

APRIL 2024

WELCOME!

Welcome to the **first GEO-LDN newsletter of 2024**. Here you will be able to follow all the **activities, events and news from GEO-LDN** and our partners. You can also find links to our social media and website in the footer below: connect with us to find out more about the GEO-LDN Flagship as well as how you can contribute! The current issue will provide a review of our work in 2023 and present an overview of the key activities in the first quarter of 2024. We are also very pleased to **announce that the Open Call for the Dialogue Forum on Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)** has been published online. Apply now to join us in the Pacific's and/or catch up with us at the highly anticipated UNCCD COP16 in Saudi Arabia at the end of the year. **Make sure to stay tuned for the latest updates from the GEO-LDN Flagship!**



Image source: GEO-LDN Archive

GEO-LDN made steady progress in 2023

GEO-LDN had a fruitful year of 2023 with remarkable progress made in each of our three key aspects of work; capacity development, the federated approach/toolbox and working with stakeholders/countries. The year came to a rewarding end with the successful conclusion of the Global Dialogue Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, where 14 intersectoral country teams came together to present their use case/challenges to reaching LDN targets and developed corresponding roadmaps for the following year. The event also focused on peer-to-peer exchange, reporting on and monitoring of SDG indicator 15.3.1 and recommendations for GEO-LDN and the UNCCD.

As the Flagship enters another year, we will be following up on this work with our partners and carefully curated events and activities for our different stakeholders. In the next section, you will be able to take a closer look at the work we have done so far in 2024.

Highlights

- **Main Events from Spring 2024**
[Know more >>>](#)
- **New e-learning course online**
[Know more >>>](#)
- **Dialogue Forum for PSIDS – Open Call**
[Know more >>>](#)

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Main Events

UNCCD Workshop for Phase II of LDN Target Setting Program (TSP 2.0)

Doha, Qatar, February 20-22, 2024

GEO-LDN was represented at the Global Training workshop on 'Strengthening land restoration targets and commitments', which brought together stakeholders from each of the 18 countries chosen for the 2nd round of the Target Setting Program (TSP 2.0). The goal of this program is to support countries **making Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets timebound and spatially explicit.**

Click [here](#) to learn more!

1st Online Support Session launches

Online, March 19, 2024

On March 19, 2024, we held the first **Online Support Session with the intersectoral team as part of our support to parties of the convention.** This is part of what GEO-LDN offers to carry on and over the momentum of our successful Global Dialogue Forum in 2023, where 14 intersectoral countries teams gathered to present their use cases and develop roadmaps and for advancing their LDN targets through the use of Earth Observations. **Our main objective is to support partner countries with access to and the use of geodata, tools and algorithms for evidence-based decision making to achieve or exceed LDN.** [Read more...](#)

GEO-LDN Online Seminars [#7](#) & [#8](#) available on our website

Online, every 4- 6 week

The seminars in Feb on **minimum quality standards** and in April on **SEPAL module 15.3.1** are now available for watching [here](#).

ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration

Rome, Italy, March 6-7, 2024

GEO-LDN contributed to the ESA Symposium in Frascati, Italy from March 6 to 7. The two-day event included interesting discussions on the **usability of Earth Observations for soil protection** and restoration, and evaluation of the Soil Organic Carbon Monitoring System by WORLDSOILS. Of great importance were the **ways to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality** and **reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 15.3.1** which includes **the capacity of satellite remote sensing for monitoring and verifying specific soil components.** [Read more...](#)

GEO-LDN Principals' Meeting 2024: Celebrate the progress and co-create the way forward

Bonn, Germany, March 11-12, 2024



Credit: Mark Grasy
Image source: GEO-LDN Archive

On the 11th and 12th of March 2024, we held a Principals Meeting representing the Leadership, Steering Committee, and Secretariat in Bonn to review the status as well as outline the next steps for the Flagship. The two-day workshop brought together dedicated members from different institutions worldwide, [find out more...](#)

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Latest News

New e-learning course jointly developed by FAO, UNCCD & GEO-LDN goes online

The e-learning course '[Using land-cover information to monitor progress on Sustainable Development Goal 15](#)' is now available in English on the FAO eLearning Academy.

Jointly developed by FAO, UNCCD and GEO-LDN, the course aims to provide a deeper understanding of land-cover data and its use for monitoring SDG indicator 15.3.1. Click [here](#) to take the course and earn the certification and digital badge upon completion!



GEO-LDN Dialogue Forum For Pacific Small Developing States 2024

OPEN CALL

Closing date: 30 June 2024
at 23:59 (CEST)

Open Call – GEO-LDN Dialogue Forum for Pacific Small Island Developing States 2024

GEO-LDN has begun a 2nd Open Call for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to join its network and Dialogue Forum in the fourth quarter of 2024. SIDS are not only extremely vulnerable to pressures for climate change but also face unique challenges in the use of earth observation data and geospatial technologies. We look forward to collaborating with organisations and country representations in areas such as Integrated Land Use Planning. Applications are open until **June 30, 2024**. Find out more [here!](#)

About Us

The **GEO Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship (GEO-LDN)** is a stakeholder-driven initiative that was launched in 2018 during the [Group on Earth Observations Week](#) in Kyoto, Japan, responding to a request by the UNCCD's [Conference of the Parties](#) (COP13). It brings together Earth observation data providers and governments to develop minimum data quality standards, analytical tools and capacity building needed to strengthen land degradation monitoring and reporting, using remote sensing and data collected on site.

GEO-LDN helps governments to access the necessary datasets and tools to prioritize interventions, monitor outcomes to manage land better and to report on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.3.1 ([Decision 9/COP.13](#)).

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