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Side-event 6pm – 8pm

Land Degradation Neutrality, some perspectives for action

A socioeconomics of neutrality

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LDN : starter

Definition / SDG 15.3 by UNCCD, 2015 –

a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystem”

- Interest & originality for UNCCD :
  - **to consider socioeconomics** ;
  - To be in line with the sustainability concept & process of implementation (Safriel, 2016, DNI)

LDN : from theory to practice

- Constraints :
  - the measurement (Chasek et al, DNI, 2014 ; ICON SLM, 2015)
  - the appropriate governance ; decision scale & participation (ICON SLM, 2014)
  - The socio economic perspective : neutrality or compensation, how to alleviate socioeconomic vulnerability linked to land degradation
  - Neutrality and the three Rio conventions / other SDGs

➔ Challenge : to consider **socioeconomics as a target for neutrality implementation**

LDN processes?
Integrated land planning versus private investments

- Challenges :
  - ➢ To consider socioeconomics as a neutrality target
  - ➢ 2 separate views to be investigated / reconciled

- Local land planning and monitoring to enhance ecosystem and environmental services through time : duration of local planning, local capacities & participation (SPI, 2016 ; ICON SLM, 2015)
- Private sector investment for neutrality (Mirova report, 2016) :
  - ➢ the role of local level in the decision (cf agribusiness case of Senegal)
  - ➢ Local impacts pre evaluation : trade off ecological and socioeconomics objectives, local shared benefits, sustainability

A private investor's point of view

- Who are the investors? They can be many… (international firms, national investors, individuals through bonds etc.)
- Challenges and local socio economic benefits (Mirova report, 2016) :
  - many uncertainties & risks :
  - Long-term investment : peaceful local situation required through time ; lack of knowledge and experience from such investment
  - Clarified land tenure and right as pre requisite for investing
  - Public private partnership needed to secure the invesments
  - Local green employment opportunity

The role of local level in the decision regarding LDN implementation

➔ Why is this a major issue?

- Local Benefits / challenges of LDN :
  - Land use and tenure clarification /security for small holders
  - Increased local capacities of natural resources management and assessment (evaluation)
  - Local people commitment and environmental awareness
  - Knowledge of local planning tools and processes
  - Green employment : to support the most vulnerable

➔ Shared decision : local contribution to national / global decision to be defined.

Green employment for the most vulnerable who have high capacities – innovation & knowledge

➔ Opportunity : neutrality as a tool

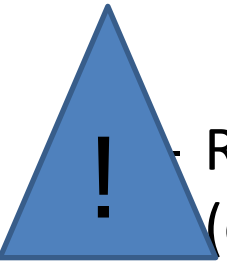
- A tool for them to improve their well-being
- To make them access to human development (education, health services) through neutrality implementation

➔ Risk :

- Those who produce for these firms …
- … Are not those who decide on the investors' land use ; on the provisional services to be produced – local food security?
- Stockholders far away can make the decision on this land use according to their future profit
- We know this is not necessarily sustainability / human development

Some questions

- What be could socio economic criteria for labelizing a cooperation project / a territory neutral (LDN)?
  - Institutional? Organisational? ➔ process of implementation / scale and decision / GOVERNANCE
  - What kind of evaluation? Integration of SOCIAL PERFORMANCE criteria and evaluation next to economic and environment performance = evaluation of whole neutrality results
  - Risk = Bio-physical neutrality and socio economic compensation (cf Avoid –Reduce – Offset sequence / projects)



To see neutrality as a tool to bridge the gap with social SDGs

➔ For example, women and youth : to make neutrality an efficient tool for promoting their empowerment.

➔ Some questions coming from DNI ICON SLM Hamburg meeting (2016)

- What is the potential for LDN to generate employment opportunities, enhance livelihoods and stem migration from rural areas?
- What roles might be played by women, young people and other groups with latent potential in achieving LDN, whilst supporting thriving rural communities?

Questions and recommandation

- Investors and smallholders : How could the LDN fund bridge the gap in a equitable way?

- To better investigate the land tenure issue as a LDN impact :

  - to have a look from agribusiness perspective & experience ;

  - land inequality is the core of economic and social inequalities in many parts of the world.

Recommandations

- To promote an enabling institutional environment : Need for decision process & Benefits sharing at community level to enhance the social acceptability of LDN actions

- Specific Research need : To have on board financial scientists dedicated to environmental analysis in order to better understand the social and land tenure impacts of neutrality financial products (markets for neutrality)

Interlinkages with two other SGDs goals

- Global / local & challenges / scales : 2 examples

- Food security :
  - Large scale modelling of production trends / international markets ;
  - territorial food security : participatory local reflections / mitigation and adaptation

- Adaptation :
  - Need for contextualization ➔ local level emphasis for designing appropriate action / building adaptation capacities.

➔ A real need for socioeconomic insights on neutrality

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THANK YOU

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