

JANUARY 2023

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the **first GEO-LDN newsletter of 2023**. Every three months you will be able to follow **activities, events and news from GEO-LDN** and its partners. You will also find links to our social media and our new website: interact with us and get more information about the GEO-LDN Flagship and how you can contribute! The January newsletter will introduce the GEO-LDN Secretariat, inform about the main events in 2022 and show the main outcomes of the year. We are very proud of these initial results and look forward to getting even closer to our goals in 2023. Thank you to everyone who collaborated with the GEO-LDN Flagship. We hope to further strengthen our exchanges so **please don't hesitate to get in touch**.



Photographer:  
Gregoire Dubois  
(Source)

**OUR NEW WEBSITE  
IS LIVE! VISIT US:**

[www.geo-ldn.org](http://www.geo-ldn.org)

## GEO-LDN support project and GEO-LDN Secretariat

GEO-LDN received a much-deserved support through the new Global Project Data for Development for Land Degradation Neutrality (D4D4LDN), hosted at [GIZ](#) and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development ([BMZ](#)). The project established a GEO-LDN Secretariat ([About Us](#)) and focuses on three key aspects, the Federated Toolbox, Capacity Development and Stakeholder Engagement. It will also look at ways to catalyze Integrated Land Use Planning and develop use cases, workflows, and host global forums ultimately in the effort of reaching SDG target 15.3. With the overarching belief that healthy land correlates with healthy people, the GEO-LDN Secretariat seeks out partnerships to provide land use planners and other UNCCD stakeholders with tools and capacities to achieve this target. GEO-LDN hopes to create scalable and replicable digitalized solutions that result in massive transformations not only for Land, but also Biodiversity, Climate, Disasters Risk Reduction and Natural Resources.

## 2022 highlights

### **GEO-LDN support project and GEO-LDN Secretariat**

[Know more >>>](#)

### **Our main events**

[Know more >>>](#)

### **And what about our main outcomes in 2022?**

[Know more >>>](#)

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## OUR MAIN EVENTS

### UNCCD COP 15: 'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity'

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9-20 May 2022

GEO-LDN was represented through multiple side events at COP15, including the GIZ event "Evidence-based decision making for Life on Land – Scenarios for Integrated Land Use Planning" and the Science Day session "What We Measure We Can Manage Better". GEO-LDN is in seven official COP15 documents concerning decisions and outreach, forming part of the basis for the UNCCD Parties' negotiations. These include [decisions 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 20 and 27/COP 15](#). The UNCCD commits to continued cooperation with GEO-LDN concerning land-based progress indicators and their gaps and improving the policy relevance of earth observation (EO) data, tools, and methods in relation to SDG and UNCCD reporting.

### [ESA Living Planet](#)

Bonn, Germany, 23-27 May 2022

GEO-LDN contributed through a session on LDN, moderated by Antje Hecheltjen (GEO-LDN/GIZ) and Marc Paganini (ESA) and featured presentations by Barron Orr (UNCCD), Inge Jonckheere (FAO), Ingrid Teich (FAO/WOCAT), Eva Ivits (EEA), Federico Gianoli (UNIPD), Michael Cherlet (JRC) and Neil Sims (GEO-LDN). The [session](#) introduced the context of GEO-LDN and dived into the data collaboration side, encompassing the development of EO data capacities and mainstreaming EO national research programmes and policy processes on land degradation.

At the Open Forum "SDGs: midway to 2030", Sara Minelli (UNCCD) spoke about challenges and opportunities for EO integration in national systems and processes.

### **GEO-LDN Principals' Meeting 2022: taking stock of the progress of the Flagship and defining the path ahead**

Bonn, Germany, 30-31 May and 1-2 June 2022

In the last two days of May 2022, the principals of the GEO-LDN Flagship (representing the Leadership, Steering Committee, and Secretariat) met in Bonn to review the status and outline next steps for the Flagship (then referred to as the GEO-LDN Initiative). This involved creating a roadmap of activities and milestones, defining stakeholders, and discussing the governance of the Flagship. The workshop was immediately followed by an in-depth planning of Working Group 1 (Capacity Development) activities, including bilateral discussions with potential partners, on 1st and 2nd June, at the GIZ Campus in Bonn. (Image Source: GEO-LDN Archives)



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## OUR MAIN EVENTS

### **GEO Week 2022: Global Action for Local Impact**

**Accra, Ghana, 31 October and 1-4 November 2022**

Prior to the official start of [GEO Week](#), we hosted a 2-day training to capacitate stakeholders on tools for Land Use Planning and the importance of LDN. During GEO Week itself the flagship status of the previously known as GEO-LDN Initiative was announced due to the extensive work and effort executed by its members in previous years. Furthermore, the co-lead of working group 3 on Data Analytics, Neil Sims won an Individual Excellence Award on behalf of his support in using GEO analytics towards land targets. The Leads Group also hosted a side event on Land Degradation Neutrality, its importance to achieving all SDGs and how GEO-LDN can support such initiatives. Barron Orr, UNCCD's Lead Scientist and supporter of GEO-LDN also spoke of the Flagship and the synergies between LDN and Nature Based Solutions on a Panel Discussion elaborating the importance of integrated solutions and increased cooperation. (Image Source: GEO-LDN Archives)



## And what about our main outcomes in 2022?

### **Capacity Development**

#### **Training in Accra: Perspectives on LDN – monitoring and beyond by UENR and GEO-LDN**

Taking the opportunity of the GEO Week 2022 to conduct a two-day international workshop in Accra under the theme “Earth Degradation Neutrality (LDN)”.

[Read more](#) about it in our website.

#### **UNER to host international postgraduate programmes on Land Degradation Neutrality**

The GEO-LDN Secretariat strongly supports and closely engages with the international LDN postgraduate programme hosted at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) in Ghana.

[Read more](#) about it in our website.

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## And what about our main outcomes in 2022?

### Capacity Development

#### **Planned: E-learning course on land cover by FAO/UNCCD/GEO**

The course will help understanding why land cover is a critical variable for SDG 15.3.1 and SDG 15.4.2.

[Read more](#) about it in our website.

### Federated Approach

#### **The LDN Toolbox**

In 2022, the concepts of a federated approach in data analytics and data standards further moved towards the implementation in form of a “LDN Toolbox”. The joint discussions during the Principals Meeting as well as the Report “The Contribution of Integrated Land Use Planning and Integrated Landscape Management to Implementing Land Degradation Neutrality” by the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface were important contributions to the mapping of existing tools to the cyclic processes of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and Land Use Planning (ILUP), which can now be accessed through the GEO-LDN website.

In 2023, further development of the LDN Toolbox is going to benefit from the experiences gained through designing use cases (including workflows of data and tools) with Land-use Planners in first countries in Africa.

#### **Links:**

Explore the [LDN Toolbox](#) on the GEO-LDN website.

Read the [UNCCD SPI Report](#).

### Stakeholder Engagement

#### **S4ILUP Workshop Series: Bringing together global experts to achieve Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP)**

14-15 and 23 November 2022 (online)

The Scenarios for Integrated Land Use Planning (S4ILUP) workshops focused on Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) and were led by [ELD](#) and GEO-LDN along with partners from [UNCCD](#), [FAO](#) and [WOCAT](#). They brought together Land Use Planners across various sectors from Land, Biodiversity, Climate Change and more as well as data and tool providers, the scientific community and research groups. The goal was for Land Use Planners to exchange knowledge in the first workshop, and the data/tool providers and science/research community in the second. Ultimately the third workshop brought all participants together

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## And what about our main outcomes in 2022?

### Stakeholder Engagement

to find key challenges and explore solutions to implement and optimize ILUP. One of the primary outcomes of the Workshop was a [LinkedIn group](#) for these communities working on Land Use Planning to continue knowledge exchange. Further evaluations and parallel projects being executed by partner organizations will also be included in the documentation of S4ILUP and shared online. We encourage anyone working on projects and initiatives with relevant synergies to reach out to collaborate on future projects such as the upcoming Global Forum!

#### Link:

Know more about the **S4ILUP Workshop Series** on the [FDTA website](#). Do you work with ILUP? Join our [Global Network](#) in LinkedIn.

## ABOUT US

### The GEO-LDN Secretariat

The GEO-LDN Secretariat provides administrative and technical support to the Flagship and the activities of the Working Groups. Their work includes the running of day-to-day operations, weekly meetings with the Leadership, and regular discussions with the broader membership. The Secretariat are based in the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and are funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

### Meet the team:



**Antje Hecheltjen**  
Lead



**Lena Moral Waldmeier**  
Stakeholder Engagement



**Bernd Eversmann**  
Earth Observation



**Jonas Hansohm**  
Secretary



**Mark Grasy**  
Capacity Development



**Najwa Aldokr**  
Administration and Finances



**Fernanda Lessa Ribeiro**  
Intern

Contact the GEO-LDN Flagship at [info@geo-ldn.org](mailto:info@geo-ldn.org) or the GEO-LDN Secretariat at [geo-ldn@giz.de](mailto:geo-ldn@giz.de) if you would like to receive updates from GEO-LDN via our mailing list and/or engage in any of our activities.