

21 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

Indicator type **Core indicator**

Published

Versioning

First publication Latest update

Area and sub-area

Area and sub-area

Presentation

Tier

Indicator definition and description

Unit of measure

%

Coverage

Spatial aggregation

Reference period

Update frequency

Base period

Disaggregation (operational indicators)

Disaggregation (operational indicators)	Comments
<input type="text" value="Spatial"/>	<input type="text" value="by administrative unit; by river basin"/>
<input type="text" value="Land cover class"/>	

Other related -indicators (e.g.contextual, proxy, other core indicators)

ID	Subindicator	Type
<input type="text" value="17"/>	<input type="text" value="Percentage of land area suffering from unusually wet or dry conditions (Standard Precipitation Index)"/>	<input type="text" value="Core indicator"/>
<input type="text" value="51"/>	<input type="text" value="Area affected by desertification"/>	<input type="text" value="Contextual indicator"/>

Relevance

Policy context and rationale

Related SDG indicator (SDG I.)

Relation w SDG-I.

Related Sendai Framework I.

Policy references

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Document title	Link
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, in particular in Africa (United Nations, 1994)	https://www.unccd.int/
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (United Nations, 1992)	https://www.cbd.int/

Methodology

Methodology for indicator calculation

This indicator is calculated as the spatial extent (hectares or km²) expressed as the proportion (percentage or %) of land that is degraded over total land area. SDG indicator 15.3.1 is a binary - degraded/not degraded - quantification based on the analysis of available data for three sub-indicators to be validated and reported by national authorities. The sub-indicators (Trends in Land Cover, Land Productivity and Carbon Stocks) were adopted by the UNCCD's governing body in 2013 as part of its monitoring and evaluation approach.

For more methodological details see SDG 15.3.1 metadata.

Methodology references

Document title	Link
Metadata for SDG indicator 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)., 2018)	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-15-03-01.pdf

Classification syst.

Data sources

Main source

Official statistics: SEEA and/or SNA

Explanation

Best option: SEEA land accounts

Other option(s): For land cover and land cover change, most countries have quantitative data and mapping capacities which are derived primarily from Earth observation. Land Use and Land Cover information are also available in FAOSTAT. For carbon stocks, countries regularly report to the UNFCCC according to a tiered approach. For land productivity, data for large geographical areas can be derived using Earth observation.

SEEA Accounts that can serve as data sources

SEEA Account	Comments
Physical asset accounts for land	
Experimental Ecosystem Accounts	

UN-FDES

International databases containing this indicator

SDG indicators database	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
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Comments

Comments

SDG indicator 15.3.1 was reviewed at 6th IAEG-SDG meeting (classified as Tier II); status as of 22 May 2019