



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

# Integration of the VGGT into UNCCD implementation

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# UNCCD

- **UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**
- **One of the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification) derived from the 1992 Earth Summit**
- **The Convention addressing issues related to land and custodian agency for SDG indicator 15.3.1. on land degradation**
- **Today, there are 197 Parties to the Convention**
- **The Secretariat's work is mandated by the Convention text and COP decisions**

# Decision 26/COP14 on Land Tenure – A landmark decision on tenure

ICCD/COP(14)/23/Add.1

## Decision 26/COP.14

### Land tenure

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 5/COP.13, 7/COP.13, 27/COP.13 and 30/COP.13,

*Noting* the importance of land tenure within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

*Also noting* the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, to the implementation of the Convention,

*Recognizing* that tenure rights should take into account the rights of others and matters of public interest that promote general welfare, according to national legislation,

*Also recognizing* that responsible land governance is a fundamental component of sustainable land management and is important to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought,

*Welcoming* the work of the Science-Policy Interface on this issue, particularly the technical report on "Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its potential contribution to enhancing well-being, livelihoods and the environment",

*Also welcoming* the initiative taken by civil society organizations to promote the discussion of land tenure in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

*Taking note* of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are relevant to tenure rights to land,

1. *Encourages* the Parties to follow the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security principles, taking into account the principles of implementation, in the implementation of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality;

2. *Invites* Parties to review and, where appropriate, adopt national land governance legislation and procedures in order to support sustainable land use and land restoration;

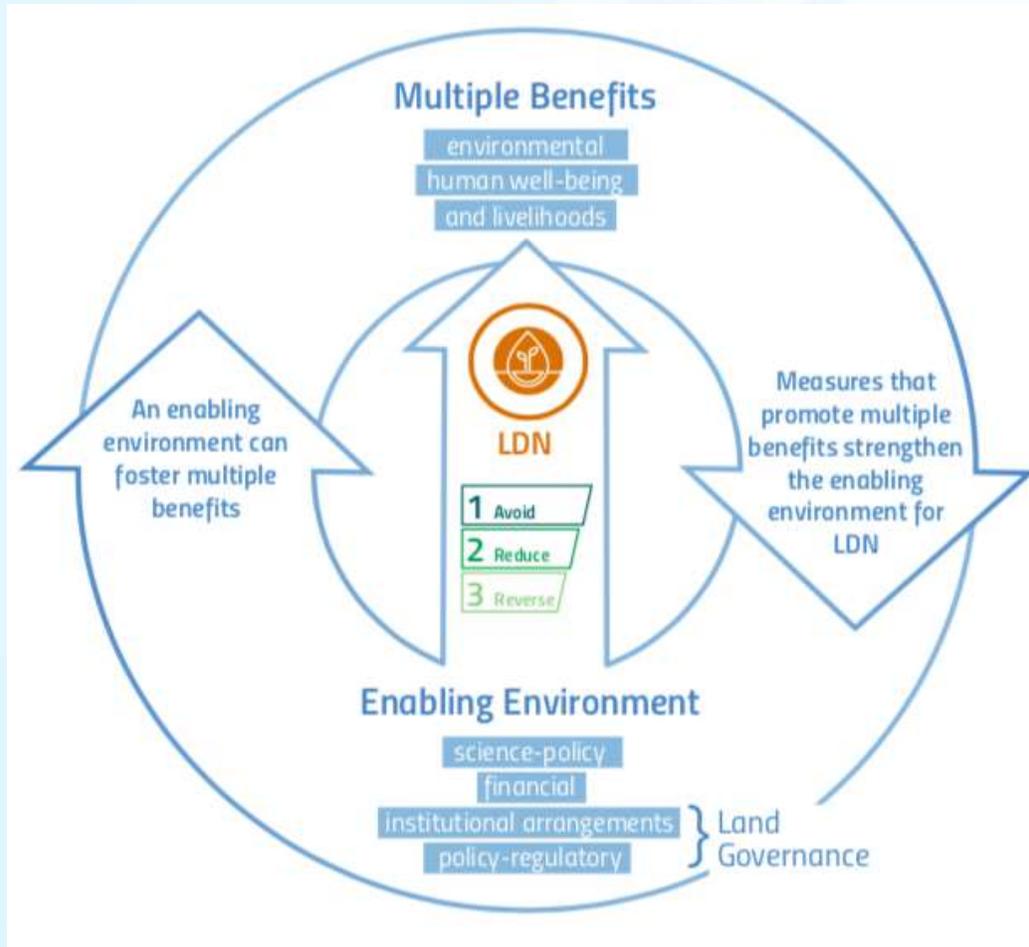
3. *Encourages* Parties to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, consistent with the national legal framework;

4. *Invites* Parties to legally recognize equal use and ownership rights of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security as well as the promotion of gender-sensitive measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context;

5. *Encourages* the Parties to provide effective, timely and affordable access to justice and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms;

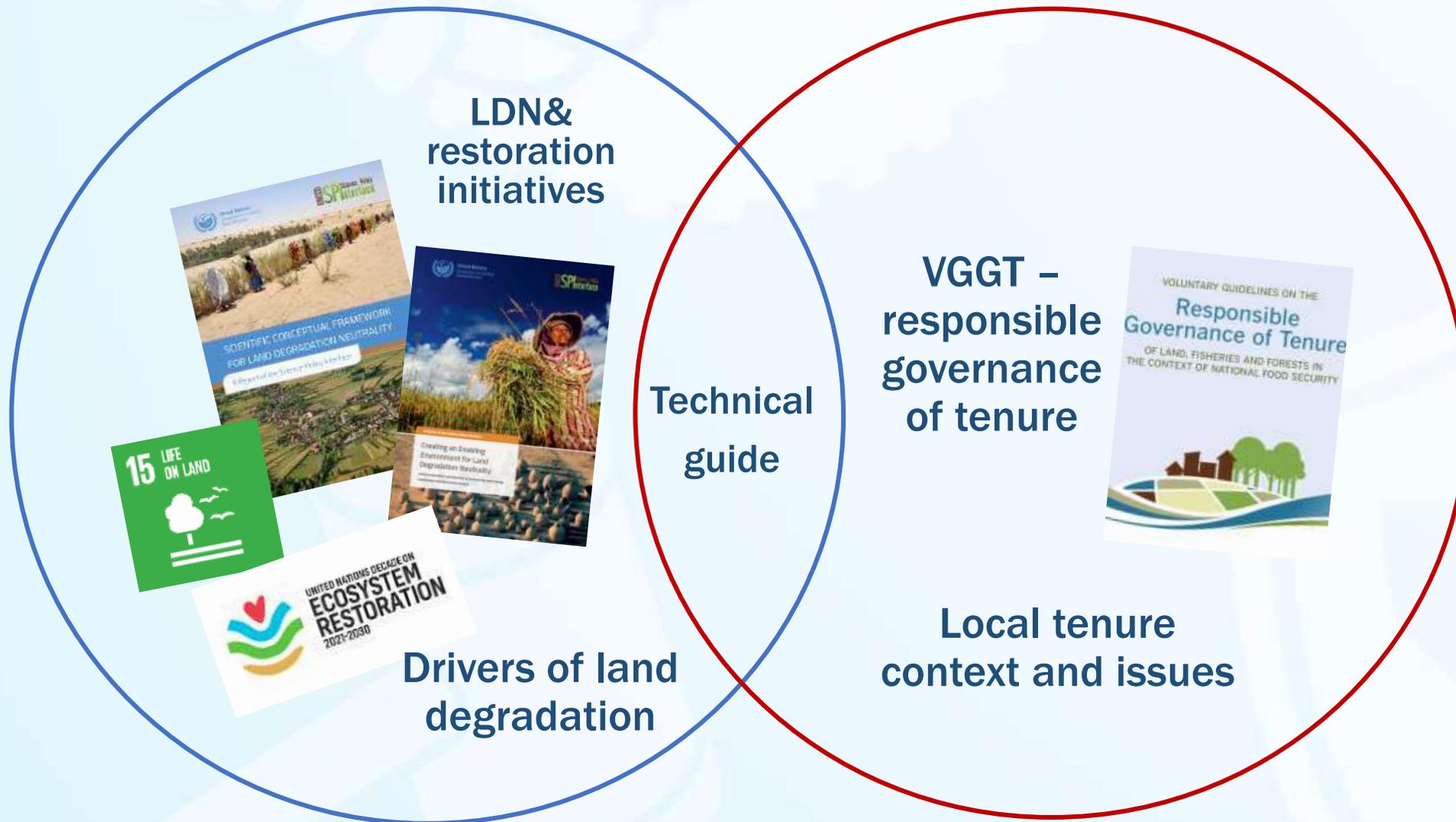
***“Requests the secretariat and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking into account national contexts for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session”***

# LDN – Tenure Nexus: A scientific foundation



- ▶ Land tenure governance is an element of the LDN enabling environment

# Bridging the gap



**LDN &  
restoration  
initiatives**



**Drivers of land  
degradation**

**Technical  
guide**

**VGGT -  
responsible  
governance  
of tenure**



**Local tenure  
context and issues**

# The technical guide is designed to be:

## Voluntary

- ▶ Includes pathways that are voluntary and can be tailored to the national contexts

## Action oriented

- ▶ Addresses the “how” questions of implementation by presenting concise and clear actions

## Multiscale in approach

- ▶ Provides sets of actions both at national and local levels

## Flexible

- ▶ Not all pathways are necessarily relevant to all countries
- ▶ The pathways are to be tailored and implemented as per national context

## Rooted in COP decisions and the VGGT

- ▶ Pathways are linked to COP decisions and the VGGT text

# Way forward: COP15 Decision 27 on Land Tenure

- ▶ Capacity building on the implementation of the technical guide
  - ▶ Multistakeholder partnerships
  - ▶ Technical support
  - ▶ Exploring financial opportunities
- ▶ Awareness-raising on responsible land governance for combatting desertification, land degradation and drought
- ▶ Exploring global indicators and data on land tenure

# Moving into implementation – the potential role of land administrators and surveyors

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# Thank you

The work of the technical guide was produced with financial support from:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

