SOUTH AFRICA IS MAKING UP FOR LOST LAND

Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030 through the *Sustainable Land Management Programme*

by Laura Quast

[13]

Local

National

Global

THE PROJECT

South Africa's five year Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Programme aims to secure multiple ecosystem benefits in the economically productive but now degraded landscapes of the three pilot sites Nama Karoo, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Province (see maps). These regions are characterized by a high level of degradation while at the same time being of high value for the country's population. Programme period 2015-2021 [10]

THE OUTCOMES

1: IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCES
Local responsibilities, ecosystem rehabilitation, long-term strategies

2: INCREASE TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND MANAGEMENT OF LD RISKS
Availability of degradation data for effective analysis, training and skills development at national, provincial and local levels

3: CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
Access for farmers to the carbon market

4: DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL AND GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORKS
Support of SLM approaches, strategies for provincial development and municipal land-use plans and policies, implementing nationwide measures

[11]

SOUTH AFRICAS DEGRADED LANDSCAPES





LIMPOPO
47% subsistence agriculture
24% thicket bushland
sparse vegetation cover

NAMA KAROO
covers 27% of South Africa,
1/3 red meat needs,
1/4 wool,
100% of mohair industry

EASTERN CAPE
39% in poverty
>30% of households involved in grazing activities



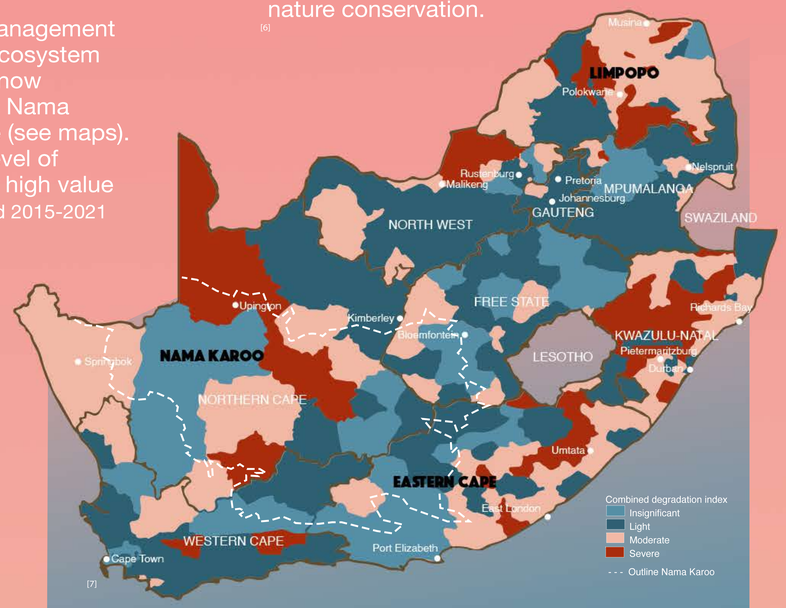
[12]

91% of South Africa's 122 Mio. ha land surface is dryland, which makes it especially prone to desertification, degradation or drought, all of which are exacerbated by human activity.

82% of the land is used for agricultural purposes, but only

14% is suitable for crop farming. The rest is used for extensive grazing, forestry and nature conservation.

[6]



[7]

LAND DEGRADATION (LD)

is by definition a socially constructed problem as its negative implication results from social criteria. LD means that land productivity is declining, thus impacting the ecosystem services which are essential for human well-being. Therefore it is likewise a social, economic and ecological problem.

[8]

DIRECT DRIVERS

- OVERABSTRACTION OF WATER
- OVERHARVESTING OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- MINING
- ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES
- BUSH ENCROACHMENT
- UNSUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT
- URBANIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

INDIRECT DRIVERS

- POVERTY
- HIGH POPULATION DENSITY
- MARKET ACCESS
- DECENTRALIZATION
- LAND TENURE
- INTERNATIONAL POLICIES
- HISTORIC INFLUENCE

[9]

Under the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme, so far **127 nations** have committed to setting national targets in synergy with the 17 SDGs, especially goal 15, to achieve LDN by 2030 by implementing policies that benefit all - socially, economically, ecologically.
One of them is South Africa.
[1]

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [2]

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS [3]

LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

„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"

- UNCCD [4]



[5]

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References: [1] UNCCD (2021): Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Website available at https://www.unccd.int/actions/achieving-land-degradation-neutrality. Last accessed 10.03.2021 [2] Official UNCCD logo. Usage authorized by the UNCCD. The UNCCD does in no way endorse or is responsible for any of the content on this poster [3] Logos of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Download with the guidelines for usage at https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/ Last accessed 10.03.2021 [4] See reference 1 [5] Mindmap of the benefits of LDN. Content based on: DEA (2018). South Africa: Final country report of the LDN Target Setting Programme. Department of Environmental Affairs South Africa (DEA). Authors unknown. Download at https://knowledge.unccd.int/countries/south-africa. Last accessed 10.03.2021. For SDG logos see reference 3 [6] DEA (2018). South Africa: Final country report of the LDN Target Setting Programme. Department of Environmental Affairs South Africa (DEA). Authors unknown. See reference 5 for download [7] Map based on Hoffman, M., & Todd, S. (2000). A National Review of Land Degradation in South Africa: The Influence of Biophysical and Socio-Economic Factors. Journal of Southern African Studies, 26(4), 743-758. Retrieved March 19, 2021, from http://www.jstor.org/stable/2637569. Colours and key adjusted, outline of Nama Karoo and labels added/modified by the author [8] Blaikie, P., Brookfield, H. (1987). Land Degradation and Society. Routledge Publishing. [9] Content see reference 5 & 6, Pictograms from Microsoft Office [10] DEA (2015). United Nations Development Programme Project Document. Authors unknown. Download at https://www.thegef.org/project/securing-multiple-ecosystems-benefit-through-slm-productive-degraded-landscapes-south-africa. Last accessed 10.03.2021 [11] See reference 10 [12] Content see reference 10. Map outline drawn from reference 7. Pictures from top left to bottom right (1) Gully erosion in the Nama Karoo, South Africa. Picture taken in 2015. Credit: Juliane Krenz. Distributed via https://imagegeo.egu.eu/view/3156/. Last accessed 19.03.2021 (2) Bush Encroachment in the Nama Karoo, South Africa. Picture taken in 2006. Credit: Winfried Bruenken (Ahrnuim), CC-BY-SA 2.5 via Wikimedia Commons. Download at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anysberg_P1020025.JPG. Last accessed 19.03.2021 (3) Dryland in Limpopo, South Africa. Picture taken by author in 2017 (4) Dryland covered with alien invasive species *sisyabe vulgaris*. Picture taken by author in 2014 in Limpopo, South Africa (5)+(6) Eroded land in the Drakensberg region, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Pictures taken by author in 2014 (5) and 2015 (6) [13] Icon drawn after the image for Land Degradation Neutrality by the UNCCD. For usage authorization see reference 2