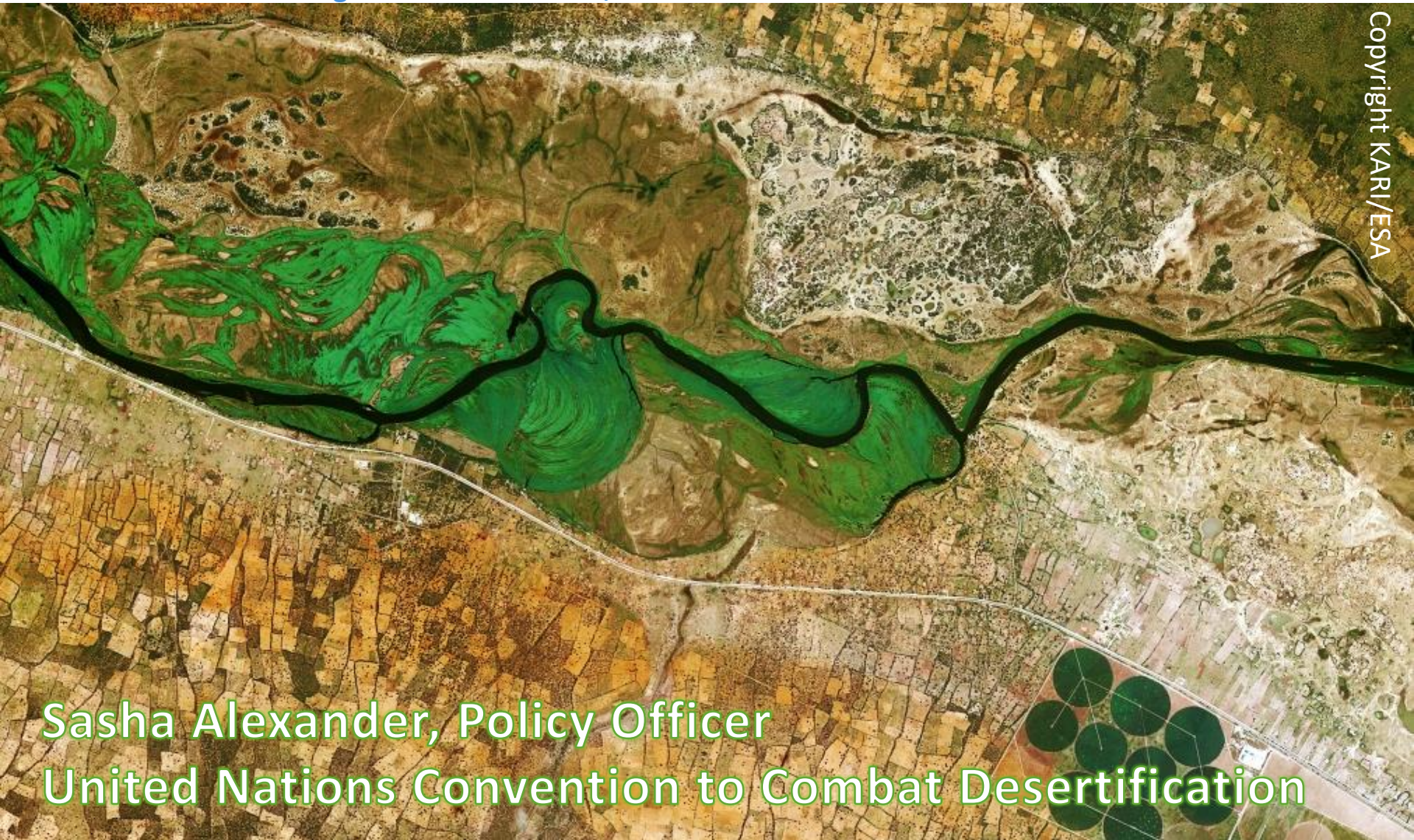


# 13. Data validation procedures and other data sources



Recent experiences of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

March 2019 – 9<sup>th</sup> meeting IAEG-SDGs – Beirut, Lebanon



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Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



# SDG Indicator 15.3.1



SDG target 15.3: “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.”

**SDG indicator 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area**

**Earth Observation datasets** to estimate changes in three sub-indicators (following UNCCD M&E approach):

- land cover
- land productivity
- soil organic carbon stocks

**Long-term capacity building for data validation:** conceptual framework, metadata, good practice guidance, global/national datasets, practical tools, space agencies, technical partners

# Capacity building efforts

**Mainstreaming of EO** in national monitoring and reporting through the provision of default data from global data sources

**120 countries participating in LDN target setting programme**

**140 countries participated in regional capacity building workshops**

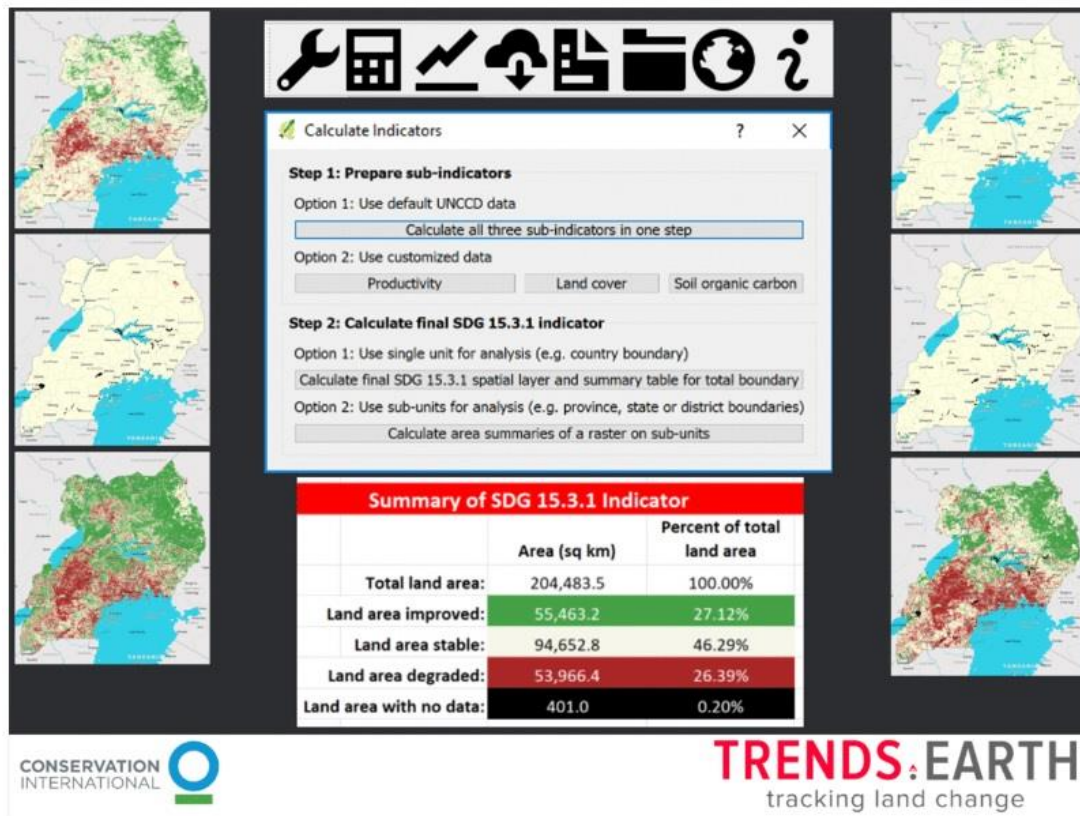


 Countries setting LDN targets

Disclaimer: Country names or borders shown on the map do not necessarily represent the UNCCD's official position. The map shown is simply for display purposes. It does not work to imply views or opinions of the UNCCD, regarding the legal status of any territory or country.

## TRENDS.EARTH

- Developed by Conservation International
- Operates as a free plugin to QGIS 2.18.x
- Supports the calculation and analysis of SDG indicator 15.3.1 and its the three sub-indicators
- Supports the use and integration of default data, other global data products AND national data



The screenshot displays the TRENDS.EARTH QGIS plugin interface. The central window is titled "Calculate Indicators" and contains the following steps:

**Step 1: Prepare sub-indicators**

Option 1: Use default UNCCD data

Option 2: Use customized data

**Step 2: Calculate final SDG 15.3.1 indicator**


Option 1: Use single unit for analysis (e.g. country boundary)

Option 2: Use sub-units for analysis (e.g. province, state or district boundaries)

Below the dialog box is a summary table for the SDG 15.3.1 Indicator:

Summary of SDG 15.3.1 Indicator		
	Area (sq km)	Percent of total land area
Total land area:	204,483.5	100.00%
Land area improved:	55,463.2	27.12%
Land area stable:	94,652.8	46.29%
Land area degraded:	53,966.4	26.39%
Land area with no data:	401.0	0.20%

The interface also features a toolbar with icons for various GIS functions and three maps of the same region showing different data layers.

 **TRENDS.EARTH**  
tracking land change

## Regional workshops

Five capacity building workshops for UNCCD reporting were organized between March-May 2018

- **316 participants from 140 countries including 21 NSO representatives and 57 GIS experts** trained on the methodology, data analysis and tools for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 15.3.1

Regional Workshop	Venue	Participating Countries	Total participants
North Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.	Antalya, Turkey	18	48
Africa	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	44	85
Latin America and Caribbean	Fortaleza, Brazil	30	62
Asia and Pacific	New Delhi, India	31	73
Arab States	Cairo, Egypt	17	48

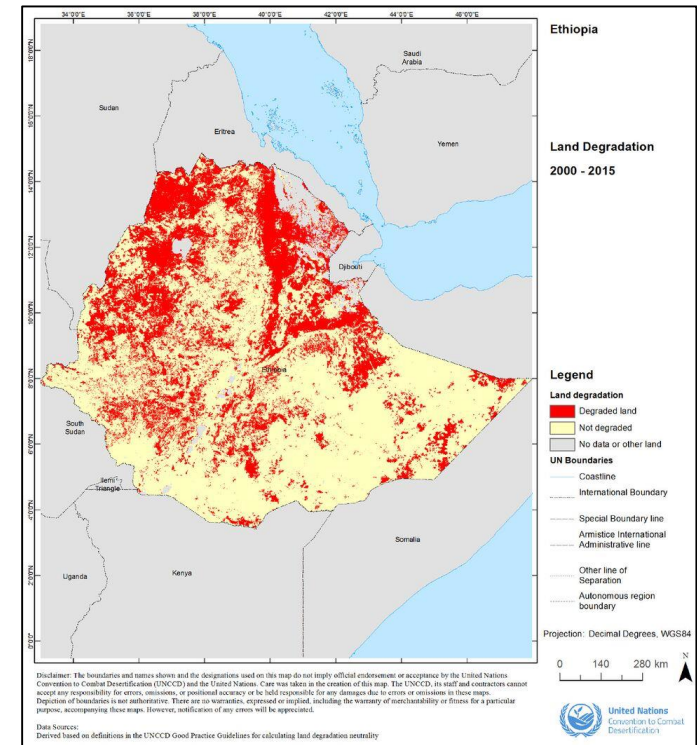
# Guidelines and Criteria for Data Flows

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- Provide an opportunity within a reasonable time frame of **minimum one month, for national statistical authorities to review country-specific data and estimates** of SDG indicators prior to their release
- **Provide technical assistance to Member States**, through their National Statistical Office, if requested, to improve the national reporting of SDG indicators and the application of agreed international standards
- **If no agreement is reached, the national data should not be published, but may be used for the calculation of regional and global aggregates**

## 123 countries submitted data on SDG 15.3.1 and its sub-indicators

- Early Dec 2018 – Mid Feb 2019
- All reports were sent to the MRE with copy to IAEG NSO focal point for final validation
- ~ 20 countries revised original reports with minor adjustments/corrections

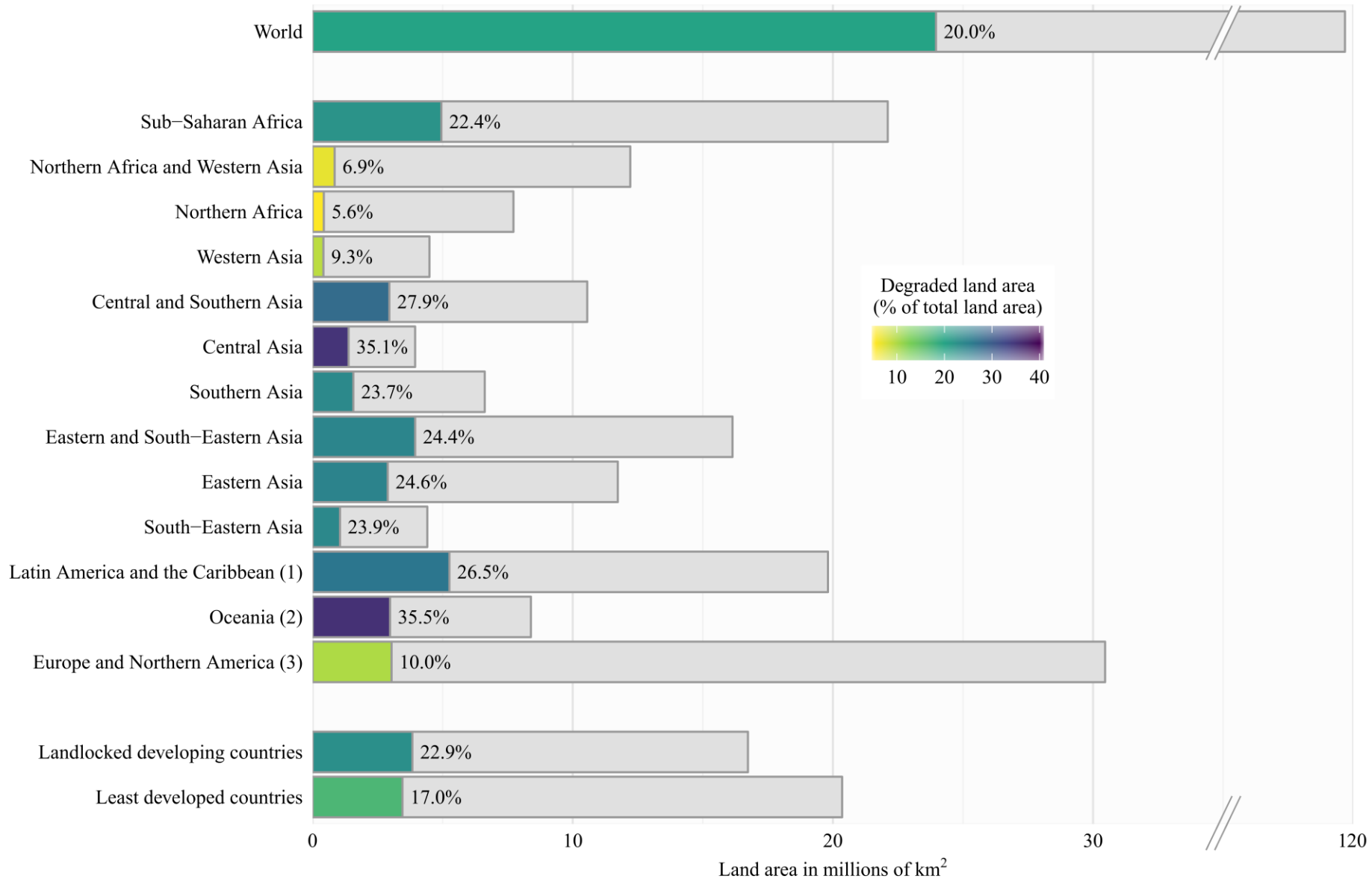


**National estimates were sent to 42 countries to both MRE and NSO focal points (lines of communication)**

~ 50% response rate with 2 countries explicitly requesting that their estimates not be used for regional aggregates



# Submission 2019 SDG report (163 countries)





# Thank you

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**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification