU	Resilience Analysis Unit
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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In 2018, the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED) continued to realize significant results as per the agreed work plan in all its areas of work. The midterm review of the Centre's Programme for 2015-2020 was conducted in November-December 2018. The review concluded that the activities were implemented in an effective manner, to the satisfaction of the Centre's partners, and that the Programme was on-track to achieve its intended results. A summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review is included in this report.

The Centre pursued its work supporting the implementation of strategic initiatives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), most prominently on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and building resilience by providing technical assistance to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country offices and their national partners on resilience assessment, planning and programming in selected countries in Africa and the Arab States. In partnership with the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), the Centre initiated the study "Scenario Projections for Eastern Africa" to explore future changes in land use and land condition in the region.

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) successfully organized its flagship Triologue event in the Caribbean region, in partnership with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other partners. It brought together the key policy, science and practice sector representatives from seven countries for action-oriented policy dialogue around the themes of pollinators, food security and rural development. The BES-Net project has continually supported the National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) process in the four target countries, while the [BES-Net web portal](https://www.besnet.world/)¹ grew steadily with its expanded contents, increase in registered users and launch of the French site.

The Centre continued leading the UNDP Managing Agent function to complete the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and initiate a new global project, the Poverty-Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (PEA), jointly with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In 2018, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of more than USD 6 million through three different projects, namely: the Centre's Programme, covering land, resilience and BES-Net activities; PEI and the new PEA. The Centre expects to have a portfolio of about USD 19 million for the implementation of its initiatives, i.e. GC-RED and BES-Net until 2020 and PEA until 2022.

Targeted efforts continue to mobilize new funds for the Centre's work as resource mobilization (particularly to cover staff and operational costs) remains a key priority.

In 2019, the Centre will be a pro-active global node in UNDP's newly established Global Policy Network (GPN) contributing to nature-based solutions for development.



¹ <https://www.besnet.world/>

This section highlights the main results achieved under the GC-RED project in terms of advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing on sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems. It outlines the progress made and achievements generated in the areas of: I) natural capital; II) resilience building; and III) knowledge management and networking.

I. NATURAL CAPITAL



The Centre's pursued its support towards the implementation of strategic initiatives of UNCCD, namely: the [Global Land Outlook \(GLO\)](#)²; [LDN](#)³; the [Gender Action Plan \(GAP\)](#)⁴; and the [Economics of Land Degradation \(ELD\)](#)⁵.



GLO2 scoping meeting in New York

GLOBAL LAND OUTLOOK

The scoping meeting for the second edition of the GLO, or GLO2, was organized by UNCCD and hosted by the Centre at UNDP Headquarters in New York in May 2018. Twenty-seven experts participated in this meeting presenting diverse perspectives, expertise and experiences from around the world.

The participants agreed that GLO2 should have a strong "solutions orientation". The real added value of GLO2 will be in substantially deepening the response pathways (Part 3 of GLO1) which should become more detailed and geographically explicit. While the "educated general public" was viewed as a laudable target audience for GLO1, a solutions-oriented GLO2 will focus more on the "technical advisors to decision-makers" in the private and the public sectors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/civil society organizations (CSOs), and at all levels from local to national: i.e. those with the power to affect change.

"Invest in land now, benefit now" was the red thread suggested by the participants. GLO2 must focus on the incremental but immediate opportunities and how decision-makers can prioritize them in time and space with a view towards transformational or systemic change in the medium and long term. Research questions that get political attention, build synergies between "land, people and the environment" and provide clear mechanisms for implementing solutions were also elaborated upon.

The scoping meeting was a necessary and fruitful first step in producing GLO2. The priority for 2019 is to finalize the theory of change and raise financial resources for publishing the GLO2 report (expected in 2021). The Centre indicated that it cannot contribute financial resources for this new edition (unlike for GLO1 where it provided USD 200,000). Rather, it will provide substantive guidance and technical support for its preparation.

² <https://www.unccd.int/actions/global-land-outlook-glo>

³ <https://www.unccd.int/actions/achieving-land-degradation-neutrality>

⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/actions/gender-action-plan>

⁵ <http://www.eld-initiative.org/>

SCENARIO PROJECTIONS FOR EASTERN AFRICA



The evaluation of GLO1 called for “more emphasis on areas which face a ‘perfect storm’ of factors including land degradation, for testing the global scenarios within specific regions, and providing more detail at the regional or even country level”. In this context, the Centre, in partnership with PBL and JRC, will undertake the study “Scenario Projections for Eastern Africa” to explore future changes in land use and land condition in the region. The study will assess the implications of these changes for agricultural production, water availability and use, biodiversity and food security. It will feed into the preparation of GLO2 and its findings will highlight the challenges and opportunities for improving land management in Eastern Africa.

Following consultations with potential partners in Eastern Africa, it was agreed to undertake the study within the framework of the [African Initiative for Combating Desertification \(AI-CD\)](#)⁶, currently supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNCCD and led by the governments of Kenya and Senegal. Kenya is leading on behalf of AI-CD countries in Eastern Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan). A draft concept note was developed by the Centre, PBL and JRC and submitted to the Government of Kenya in November for feedback. The final note will be submitted to the high-level AI-CD meeting, scheduled in Nairobi in April 2019, for endorsement.

The proposed objectives of the study are to:

- Develop scenario projections on the magnitude of future changes to the land system in Eastern Africa, with the objective of informing dialogue on policy priorities and interventions.
- Explore the implications of these changes on food, water, climate change and biodiversity, and to what extent land degradation may exacerbate these challenges in the region.
- Initiate awareness and develop experience amongst national level policy-makers in selected countries on the use of scenario projections to inform policy discussions on land management.

Following the endorsement by AI-CD, the study will be initiated in partnership with 3-4 countries in Eastern Africa. An initial product of the study is expected to be presented during a side event at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNCCD in September 2019.

⁶ <http://aicd-africa.org/>

LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

Improvements in land use and management are needed on a global scale in order to achieve LDN by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] Target 15.3). To tackle this challenge, the Centre contributed to the development of a [Framework for Scaling Sustainable Land Management Options](#)⁷. This initiative was led by the Dryland Systems Program of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), in collaboration with UNCCD.



An expert group, including the Centre’s Senior Technical Advisor, studied the barriers and incentives of scaling technologies, processes, policies or institutional arrangements. The group reviewed existing frameworks for scaling sustainable land management (SLM) interventions across a range of contexts and identified eight critical actions for success: a) plan iteratively; b) consistently fund; c) select SLM options for scaling based on best available evidence; d) engage with stakeholders on all scales; e) build capacity for scaling; f) foster institutional leadership and policy change to support scaling; g) achieve early benefits and incentives for as many stakeholders as possible; and h) monitor, evaluate, and communicate. Based on these findings, a new action framework for scaling was developed that analyses the contexts where specific SLM interventions can be scaled, so that SLM options can be screened and adapted to these contexts, piloted and disseminated. The framework was published in July 2018 in the international scientific journal, *Land Degradation and Development*⁷.

In parallel, the Centre pursued its country support on LDN. It collaborated with UNCCD on building capacities for national reporting against the [UNCCD Strategic Framework for 2018-2030](#)⁸. It provided technical advice to finalize the LDN target setting reports for Lebanon and Kenya and has received funding from UNCCD to support the establishment of LDN targets for Somalia in 2019. A capacity building initiative was designed for Lebanon and will be implemented with the support of the Centre in 2019 to increase awareness of the LDN framework and facilitate knowledge sharing on LDN implementation in forestry, agriculture, rangeland management and land-use planning.

Up-Close: Building Capacity for LDN (SDG Target 15.3) Reporting



The Centre is supporting the implementation of the new UNCCD Reporting Framework for 2018-2030. It participated in the capacity building workshop, organized by UNCCD in Cairo in May 2018, to: 1) help country parties prepare their first national report as per the new [Reporting Manual](#)⁹; and 2) highlight the contribution of the UNCCD reporting to national reporting on SDGs, particularly on SDG Target 15.3 on LDN. The new reporting framework represents a major leap forward in the implementation of the Convention. *It provides a solid foundation for monitoring progress towards LDN and the achievement of SDG 15.3 by 2030.*



⁷ https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ldr.3080?author_access_token=iAKZz-r5DUmQCG1XbxTB2k4keas67K9QMdWU-LTWMo8MEI7P-k77IX_eHzAZyXxf4tf71AeMrzbWTFJYI_dOCyqcMnYr7qF_xOUevu9MsGjOhX5vxny_RzqQXhRgTjL&

⁸ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/ICCD_COP%2813%29_L.18-1716078E_1.pdf

⁹ https://prais.unccd.int/sites/default/files/helper_documents/2-Manual_EN_1.pdf

In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Centre developed a concept note for a joint programme on “Implementing LDN for Resilient Drylands”. The goal of the programme would be to strengthen resilience in the drylands of target countries through restoration and sustainable use of land, support progress towards sustainable development and, above all, SDG Target 15.3. IUCN proposed to submit the programme to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for funding, but UNDP-GEF (the group responsible for GEF in UNDP) did not endorse this option. Efforts are underway to identify alternative sources of funding for this programme.

UNCCD GENDER ACTION PLAN

The first ever GAP of UNCCD was adopted at COP13 in Ordos, China, in September 2017. A task force comprising UNCCD, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), IUCN and the Centre was established in 2018 to support its implementation.

A work plan was developed for the task force in 2018-2019. Significant results were achieved to date, notably the: 1) development of a proposal for a global initiative to support the implementation of the GAP and its submission to various donors for potential funding; 2) elaboration of guidelines to mainstream gender in the UNCCD Drought Initiative; and 3) preparation of a 2-day gender training for UNCCD National Focal Points (NFPs) attending the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in Guyana in January 2019 – “Gender Matters for LDN”.



The overall objective of the proposed global initiative is to increase the participation and leadership of women at all levels in decision making and local implementation of UNCCD, including LDN, drought management and sand and dust storms interventions. The immediate objectives are to: 1) strengthen women’s land rights and access to and control over resources; and 2) enhance women’s access to and influence over improved knowledge and technologies that relate to UNCCD implementation. The Government of Canada expressed an initial interest in supporting this initiative; its final decision is expected in April 2019.

ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION

ELD initiative is a global assessment of the economic benefits and costs of land and land-based ecosystems. The initiative highlights the value of SLM and provides a global approach for analysing ELD. GC-RED has been representing UNDP in this Initiative since 2014.

The current phase of the ELD support (December 2017 - November 2019) focuses on Somalia and is undertaken as part of the European Union funded “Reversing land degradation in Africa through scaling-up evergreen agriculture” project commissioned to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)-ELD Initiative. Land and its resources remain the key development priority for Somalia, as featured in its National Development Plan and National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. Concerted efforts are needed to translate these plans into action and implement SLM policies and practices. GC-RED, in collaboration with the UNDP Somalia Country Office, is supporting the assessment of the costs of land degradation and the economic benefits of investments in SLM/evergreen agriculture in the country. The study is expected to be initiated in February 2019.

II. ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE



The Centre pursued its contribution to enhancing resilience thinking and practice. In May, the Policy Specialist represented UNDP as a panel member in “Resilience Live”, a massive open online course (MOOC) organized by the Stockholm Resilience Centre’s programme “Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development”. During the MOOC session, the Centre’s experience in social and ecological resilience building works at the local, regional and national levels were shared with hundreds of registered participants.

The Centre attended a series of workshops organized in Southern and Eastern Africa by UN partner agencies supporting the Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). The RAU team presented key lessons learned from the quantitative and qualitative resilience assessment and analysis efforts undertaken within the IDDRSI framework and provided technical insights on the future direction of the sub-regional disaster vulnerability/resilience monitoring system.

Moreover, the Centre initiated its support to the UNCCD’s work on drought, the second pillar of the Convention’s Strategic Framework for 2018-2030. It is also pursued its technical assistance in response to the Syria crisis.

UNCCD DROUGHT INITIATIVE

The Initiative was adopted by UNCCD/COP13 in September 2017. It will be implemented in 2018-2019 to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought by: a) supporting the development of national drought action plans; and b) providing a toolbox to drought stakeholders with easy access to tools, case studies and resources to support the design of the drought plans.



Most countries already have some elements in place on how to respond to drought. However, the approaches are often not comprehensive, and the elements tend not to function well together. The Initiative aims to help countries prepare National Drought Action Plans to: a) put all these elements together and identify the gaps hindering timely and effective response; and b) define what needs to happen as soon as the possibility of drought is signalled by the meteorological services (normally at least 3 months in advance). The plan is designed to help policymakers prioritize practical steps to mitigate the impacts of drought.

The Centre is providing technical and financial support for the development of the plans for Iran, Morocco and Somalia. The draft plan for Iran was completed in December 2018, while the national consultants are being recruited for the other two countries. A [Model National Drought Plan](#)¹⁰ was developed by UNCCD to guide the preparation of the plans. It includes a step-by-step approach that can be adapted to the specific context of each country.

Up-Close: Gender Mainstreaming in National Drought Plans



Together with UNCCD and UN Women, the Centre contributed to the development of guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Drought Plans. The guidelines identify gender considerations and entry points for addressing them in the step-by-step approach described in the Model Drought Plan. The guidelines were shared with over 30 countries preparing the plans. Moreover, the Centre helped review the first set of drought plans (Algeria, the Dominican Republic and Serbia) to ensure that gender considerations are adequately addressed in the plans.

The Centre will support UNCCD in delivering the training module on “Drought Preparedness” at UNCCD CRIC 17 in Guyana in January 2019. The module will introduce NFPs to the toolbox of the Drought Initiative. A simulation exercise showcasing drought monitoring and communications approaches and vulnerability and impact assessment tools is planned during the training. Special attention will be given to land-based tools to mitigate drought risk.



¹⁰ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2018-06/model%20drought%20plan.pdf>

INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Since 2013, the Centre has been representing UNDP in the Advisory Committee of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a global initiative led by the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, to provide policy guidance and scientific information, knowledge and best practices for integrated drought management (IDM).

In 2018, the Centre continued to support IDMP's efforts to strengthen the IDM approach. It provided technical inputs for the development of a conceptual framework for IDM and contributed to the compilation of the glossary of drought-related terms. The Centre will contribute to proposed synergies between the IDMP and the UNCCD Drought Initiative in 2019, including participation in joint events and sharing information on the national drought action plans developed with UNCCD/UNDP support.

SUPPORTING RESILIENT RECOVERY IN SYRIA

Addressing the issues of land degradation and drought provides an opportunity to work simultaneously on resilient recovery, peacebuilding and socio-economic development in Syria. The country is severely affected by these problems, aggravated by conflict and climate change. At the onset of the conflict, approximately 3.2 million hectares of land or 20% of Syria's surface area suffered from degradation. The 2009 drought was severe, affecting some 1.3 million inhabitants in Eastern Syria alone, out of which over 800,000 lost all their livelihoods and faced extreme hardship and migration. This situation has probably deteriorated further due to the conflict.

In this context, the Senior Technical Advisor fielded a mission in Syria to assist the UNDP Country Office in the delivering of a capacity building workshop on “SDG Implementation in Crisis Context”. He facilitated a session on “SLM for Resilient Recovery and SDG Implementation”, highlighting the role that SLM can play in resilient recovery by assisting local communities, including returnees to rural area in order to: a) resume their livelihoods and derive benefits from the land; b) minimize land degradation and restore degraded areas; c) improve water management; d) strengthen adaptation to climate change and build resilience to drought; and e) enhance women's productive capacities and livelihoods. SLM's role as a potential “SDG Accelerator” was also discussed.



The mission explored the opportunity to pursue the Centre's support through: a) substantive guidance on integrated drylands development; b) knowledge sharing on sustainable land and water management to enhance livelihoods, foster resilience and advance SDG implementation; and c) technical support for the design of priority recovery initiatives. The Centre confirmed that it stands ready to continue its support in 2019.

III. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING



Throughout 2018, dedicated efforts were made to improve the visibility of the Centre and its activities among targeted internal and external audiences. The Centre's website on [Sustainable Land Management and Restoration](#)¹¹ was the main channel used to disseminate progress on its policy and programme support initiatives.

The Centre led UNDP's contribution to major policy advocacy initiatives on SLM.

In partnership with the UNCCD, it organized the scoping meeting for GLO2 at the UNDP Headquarters in New York, bringing together leading experts presenting diverse perspectives, expertise and experiences from around the world. The Centre is leading UNDP's engagement in the "Scenario Projections for Eastern Africa" initiative, in partnership with PBL and JRC.

Other key knowledge management and networking efforts include:

- Distribution of the Centre's knowledge materials, such as brochure, thematic factsheets, etc. in both print ready and digital formats;
- Face-to-face and virtual presentations on the Centre's key activities at various fora and posting of articles concerning the Centre work at UNDP's web blog page and its partner sites;
- Timely dissemination of Centre activities and achievements through a social media network (As of December 2018, [GC-RED twitter account](#)¹² had more than 1,900 followers; and
- Monthly dissemination of climate/drought resilience related news to some 2,000 interested partners through the [Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\) newsletters](#)¹³ (As of December 2018, the AADP newsletter remained highly rated - 4.5/5.0 stars - on the UNDP publication site).

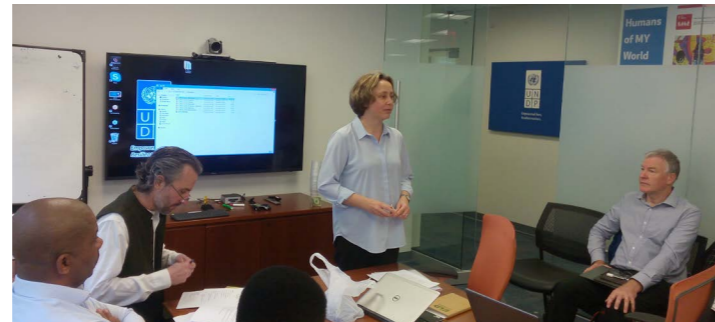
As part of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, the Centre worked successfully to represent UNDP in a number of strategic events all over the world in 2018. Some of these events include:

- 6th German National IPBES Forum in Bonn, Germany, on 22 February
- 6th Session of IPBES Plenary (IPBES-6) in Medellin, Colombia, on 17-24 March
- Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in Beirut, Lebanon, on 24-26 April
- Scoping meeting of GLO2 in New York, USA, 16-17 May
- 23rd Meeting of the Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25-27 June
- PEA Project Appraisal Committee /Project Review Committee Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 June
- PEI/PEA Board meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 3-4 July
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee Peer Learning Exercise on poverty-environment mainstreaming in Paris, France, on 24 October.

¹¹ <http://www.undp.org/drylands/>

¹² https://twitter.com/UNDP_GCRED

¹³ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/aadp_newsletters.html



GC-RED Director at the opening session of GLO2 scoping meeting

The BES-Net project activities have been implemented in a manner with the financial support of the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and in strategic implementation partnership with UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). Many of the project activities have led to positive changes and progress among the targeted beneficiaries. A number of BES-friendly policy actions have been taken by regional Trialogue participating countries; improved scientific knowledge and awareness are reported in the NEA target countries, and the number of users and followers of the BES-Net online networking tools is steadily increasing.



Working group session during the Caribbean Trialogue

BES-Net activities are guided by its Advisory Committee, comprised of IPBES, UNEP-WCMC, BES-Net donors and a range of other prominent BES-focused organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNCCD and the UN collaborative partner entities to IPBES. The Advisory Committee meetings are held biannually on a face-to-face and/or virtual basis.

BES-Net also contributed significantly to strengthen inter-agency linkages between UNDP and IPBES. On one hand, continued efforts were made to circulate the latest IPBES assessment findings and recommendations internally to improve UNDP's BES-related programmes and projects at global, national, regional and lower levels. On the other hand, as the UNDP focal point to IPBES, BES-Net consolidated UNDP's accumulated knowledge of good practices, lessons learnt and challenges to inform the Platform's various thematic and methodological assessment processes.

BES-Net's catalytic role in strengthening the science-policy-practice interface is highly welcomed by IPBES and other partners and its contribution to the implementation of the IPBES Capacity Building Rolling Plan was repeatedly acknowledged at different forums. Against this backdrop of tangible results, SwedBio agreed to provide additional financial support to the project for the remaining implementation period up to 2020. BES-Net activities were also well featured in the 2018 issue of the BMU brochure "[Committed to Biodiversity](#)"¹⁴.

The following section provides an overview of the progress of the BES-Net project, focusing on its three inter-linked activity areas: 1) face-to-face capacity building support through Trialogues; 2) National Ecosystem Assessments; and 3) online networking and communication tools.

I. FACE-TO-FACE CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT THROUGH TRIALOGUES

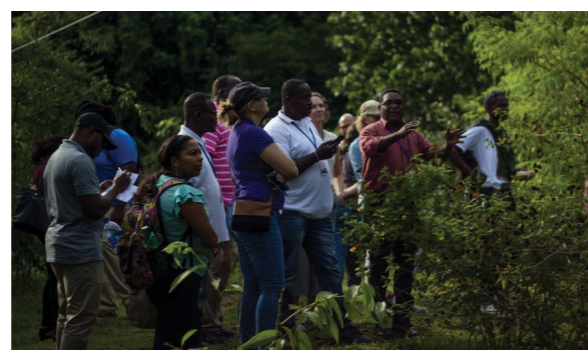


Triologue is BES-Net's flagship face-to-face science-policy-practice triangular communication and capacity building methodology. At the regional level, Trialogues are implemented to support the use and uptake of approved IPBES thematic assessment reports in regional/national/local policy and decision-making, scientific research and on-the-ground programmes and projects. At the national level, the Trialogue approach is used to create a three-way dialogue between scientists, policymakers and practitioners (e.g. local and indigenous communities, farmers, businesses, CSOs and NGOs) in support of the ongoing NEA process in Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

¹⁴ https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Pool/Broschueren/bio_vielfalt_verantwortung_broschuere_en_bf.pdf

REGIONAL TRIALOGUES

The [Caribbean Regional Dialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience](#)¹⁵ was organized in September 2018 in collaboration with the IPBES Secretariat and the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators (COW), targeting the seven IPBES member states in the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. The event took place in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, a new COW member, and was hosted by the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.



Field visit during the Caribbean Trialogue

The Caribbean Regional Trialogue event brought together over 65 participants including academic scientists, policymakers and practitioners with indigenous and local knowledge from seven Caribbean islands IPBES member countries, with common interests on the issues of pollinators, food security and sustainable and resilient development, into a welcoming and constructive space for dialogue. During the event, three-way interactions helped participants to foster mutual learning, improve inter-cultural understanding and jointly explore the areas of inter-institutional coordination. The participants voluntarily set short-term "21-day

Up-Close: Outcome Monitoring of the Eastern European Regional Trialogue



A key component of the BES-Net Trialogue methodology is long-term post-Trialogue support to sustain dialogue and interactions among the participants and promote the active implementation of the [agreed follow-up actions](#)¹⁶. A dedicated online discussion forum space allows the participants to update each other on the status of respective efforts. Face-to-face partners' meetings are also held on a periodic basis on the occasions of major international fora.



Trialogue participants at the COW ceremony during IPBES6

As one year had passed since the [Eastern Europe Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development](#)¹⁷, an online survey was conducted in November 2018 to monitor the mid-term outcome of the event among the participants. 100% of the respondents strongly/somewhat agreed that the Trialogue helped enhance knowledge on the thematic field. In addition, 90% of the respondents strongly/somewhat agreed that the Trialogue helped strengthen capacity on the thematic field and that they apply information/ data/ insights exchanged during the Trialogue to their field of work today. Examples of key progress in promoting pollinators include the official joining of the Federal Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the COW in March 2018; and the wide dissemination of pollinator/pollination related messages through various mass media channels (e.g. television, newspaper, etc.) and the organization of a series of training events for public extension officers on pollinators by the Institute of Organic Agriculture in Albania.

Meanwhile, requests were made for continued and stronger post-event support at country and regional levels both technically and financially. The BES-Net team is looking into this issue and exploring various opportunities to respond, together with the donors and partners, to these requests.

¹⁵ <https://www.besnet.world/node/4200>

¹⁶ https://www.besnet.world/sites/default/files/event-document/Trialogue_ActionDoc_EN.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.besnet.world/node/1936>

targets" to mutually encourage follow-up policy/academic/practical actions in the thematic fields. Some of the key short-term achievements reported by the participants as concrete positive outcomes of the Trialogue to protect pollinators and promote pollinator-dependent farm activities include:

- The Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources created a pollinator sub-committee under the National Biodiversity Committee and included pollinators and their habitats as a mandatory component to be reviewed in future Biodiversity and Ecosystem Surveys and Environment Impact Assessments. The government presented the Public Declaration of the Dominican Republic regarding Pollinators at the occasion of CBD COP14 in November 2018.
- An interactive online page was established on the [INaturalist](#)¹⁸ platform by the Trialogue participants from Trinidad and Tobago to jointly track pollinators and pests of plant species in their country. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development, this initiative encourages people to take photos of the (wild) animal species on plants they see in gardens, fields, school, etc., and upload them on the platform as 'citizen scientists' to help professional scientists record and identify pollinators and pests across the countries.
- A representative from the St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative is now serving as a champion for pollinators and has been applying his learnings to his farm practices and sharing them at different forums in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

NATIONAL TRIALOGUES

In order to improve awareness of the ongoing NEA and promote active participation of key scientists, policymakers and practitioners in the assessment process, BES-Net is committed to supporting the organization of national-level Trialogues in the four target countries.

A pilot [stakeholder dialogue event](#)¹⁹ was successfully held in Medellin, Colombia, in March 2018 on the margin of IPBES-6. A [Mini Trialogue on Science-Policy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)²⁰ was also organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in May 2018 as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the CBD and 2018 International Day of Biodiversity.



Stakeholder dialogue event in Medellin

Both events adopted the Trialogue methodology and helped diverse groups of participants to deeply acknowledge and celebrate the role of biodiversity and the importance of scientifically informed policy/decision-making. The events also contributed to secure the participants' interest in, ownership of and commitment to the NEA process. Based on these pilot experiences, full-fledged national Trialogues are scheduled to be held in all four countries in 2019-2020.



Mini Trialogue on Science-Policy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Yaoundé

¹⁸ <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinators-and-pests-of-trinidad-and-tobago>

¹⁹ https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Pools/Broschueren/bio_vielfalt_verantwortung_broschuere_en_bf.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.besnet.world/mini-trialogue-cameroon-strengthen-science-policy-interface-towards-improved-biodiversity-protection>

II. NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS ASSESSMENTS



In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, as the implementing partner, the BES-Net project has been supporting the development of selected countries' capacity to conduct NEAs, complementing the global assessment being undertaken by IPBES. Leveraging the expertise of the Sub-Global Assessment Network, the NEA process encompasses not only the production of national assessment reports but also the development of a set of policy support tools to integrate assessment findings into decision-making.



UNDP and UNEP-WCMC at CBD SBSTTA22 in Montreal

All four NEA target countries, namely Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam, completed the formulation of the general assessment chapter structure and the identification of the core authors, and are currently progressing towards the finalization of the first draft assessment report based on regular consultation with key stakeholders. Further details on progress in 2018 are as follows:

- Cameroon:** Following a series of stakeholder consultation meetings, the NEA scoping report was validated/updated in May with strong government support and engagement of a large number of experts in the assessment process. Authors' meetings have been held since then, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and other partners, to finalize the first order draft as per the agreed chapter outline. An effort is ongoing to integrate the assessment as a priority within the planning of the Ministry of Economy and Planning.
- Colombia:** The NEA process was officially launched in March 2018 at the dialogue workshop, or mini-Trialogue, on "Colombian Biodiversity: From Knowledge to Decision-Making", held on the margins of the IPBES 6 Plenary. The discussion focused on how the ecosystem assessment can contribute to key national policy processes, such as the Post-Conflict and Green Growth agendas. The NEA report chapter structure was agreed by the third quarter and efforts have since been made to improve the scoping document. In the last quarter, the Colombian team organized the NEA inception workshop and an Authors Meeting back-to-back with the aim of engaging new experts in the process and consolidate the final scoping document. A workshop on indigenous and local knowledge and nature's contributions to people was held to better incorporate the conceptual framework of ILK and NCP into the different chapters of the assessment.
- Ethiopia:** The project manager was recruited and the process is ongoing to organize contractual agreements with authors as per the endorsed chapter outlines. A series of consultative and author's orientation meetings were held in the third and fourth quarters of 2018 to refine the NEA implementation plan. The table of contents and the chapter outlines (five chapters in total in line with the country's five main ecosystems) are now complete and the zero-order draft is currently underway.
- Vietnam:** Between the first and the third quarter of 2018, the assessment team organized regular meetings with the technical working group and chapter authors for the finalization of the NEA chapter outline, the compilation of the author list and the refining of the chapter contents. In the fourth quarter, the team released the zero-draft report and organized the national consultation workshop. A meeting was also held with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to discuss contributions to the Sixth National report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

At the global level, quarterly webinar sessions were held throughout 2018, which allowed the four country teams to exchange on the status of respective NEA works and share lessons learned. The regular Webinars and the permanent online communication platform serve as an important help desk and progress monitoring facility.

The NEA experiences have also been disseminated widely at various international fora to inform the NEA process in other countries and enhance south-south NEA networking, such as IPBES-6 in March 2018, the 22nd Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the CBD in July 2018 and CBD COP14 in November 2018.



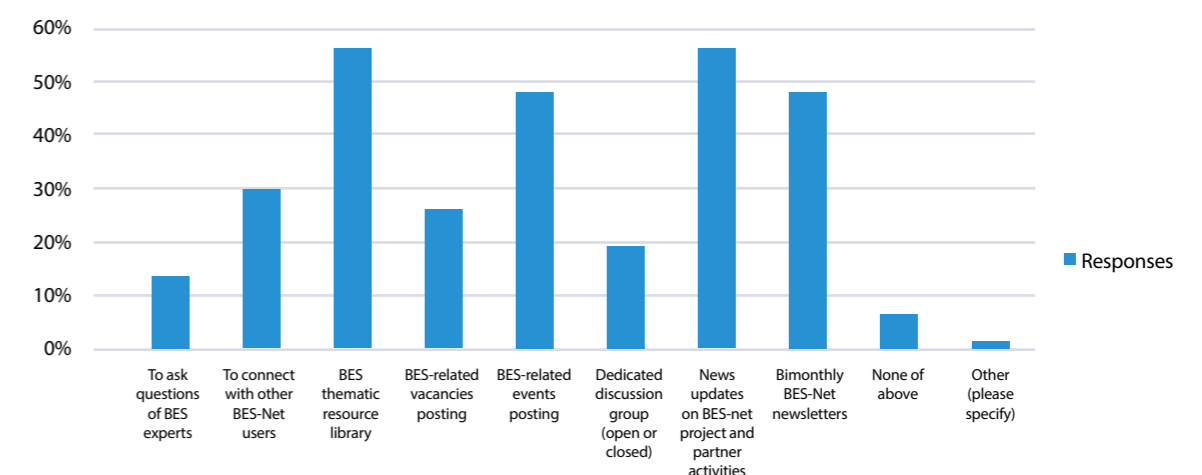
BES-Net Caribbean Trialogue participant presenting at CBD COP14 in Sharm El-Sheikh

III. ONLINE NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS



The BES-Net web portal serves as the key interface where more than 100 partner institutions, over 800 individual registered users and other visitors with common interests interact on specific biodiversity and ecosystem services related topics. It provides a comprehensive knowledge resource library containing over 1,700 publications, research papers, policy documents and on-the-ground good practice reports, etc. The web portal also offers a rich database of organizations and experts (over 120 individuals) working on the IPBES thematic assessment areas. Furthermore, discussion forums are offered within the web portal to provide open or closed spaces for interested users to conduct dedicated dialogue and resource sharing beyond geographic and administrative boundaries. For example, closed forums, created for the participants of the Regional Trialogues and the NEA country teams, are proactively utilized by the members to exchange ideas, information and opportunities. Latest updates of BES-Net and its partners are compiled into a format of e-newsletter and circulated on bi-monthly basis to over 4,000 subscribers all over the world.

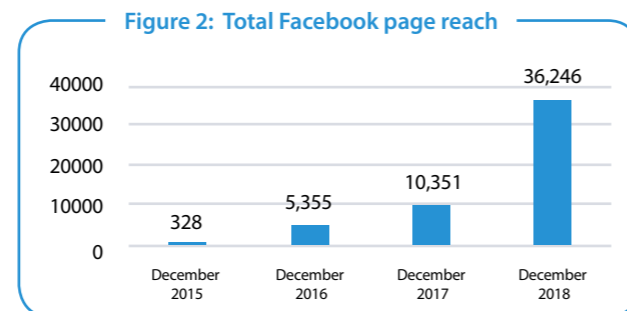
Figure 1: Main content that users find useful on BES-Net's web portal



In 2018, just like previous years, BES-Net's online communication and outreach efforts have led to highly positive results. The web portal recorded approximately 64,500 page views this year (over 17% increase from 2017). As a result of the effort to increase the types and ranges of web contents to appeal to a wider audience, new visitors accounted for 87.9 per cent of the page views. In the meantime, the web portal also succeeded in attracting the long-term returning web portal visitors/users. As of 31 December 2018, the registered users for the BES-Net Web Portal reached 808 from all three target communities of policymakers, scientists/indigenous and local knowledge holders and practitioners. This is an over 28 per cent increase from the same period in 2017. Among them, 124 experts volunteered to serve as BES-Net experts based on their knowledge, experiences and expertise to provide policy advice, respond to practitioner questions and moderate forums on the web portal.

In order to keep aligning web portal services with changing and emerging needs, the BES-Net team seeks to obtain user feedback on a regular basis. The latest online survey carried out in December 2018 reveals that user interests are highly diverse and extensive (Figure 1). Accordingly, the BES-Net project will maintain a wide range of web tools and resources in the coming years, while continually improving their accessibility and user-friendliness.

BES-Net's social media channels also play an important role in networking, outreach and stakeholder engagement. BES-Net's [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/besnet.world/)²¹ is now followed by more than 4,600 people and obtained a reach of over 36,000 people in 2018 (Figure 2). The network's [Twitter account](https://twitter.com/besnet_undp)²² is followed by nearly 620 followers (222% increase from December 2017) and collects roughly 40,000 impressions per month.



Up-Close: BES-Net at a Glance

In 2018, the [BES-Net web portal](https://www.besnet.world/) has undergone important changes in its design, layout and accessibility. The new user-friendlier platform features BES-Net's key pillars of activities systematically, such as the Trialogues, NEAs and online networking communication works, and expanded the thematic foci of the portal resources mirroring the latest IPBES thematic assessment on sustainable use of wild species.

As a major improvement, the BES-Net web-portal is now officially launched in French, with the aim to better engage the French speakers all over the world with the activities of the network. The launch of the French site was well received by the users, partners and donors and is expected to contribute to the greater online interactions and dialogues on BES-related thematic topics in forthcoming years.



Since October 2014, GC-RED has provided UNDP Managing Agent functions for PEI. PEI is a joint UNDP-UN Environment programme supporting country-led efforts to integrate poverty-environment linkages into national and subnational development policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks. The global programme is implemented through joint UNDP-UN Environment teams covering four regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean), working in close collaboration with UNDP Regional Hubs in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Istanbul and Panama City.

In 2018, the Centre continued to provide significant support to PEI, including strategic guidance; mainstreaming of PEI knowledge into UNDP and other partners' work; quality assurance and donor reporting. The Centre supported PEI in facilitating learning across regions, packaging and disseminating its accumulated knowledge, and building tools for mainstreaming issues in the poverty-environment nexus into development policies.

Moreover, the Centre's support included management of on-going PEI cash flow management; project delivery reporting; preparation, approval, implementation and monitoring of 2018 work plans and budgets; donor reporting and tranche disbursement facilitation as well as administration of the mobilized European Union Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement, or PAGODA I funds. 2018 marked PEI's final year and the project officially ended on 31st December 2018. The Centre ensured the proper closure of all PEI related projects and provided inputs to the PEI final report.



UNDP and UNEP at the Arab-Forum on Sustainable Development in Beirut

The Centre provided substantive inputs into the following PEI-related meetings:

- Arab-Forum for Sustainable Development, in April, Beirut, Lebanon;
- PEP23, in June, Nairobi, Kenya; and
- Environment and Natural Resources – Multi-dimensional Poverty Measurement Workshop, in June, Nairobi, Kenya

The Centre's Director and Centre staff also supported the launch of a new four-year joint UNDP-UN Environment PEA project. PEA was officially launched on 19th July 2018 in New York during the Experts Group Meeting on Promoting Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development. PEA builds on the deep experience of the UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative. PEA will focus on shifting finance and investment towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication and improving the environmental sustainability of current investments. The project aims to accelerate poverty-environment mainstreaming by fostering quality investments, especially for least developed countries where the gap in investment is greatest.

As a joint UNDP-UN Environment project, the GC-RED Director will jointly co-manage PEA together with the UN Environment Co-Manager. In addition to providing strategic guidance to PEA, the Centre will serve as the Managing Agent for PEA and will be responsible for overall project financial management, performance monitoring and reporting, evaluation and ensuring achievement of project results with inputs from UN Environment technical staff.

In support of PEA, the Centre was able to successfully negotiate and sign donor agreements with the European Commission in the amount of Euro 8,980,000 as well as with the Austrian Development Agency in the amount of Euro 600,000.

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/besnet.world/>

²² https://twitter.com/besnet_undp

In 2018, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of close to USD 6 million under two separate project documents and related ATLAS Awards, i.e. GC-RED/BES-Net and PEI (Table 1). These funds encompass non-core donor resources in support of particular project activities and the UNDP core funds to support the Centre's staff costs. In 2018, more than USD 4 million in non-core resources was received under the purview of the Centre (Table 2).

The Centre expects to have a portfolio of about USD 19 million for the implementation of its initiatives (i.e. GC-RED, BES-Net and PEI/PEA) over the next three years in 2019-2022 (Table 3). Efforts are underway to mobilize additional resources for the Centre's land and resilience-related work.

Table 1: 2018 Delivery (as of January 2019)

Project Name	ATLAS Project/ Output No.	2018 Budget in USD	2018 Expenditure in USD	Source of Funds
GC-RED	94431	392,798	378,433	UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund)
	94130	298,715	298,715	UNDP core allocation for Centre staff costs
BES-Net	97675	1,538,343	1,239,734	Non-core
PEI	75132	4,006,353	3,632,139	Non-core
		32,118	31,924	TRAC
Total		6,268,327	5,580,945	

Table 2: Non-core resources received in 2018 (as of January 2019)

Project Name	Amount in USD	Donor
GC-RED	28,000	UNCCD
	119,474	Germany (GIZ)
BES-Net	51,382	Sweden (SwedBio)
Sub-Total	198,856	
PEA	3,404,019	European Union
	233,918	Austria (Austrian Development Agency)
	196,000	UNEP (Norway)
Sub-Total	3,833,937	
Total	4,032,793	

Table 3: Non-core resources for utilization in 2019 -2022 (as of Jan 2019)

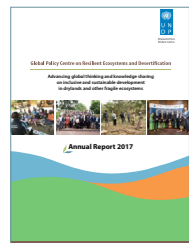
Project Name	Available Amount in USD	Pledged Amount in USD	Donor
GC-RED*	831,187	0	UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund)
	28,000	0	UNCCD
	92,918	55,441	Germany (GIZ)
Sub-Total	952,105	55,441	
BES-Net*	2,798,448	0	Germany (BMU)
	27,229	126,499	Sweden (SwedBio)
Sub-Total	2,825,677	126,499	
PEI**	432,227	0	UNEP
	27,510	0	European Union
PEA***	3,404,019	6,808,037	European Union
	231,803	459,242	Austria (Austrian Development Agency)
	195,875	1,804,000	UNEP (Norway)
	0	2,000,000	UNEP (Sweden)
Sub-Total	4,291,435	11,071,279	
Total	8,069,217	11,253,219	
Grand Total	19,322,436		

* GC-RED and BES-Net projects to be completed by 31 December 2020.

** PEI funds to be utilized by 30 June 2019.

*** PEA project runs from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2022.

KEY PUBLICATIONS (CO-)PRODUCED BY THE GC-RED IN 2018



UNDP (2018). [Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification Annual Report 2017](#)



UNDP and UNEP (2018). [Annual Progress Report 2017: UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative](#)



UNDP (2018). [BES-Net Caribbean Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience Background Document](#)

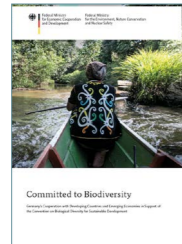


UNDP (2018). [BES-Net Brochure](#)

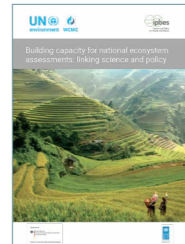
KEY PUBLICATIONS GC-RED PEER-REVIEWED/ CONTRIBUTED TO IN 2018



Land Degradation and Development (2018). [Framework for Scaling Sustainable Land Management Options](#)



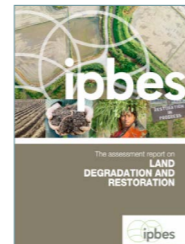
BES-Net (2018). [Committed to Biodiversity Brochure](#)



WCMC (2018). [National Ecosystems Assessments Flyer](#)



UNDP (2018). [UNDP Annual Report 2017](#)



IPBES (2018). [The Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration](#)



PEI (2018). [Poverty-Environment Initiative Handbook \(Arabic\)](#)



PEI (2018). [Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals Brochure](#)

The mid-term review (MTR) of the Centre Programme (including GC-RED and BES-Net projects) for 2015-2020 was conducted in November-December 2018 to:

1. Assess the extent of achievement of the intended results of the Programme as defined in the results and resources framework;
2. Generate findings on the opportunities and challenges faced during the implementation of the Programme; and
3. Recommend actions to be taken with regards to the successful implementation of the Programme during the remaining period in 2019-2020.

The MTR was carried-out internally, as stipulated in the Programme document, by the Policy and Programme Team of the Centre. The main findings of the review are highlighted below.

The Programme is on-track to achieve its intended results. The activities are highly relevant to the strategic priorities of the Centre's partners, the UNDP Strategic Plan and the implementation of SDGs. The findings show good overall efficiency of the Programme. The reporting indicates that activities were implemented in a timely manner and according to the annual work plans and budgets approved by the Programme Board.

The intervention strategy proved effective for producing good results. It builds on the Centre's strong partnership with the UNCCD and its growing collaboration with IPBES and UNEP. The Programme worked closely with a variety of organizations such as UN Women and NRI on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, as well as with ICARDA, IUCN and GIZ on SLM. National and regional-level activities were delivered with operational and technical support from UNDP Regional Service Centres and Country Offices.

The effectiveness of Programme implementation has been highly satisfactory. The Progress towards Results Matrix reveals that the midterm targets have been achieved, with some being exceeded, while the overall progress towards the end-of-project targets is on-track.

The UNCCD-related interventions were delivered effectively, contributing significantly to the advancement of LDN and the promotion of Dryland Women's Empowerment. The effectiveness of the Centre's support was recognized by the Executive Secretary of the Convention who indicated that the major outcomes of UNCCD COP13 – including the adoption of the UNCCD Strategic Framework for 2018-2030 and its accompanying GAP as well as the launch of GLO – “were made possible by UNDP's contribution and the support provided through the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification”.

BES-Net activities were implemented effectively. Biodiversity and ecosystem friendly policy actions were taken by Triologue participating countries; improved scientific knowledge and awareness were reported within the NEA target countries, and the number of users and followers of the BES-Net online tools are steadily increasing. BES-Net's catalytic role in strengthening the science-policy-practice interface is highly appreciated and its contribution to the implementation of the IPBES Capacity Building Rolling Plan is repeatedly acknowledged by the Platform and other BES partners.

The interventions of the Programme are likely to have a positive impact on addressing critical challenges for sustainable development including land degradation, women's empowerment, resilience building and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Programme has contributed to the achievement of the strategic objectives of its partners - including halting and reversing land degradation and conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services - through policy advocacy, knowledge sharing, technical and capacity building support.

The main achievements of the Programme will likely last beyond its life cycle, ending in 2020, due to the strong ownership by the partners of the initiatives supported. The catalytic approach of the Programme contributed towards the sustainability of its interventions, through the provision of technical support and seed funding to advance major global initiatives on SLM, dryland women's empowerment, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The overall rating of the Programme is satisfactory as summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Overall Rating of the Programme

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating*
A. Relevance	The activities are highly relevant to the strategic priorities of the Centre's partners, the UNDP Strategic Plan and the implementation of SDGs.	HS
B. Efficiency	The findings show good overall efficiency of the Programme. The reporting indicates that activities were implemented in a timely manner and according to the annual work plans and budgets approved by the Programme Board.	S
C. Effectiveness	The midterm targets have been achieved, with some being exceeded, while the overall progress towards the end-of-project targets is on-track. Strong satisfaction of the Programme partners with the support provided and results achieved.	HS
D. Likelihood of Impact	The interventions of the Programme are likely to have a positive impact, having contributed significantly to addressing critical challenges for sustainable development including land degradation, women's empowerment, resilience building and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.	S
E. Intervention Strategy	The intervention strategy proved effective for producing good results. It builds on the Centre's strong partnership with the UNCCD and its growing collaboration with IPBES and UNEP.	S
F. Sustainability	The main achievements of the Programme will likely last beyond its life cycle, ending in 2020, due to the strong ownership by the partners of the initiatives supported.	S
Overall project rating	The Programme is on-track to achieve its intended results. It is implemented in an efficient and effective manner to the satisfaction of its partners.	S

* Six Point Progress Rating Scale: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)

The midterm review concluded that the overall performance of the Programme is satisfactory. The Programme is on-track to achieve its intended results and is implemented in an efficient and effective manner to the satisfaction of its partners. This assessment is in-line with the Project Quality Assessment undertaken by UNDP in March 2018, which rated Programme implementation as "Highly Satisfactory" and concluded that "the Programme was of sufficient quality to continue as planned". The Programme Board, at its last meeting in February 2018, commended the Team for the effective implementation of the Programme and recommended to continue investing in the partnerships supporting its implementation.

In this context, the review did not recommend significant adjustments to the strategy, activities and budget of the Programme for the remaining period in 2019-2020. The implementation of the Programme will proceed as planned, taking into account the following considerations:

1. The 2019 work plan will be marked by the Programme's contributions to UNCCD COP14, building on current LDN, drought and gender activities, as well as to IPBES-7 through the UN Collaborative Partnership and BES-Net. A Regional Dialogue for Anglophone Africa is planned under the theme "Bright Spots for Land Degradation Neutrality, Pollinators and Food Security" and the NEAs will be completed in the four target countries.
2. UNDP's policy and programme support were redesigned and reconfigured in 2018 into GPN to better support the implementation of the Strategic Plan in 2019-2021. Under the GPN, The Centre will be called upon to support the delivery of tasks in its area of expertise, which is clearly reflected in the GPN Domains of Expertise under "Planet/Natural Capital/Ecosystems and Biodiversity/Dryland Ecosystems and Land Degradation". Provisions will be made in the Programme work plans to accommodate these requests to the extent feasible.
3. The Centre will pursue its resource mobilization efforts in 2019-2020 for securing additional funding to respond to the increasing demand on its services in drylands development and sustainable management of land/natural resources. These efforts are crucial for mobilizing resources for the next Programme cycle of the Centre starting in 2021.





we focus on

poverty eradication and environmental sustainability in fragile ecosystems.



we support

sustainable and resilient development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems, aiming to reduce vulnerability and ensure better living standards.



we contribute to

the implementation of the SDGs, which will result in improved livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing, and ultimately lead to pro poor growth.



we mainstream

poverty-environment objectives into national/local development and budgetary frameworks to promote poverty eradication, while advancing sustainable management of natural capital.



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