



THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION ITS IMPLICATIONS AND BENEFITS TO UGANDA



**RIO Multi-lateral Environment Agreements and National
Frameworks in Uganda**

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Background

Great sahelian drought and famine of 1968-1974.

United Nations Conference on Desertification held in Nairobi in 1977.

African countries insisted on adequate attention for desertification at the 1992 Earth Summit.

Background

Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a legally binding agreement on Desertification by June 1994.

The UNCCD was adopted on 17th June 1994.

The convention entered into force on 26th December 1996.



When did Uganda become a Party to the UNCCD?

Dates of signature and ratification of the UNCCD by Uganda:

Signed- 21st November 1994

Ratified 25th June 1997.

To date, there are 191 Parties to the UNCCD.



What are the objectives of the UNCCD?

The objective of the UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, so as to achieve sustainable development.

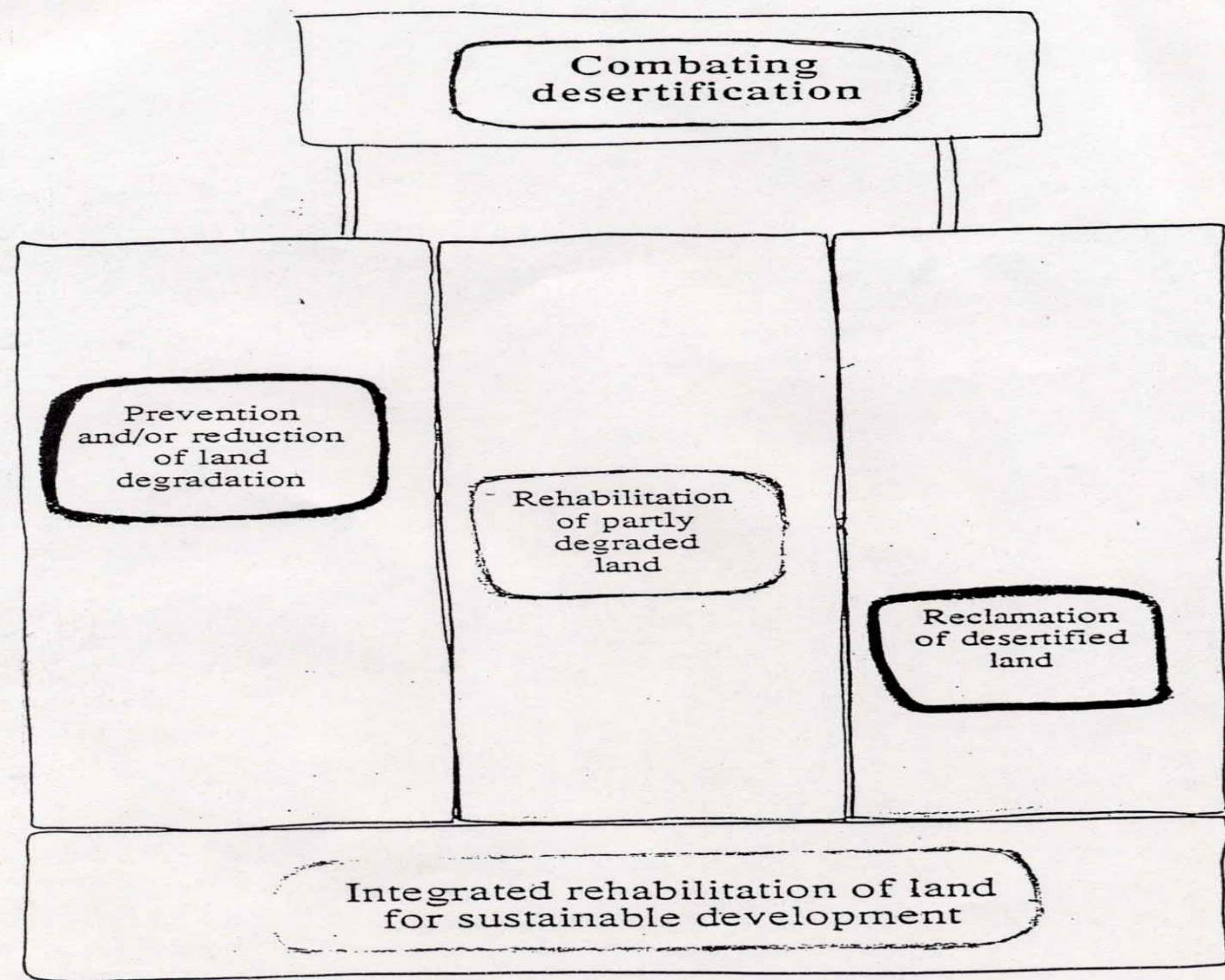
What exactly is Desertification?

“Desertification” as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities;

Land degradation” as reduction or loss, of the productivity and complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or processes, such as; soil erosion, deterioration of soil properties and loss of natural vegetation.



UNCCD



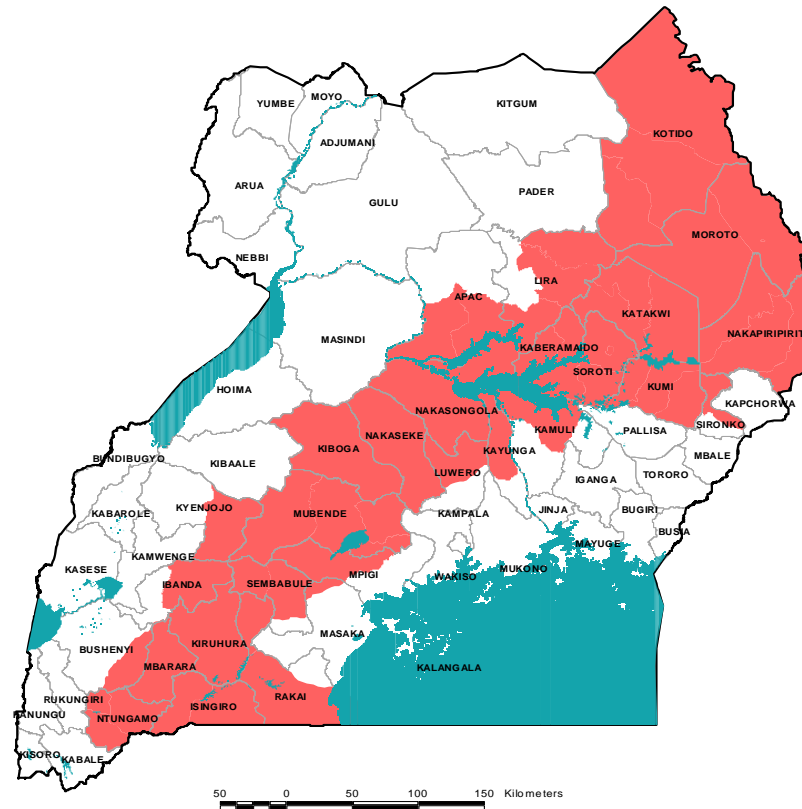
What is involved in combating desertification ?



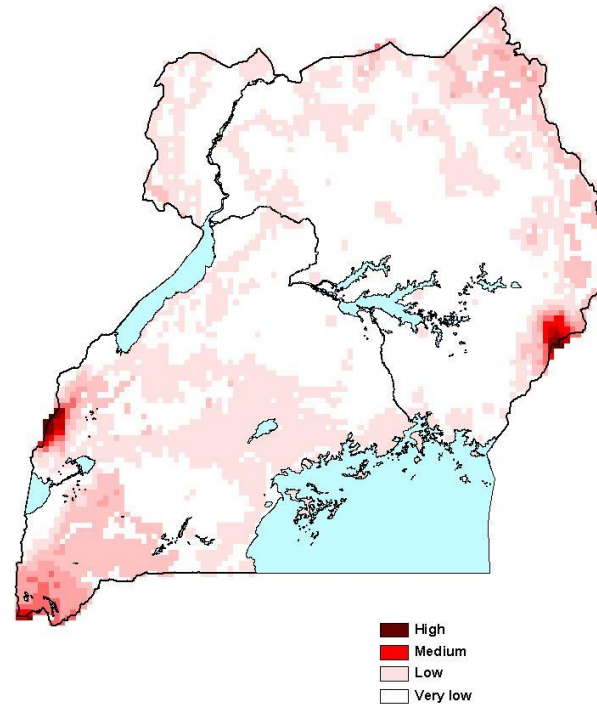
Priority areas for UNCCD implementation in Uganda

- **The Cattle Corridor**
- **The Eastern and South Western Highlands**
- **Eastern and Northern Uganda**
- **The Lake Victoria Crescent Area**

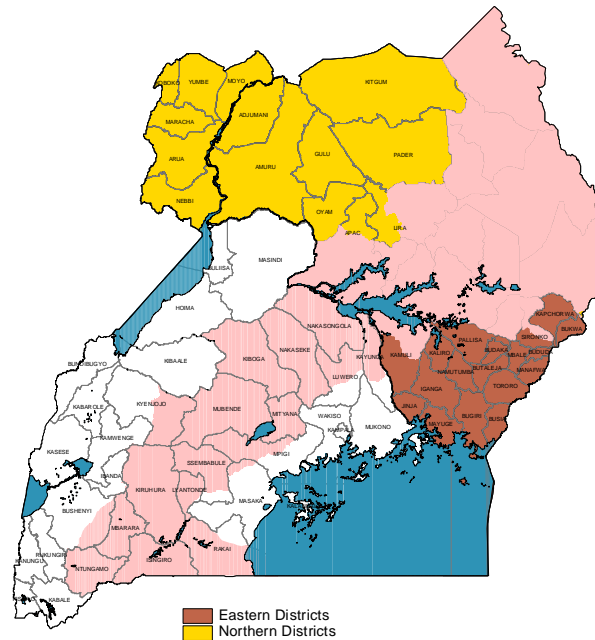
The Cattle Corridor



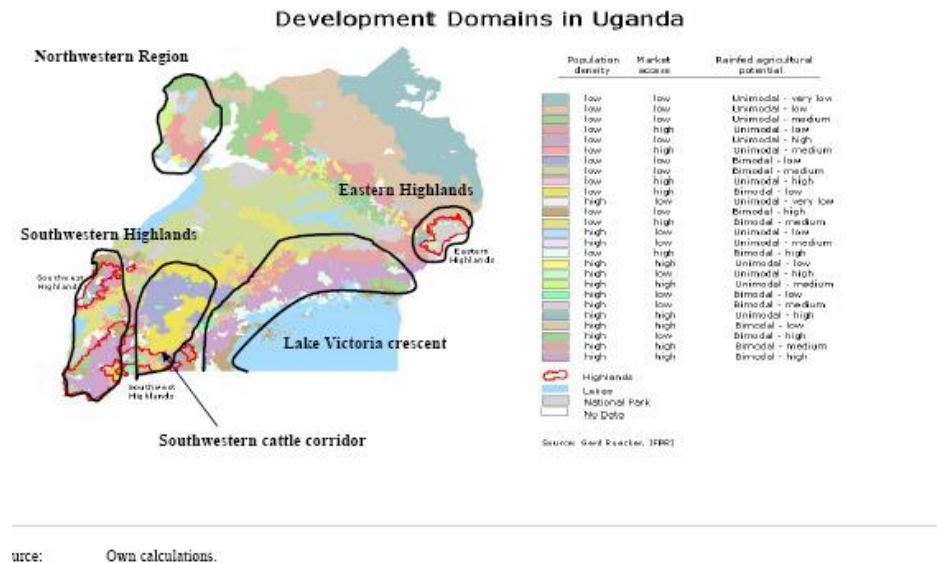
Uganda's Highlands – soil erosion hotspots



Eastern and Northern Uganda



The Lake Victoria Crescent



Some of the practices leading to Land Degradation in Uganda

- Inappropriate agricultural practices such as non-application of soil and water conservation measures
- Cultivation along riverbanks leads to siltation and may lead to floods.
- Overgrazing on rangelands leaving soil exposed to erosion.
- Indiscriminate felling of trees for wood fuel, construction and other uses causes loss of vegetative cover and windbreaks that protect the land from erosion.
- Inappropriate land use such as conversion of fragile lands under forests, game reserves and wetlands to other uses e.g. settlements and farmland.
- Uncontrolled burning of vegetation predisposing the soil to erosion.
- Over-cultivation of land leading to depletion of soil fertility.



Obligations of Affected Country Parties:

- Give due priority to combating desertification and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities;
- Establish strategies and priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- Address the underlying causes of desertification and the socio- economic factors contributing to desertification processes;
- Promote awareness and participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of Non-Governmental Organizations; and
- Strengthen existing legislation and enact new laws as well as put in place policies and action programs.



Institutional Arrangements for UNCCD Implementation

International

- The Conference of the Parties
- UNCCD has a Global Secretariat in Bonn Germany
- Regional Coordination Units in Morocco

National

- National Focal point MAAIF
- Inter Ministerial National Steering Committee
- National NGO Coordinating Committee
- District Steering Committees

SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LA DESERTIFICATION



Measures to implement the UNCCD in Uganda

- National Action Program to Combat Desertification 2000
- Road Map for NAP implementation and Resource Mobilization
- Integrated Dryland Development Program
- Mainstreaming of the NAP into Development Frameworks
- Integration of Drylands issues into District Environment Action Plan and District Development Plans
- National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) of Multilateral Environment Agreements

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SLM Strategic Investment Framework

- Formulation of the Uganda Sustainable Land Management Strategic Investment Framework (2010 – 2020)
- commissioned by the Government of Uganda with direct support from key TerrAfrica partners including NEPAD, UNDP, FAO, UNCCD-GM, and the World Bank and the GEF

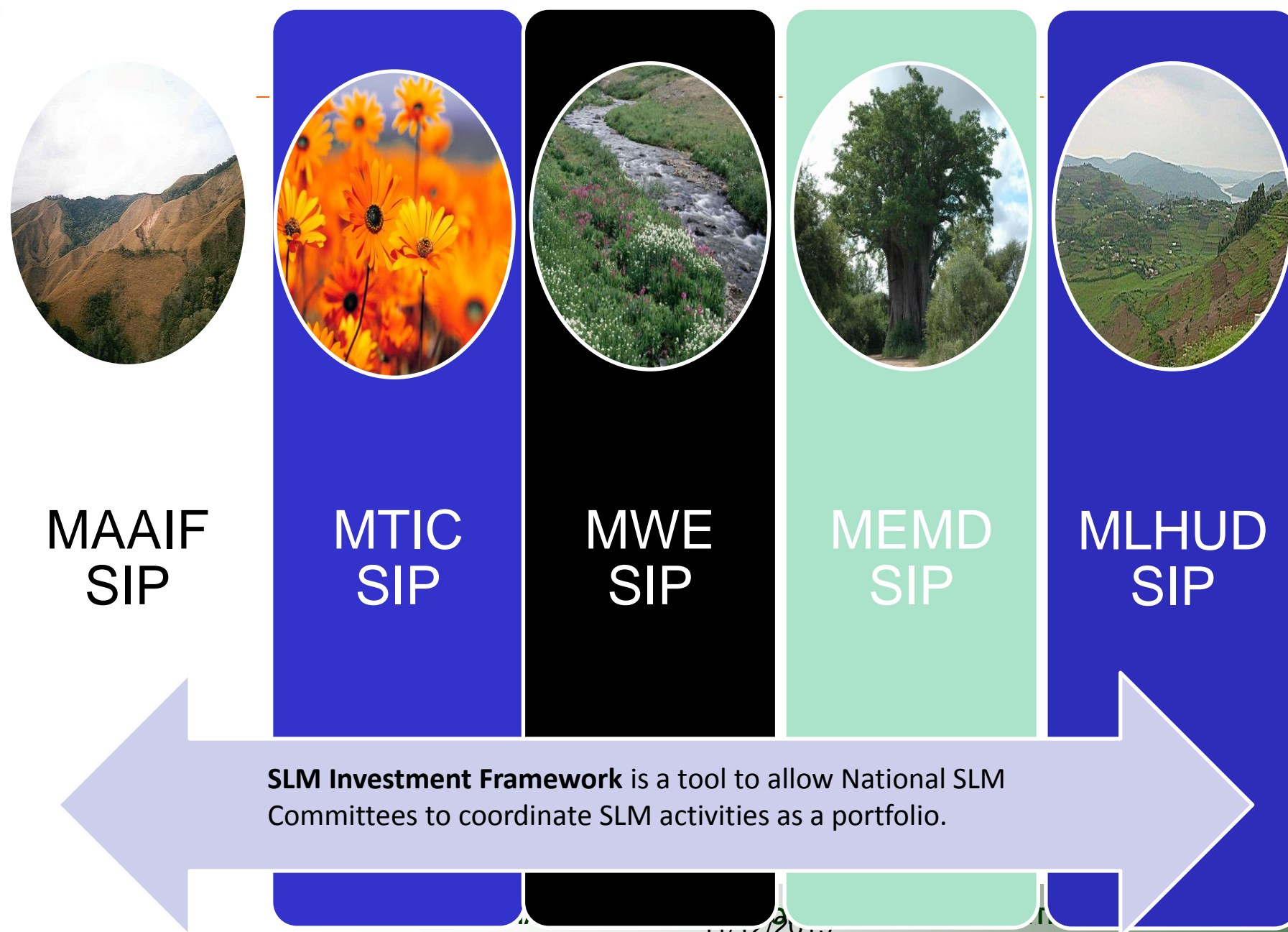
The SIF SLM framework

- **The U SIF SLM is an excellent tool that identified hotspots, gaps and priorities for scaling up sustainable land management and outlined clear roles for key sectors and stakeholders to guide and focus interventions which curtail land degradation and its effects in various parts of the country**
- **The Inter Ministerial framework has guided investments in land management in Uganda through 5 sectors , right from policy makers down to the farmers who plan and utilise the land.**



SLM Strategic Investment Framework

The framework has brought together five key sectors that have a strong bearing on land management - led by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban development, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development



SLM Investment Framework is a tool to allow National SLM Committees to coordinate SLM activities as a portfolio.

Sector Roles and responsibilities

a. Energy Sector

- **Sustainably managed biomass energy sources (balanced and efficient utilization)**
- **Develop renewable energy (e.g. gasification for homes and institutions)**
- **Improve efficiency in charcoal production & use**
- **Knowledge management and M&E**

Sector Roles and responsibilities (cont'd)

b. Agriculture Sector

- **INM including inorganic and organic fertilizers, BNF, agro-forestry, etc.**
- **Soil and water conservation**
- **CA (entailing minimum tillage, cover crops/green manures, judicious crop rotations, etc)**
- **Water utilization components e.g. drinking structures, irrigation, etc.**
- **Development of an early warning system**
- **Adaptation to climate change and variability e.g. drought resistant/ early maturing crop varieties, etc.**
- **Validation of decision support tools/ crop models**
- **Knowledge management and M&E**
- **Policy harmonization & implementation (e.g. Land Use Policy)**

Sector Roles and responsibilities (cont'd)

c. Water and Environment Sector

- Adaptation and mitigation to impacts of climate change and variability
- Establishment of early warning systems (short and medium term weather and climate forecasts - drought, floods etc)
- Water harvesting/ water supply to pastoral communities
- Watershed management
- Afforestation, reforestation and agro-forestry
- Knowledge management and M&E

Sector Roles and responsibilities (cont'd)

d. Lands Sector

- Development of land use plans
- Participatory land use planning (PLUP)
- Participatory watershed management plans
- Improved land administration
- Knowledge management and M&E
- Policy harmonization & implementation (e.g. Land Use Policy)

Sector Roles and responsibilities (cont'd)

e. Trade Sector

- Promotion of trade diversification through SLM
- Promotion of SLM friendly value chains
- Promotion of inter-ministerial cooperation on trade development for agricultural and natural product sectors
- Business skills development
- Information on markets and requirements
- Knowledge management and M&E
- Mainstreaming SLM into trade promotion and policy making processes and related implementation plans.

Land Degradation Neutrality

- **Land degradation neutrality (LDN)**
“a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”.
- **LDN achievement is monitored using land based indicators**

LDN land-based indicators

- **SO1- improve the condition of ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote SLM and contribute to LDN**
 - Indicator SO1-1: Trends in land cover
 - Indicator SO1-2: Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land
 - Indicator SO1-3: Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground
 - Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

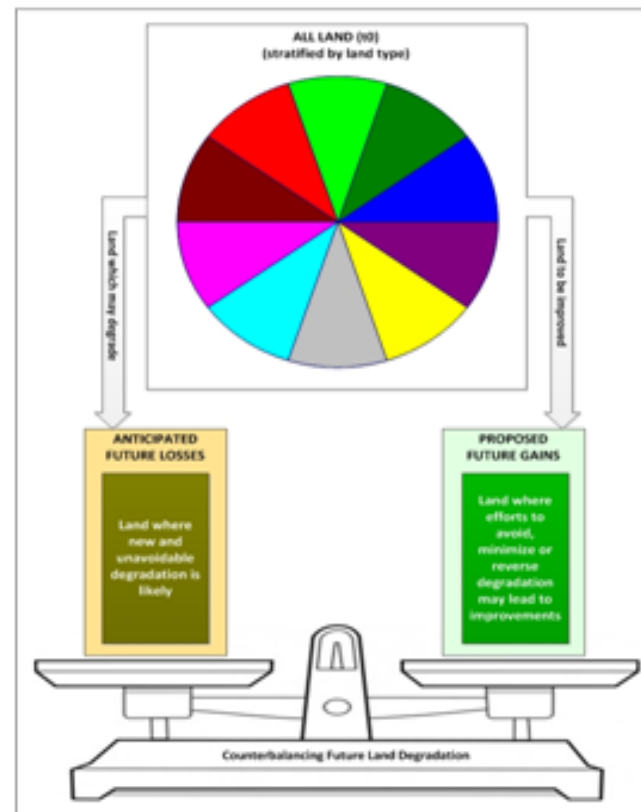
LDN Concept

UNCCD and land degradation

LDN = Balancing challenges and opportunities

Challenges

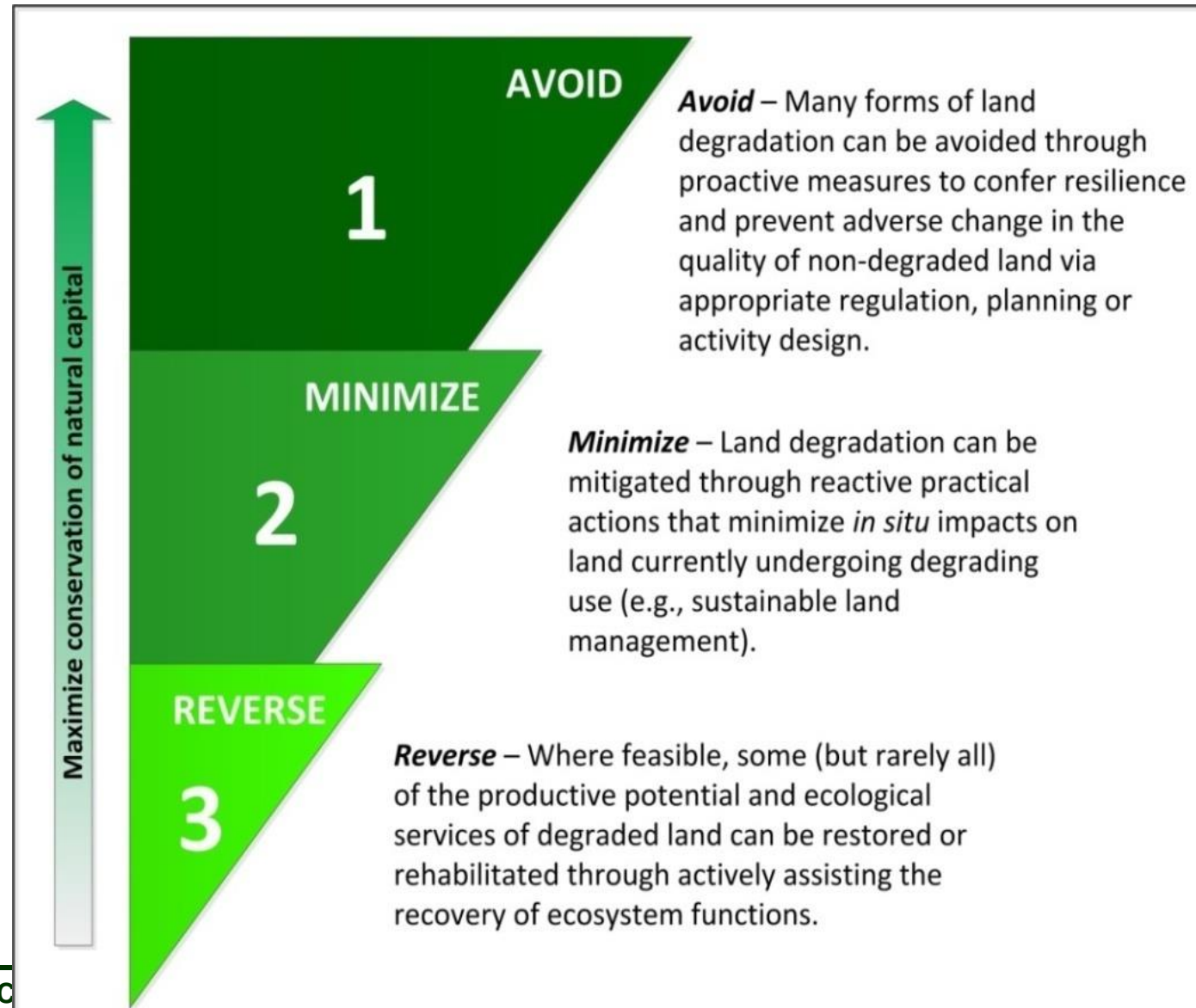
- Land degradation
- "Losses"



Opportunities

- Avoidance
- Minimisation
- Rehabilitation
- Restoration
- "Gains"

LDN response hierarchy



LDN Targets at the national scale

- i. Land Degradation Neutral Uganda in 2030 compared to baseline (or 2015) i.e. LDN achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss)
- ii. 21% tree/forest cover by 2030 (in line with Vision 2040 & NDC)
- iii. 12 % wetland cover by 2030 (in line with Vision 2040 & NDC)
- iv. Areas of declining/stressed land productivity reduced by 50% by 2030
- v. Level of SOC at county level by 2030 maintained or improved compared to baseline

Challenges & constraints

- Inadequate funding of Natural Resources management activities;
- Adoption of some SLM technologies require a lot of money, making it unaffordable to many farmers
- Urgent need for the mechanisation
- High population growth rate and substantial young population that wants to unsustainably utilize natural resources
- Climate Change
- Inadequate capacity to monitor and assess land degradation