



## **GLOBAL CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST of UNCCD Parties to become pilot Countries for Scaling Inclusive Decision Support in Land Degradation Neutrality**

The UNCCD, UNDP, and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, in collaboration with WOCAT, are pleased to announce a global **Call for Expressions of Interest** from UNCCD Country Parties interested in becoming participating countries under the GEF-funded project: "**Scaling the Capacity of UNCCD Parties for Inclusive Decision Support in Land Degradation Neutrality.**"

The project will strengthen capacities in 8 to 10 **selected countries** to implement inclusive and **participatory processes for assessing, mapping and monitoring land degradation** and to co-develop national **LDN Decision Support Systems (LDN-DSS)**. These systems will enhance evidence-based planning, implementation, and reporting aligned with SDG target 15.3 and LDN.

### **Why Should You Participate?**

During the 2 year-long project, selected countries will:

- **Receive targeted technical support and capacity building** to strengthen participatory monitoring, LDN target refinement, and the development and use of Decision Support Systems (DSS).
- **Leverage national datasets and local expertise** to produce accurate and context-specific assessments of land degradation and restoration.
- **Develop reliable national maps** of land degradation and restoration trends through participatory assessments of the LDN baseline and progress.
- **Co-design a national LDN Decision Support System**, tailored to your country's priorities and data availability.
- **Take part in South-South knowledge exchange**, learning from and contributing to peer experiences in land monitoring and restoration planning.
- **Co-create global Knowledge Products** (e.g., manuals, courses, methodologies) that reflect your country's experiences and are used internationally.
- **Showcase national achievements** and innovations at high-level global events and platforms, including UNCCD COPs, CRICs, and other international events.

- **Enhance national visibility and leadership** in global efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality and support the SDGs.

## Criteria for Selection

Countries will be selected based on the following:

- The country provides information on **ongoing efforts to strengthen its LDN targets** and implementation measures.
- Demonstrates **high-level political commitment** to lead a national process to enhance LDN targets and establish an LDN-DSS.
- The country belongs to one of the **UNCCD Regional Annexes** and is **eligible for GEF funding**.

**Countries with hyper-arid areas and Small Island Developing State (SIDS) are especially encouraged to participate**

## How to apply

To express your country's interest in participating, please complete the [Application form](#), which includes a signed expression of interest from the UNCCD National Focal Point. (Only one application per country will be considered). As part of the application, you will be asked to summarize the **enabling environment for LDN** and SDG target 15.3 implementation, including relevant national policies, institutional arrangements, and demonstrated political support. The form also requests information on the types of contributions the country will provide to support project activities at the national level, as well as a list of key institutions that will be involved in implementation, and the measures that will be taken to promote gender balance and the inclusion of under-represented groups. **Selected Countries will need to provide within two weeks of notification a Letter of Endorsement signed by the GEF Operational Focal Point to proceed with the inclusion in the project.**

## Timeline and Application Process

- **Deadline for Submission:** July 04
- **Language:** Submissions are accepted in English, French, or Spanish.
- **Review and Selection:** Selected countries will be announced within 4 weeks after the deadline for submission.

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For questions, please contact:

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