



## Concept Note

### Anglophone Africa Regional Trialogue: Bright Spots for Land Degradation Neutrality, Pollinators and Food Security

28-30 May 2019  
Nairobi, Kenya

## Background

The **Triologue** is a face-to-face three-way communication and capacity building methodology promoted by the the **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)**<sup>1</sup>. BES-Net Trialogues aim at strengthening the interface between policy, science/traditional knowledge and practice, and enhance national capacity to integrate findings and policy-relevant options from the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES)**<sup>2</sup> thematic assessments into policies, scientific research works and on-the-ground programmes and projects.

Land lies at the center of political, social, and economic development in Anglophone Africa as land-based activities are fundamental to human livelihoods and well-being. In line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 15.3, countries in the region have been committed to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world<sup>3</sup>. In order to inform land use and management decision-making effectively at regional, national and local levels, it is of critical importance to articulate how biodiversity and associated ecosystem services (e.g., pollination, pest control, soil carbon) contribute to food security, climate change resilience and sustainable development.

The **Regional Trialogue for Anglophone Africa** will bring together academic scientists, policymakers and practitioners with indigenous and local knowledge in the region to jointly review the key messages of the two inter-linked thematic assessment reports produced by IPBES, namely: 1) **Thematic Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration**<sup>4</sup>; and 2) **Thematic Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production**<sup>5</sup>, and assess their relevance in the ongoing efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and other land-related SDG targets. The Trialogue will also take into account the relevant findings and recommendations from the **Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa**<sup>6</sup>.

## Objectives

The Regional Trialogue for Anglophone Africa aims to jointly:

- Assess the latest knowledge on the contributions that ecosystem services, particularly pollination, make towards agricultural production and food security;
- Assess the trends and drivers of the decline in the current status of ecosystem services, particularly pollination, and their impacts on achieving LDN targets and food security;
- Review and acknowledge/celebrate “bright spots” where actions are contributing to LDN targets, improved pollination services and food security; and
- Identify and agree on practical sustainable land management (SLM) measures that improve the resilience of ecosystems and their services and contribute to LDN, pollination and food security.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.besnet.world/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/>

<sup>3</sup> Land Degradation Neutrality is defined by the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification as a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/ldr>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/pollinators>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/africa>

During the Anglophone Regional Trialogue, participants will share the latest knowledge about the current situation, including economic impact and drivers, of pollinators' decline in the region, and how this affects biodiversity as well as the services that pollinators and other ecosystems provide for agriculture, the agri-business and food security at national and regional levels. They will also identify the important co-benefits of sustainably managing pollinators and their habitat through SLM measures on LDN and food security.

Furthermore, participants will exchange, showcase and celebrate "bright spots", or good practice examples existing in the Anglophone African countries, with proven practices to enhance food production through pollinator-friendly approaches (i.e. agroecology), while, at the same time, combatting land degradation in ways that are scalable and can contribute to national LDN targets. Participants will review progress in their LDN implementation and generate an action-oriented outcome document, stipulating a set of concrete actions that are within the mandate/capacity of the Trialogue community and identifying policy windows and opportunities to further the integration of biodiversity management in development programmes.

## Organizing Partners and Target Audience

The Anglophone Trialogue will target six countries within the region who are members of IPBES and have established their LDN targets: Kenya and Ethiopia from East Africa; Malawi and Zambia from Southern Africa; and Ghana and Nigeria from West Africa. The three-day event will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya. It will be held in collaboration with IPBES, the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#)<sup>7</sup> and the [Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators](#)<sup>8</sup> and with the financial support of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. The Trialogue will bring together the three communities of government policymakers, academic scientists and practitioners – including some with indigenous and local knowledge - working in agriculture, environment, health, climate and related fields. Participants will jointly explore the opportunity for "bright spots" of practical measures that harness biodiversity and ecosystem services in ways that simultaneously contribute to the achievement of the SDGs on food security and LDN, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and Africa 2063.

## Methodology and Agenda

The Trialogue uses an approach that ensures active engagement and interaction by enabling participants to openly share concerns, make complex information locally relevant, exchange proven success stories ("bright spots") and identify innovative prototypes for good practices in their own areas that highlight the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in LDN implementation. The Trialogue methodology includes ways to practically apply the IPBES findings and options for decision-makers through multiple-stakeholder dialogue, particularly in ways that give voice to indigenous peoples and local community knowledge-holders. On the last day, the Trialogue hosts a special breakfast for high-level policymakers and donors to encourage them to be champions of the actions being proposed by the participants.

- **Day 1:** Celebration of the contribution of pollinators to achieve food security through IPBES expert's presentation of the Pollination Assessment and field visits to selected "bright spots" locations to encourage innovative brainstorming.
- **Day 2:** Identification of linkages between the health of ecosystems and the LDN targets in each country through presentation of key findings of the IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment (by IPBES expert) and related action plans as part of the UNCCD process (by UNCCD Secretariat), national-level presentations on progress and challenges with LDN target-setting and implementation, as well as the organization of the innovation corner showcasing local existing "bright spots" and potential that link LDN, pollination and food security.
- **Day 3 (Parallel: High-Level):** High-Level Breakfast for policymakers on the opportunities that biodiversity and ecosystem services can play in food security and LDN.
- **Day 3 (Parallel: Technical):** Action-oriented session to agree on national, regional and local actions that build on the opportunities that BES plays in implementing LDN targets.

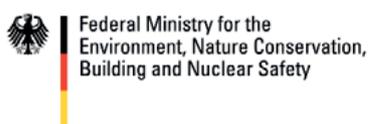
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unccd.int/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://promotepollinators.org/>

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