

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 2019

ACRONYMS

| AI-CD | African Initiative for Combating Desertification | IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
|---------|---|-------|---|
| BES | Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | LDN | Land Degradation Neutrality |
| BES-Net | Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | NEA | National Ecosystems Assessment |
| | Network | NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| BMU | Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety | PAGE | Partnership for Action on Green Economy |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity | PBL | Netherlands Environmental Assessment |
| COP | Conference of the Parties | | Agency |
| COW | Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators | PEA | Poverty-Environment Action for the |
| CRIC | Committee for the Review of the | | Sustainable Development Goals |
| | Implementation of the Convention | PEI | Poverty-Environment Initiative |
| EC/JRC | Joint Research Centre of the European | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| | Commission | SGAN | Sub-Global Assessment Network |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | SLM | Sustainable Land Management |
| CC DED | | SPM | Summary for Policymakers |
| | Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification | UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| GEF | Global Environment Finance | UNDP | United Nations Development |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit | OND | Programme |
| GLO | Global Land Outlook | UNEA | United Nations Environment Assembly |
| GPN | Global Policy Network | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| IDMP | • | | United Nations Educational, Scientific |
| IDIVIP | Integrated Drought Management Programme | | and Cultural Organization |
| IKI | International Climate Initiative | WCMC | World Conservation Monitoring Centre |
| ILK | Indigenous and Local Knowledge | | |
| IPBES | Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform | | |



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INTRODUCTION

The 2019 work plan of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification Centre (GC-RED) was successfully implemented, realizing significant results in all areas of work of the Centre.

Prominent for this reporting period is the Centre's contribution to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which led to excellent visibility and positioning of UNDP as a valuable partner in the pursuit of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and other related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, the Centre continued to support the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the launch of its Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the seventh session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-7) through the Centreled Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) project. BES-Net conducted its third and fourth Regional Trialogues, translating recommendations from the two available IPBES thematic assessment reports (concerning pollinators released in 2016 and land degradation and restoration released in 2018) into action in the Anglophone Africa and Central Asia regions. It also continued with its support of national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) in four selected countries.

The Centre continued leading the UNDP Managing Agent function to implement the Poverty-Environment Action for the SDGs (PEA) project, jointly with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

In 2019, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of more than USD 5.2 million through two projects, namely: the project encompassing the Global Policy Centre component, which cover the activities related natural capital and ecosystem and livelihoods resilience, and the BES-Net component; and the PEA project.

Due to the generosity of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and building on the successful work of the first phase of BES-Net, the Centre was able to mobilize an additional Euro 20 million for the second phase of BES-Net to be implemented from 2020-2028.

Targeted efforts continue to mobilize new funds for the Centre's work on land and to cover related staff and operational costs.

The Centre was a pro-active global node in UNDP's Global Policy Network (GPN) and contributed to nature-based solutions for development.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: GLOBAL POLICY CENTRE PROJECT

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) ecosystems and livelihoods resilience; and III) knowledge management and networking.

I. NATURAL CAPITAL



Prominent during this reporting period is the Centre's contribution to UNCCD COP14, which was held in September in New Delhi, India, to assess the initial progress in implementing the <u>UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework</u>. The UNDP delegation was led by the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, and comprised senior professionals from GC-RED, the Global Environmental Finance (GEF) Unit, UNDP India Country Office and the GEF Small Grants Programme.

GC-RED coordinated UNDP's participation in COP14, which resulted in excellent visibility and positioned UNDP as a valuable partner for global work on LDN. UNDP's contribution to the success of COP14 was strongly acknowledged by the UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw. In a letter to the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Thiaw stressed "UNDP's significant role in making this conference a milestone for the land restoration movement".



Mr. Steiner held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Thiaw to reiterate UNDP's commitment to the partnership with the Convention and support to countries for its implementation. The support to be provided by UNDP during the next UNCCD biennium in 2020-2021 was also discussed. This support will build on on-going collaborative efforts and emerging opportunities including, among others: policy advocacy, resource mobilization and country programming on LDN; implementation of the <u>Gender Action Plan</u>; preparation of the second edition of the <u>Global Land Outlook (GLO)</u>; launch of the <u>UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storms</u>.

Up-close: Land and Climate

The UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, was the keynote speaker for Roundtable 1 on "Land, Climate and Renewable Energy", organized during the High-Level Segment of UNCCD COP14. The roundtable reviewed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2019 report on "Climate Change and Land" and explored how land-based solutions can be strategically deployed to fight climate change. Participants sought to craft clear messages for the Climate Action Summit (New York, 23 September 2019) about the contribution of land-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

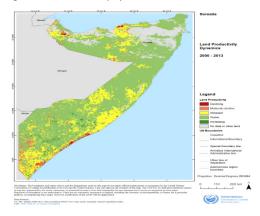


Land Degradation Neutrality

The Centre led the preparation of UNDP's position paper for COP14 titled "Combatting Land Degradation - Securing a Sustainable Future". The paper articulates UNDP's response to the global land degradation challenge, presents its service offer on sustainable land management (SLM) and highlights its support to the implementation of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. The paper presents UNDP's nexus approach on the themes of climate change, inequality and migration as entry points for supporting countries to address their most pressing development challenges and achieve their SDGs. Taking this nexus approach for addressing land degradation presents an opportunity to strengthen UNDP responses and support to countries at the most impactful level. For example, through its work on climate change, UNDP will demonstrate and upscale nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including restoration of degraded lands and SLM actions, which can achieve multiple development and climate dividends.

The Centre pursued its support to countries on LDN. In partnership with UNCCD, it provided technical assistance to Somalia to develop its LDN targets for 2030. The exercise was completed successfully with the establishment of the LDN targets and the identification of land degradation hotspots for priority interventions. In Kenya, the Centre supported the finalization of the target setting report through the recruitment of a national consultant and the organization of the validation workshop. In Lebanon, the Centre supported the delivery of a series of workshops to build national capacities on LDN implementation in the land-use planning, forestry and agriculture sectors.

Figure 1: Land Productivity Dynamics in Somalia (2000 -2013)



The Centre's Director participated in the 17th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCCD (CRIC17) in Georgetown, Guyana, in January. This CRIC presented the first opportunity to assess countries' progress in implementing the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. Significant progress was reported towards LDN implementation: 119 countries are currently engaged in LDN target setting; 74 countries have established national LDN targets and measures to achieve them; and 46 countries have formally adopted their LDN targets.

Prior to the CRIC meeting, a Training Fair on LDN, Gender, Drought, and Sand and Dust Storms was organized by the UNCCD for country parties. The Director contributed as a panelist to the LDN session, sharing LDN target setting experiences in the 6 countries supported by the Centre. The

Up-close: Gender Mainstreaming in LDN Implementation





In partnership with UNCCD, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UN Women, the Centre co-organized a side event at COP14 titled "Gender Equality: A Key for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality". Building on the UNCDD Gender Action Plan, the event provided a platform to discuss gender mainstreaming into policies, programmes and interventions aiming at avoiding, reducing or reversing land degradation at local and national levels to achieve LDN and gender equality. Two new resources were also launched: a) "LDN – Interventions to Foster Gender Equality"; and b) "A Manual for Gender-Responsive LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes". The event, chaired by the GC-RED Senior Technical Advisor, was broadly attended by national focal points and representatives from civil society organizations.

important role of LDN as an SDG accelerator was highlighted, as well as the need to continue supporting countries to access financial resources for transformative projects to enable them to meet their LDN targets by 2030.

The Centre's contribution to CRIC17 was strongly acknowledged by the UNCCD. In a letter to the GC-RED Director, the UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary indicated that "the success of CRIC17 could not have been achieved without your commitment, professionalism and genuine partnership with

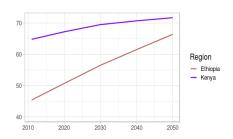


us. I am indeed happy to inform you that from a survey done immediately at the end of the exercise, all participants found, inter alia, that all presentations and presenters were truly well prepared. The consensus is that all participants learned new and important information relevant to their everyday work regarding the implementation of the Convention".

Scenario Projections for Eastern Africa

The concept note, "Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa", was submitted to the 3rd Regional Forum of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD), hosted by the Government of Kenya in May. The GC-RED Senior Technical Advisor, along with representatives from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC/JRC), attended to secure an endorsement for the initiative. The participants agreed that a pilot phase, covering Kenya and Ethiopia, will be implemented between June 2019 and December 2020. Depending on the results achieved and the availability of financial resources, this phase could be extended to other countries in the region.

Figure 2: Evolution of land under agriculture till 2050 per country



A technical meeting was organized in September at UNCCD COP14 in New Delhi to review progress and define the next steps. Over 20 representatives from Kenya, Ethiopia, AI-CD, PBL, EC/JRC and GC-RED attended the meeting. The participants agreed to develop a background paper in which the key data available from PBL and EC/JRC for the study are presented; establish the core technical teams for the study in Kenya and Ethiopia; organize a first workshop in March 2020 to develop the outline of the study and allocate roles and responsibilities; and hold a second workshop in July 2020 to review the draft report.

The background paper was submitted in November to the national partners. It explains the value and purpose of scenario analysis; presents an overview of the key data available from PBL for scenario analyses; and highlights the key data available from EC/JRC sources to inform the study. The establishment of the core technical teams will be finalized in January 2020, following the approval by the Governments of Kenya and Ethiopia respectively.

Global Land Outlook

The Centre participated in the Steering Committee meeting, held in September at UNCCD COP14 in New Delhi, to discuss the proposed concept of the second edition of the GLO (GLO2). It was agreed that GLO2 will be a strategic communications publication of the UNCCD to inform the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030. It was proposed to divide GLO2 into three parts: 1) Land Restoration Potential; 2) Maximizing the Benefits of Land Restoration; and 3) Roadmap for the Decade. The preparation of GLO2 will be informed by commissioned working papers. These Centre will contribute to the review of selected working papers and the final document. Unlike for GLO1, the Centre will not provide a financial contribution to recruit consultants or publish the final report.

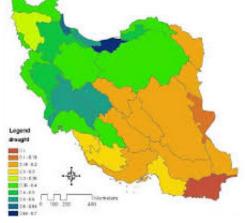
II. ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE



The Centre's work on drought resilience, sand and dust storms, and food security during this reporting period is highlighted below.

Drought Resilience

The Centre pursued its support to the implementation Figure 3: Hydrological Drought Index for Different Basins in Iran of the UNCCD Drought Initiative through the provision of technical assistance to develop the national drought action plans for Iran and Morocco. The plan for Iran was completed in August and submitted to the UNCCD at COP14. Iran is now one of 30 affected countries that have successfully developed their action plan in line with "Strategic Objective 3 - Drought Management" of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. The preparation of the plan in Morocco was initiated later in the year (June) with the objective of submitting it to the UNCCD by March 2020. Considering the challenging security situation and heavy workload of the UNDP Country Office in Somalia, it was agreed to cancel this activity and focus the Centre's support in 2019 on the development of the LDN targets.



The Centre supported the organization of the first "UNCCD Gender Caucus" at COP14. The overall objective of this informal gathering is to "positively influencing the course of events pertinent to gender equality and promote a gender responsive approach in the design and content of UNCCDrelated decisions and programmes". The Caucus reviewed the draft COP decision on Drought (ICCD/ COP [14]/16). The GC-RED Senior Technical Advisor facilitated this review to identify gaps and propose improvements to ensure that gender considerations are adequately addressed in the decision as stipulated in the UNCCD Gender Action Plan.



GC-RED represents UNDP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) as a member of the programme's advisory and management committees. The Centre collaborated with the IDMP team and other committee members directly/ indirectly in connection with the UNCCD Drought Initiative. It also contributed to circulate the latest update on the programme activities both internally and externally through various channels.

Sand and Dust Storms

The Centre is UNDP's representative in the United Nations Coalition on Combatting Sand and Dust Storms. It participated in the first meeting of the Coalition in February 2019 and contributed to the preparation of its terms of reference. The mandate of the Coalition is to promote and coordinate a collaborative UN system response to the growing issue of sand and dust storms, on local, regional, and global scales, ensuring unified and coherent action is taken. Its areas of work will include:

- a) Facilitation of information exchange among stakeholders;
- b) Capacity building and training;
- c) Mobilizing resources and fund-raising initiatives; and
- d) Advocacy and awareness raising.

Five working groups were established, namely: 1) Forecasting and early warning; 2) Health and safety; 3) Policy and governance; 4) Mediation and regional collaboration; and 5) Adaptation and mitigation. The Centre will co-lead the Adaptation and Mitigation group along with UNCCD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.



The Coalition was officially launched at UNCCD COP14 in New Delhi. The GC-RED Director represented UNDP in the event and attended a technical meeting to discuss the proposed COP decision on <u>Sand and Dust Storms (ICCD/COP [14]/17)</u>. The GC-RED Senior Technical Advisor facilitated the review of this decision during the first UNCCD Gender Caucus to identify gaps and propose improvements from a gender perspective.

Food Security in the Sahel

The Centre represented UNDP in the conference "Beating Famine in the Sahel" (Bamako, February). The conference brought together representatives from Sahelian countries and organizations engaged in scaling-up land restoration and evergreening efforts in the region. It provided a platform to share successful policies, practices and initiatives and laid the foundation for an "Evergreening/Restoration" movement in the Sahel, which will link on the ground realities and implementers, governments, international organizations and donors for widespread land restoration. This will help galvanize support for major initiatives like the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, or AFR100, and the Great Green Wall, as well as for on-going national efforts to achieve LDN by 2030.

The contribution to scaling-up SLM and restoration to food security, peace and security, and adaptation to climate change and drought in the Sahel was broadly discussed. National roadmaps



were developed by country participants to help restore degraded lands, meet LDN targets and enhance food security.

The GC-RED Senior Technical Advisor contributed to the thematic session on "Land Restoration for Resilience Building, Climate Change Adaptation and Drought Management". The session explored how land restoration practices such as farmer-managed

natural regeneration, bush regrowth management, and integrated development approaches increase resilience, help communities adapt to climate change and provide strategies for drought management. The Centre's presentation, "Land Degradation Neutrality for Resilience Building and SDG Acceleration in the Sahel", provided an overview of the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN, presented the progress achieved in LDN implementation in Sahelian countries, and highlighted UNDP's support for scaling-up SLM/LDN efforts.

III. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING



Enhancement of the Centre visibility remained the core focus of the GC-RED work. Various online channels and offline activities were utilized to reach out to targeted internal and external audiences. The overview of the Centre's policy and programme support activities and their key results and achievements have been disseminated through the GC-RED website on sustainable land management and restoration, as well as the social media tools, reflecting its substantive focus and service offer within the framework of the UNDP GPN. As of December 2019, GC-RED twitter account receives more than 1,900 followers, which is about 13 per cent increase from December 2018. The Centre's key works and achievements were also presented and circulated at various fora across the globe.

As part of the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, the Centre worked successfully to represent UNDP in several strategic events all over the world in 2019 (Table 1).

Table 1: Major global/regional events attended by the Centre

| Events | Dates |
|---|------------------|
| Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Ministerial Conference | 10-11 January |
| UNCCD CRIC 17 | 28-30 January |
| 2019 Beating Famine Conference | 26-28 February |
| Fourth session of the <u>UN Environment Assembly</u> (UNEA-4) | 11-15 March |
| Seventh IPBES National Forum Germany | 5 April |
| IPBES-7 | 29 April – 6 May |
| Third Regional Forum for Horn of Africa on AI-CD | 14-16 May |
| Fast, Fair, and Green: Global Principles for an Inclusive Green Economic Transformation | 16 July 2019 |
| UNCCD COP14 | 2-13 September |



Among others, the Centre coordinated UNDP's participation in UNCCD COP14 to promote the organization's contribution to the implementation of the Convention. The UNDP delegation was headed by the Administrator, a first for a UNCCD COP, which helped strengthen the positioning of the organization as a valuable partner on global SLM work. The Centre led the preparation of UNDP's position paper for COP14 titled "Combatting Land Degradation – Securing a Sustainable Future". It compiled, jointly with UNCDD and IUCN, the policy brief "Land Degradation Neutrality – Interventions to Foster Gender Equality". Moreover, the Centre co-organized and contributed to a number of events on LDN, gender, drought, sand and dust storms. The exhibition booth, open throughout the COP-period, showcased UNDP's global support to the implementation of the UNCCD and to sustainable land management efforts in India. The UNDP position paper, displayed at the booth, was shared broadly with participants.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: BES-NET PROJECT

The overall objective of the BES-Net project is to support the capacity building work by IPBES and promote dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective BES management, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. The project is undertaken in strategic implementation partnership with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and with the financial support of IKI/BMU and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. BES-Net also collaborates closely with over 100 BES-focused organizations and initiatives to maximize the complementary impacts on the ground.



Through the dedicated implementation of the BES-Net activities since 2016, a wide range of positive changes and developments have been realized within policy, science and practice communities at regional, national and local levels. Building on these achievements, IKI/BMU kindly agreed to finance Euro 20 million in support of the second phase of BES-Net project for the duration of



2020-2028. In partnership with UNEP-WCMC and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Centre will assist the countries targeted by BES-Net Phase I in implementing the BES-friendly policy, science or practice measures based on the experiences of the Trialogues and the National Ecosystem Assessments (NEAs). BES-Net Phase II will also upscale the proven good practices, which has been well tested under BES-Net Phase I, and expand the Trialogue and NEA support in new countries and regions.

Up-close:: UNDP-IPBES Collaborative Partnership



UNDP, together with UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, formed a collaborative partnership with IPBES in 2013 with the aim to support the development, establishment and implementation of the Platform. GC-RED represents UNDP under this partnership in its capacity as the managing unit of BES-Net. The UN collaborative partners jointly produce the progress reports in line with annual IPBES Plenary sessions, highlighting key contributions of each organization to the different components of the IPBES work programme, including those through BES-Net. BES-Net team also serves as a member of the IPBES task force on capacity-building, taking into account the project's dedicated support in the Platform's capacity building rolling plan. Meanwhile, IPBES is among the BES-Net Advisory Committee members, providing the strategic guidance on the future direction of the BES activities through the biannual committee meetings.



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) promoting informed decision-making through NEAs; and 3) online networking and communication tools.

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



Trialogue 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 the 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, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations [NGOs]) in support of the ongoing NEA process in Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

Regional Trialogues

In 2019, two Regional Trialogues were organized with geographic focus on Anglophone Africa and Central Asia. The Anglophone Africa Regional Trialogue was held on 28-30 May in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya as the host government, and brought together about 60 participants from five target countries, namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia. The Central Asia Regional Trialogue was hosted by the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural



Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 9-11 October in Almaty, engaging some 80 participants from six former Soviet Union States: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

By the end of 2018, multiple IPBES assessments were completed and released including the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production (2016), thematic assessment on land



degradation and restoration (2018), and the four regional reports on biodiversity and ecosystem services (2018). Applying the cutting-edge triangular dialogic methodology, the Anglophone Africa and Central Asia Regional Trialogues undertook a challenging task successfully not only to contextualize the IPBES assessment messages to regionally/nationally relevant formats, but also to consolidate the diverse assessment results and findings in an integrated and a coherent manner.

With the support of the strategic partners, such as IPBES, UNCCD and the <u>Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators</u> (COW), the policy-science-practice community representatives from the participating countries deliberated on the environmental, social and economic implications of land degradation and pollinator decline in their respective countries and jointly came up with a set of concrete pollinator friendly SLM actions to be pursued. The national action plans are articulated in the Regional Trialogue Action Documents (See Key Publication section).

Informed, motivated and empowered participants of the Regional Trialogues have been leading the implementation of the agreed national action plans largely in a voluntary manner. Some of the achievements reported at the face-to-face progress review meetings, which are held at the margin of the international forums (e.g. IPBES Plenaries and multilateral environmental agreement COPs), and through various online tools (e.g. closed Trialogue online discussion forums; outcome monitoring survey; and country team WhatsApp groups, etc.) are illustrated in Table 2. BES-Net initiative aims to enhance these and other national actions further and institutionalize the IPBES assessment uptake efforts through its Phase II support.

Table 2: Examples of Post-Trialogue national actions

| Regional Trialogues | Countries | Actions | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Eastern Europe Trialogue | Albania | Organized media campaigns to raise awareness on IPBES assessment messages, as well as a series of training events for public extension officers on pollinators (Science) | | |
| (2017) | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Joined COW and formulated the national pollinators strategy (Policy) | | |
| | | Implemented a research on the diversity of bee species and developed the monitoring programs for solitary bee conservation (Science) | | |
| | | Initiated a comprehensive NEA process (Policy-Science) | | |
| | Moldova | Presented the Trialogue experience at the National Beekeepers Association's for and produced an in-depth sub-national pollination status report (Practice) | | |
| Caribbean Trialogue | Antigua and Barbuda | Organized a national multi-stakeholder dialogue event on pollinators following the Trialogue methodology (Policy-Science-Practice) | | |
| (2018) | Dominican Republic | Created a pollinator sub-committee under the National Biodiversity Committee and included pollinators and their habitats as the mandatory component for future Biodiversity and Ecosystem Surveys and Environment Impact Assessment (Policy) | | |
| | | Plan to undertake a comprehensive NEA process (Policy-Science) | | |
| | Saint Kitts and Nevis | Applied the new techniques and approached shared at the Trialogue to own farm practices and shared the Trialogue experiences at different forums as a pollinator champion (Practice) | | |
| | Trinidad and Tobago | Established an online platform to enhance the general public support in the pollinators/pests tracking across the country and the region (Policy-Science) | | |
| | | Convened training sessions on stingless beekeeping and pollinators habitat management (Science) | | |
| Anglophone Africa | Kenya | Plan to organize a national multi-stakeholder dialogue event on pollinators following the Trialogue methodology (Policy-Science-Practice) | | |
| Trialogue | Nigeria | Joined COW and formulated the national pollinators strategy (Policy) | | |
| (2019) | | Plan to develop a national database on pollinators, carry out the pollinator status/trend studies and undertake the land degradation assessment/mapping (Policy-Research) | | |
| | | Organized several communities/school awareness raising and sensitization sessions on the protection of pollinators and their habitats (Practice) | | |
| | Zambia | Undertook a thorough review of the national LDN targets and developed a comprehensive plan to enhance the implementation in a pollinator-friendly manner (Policy) | | |





As part of the post-Trialogue results tracking, BES-Net carried out an online survey in late 2019 for the participants of the Caribbean Regional Trialogue participants with the aim to monitor Trialogue-associated effect and outcomes one year after the event. All the survey participants, across policy, science and practice sectors, confirmed that the information, data and/or insights exchanged during the event are applied to their respective field of work today to some extent. 90 per cent of the participants also felt that the Trialogue helped strengthen their capacity on the thematic field of pollination and pollinators. 84 per cent of the respondents remain in touch with other Trialogue participant(s) either frequently or occasionally to maintain the network established at national/regional levels.

94 per cent of the respondents acknowledged that the action document generated as a result of the Caribbean Regional Trialogue has been under implementation. Nevertheless, most of them pointed that degree of implementation is still limited to a moderate or small extent. While the post-Trialogue technical and financial support to accelerate and up-scale the implementation effort is strongly recommended, many recognized the BES-Net's ongoing follow up efforts such as periodic email updates, occasional face-to-face progress review meetings and featuring of country/regional progress on BES-Net online platforms as useful, inspiring and highly motivational.

National Trialogues

In order to improve awareness of NEA and promote active participation of key stakeholders from science, policy and practice communities in the assessment process, BES-Net is committed to support the organization of national-level Trialogues in the four target countries. In 2019, three National Trialogues were held successfully in Cameroon, Colombia and Vietnam in manner to fill in the unique dialogue gaps facing each country:

• Cameroon National Trialogue (24-27 February) allowed the NEA authors to review the first order draft of the assessment at macro and micro levels to ensure synergy and consistency between the chapters and improve policy relevance of messages; and present the progress to the National Platform for Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and refine further the policy questions as per the latest policy demands and priorities;



Colombia National Trialogue (7-8 June) particularly targeted to engage the representatives of
indigenous groups, with the aim to understand the diversity of existing indigenous and local
knowledge (ILK) and integrate the communities' voices on BES protection and management into
the assessment report; and

• <u>Vietnam National Trialogue</u> (6-7 November) brought together over 80 participants from different ministries, academic and research institutes, international/local NGOs and provincial representatives to jointly review the semi-final second order draft report with special focus on the key knowledge/data gaps to be filled, as well as the critical windows of opportunities to be pursued to inform future policymaking process.

The national Trialogue in Ethiopia is scheduled to be held in mid 2020.

II. PROMOTING INFORMED DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NEAs



In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, as the implementing partner, the BES-Net project supports capacity building in selected countries to conduct NEAs to complement the global assessment being undertaken by IPBES. Leveraging the expertise of the <u>Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN)</u>, 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.

All four target countries, namely Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam, are making significant progresses in the assessment steps and processes, but at different pace. Online help desk and live webinar sessions are continuously held on a regular basis to help the country teams to update each other on the status of activities and deliberate on the topics in which they have a shared interest, such as the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and the use of the assessment findings, etc. The key results of the county activities in 2019 are as follows:

- Cameroon: The National Trialogue event held in February 2019 helped the authors revisit and refine the key policy questions and undertake in-depth cross chapter dialogue under the auspice of the National Platform for Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Following the Trialogue, chapter authors' retreats were organized throughout the year to review and finalize the first order draft assessment report. Work will continue at the beginning of 2020 to finalize the full assessment report, which will be followed by the development of SPM. The NEA activities in Cameroon are generating several positive outcomes. For example, the national platform model in Cameroon was presented as a good practice example at the IPBES-7 Stakeholder Day. Cameroon's national IPBES Focal National Point/NEA Co-Chair was selected as the Vice-Chair of the IPBES Bureau for a three-year term. Many authors involved in NEA are increasingly being engaged with other national level BES processes, such as the development of the sixth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and consultative activities around the post-2020 biodiversity framework leading to CBD COP15 in 2020.
- **Colombia**: In 2019, a key focus for the Colombian team included how to integrate ILK into the assessment. Based on the direct communication with the indigenous, Afro-Colombian and other



community representatives through the National Trialogue, a decision was made that the ILK holders review the final draft and be acknowledged as the co-authors of the assessment report. The final second order draft of the full NEA report and SPM was posted on the website of the

Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute for broad external review till January 2020. In line with the NEA communication strategy, efforts have also been made to circulate the key progress and messages of the assessments through a microsite, videos, podcasts and articles.

- **Ethiopia**: In 2019, the Ethiopian team made good progress in contracting authors, engaging different stakeholders and drafting their technical report. Contractual arrangements are currently being put in place for external reviewers. The project manager for the Ethiopia NEA attended the Anglophone Africa Regional Trialogue in May to deepen the understanding of the roles and potentials of the Trialogue methodology, as well as to assess the relevance of global and regional IPBES assessment findings and messages to the context of Ethiopia. The National Trialogue in Ethiopia is tentatively scheduled to be held in mid-2020 upon the completion of the peer review on the technical report.
- the full draft assessment report and presented it to a wide range of stakeholders at the National Trialogue in November 2019 to identify the remaining gaps and key messages to be highlighted in SPM. Consultations have been held with the World Wildlife Fund Vietnam to collaborate on the scenario analysis and future modelling of BES. The team has also been proactively participating in various BES mainstreaming activities, such as the amendment of the national biodiversity law and development the regional socio-economic plan.



Building on the positive progress in the four pilot countries (categorized as NEA tranche I countries) through the BES-Net support, UNEP-WCMC successfully mobilized an additional resource to extend the NEA activities in four new countries, i.e. Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada (categorized as NEA tranche II countries). The representatives the NEA tranche I countries joined the inception workshop for the NEA tranche II countries in January 2019 to provide insights on the values and rationales of the assessments based on their experiences and lessons learnt thus far.

Furthermore, in late 2019, IKI/BMU agreed to support the further expansion of NEA in four more countries, i.e. Argentina, Dominican Republic, Malawi and Thailand (or NEA tranche III Countries), in response to the growing interest in the holistic BES assessment. In 2020, as part of the transition towards the new phase of BES-Net initiative, NEA tranche I countries are expected to play a pivotal role in introducing tranche III countries to the assessment process smoothly.

At the global level, UNEP-WCMC conducted a global review of existing NEAs and related communities of practice. A survey was also carried out to obtain the feedback from the assessment practitioners on the work of the work of SGAN. The SGAN website has since been under redesign based on the survey results, and the updated site will be open in early 2020. Drawing from the survey recommendation and the resources developed for NEA tranche I countries, WCMC team also developed a capacity-building plan for the broad NEA multi-phase programme, which will be applied to tranche II and III countries.

III. ONLINE NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS

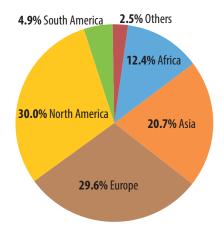


BES-Net seeks to expand and strengthen global BES network and collaboration among the likeminded institutions and individuals beyond national and regional borders. To this end, the project adopts a broad range of online tools and application to disseminate the key highlights of the project activities and their results and the latest updates of over 110 BES-Net partners widely.

BES-Net web portal, one of the project's main communication tools, has been visited by some 1,300 registered users from science (44.5%), policy (31.2%) and practice (24.3%) communities, and other non-registered people all over the world, and recorded more than 67,000 page views in 2019 (Figure 4). The web portal provides a comprehensive knowledge resource library, containing over 2,100 publications, research papers, policy documents and on-the-ground good practice reports, etc. on different BES thematic fields. It also contains the latest information on BES related events and vacancy opportunities.

The web portal also offers a rich database of organizations and experts working on the IPBES thematic assessment areas and has been encouraging bilateral/group discussions among them beyond geographic and administrative boundaries. For example, dedicated discussion forums were created within the web portal for the participants of the regional Trialogues and the NEA country teams. Such spaces are proactively utilized by the forum members to exchange ideas, information and opportunities. Furthermore, among the registered web portal users, 127 people 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 portal.

Figure 4: Locations of BES-Net Web Portal Visitors



The latest news and updates from BES-Net and its partners have been circulated via social media channels on a daily basis. Key

highlights are also compiled into e-newsletter format and disseminated to some 4,000 subscribers on bimonthly basis. As of December 2019, BES-Net's <u>Facebook account</u> is followed by more than 5,200 people (about 14% increase from December 2018). The network's <u>Twitter account</u> is followed by approximately 1,100 people (about 78% increase from December 2018) and collects roughly 70,000 impressions per month.



UNDP CO-MANAGEMENT OF JOINT UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

Since October 2014, GC-RED has provided UNDP Managing Agent functions for the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI). PEI is a joint UNDP-UNEP programme supporting country-led efforts to integrate poverty-environment linkages into national and subnational development policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks. 2018 marked the final year of PEI. From 2014 to 2018, PEI delivered full poverty-environment mainstreaming projects in a total of 20 countries and provided technical advisory services in an additional 9 countries. Sound progress continued to be made through 2018 against most outcome and output indicators, and PEI has broadly met its targets. Results have been achieved through the provision of an integrated approach to mainstreaming the poverty-environment nexus in 24 national and 4,214 local development plans for 17 countries, 93 sector strategies in 13 countries, 84 budget processes in 10 countries and 56 monitoring and evaluation systems in 12 countries. PEI was operationally closed in 2018. The PEI Final (2014-2018) and Lessons Learnt reports were published in 2019 and endorsed by the PEI Donor Steering Group on 18th September 2019.

In 2019, the Centre's Director and Centre staff further supported the new four-year UNDP-UNEP joint Poverty-Environment Action for the SDGs (PEA) project. PEA was launched in late 2018 and builds on the experience of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative. PEA focuses 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-UNEP project, the GC-RED Director jointly co-manages PEA together with the UNEP Co-Manager. In addition to providing strategic guidance to PEA, UNDP serves as the Managing Agent for PEA and is responsible for overall project financial management, performance monitoring and reporting, evaluation and ensuring achievement of project results with inputs from UNEP technical staff.

In 2019, the Centre's Director and staff supported the start of implementation of full-fledged PEA project in six countries, as well as the development of two additional full-fledged country proposals, Nepal and Bangladesh. The Centre further provided inputs into the development of six additional Technical Assistance initiatives under PEA.

As part of PEA's effort to strengthen advocacy and coordination with development partners engaged in supporting SDG implementation and ensure synergies with similar projects, the Centre's Director supported PEA's participation in the following events in 2019:

- 8 11 January: GEC and PAGE Ministerial Meeting, where Poverty-Environment Action shared best practices on inclusion and discussed partnerships and the new investment focus. Main theme: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economies.
- 23–25 January: **The Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific** where where PEA shared evidence on the gender gap in agricultural productivity in five countries in Africa.

- 3 4 February: **High-level Panel on the Impact of Climate Change on Displacement of Women** during the 33rd pre-summit meeting on mainstreaming gender equality convened by the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC).
- 19 February: European Union Parliamentary meeting, where PEA was invited to deliver a keynote speech on the Poverty-Environment nexus for SDGs in Europe, no social policy without environmental action.
- 21 February: The panel discussion on governance for a just transition to a green economy
 was held in UCL, London, where PEI-PEA experiences were shared on how the dimensions of
 governance, institutions and actors should be incorporated into the transition process.
- 11 March: Poverty-Environment Nexus Resolution adopted at the Fourth session of the UN
 Environment Assembly. Isabell Kemph, co-Manager of PEA, UNEP, atteded a series of side events
 on human rights, poverty and biodiversity themes and called for stronger integration between
 environmental and social inclusion issues.
- 27–29 March: **The Sixth Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**, where the Tool Compendium and lessons learned during the 2nd phase of PEI Initiative were presented to Member States and stakeholders.
- 1 2 April: **Inclusive Green Economy** institutional collaboration meeting hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Germany, where the opportunities of PEA contribution to global and country level partnerships were showcased.
- 16 July: PEA represented at the United Nations **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** in New York, USA.
- 18 July: PEA Financial Management Training.
- 18-19 Sept: PEI Donor Steering Group Meeting and PEA Project Board meeting, Stockholm, Sweden.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Table 3: 2019 Delivery (as of 10 February 2020)

| Project Name | ATLAS Project/ Output No | 2019 Budget in USD | 2019 Expenditure in USD | Source of funds |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Global Policy Centre | 94431 | 653,748 | 562,870 | UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund) |
| | 93764 | 248,566 | 248,566 | UNDP core allocation for Centre staff post |
| BES-Net Phase I | 97675 | 1,383,643 | 1,234,976 | Non-core |
| BES-Net Phase I | 00087434 | 232,812 | 200,049 | UNDP |
| PEI | 75132 | 162,583 | 162,583 | Non-core |
| PEA | 111963 | 1,985,726 | 1,440,727 | Non-core |
| | | 1,872,769 | 1,611,794 | TRAC |
| Total | | 6,307,035 | 5,261,516 | |

Table 4: Non-core resources received in 2019 (as of 10 February 2020)

| Project Name | Amount in USD | Donor |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Global Policy Centre | 32,183 | Germany (GIZ) |
| BES-Net Phase I | 60,367 | Sweden (SwedBio) |
| BES-Net Phase II | 21,784,356 | Germany (IKI) |
| Sub-Total | 21,876,907 | |
| PEA | 222,469 | Austria (ADA) |
| | 976,240 | UNEP (Sweden) |
| Sub-Total | 1,198,709 | |
| Total | 23,075,616 | |

Table 5: Non-core resources for utilization in 2020 -2022/2028 (as of 10 February 2020)

| Project Name | Available Amount (USD) | Pledged Amount (USD) | Donor |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Global Policy Centre* | 427,532 | 0 | UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund) |
| Sub-Total | 427,532 | 0 | |
| BES-Net Phase I** | 1,425,300 | 0 | Germany (IKI) |
| | 6,180 | 59,592 | Sweden (SwedBio) |
| Sub-Total | 1,431,480 | 59,592 | |
| BES-Net Phase II | 21,784,356 | 0 | Germany (IKI) |
| Sub-Total | 21,784,356 | 0 | |
| PEA*** | 2,311,245 | 6,808,037 | EU |
| | 176,081 | 220,507 | Austria (ADA) |
| | 1,088,569 | 2,335,000 | UNEP |
| Sub-Total | 3,575,895 | 9,363,544 | |
| Total | 27,219,264 | 9,423,136 | |
| Grand Total | 36,642,400 | | |

^{*} Global Policy Centre and BES-Net phase I projects to be completed by 31st December 2020.

^{**} Available amount is inclusive of 2019 commitments.

^{***} PEA project runs from 1st Sep 2018 to 31st Aug 2022.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications Produced by the GC-RED in 2019



UNDP (2019). <u>Combatting</u>
<u>Land Degradation, Securing</u>
a Sustainable Future

Key Publications GC-RED Peerreviewed/Contributed to in 2019



IPBES (2019). The global assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



UNDP (2019). Bright Spots for Land Degradation Neutrality, Pollinators and Food Security: Background Document for BES-Net Regional Trialogue for Anglophone Africa



UNCCD (2019). <u>Land</u>
<u>Degradation Neutrality</u>
<u>Interventions to Foster</u>
<u>Gender Equality: Briefing</u>
Note



UNDP (2019). Anglophone
Africa Regional Action
Document on Land
Degradation Neutrality,
Pollinators and Food
Security: Outcome of the
BES-Net Regional Trialogue
for Anglophone Africa



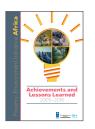
UNDP-UNEP PEA (2019).
Looking Back, Looking
Ahead: Lessons on
Integrated Approaches to
Sustainable Development
from PEI (2005–2018).



UNDP (2019). BES-Net
Regional Trialogue for
Central Asia and Azerbaijan
on Land Degradation,
Biodiversity and Climate
Change: Background
Document



UNDP-UNEP PEI (2019).
Reward and Renewal: UNDP-UNEP PEI Phase 2 Final Progress Report (2014-2018).



UNDP-UNEP PEI (2019).

<u>UNDP-UNEP PEI Africa</u>

<u>Achievements and Lessons</u>
<u>Learned (2005-2018)</u>.

WAY FORWARD

GC-RED will continue to support the implementation of UNDP's current Strategic Plan (2018-2021) contributing primarily to the achievement of UNDP's Strategic Plan Output 2.4.1, namely: "Gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened, and solutions adopted to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources, in line with international conventions and national legislation". The Centre's related updated Service Offer was presented and endorsed at the GPN Governance Board meeting held in November 2019 in New York.

2020 will be a "super year" for nature with a number of key events including the IUCN World Conservation Congress (June, Marseille), the UN High-Level Political Forum 2020 entitled "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development" (July, New York), CBD COP15 (Kunming, October) and COP 26 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow, November). The Centre will support UNDP's contributions to these events as needed with a particular focus on highlighting and showcasing the role of land and SLM in upscaling climate action.

Despite a challenging donor environment, the Centre was able to raise a significant new contribution in 2019 in support to the second phase of its BES-Net project. The Centre Programme will be extended to cover the BES-Net Phase II period i.e. until 2028. This will be discussed further with the Centre Programme Board at its next regular meeting (scheduled to be held in early 2020).

As a result of the continuing financial constraints the Centre is experiencing regarding its land related work, the Centre decided to close its sub-office in Beirut, Lebanon, after successful project implementation in the Arab States region over the last 19 years. However, resource mobilization efforts for the Centre's work will be intensified in 2020 to reverse this situation.





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.



UNDP | GC-RED United Nations Development Programme

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