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## Combating desertification through multiple approaches

Land degradation is a complex issue; achieving Land Degradation Neutrality thus requires multifaceted solutions. Approaches such as Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and land restoration are necessary, as is ensuring an enabling environment for the implementation of such concepts. The success of these approaches lies in choosing a multilevel approach which includes international processes, national policy consulting and local implementation. Germany supports several projects and initiatives that apply these strategies in their support of the implementation of the UNCCD. Some of the most important projects include:

### Economics of Land Degradation



The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative highlights the costs of degraded land and the value of healthy land and its ecosystem services.

As a multidisciplinary science-policy partnership, ELD supports policy action with scientific evidence, cost-benefit analyses and development scenarios. These demonstrate that investments in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration pay off. They also provide scenarios that reflect land dynamics under the influence of anthropogenic processes.

### Group on Earth Observations



The Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) Initiative

was founded to support countries in their efforts to achieve LDN by 2030. Its goal is to provide easy access to earth observation tools and datasets and facilitate knowledge transfer on their implementation. This is done through capacity development and dialogue forums for data providers, policymakers and land users. In doing so, the initiative allows countries to effectively track their LDN progress and to apply targeted and evidence-based interventions for SLM.

## Global Project ProSoil: Soil protection and rehabilitation for food security



With the global programme “Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security” (ProSoil), launched in 2014, Germany fosters different approaches that promote soil protection and rehabilitation for sustainable land management. ProSoil works in six African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tunisia) as well as India, supporting partners in integrating soil protection and rehabilitation in their agendas, political strategies and agricultural advisory services. The overall budget of ProSoil amounts to 205 million Euros. From June 2021, ProSoil has been co-funded by the European Union (EU) with the aim of promoting agroecological transition. Co-funding is also provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation so as to strengthen soil data and science for support in decision-making. Since its inception, the programme has protected or rehabilitated 500,000 hectares of land; farmers’ yields on this land have increased by 40 per cent on average.

### Global Soil Week



The adoption of SLM techniques needs a conducive institutional setting. Achieving LDN is thus not only a technical but also a policy challenge. Among other financial, institutional and regulatory requirements, secured land tenure is crucial. With improved land tenure security, land users are more likely to invest in SLM. BMZ, GIZ and TMG research founded the Global Soil Week (GSW) as a platform and process to connect a diverse range of actors as well as to initiate and strengthen policies and actions on SLM and responsible land governance. Together with civil society and partner countries, the GSW currently focusses on monitoring land rights in LDN contexts to contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD landmark decision on land tenure.

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