







# Remote Sensing for Monitoring Land Degradation and Sustainable Cities SDGs

Speakers: Amber McCullum, Sasha Alexander, Alexander Zvoleff, Monica Noon, Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich

July 9, 2019

#### **Course Structure**

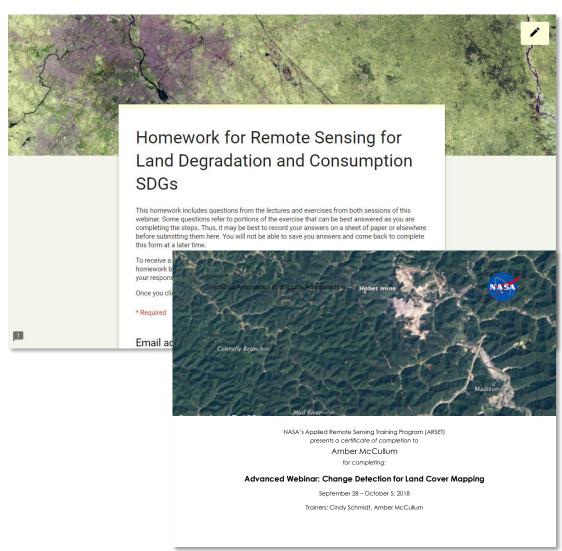
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- Three, 1.5 hour sessions on July 9, 16, and 23, 2019
- The same content will be presented at two different times each day:
  - Session A: 10:00-11:30 EST (UTC-4)
  - Session B: 18:00-19:30 EST (UTC-4)
  - Please only sign up for and attend one session per day
- Webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations, and the homework assignment can be found after each session at:
  - https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/land/webinars/land-degradation-SDGs19
- Q&A: Following each lecture and/or by email
  - amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov
  - Or juan.l.torresperez@nasa.gov



#### **Homework and Certificates**

- Homework
  - One homework assignment
  - Answers must be submitted via Google Forms
- Certificate of Completion:
  - Attend both live webinars
  - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline (access from ARSET website)
    - HW Deadline: Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup>
  - You will receive certificates
     approximately two months after the
     completion of the course from:
     marines.martins@ssaihq.com





#### **Prerequisites**

- Complete <u>Sessions 1 & 2A of Fundamentals of</u> <u>Remote Sensing</u>, or equivalent experience
- Download and install QGIS. QGIS version 2.18.15
  - Use this exercise for help: <u>Downloading and Installing QGIS</u>
- Download, install, and register the <u>Trends.Earth</u> software. This is a QGIS plugin that only currently works with the Version 2 iterations of QGIS (not version 3 or higher).
  - Be sure to read the <u>Before Installing the toolbox</u>
     page prior to <u>Installing the toolbox</u>.



Advanced Webinar: Change Detection for Land Cover Mapping

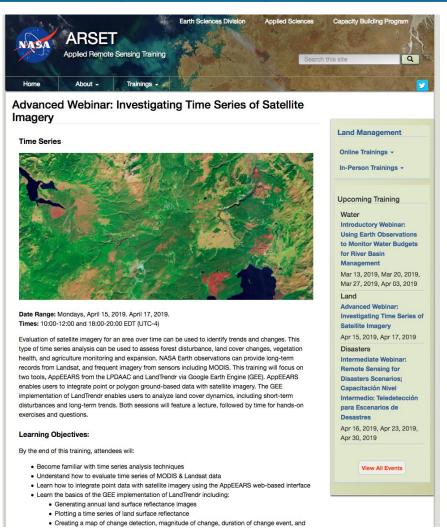






#### **Accessing Course Materials**

#### https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/land/webinars/land-degradation-SDGs19



#### Prerequisites:

Attendees that do not complete prerequisites may not be adequately prepared for the pace of the course.

- . Complete Sessions 1 & 2A of Fundamentals of Remote Sensing, or equivalent experience
- Complete the Advanced Webinar: Change Detection for Land Cover Mapping
- Install Google Chrome: https://www.google.com/chrome/
  - For the Google Earth Engine exercise, Chrome should be used to make sure all features
    work
- · Sign up for the Google Earth Engine Code Editor: https://signup.earthengine.google.com/

#### Audience

Advanced users of remote sensing data within local, regional, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations involved in land management and conservation efforts. Professional organizations in the public and private sectors engaged in environmental management and monitoring will be given preference over organizations focused primarily on research.

#### Registration Information:

There is no cost for the webinar, but you must register to attend the sessions. Because we anticipate a high demand for this training, please only sign up for one session. Sessions will only be broadcast in English - Session A will cover the same content as Session B. Professional organizations in the public and private sectors engaged in water resources management and monitoring will be given preference over organizations focused primarily on research.

- Register for Session A, 10:00-12:00 EDT (UTC-4) »
- Register for Session B, 18:00-20:00 EDT (UTC-4) »

#### Course Agenda:

Agenda 41.pdf

April 15, 2019

This session will include a review of MODIS and Landsat, a review of change detection, an overview of time series analysis methods, and an AppEEARS hands-on exercise.

Application Area: Land
Available Languages: English

Instruments/Missions: Terra, Landsat, MODIS, Aqua

Keywords: Ecosystems, Land-Cover and Land-Use Change (LCLUC), Satellite Imagery, Tools



#### **Course Outline**



#### Session 1: SDG 15

- ARSET and the SDGs
- SDG 15 Overview
- Trends/Earth for 15.3.1
- Exercise (default data)

#### Session 2: SDG 15

- Global Datasets
- Country/local data example
- Exercise (local data)

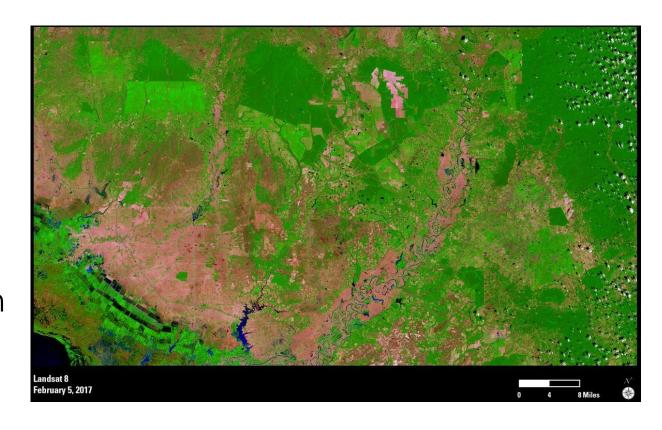
#### Session 3: SDG 11

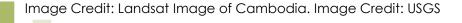
- SDG 11 Overview
- Trends/Earth for 11.3.1
- Exercise (urban mapping)



#### **Session 1 Agenda**

- NASA Brief overview of ARSET and the SDGs in general
- NASA SDG 15.3.1 and the data needs
- UNCCD SDG 15.3.1 reporting
- CI Presentation on the Trends.Earth tool for SDG 15.3.1
- CI Exercise using default data Trends.Earth







# **NASA Applied Sciences**

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- Promotes efforts to discover and demonstrate innovative and practical applications of Earth Observations
- Three primary lines of business:
  - Applications
  - Capacity Building
  - Mission Planning
- Across 4 application areas:



Air Quality & Health



Disasters



Eco



Water Resources



# NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)

#### http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/

- Empowering the global community through remote sensing training
- Part of the Applied Science Capacity Building Program
- Seeks to increase the use of Earth science in decision-making through training for:
  - policy makers
  - environmental managers
  - other professionals in the public and private sector
- Training topics focus on:
  - air qualityland
  - disasterswater

Helping Professionals Solve Problems Including...



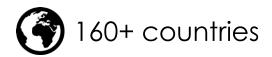


#### **ARSET Trainings**

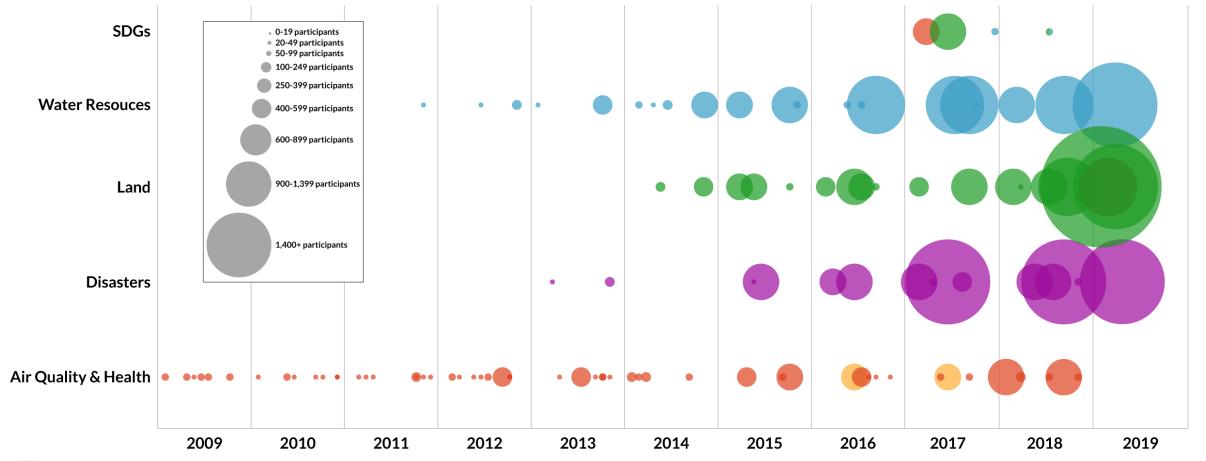




110+ trainings 19,400+ participants







<sup>\*</sup> size of circle corresponds to number of participants



#### **ARSET SDG Trainings**

#### https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/sdgs



ARSET

SDGs

**Online Trainings** 

**Tools Covered** 

Suggest a Training

List of Upcoming Trainings

**Upcoming Training** 

Advanced Webinar: Integrating Remote Sensing into a Water Quality Monitoring Program Jun 05, 2019, Jun 12, 2019,

Advanced Webinar: Remote Sensing for Monitoring

Water

Jun 19, 2019

Land

In-Person Trainings

Remote Sensing for the UN

Sign up for ARSET Emails

#### ARSET Trainings for Monitoring & Meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, global leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals aim to end all forms of poverty, and recognize that ending poverty goes hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. (UN Sustainable Development Agenda)

Earth observations can support the implementation and monitoring of SDG targets and indicators. ARSET training helps people understand how to access and apply those observations. If a goal below is grayed out, it does not mean that remote sensing can't be applied - just that ARSET has yet to offer a training related to that goal.

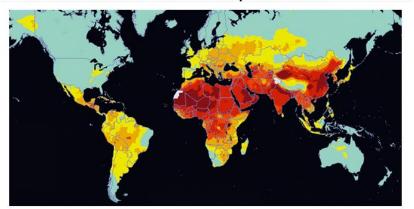
Click on a goal below to see relevant ARSET trainings:



#### Remote Sensing of Land Indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 15



Satellite Derived Annual PM2.5 Datasets in Support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals





# **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

#### Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- A plan of action for people, planet and prosperity
- All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan
- 17 SDGs and 169 targets under this agenda
- Balance the three dimensions of sustainable development:
  - economic, social, and environmental
- In this webinar series, our focus will be Goal 15: Life on Land







































#### **Agency Coordination**



















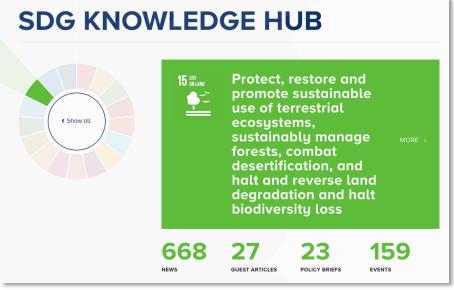
#### **IISD Knowledge Hub**

#### http://sdg.iisd.org/

- Provides tools and resources about the SDGs
- Collects news, events, policy briefs for specific goals
- Also provides information on events, actors, and regions





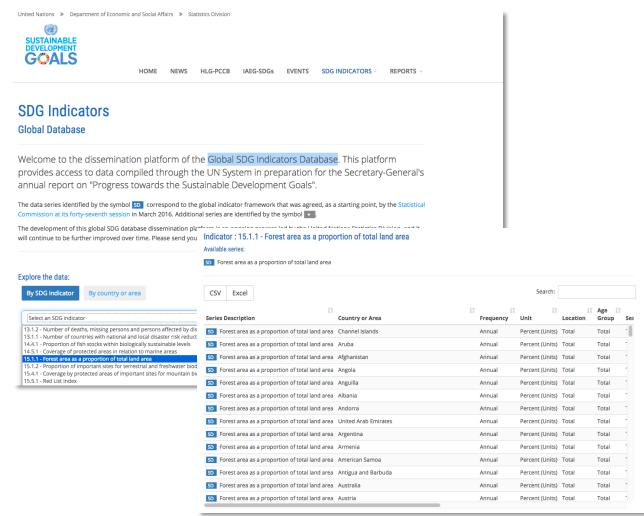




#### United Nations: Statistics for SDGs

#### https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/

- Access SDG data for specific countries
- Obtain metadata and methodology for calculating indicators
- Groups information based on regions





# Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

#### http://www.earthobservations.org/geo\_sdgs.php

Initiative to support efforts to integrate Earth observations and geospatial information into national development and monitoring frameworks for the SDGs



# Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

#### http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/en/

Food Price Index | May

- FAO's priorities for the SDGs are:
  - End poverty, hunger and malnutrition
  - Enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry
  - Combat and adapt to climate change

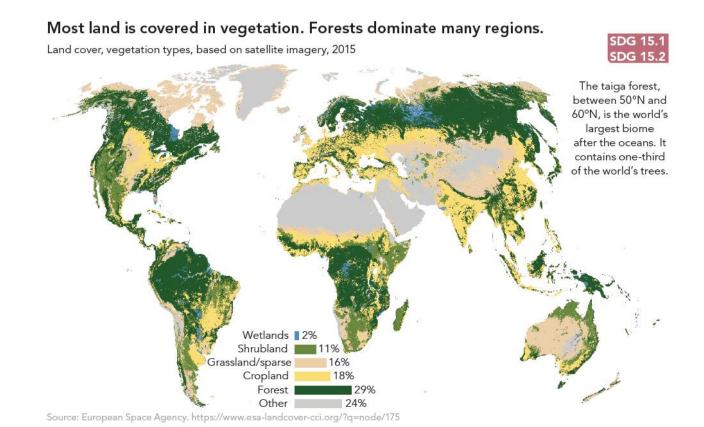






#### SDG 15: Life on Land

 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



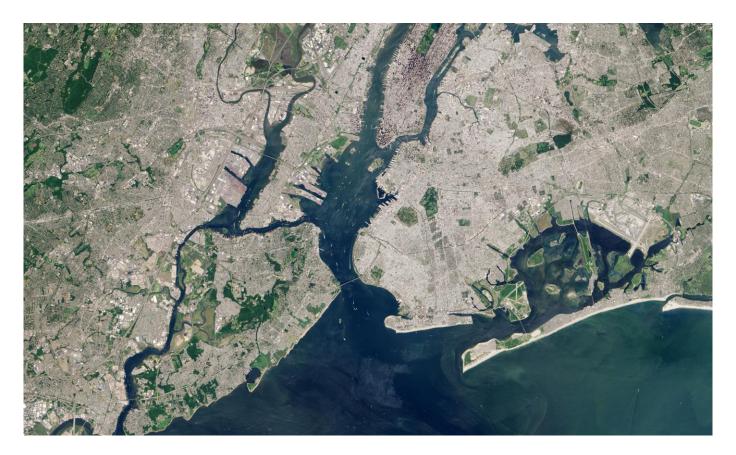




#### **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

• Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and

sustainable







#### **SDG Indicators**

- Used to monitor progress towards SDGs at local, regional, and global levels
- Turns SDGs and targets into a management tool:
  - develop implementation strategies
  - measure progress (report card)
- 100 Global Monitoring Indicators
  - includes suggestions for complementary national indicators (CNIs)
- Each country chooses the number and range of CNIs to collect and analyze data

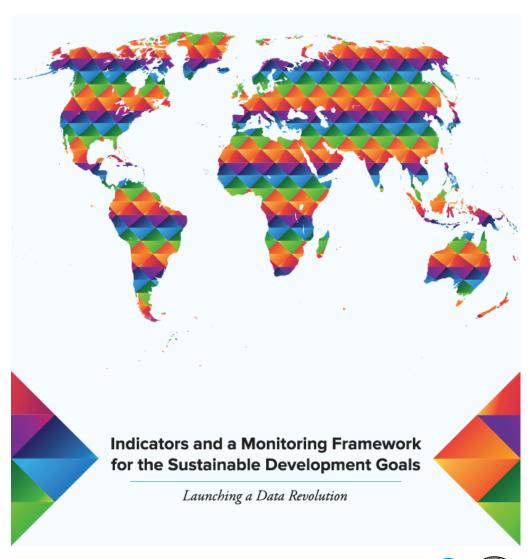


Image Credit: <a href="http://unsdsn.org/resources/publications/indicators/">http://unsdsn.org/resources/publications/indicators/</a>



#### SDG: Target 15.3

#### Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

- 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
- Achieving LDN will require avoiding or reducing new degradation, and restoring and rehabilitating lands that were degraded in the past

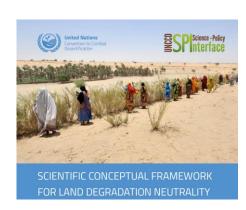
Land degradation threatens the natural capital on which livelihoods depend, including those of over 1.3 billion farmers.

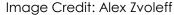


#### SDG: Target 15.3

#### Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

- Objectives
  - maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services;
  - maintain or improve productivity, in order to enhance food security;
  - increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land;
  - seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and
  - reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land.







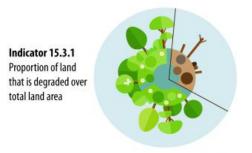
#### Indicator 15.3.1

#### Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

#### **Sub-indicators**

- 1) Land cover and land cover change
- 2) Land productivity
- 3) Carbon stocks above and below ground
- A combination of satellite Earth observations and site-based data will be needed to
  - set baselines to determine the initial status of the sub-indicators
  - detect change in each of the sub-indicators
  - derive the indicator by determining what areas of change are considered land degradation

#### Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on SDG Target 15.3



Sub -Indicators UNCCD (CBD, UNFCCC) Reporting Mechanisms



Official Statistics and Earth Observation

Land Use and Management Practices Surveys, Sampling and Citizen Sourcing

Data from
multiple sources
FAO, GEF and other
Reporting Mechanisms
Desertification





Image Credit: Framework and Guiding Principles for a Land Degradation Indicator, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



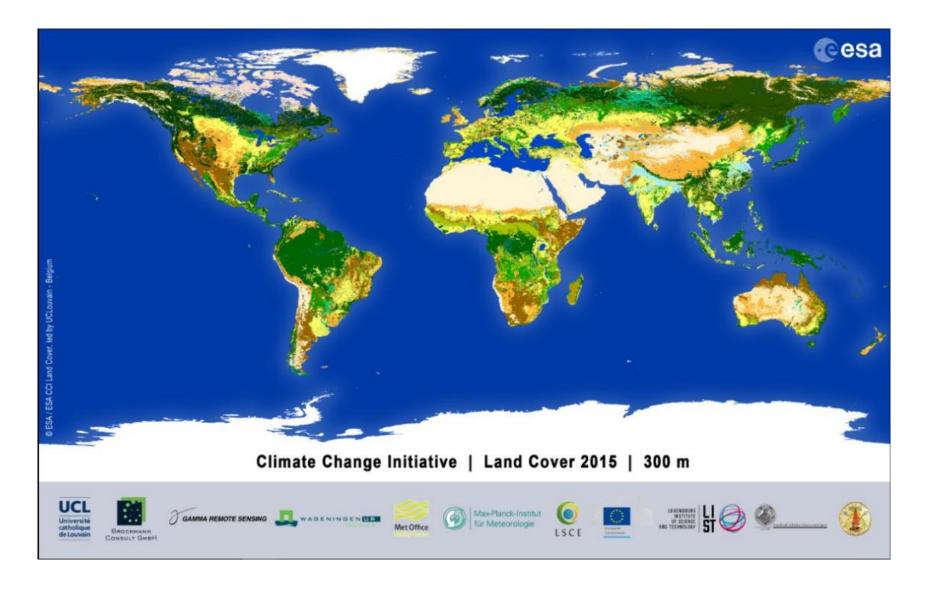
#### **SDG 15 Data Needs**

#### **Sub-indicators**

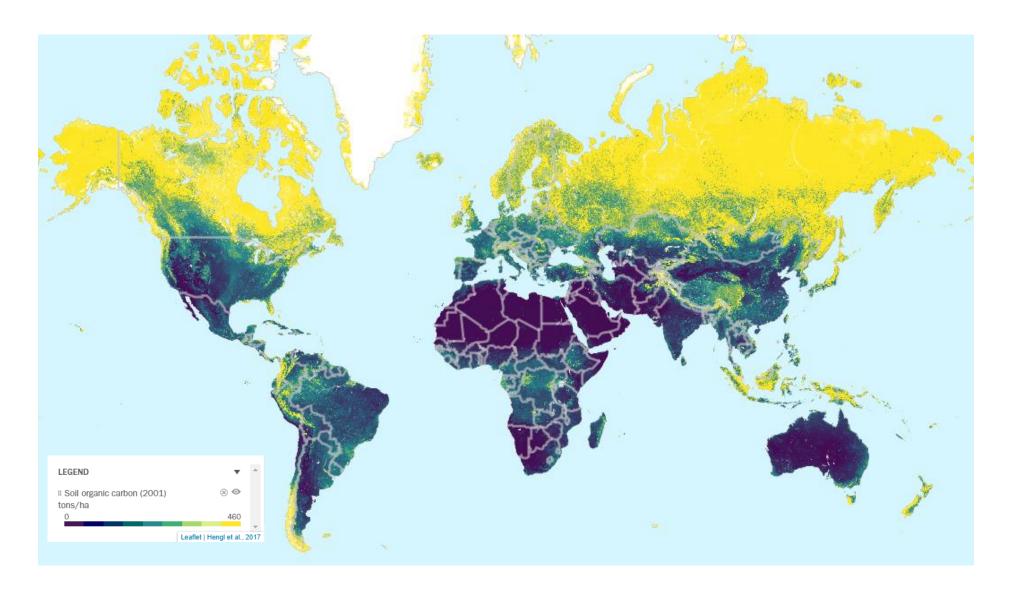
- Global datasets for standardized reporting
  - Landcover
    - Forest Area and Forest Change (Landsat)
  - Protected Areas
  - Important sites for Biodiversity
  - Carbon Stocks
  - Land Productivity
  - Etc.
- Good Practice Guidelines
- Country reporting



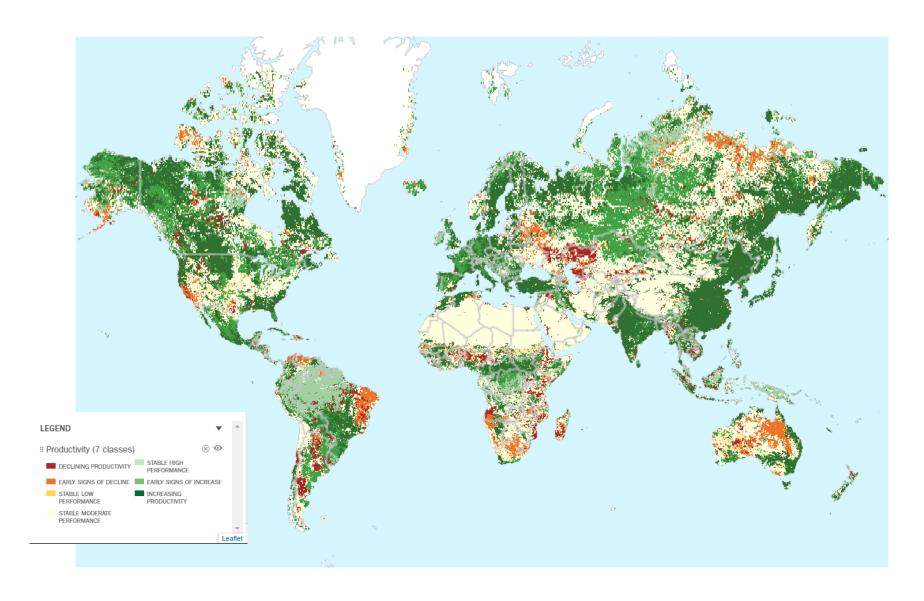
#### **Land Cover**



#### **Carbon Stocks**



# **Land Productivity**



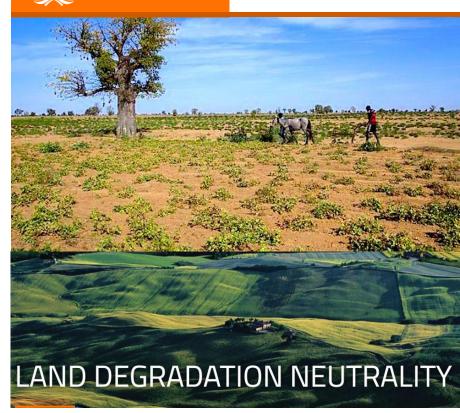
#### United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

#### http://www2.unccd.int/

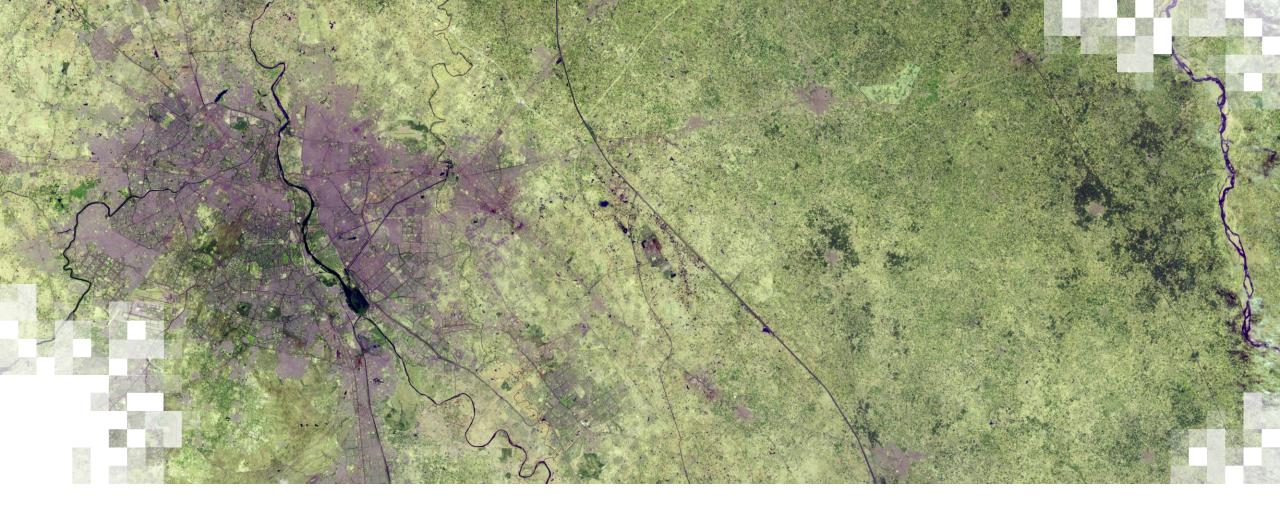
- Focus on Target 15.3 in effort for land degradation neutrality
  - http://www2.unccd.int/land-degradationneutrality
- Links environment and development to sustainable land management
- Specifically addresses arid, semi-arid, and dryland ecosystems
- Works to:
  - improve living conditions in drylands
  - maintain and restore land & soil productivity
  - mitigate drought
  - combat desertification and land degradation

Image Credits: (Top) BBC (Bottom) UN Convention to Combat Desertification









# Guest Speakers:

Sasha Alexander (UNCCD), Alexander Zvoleff (CI), Monica Noon (CI), Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich (CI) <a href="mailto:trends.earth@conservation.org">trends.earth@conservation.org</a>

# REMOTE SENSING FOR MONITORING & REPORTING ON LAND DEGRADATION

EXPERIENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONALS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)









#### **UNCCD: THE CUSTODIAN AGENCY FOR SDG INDICATOR 15.3.1**



Setting the Stage

Building Capacity

Looking Ahead

#### ARRIVING AT SDG TARGET 15.3 AND LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (LDN)



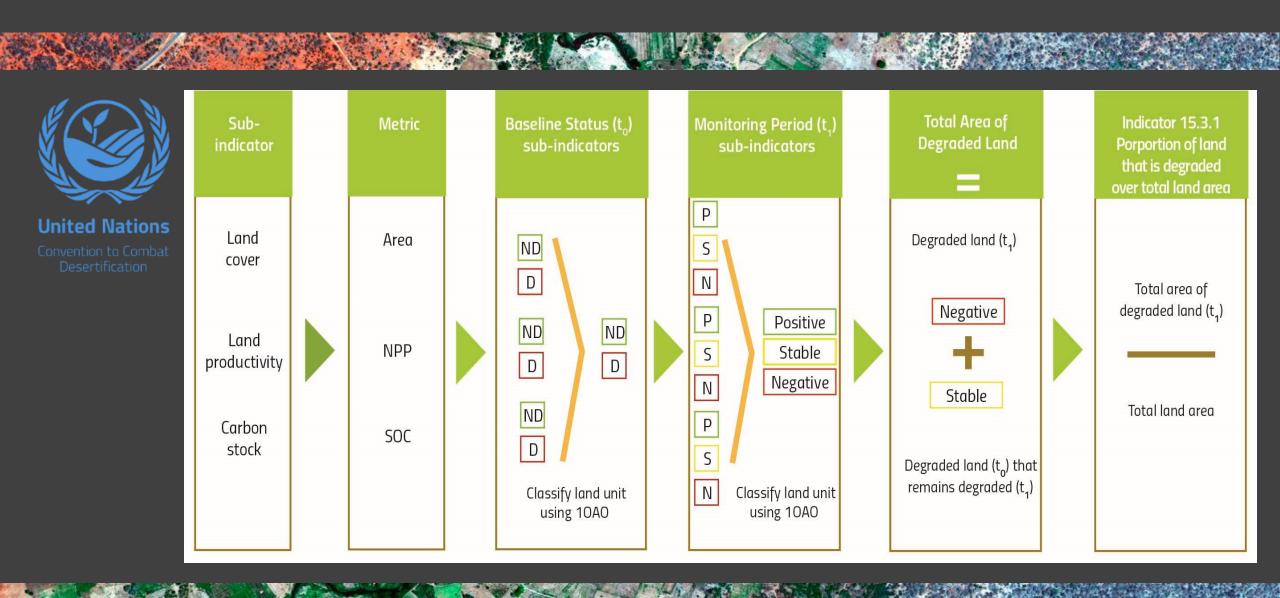
- The first milestone was the adoption of the <u>UNCCD strategic plan 2008-2018</u> which introduced a new indicator-based monitoring and assessment framework -- 'performance review and assessment of the implementation system' (PRAIS) -- to track progress towards its operational and strategic objectives.
- The next was the <u>Convention's adoption of land-based indicators with global data sets</u> to enhance the assessment of progress made towards its strategic objectives and to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards country implementation of the Convention.
- Finally the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG target 15.3 which promoted the full development of a <u>unique LDN approach for translating and implementing global targets on land degradation at the national level</u>, including the adoption of SDG indicator 15.3.1.

#### LAYING THE FOUNDATION: LDN FRAMEWORK AND GUIDANCE



- The Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) provides a <u>scientific foundation for understanding, implementing and monitoring LDN</u> -- designed to create a bridge between the vision and the practical implementation of LDN
- The Good Practice Guidance (GPG) for SDG indicator 15.3.1 provides detailed information for countries to implement the <u>methodology for deriving the land</u> <u>degradation indicator and its sub-indicators</u>. It helps countries identify and select the most appropriate spatial datasets and determine the most suitable process for estimating the indicator
- The GPG provides an overview of remotely-sensed global, regional and national data and provides detailed instruction for countries to produce their own national-scale data. This <u>encourages a sense of national ownership</u> over the monitoring process.

#### **ESTIMATING SDG INDICATOR 15.3.1**



#### DATA PRODUCTS, PRACTICAL TOOLS, AND CAPACITY BUILDING



- Conservation International, in partnership with Lund University, NASA, and with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), produced a <u>decision support tool for SDG 15.3.1 reporting called Trends.Earth</u> operates as a free plugin to the open source QGIS 2.18.x.
- Trends.Earth can be used to plot time series of key spatially explicit indicators of land change (including degradation and improvement) and to <u>produce maps and other</u> graphics that can support monitoring and project implementation to address land <u>degradation</u>. The tool can also potentially be used to overlay other relevant and spatially-explicit indicators.
- Regional capacity building workshops provided hands-on training on default data, the methods, Trends. Earth tool and the use of national data – it was also an opportunity to identify the end-user challenges for building national capacities to utilize big EO data sets.

#### GEO LDN INITIATIVE AND THE 2021-2022 REPORTING CYCLE



There is still much work to be done!

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) recently established a LDN Initiative to address some of the remaining gaps in the use of EO data for land degradation. These include:

- The need for <u>continuous access of high resolution images</u> and <u>capacity building</u> and products to transform this data into actionable information
- The development of <u>minimum data quality standards</u> and <u>decision trees</u> to help stakeholders select the most appropriate data sets
- The <u>inter-operability</u> of these data sets with other indicators to better target interventions at local scales using platforms such as Trends.Earth or data cubes

#### **MORE INFORMATION**



• <a href="https://prais.unccd.int/">https://prais.unccd.int/</a>

• <a href="https://www.earthobservations.org/activity.php?id=149">https://www.earthobservations.org/activity.php?id=149</a>

Sasha Alexander
 Policy Officer
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# TRENDS: EARTH LAND DEGRADATION























#### TRENDS: EARTH - MONITORING LAND CONDITION

- Identification of degraded lands
- Can set baselines, and track progress
- Best global datasets
- Allows use of best-available local information

Supports all three components of SDG Indicator 15.3.1







Land Cover



Carbon Stocks























#### TRENDS: EARTH - SDG 15.3.1

Proportion of land that is degraded over a total area



1. Land Productivity

**Net Primary Productivity** 



2. Land Cover

Land Cover Change



3. Above and Below Ground C

Soil Organic Carbon

# TRENDS. EARTH - PRODUCTIVITY



• Land productivity is the biological productive capacity of the land, the source of all the food, fiber and fuel that sustains humans (United Nations Statistical Commission 2016).

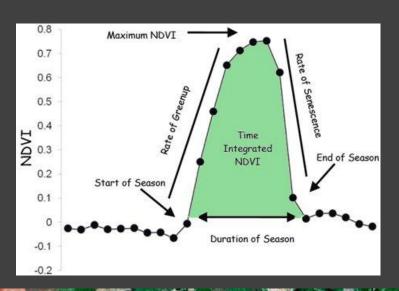


#### TRENDS = ARTH - PRODUCTIVITY → PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY

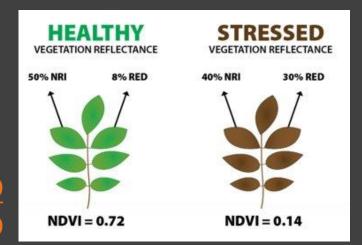


• **Net primary productivity** (NPP) is the net amount of carbon assimilated after photosynthesis and autotrophic respiration over a given period of time (Clark et al. 2001) and is typically represented in units such as kg/ha/yr.

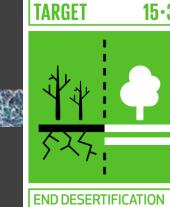




 $NDVI = \frac{NIR - RED}{NIR + RED}$ 



#### TRENDS. EARTH - PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS





**Trajectory:** 

 Measures the rate of change in primary productivity over time.

State:

• Compares the current productivity level in a given area to historical observations of productivity in that same area.

**Performance:** 

 Measures local productivity relative to other similar vegetation types in similar land cover types or bioclimatic regions throughout the study area.



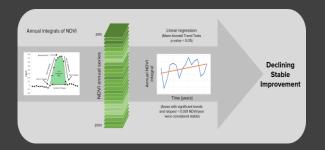
#### TRENDS EARTH - PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS



**DEGRADED LAND** 

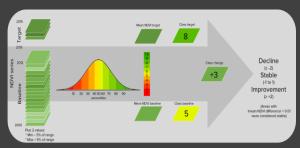


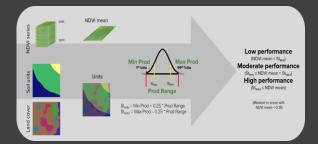
**Trajectory:** 



State:

Performance:





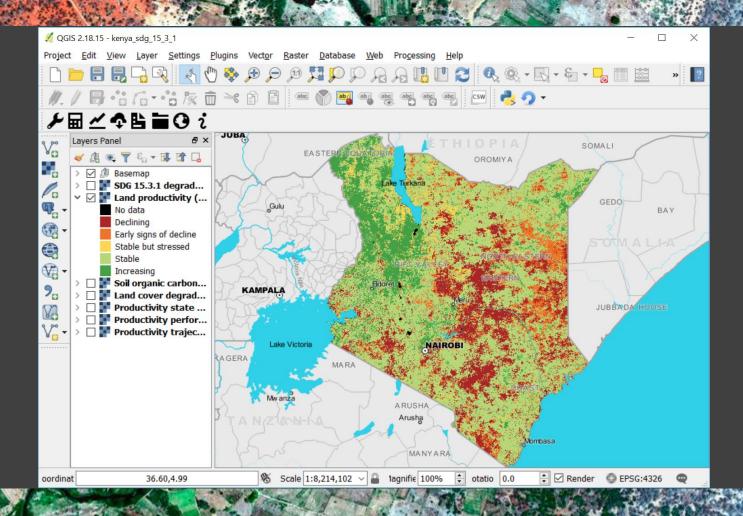
For details, check:

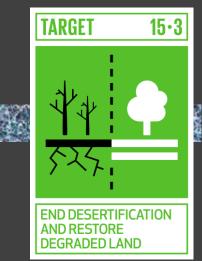
http://trends.earth/docs/en/index.htm



# TRENDS: EARTH - LAND PRODUCTIVITY







## TRENDS: EARTH - SDG 15.3.1





1. Land Productivity

Net Primary Productivity



2. Land Cover

**Land Cover Change** 



3. Above and Below Ground C

Soil Organic Carbon



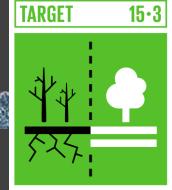
#### TRENDS EARTH - LAND COVER CHANGE



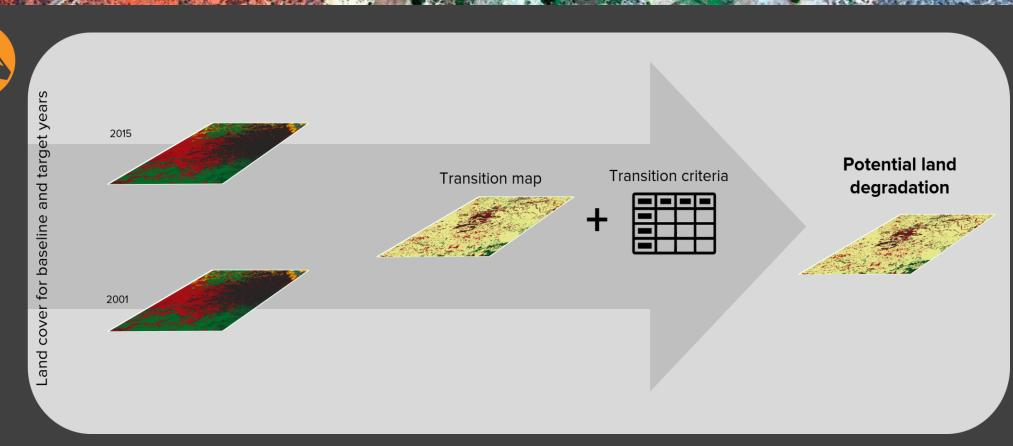
• ...describes changes in the observed biophysical character of the earth's surface to help identify areas that may be subject to change. A transition from one land cover type to another may be considered an improvement, a neutral change or degradation, depending on the perspective of the country in question.



# TRENDS: EARTH - LAND COVER CHANGE



END DESERTIFICATION AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND



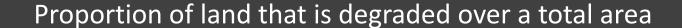
# TRENDS: EARTH - LAND COVER CHANGE



Land cover in target year									
		Tree-covered	Grassland	Cropland	Wetland	Artificial	Bare land	Water body	
	Tree-covered	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	
_	Grassland	+	0	+	-			0	
Land cover in initial vear	Cropland	+		0	-			0	
over in ir	Wetland	-			0	-	-	0	
Lando	Artificial	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	
	Bare land	+	+	+	+	-	0	0	
	Water body	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Legend									
Degra	Degradation Stable				Improvement				
-			0		+				
*The "Grassland" class consists of grassland, shrub, and sparsely vegetated areas (if the default aggregation is used).									



#### **TRENDS** • EARTH - SDG 15.3.1





1. Land Productivity

**Net Primary Productivity** 



2. Land Cover

Land Cover Change

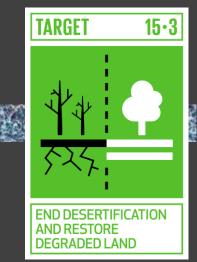


3. Above and Below Ground C

**Soil Organic Carbon** 



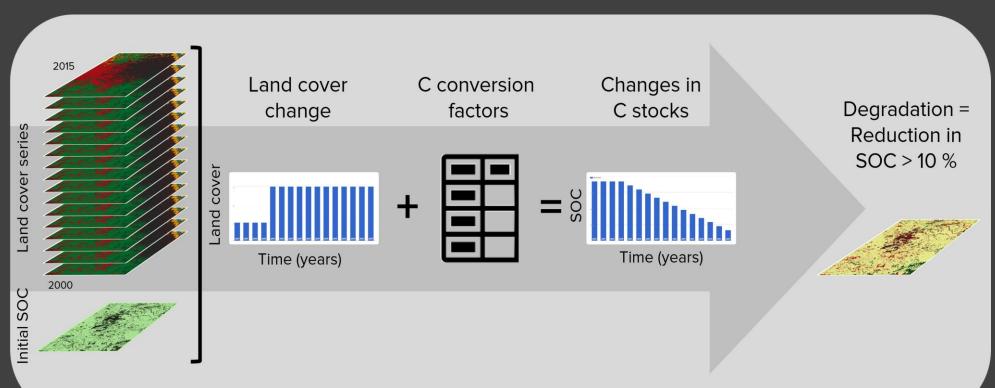
• Carbon stocks reflect the integration of multiple processes affecting plant growth and the gains and losses from terrestrial organic matter pools. The metric used to assess carbon stocks adopted for Indicator 15.3.1 is soil organic carbon (SOC).





AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND







# $SOC_{final} = SOC_{ref} \times FLU \times FMG \times FI$

- **FLU**: land-use factor that reflects carbon stock changes associated with type of land use,
- **FMG**: management factor representing the main management practice specific to the land-use sector (e.g., different tillage practices in croplands)
- FI: input factor representing different levels of carbon input to soil.



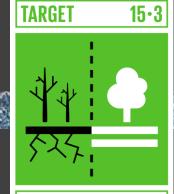


$$SOC_{final} = SOC_{ref} \times FLU \times FMG \times FL$$

- TARGET 15-3

  Line 15-3

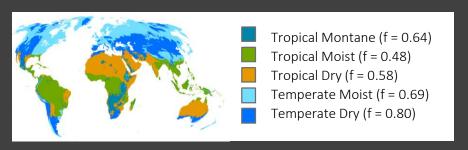
  END DESERTIFICATION AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND
- **FLU**: land-use factor that reflects carbon stock changes associated with type of land use,
- **FMG**: management factor representing the main management practice specific to the land-use sector (e.g., different tillage practices in croplands)
- FI: input factor representing different levels of carbon input to soil.



í	
	END DESERTIFICATION
	AND RESTORE
١	ANDRESTORE
ı	DEGRADED LAND

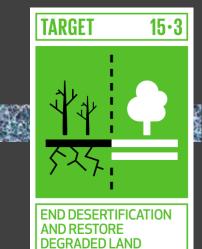


Land use factors		Final land cover								
		Forest	Grassland	Croplands	Wetlands	Artificial	Bare lands	Water		
Initial land cover	Forest	1	1	f	1	0.1	0.1	1		
	Grassland	1	1	f	1	0.1	0.1	1		
	Croplands	1/f	1/f	1	1/0.71	0.1	0.1	1		
	Wetlands	1	1	0.71	1	0.1	0.1	1		
	Artificial	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		
	Bare lands	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		
	Water	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		



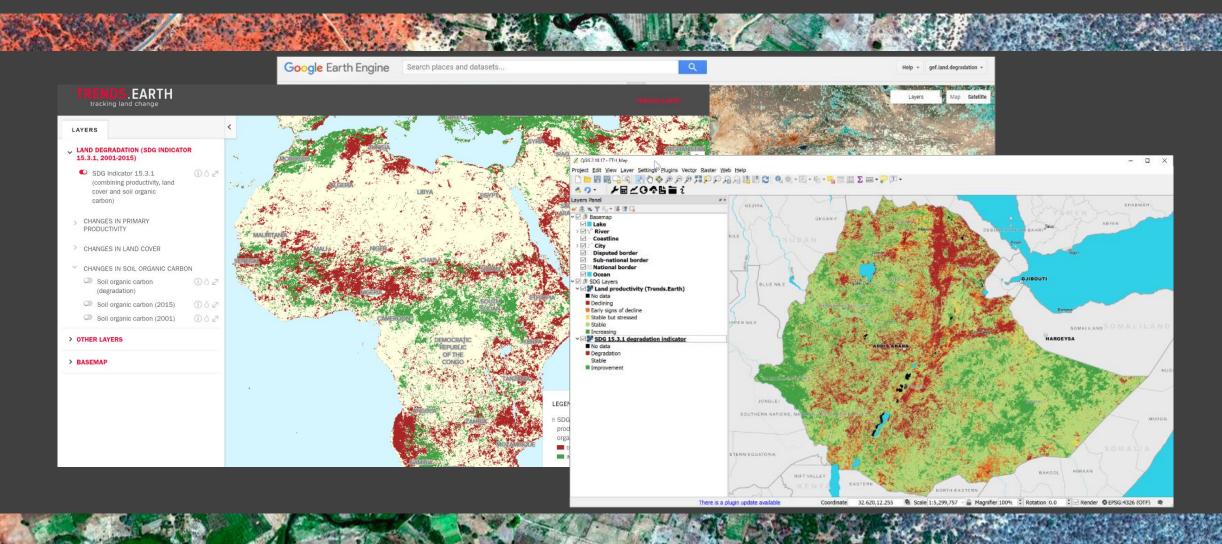
#### TRENDS EARTH - SDG 15.3.1 one out-all out



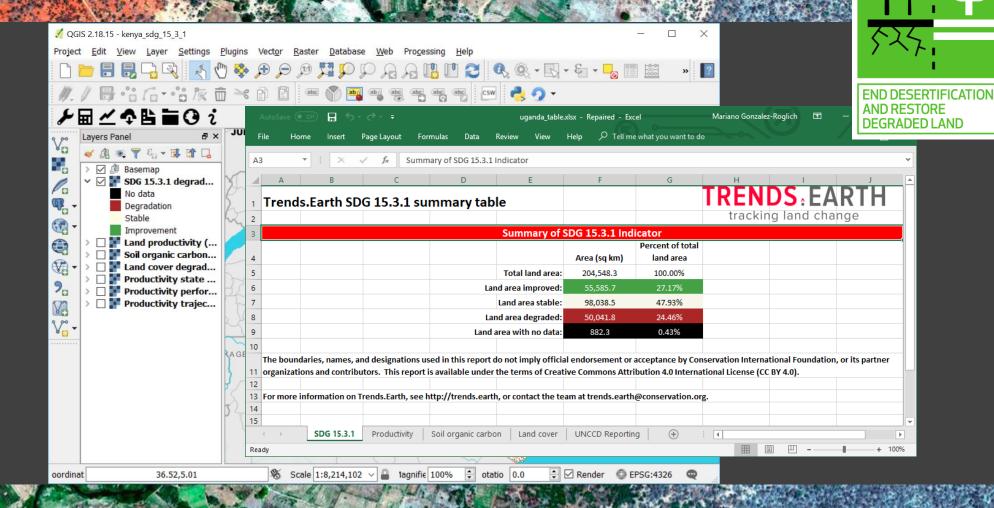




# TRENDS: EARTH - TRACKING LAND CHANGE



#### TRENDS: EARTH - SDG 15.3.1



TARGET

15.3



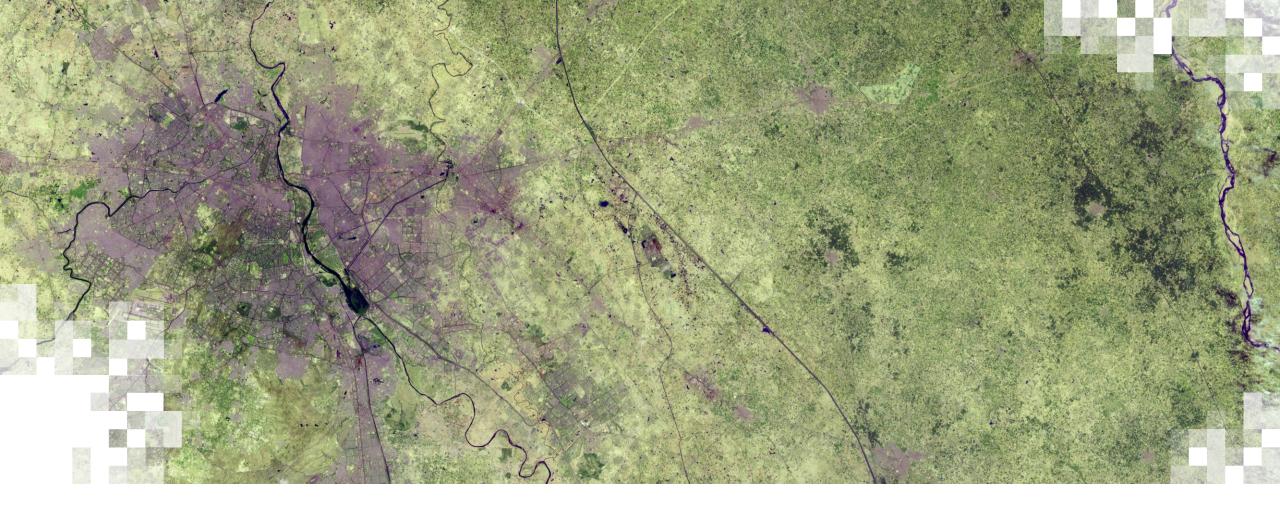
## TRENDS. EARTH - EXERCISE

• QGIS Plug-in: Trends.Earth

• Website: <a href="http://trends.earth/">http://trends.earth/</a>

• Outputs: <a href="http://maps.trends.earth">http://maps.trends.earth</a>





Trends.Earth Exercise

#### Contacts

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- ARSET Website:
  - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov









Next Session: July 16th, 2019





7/9/2019