ENHANCING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR MONITORING LAND DEGRADATION AND TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (SDG 15.3)

Experiences from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Senegal

Alice Ruhweza
Vice President/Head of Sustainable Production
Conservation International – Africa Field Division
The UNCCD has taken responsibility for developing a framework for monitoring Target 15.3 and has convened an Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) that has proposed a sole indicator for indicator 15.3.1:

“Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.”
MONITORING ACHIEVEMENT OF LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

Conservation International, in partnership with Lund University and NASA, has created a land degradation monitoring platform to calculate indicator 15.3.1.

Four pilot countries: Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
THE TOOLBOX ALLOWS USERS IN ANY COUNTRY TO
Process Indicators for SDG Target 15.3

Vegetation Productivity
Land Cover
Soil Organic Carbon
Feedback from pilot country workshops

**Productivity**
- Productivity trajectory is the best understood of the indicators
- Need for further guidance on interpretation of productivity sub-indicators

**Land Cover**
- Need flexibility in how land cover categories
- Countries desire support for national-level land cover datasets

**Soil Carbon**
- Need for standardized time series of soil organic C datasets
Lessons learned

- Countries expect ownership of the assessment and reporting process.
- Countries need guidelines on dataset standardization and metadata documentation, to allow for valid comparisons.
- Request for finer spatial resolution earth observation datasets (e.g. Landsat and Sentinel) to be preprocessed and ready for analysis.
- Need for further capacity building around indicators & tools.
- Internet access could limit usefulness of fully online platforms.