

Leveraging Rio Synergies Key Findings from Rwanda

Webinar „How to build synergies between the three Rio Conventions“

Session 1: Inter-linkages of the Rio Conventions and integrated planning of national strategies and policies

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Content

- The ELD Initiative
- Rio Synergies rationale
- Key findings from ELD study in Rwanda



Unsplash / Ivan Bandura

The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative

Global initiative set up in 2011 by



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



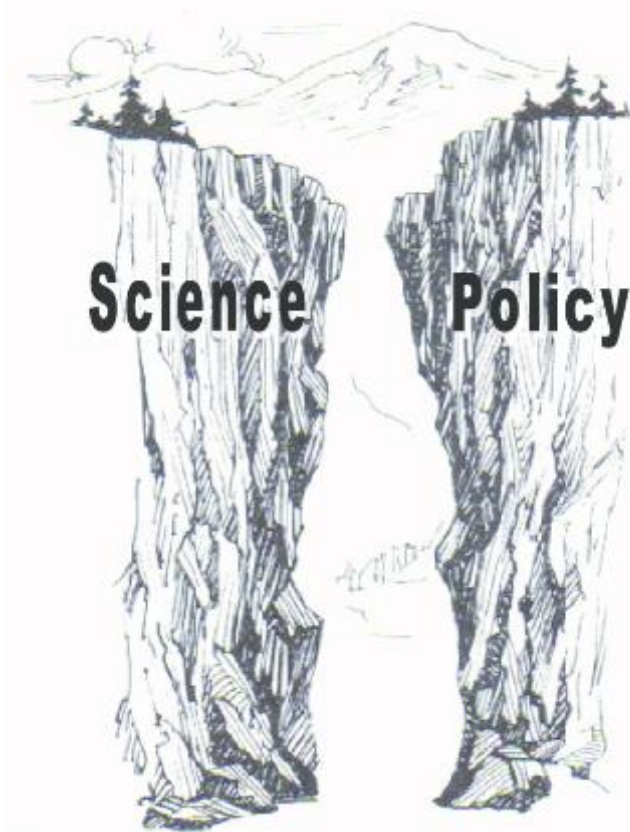
ELD Secretariat hosted by



- ELD Working Group
- ELD Partner Network

Mission:

- make the **values of land count in decisions.**
- provide **economic evidence and true costs and benefits of land degradation and sustainable land management.**
- inform, promote, and scale land solutions for **transformative change.**



Need to increase investments in nature

THE BIG NATURE TURNAROUND

Repurposing \$7 trillion to combat nature loss

NEGATIVE

Almost \$7trillion
per year

PRIVATE

\$5trillion
per year

140x bigger
than private finance
to nature-based
solutions

5% of global GDP

PUBLIC

\$1.7trillion
per year

10x more
than public finance for
nature-based solutions

55% increase
from 2021

POSITIVE

\$200billion
per year invested in nature-based solutions

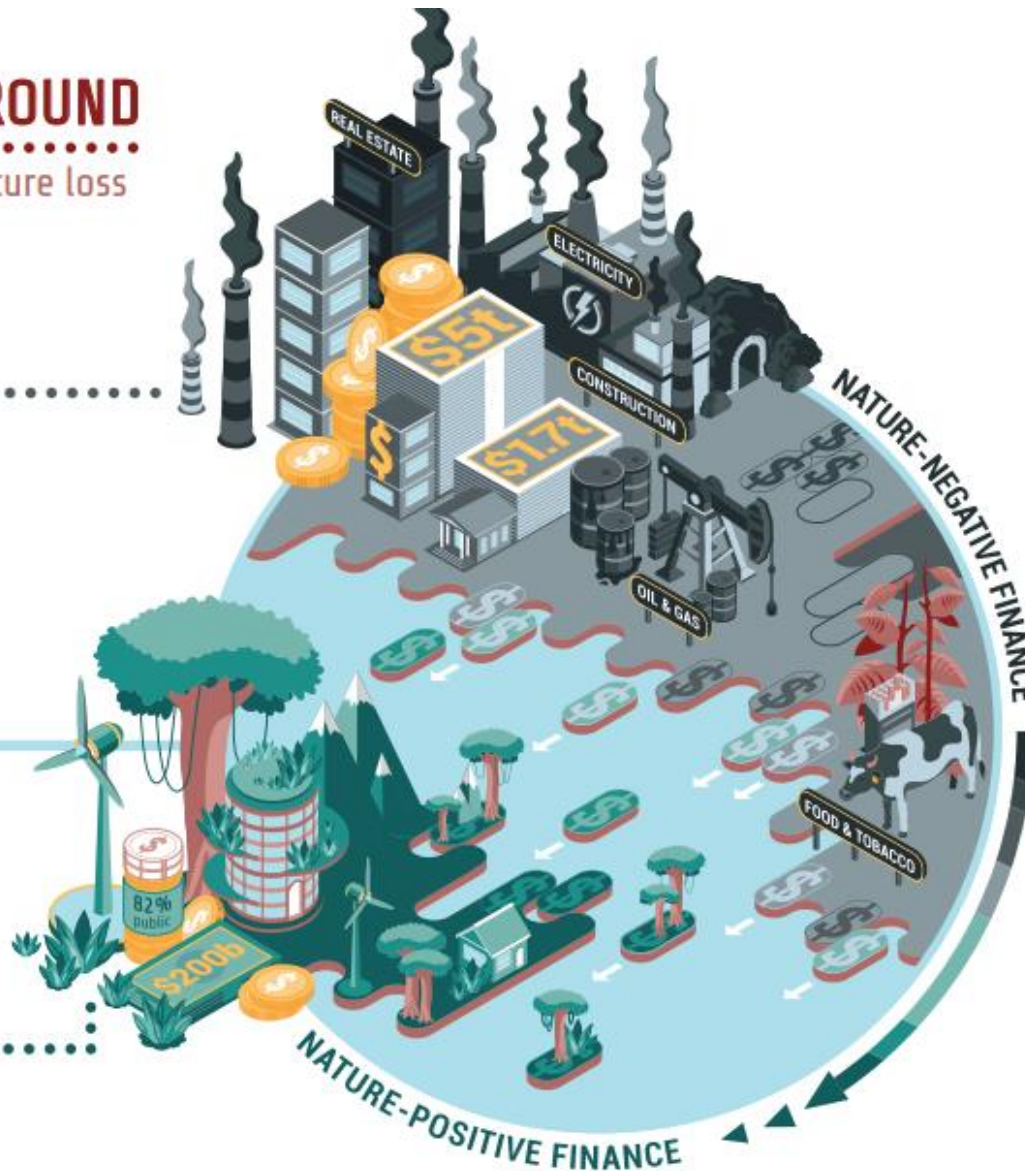
Needs to triple
to \$542billion by 2030

PRIVATE

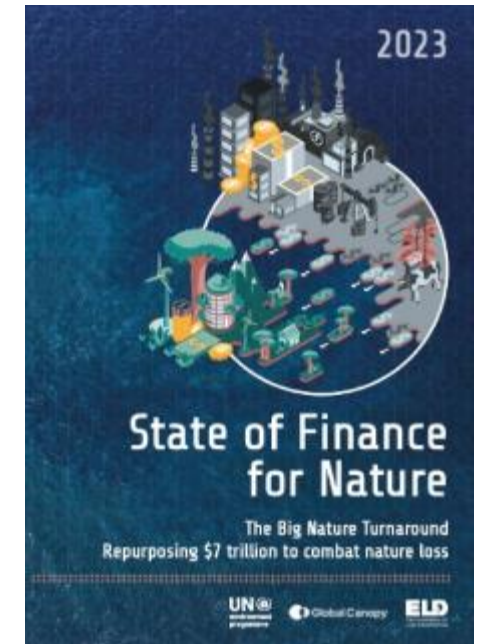
\$35billion
per year = 18%

PUBLIC

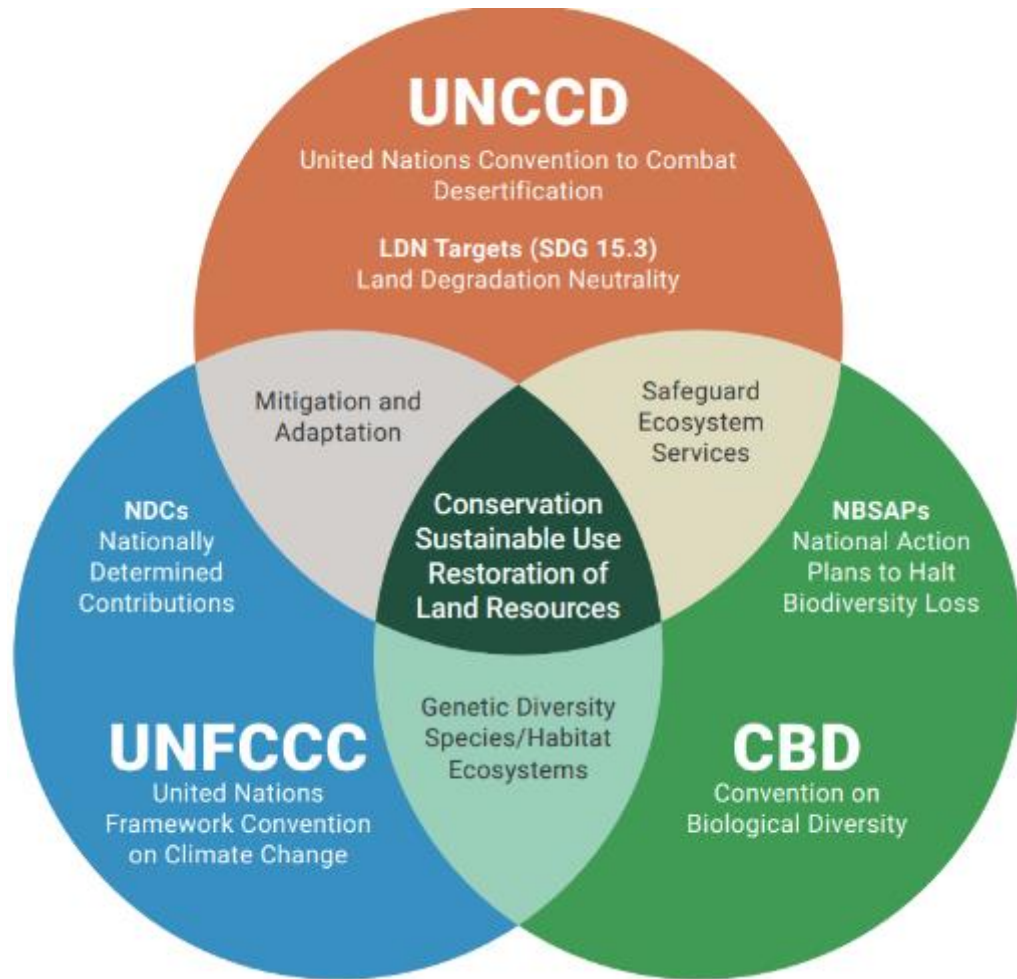
\$165 billion
per year = 82%



To achieve the goals of the three Rio Conventions, investments in nature-based solutions need to **triple by 2030** and even **quadruple by 2050**.



"Land" as common denominator of Rio targets



Source: Global Land Outlook 2, UNCCD (2022)

- **Common objectives of Rio Conventions**
- Land is **at the heart of CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC action agendas**, as well as many other global initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge.
- Land restoration is a **multifaceted solution** for land degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and food insecurity and malnutrition

→ Potential for **significant synergies from integrated implementation agendas of land-biodiversity-climate action.**

Cooperation of ELD with Rio Secretariats for synergies

- Feb 2022: **Request from Conventions to ELD** to analyse economic potentials for synergies on the basis of country examples
- May 2022: **UNCCD COP 15**: Kick-off Rwanda study with Rio Secretariats
- Dec 2022: **CBD COP 15**: Interim results
- June 2023: **UNFCCC SB58**: final study results
- Nov 2023: **UNCCD CRIC**: Launch of study report /kick-off ELD study in Central Asia

- ⇒ Great interest in findings in Rio Secretariats
- ⇒ Political ownership in Rwanda at agriculture minister level
- ⇒ Countries / NFP highly interested
- ⇒ Important: political communication and valorisation of findings



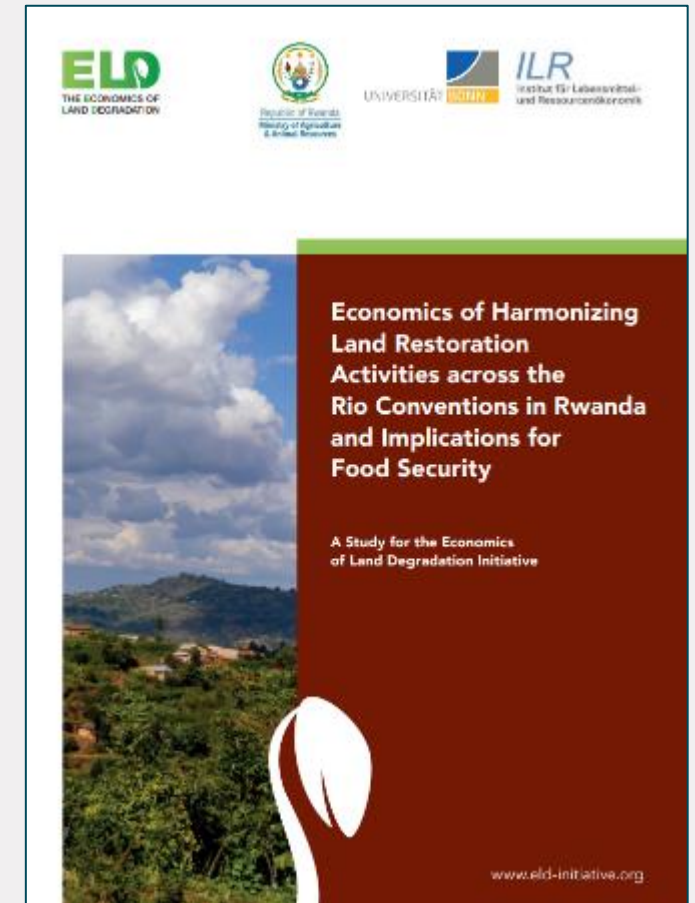
ELD Study on Rio Synergies in Rwanda

Aim and objective:

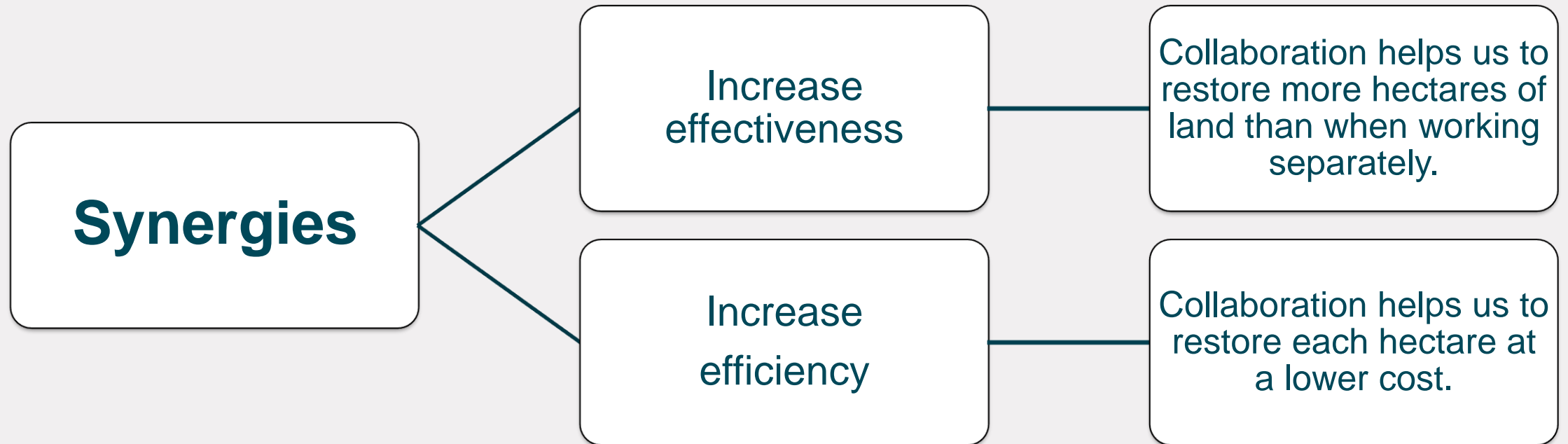
- Evaluate **economic costs of siloed programming** and implementation at **country level**
- Versus social, environmental and economic **benefits of joint programming and implementation of LDN targets, NDC and NBSAP**, with special focus on **land restoration** targets.

Research questions:

- Extent and **costs of land degradation** in Rwanda
- Total **financing needs** for restoring degraded lands in Rwanda
- **Degraded locations with highest returns** for land restoration investments
- **Costs** related to current **segmented approach** to land restoration **versus the costs and benefits** of nationally **coordinated** planning and implementation
- **Policy implications/recommendations** towards land restoration and sustainable land management



What are synergies and tradeoffs?



Tradeoffs: promotion of one objective may result in negative impacts on other objectives.

Rwanda's land restoration area targets in hectares

Land management categories	LDN	NBSAP	NDC	Bonn Challenge
Increase forest land	105,352	*		
Expand agroforestry	158,028			
Restore degraded land	269,500	*		2,000,000
Crop rotation			600,000	
Terracing and anti-soil erosion	461,115		165,000	
Multi-cropping			40,000	
Biodiversity conservation	75,481	*		
Total	1,069,476		805,000	2,000,000

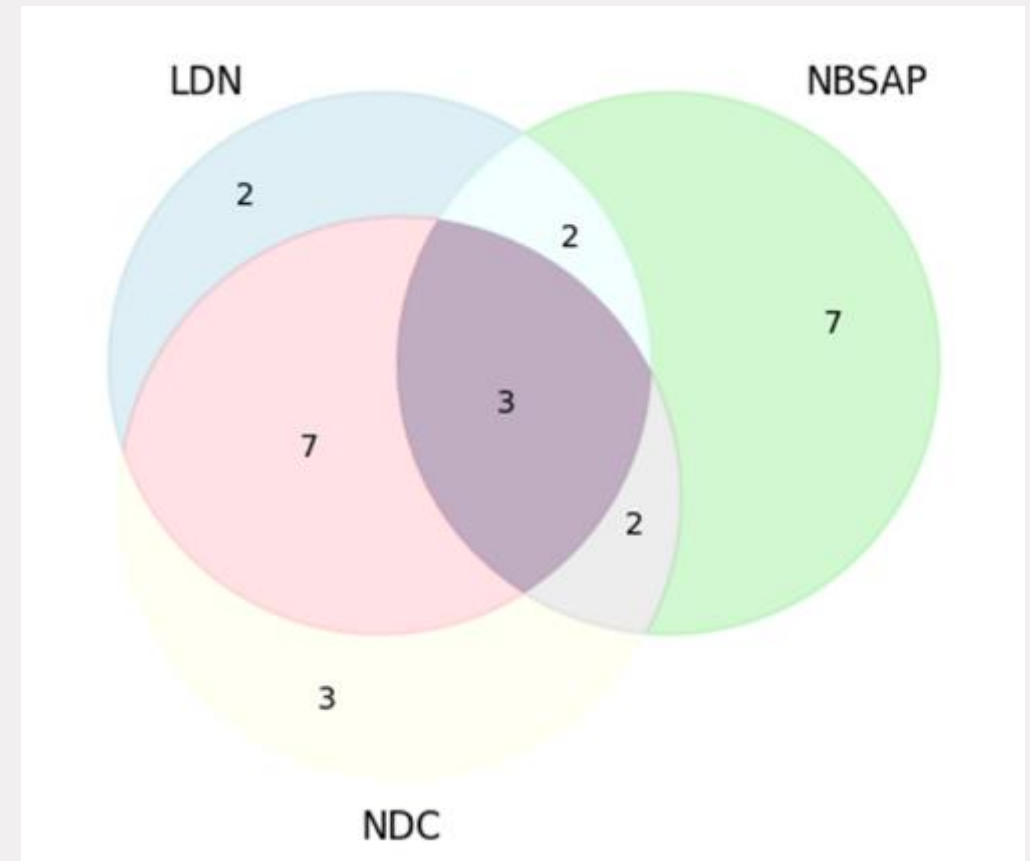
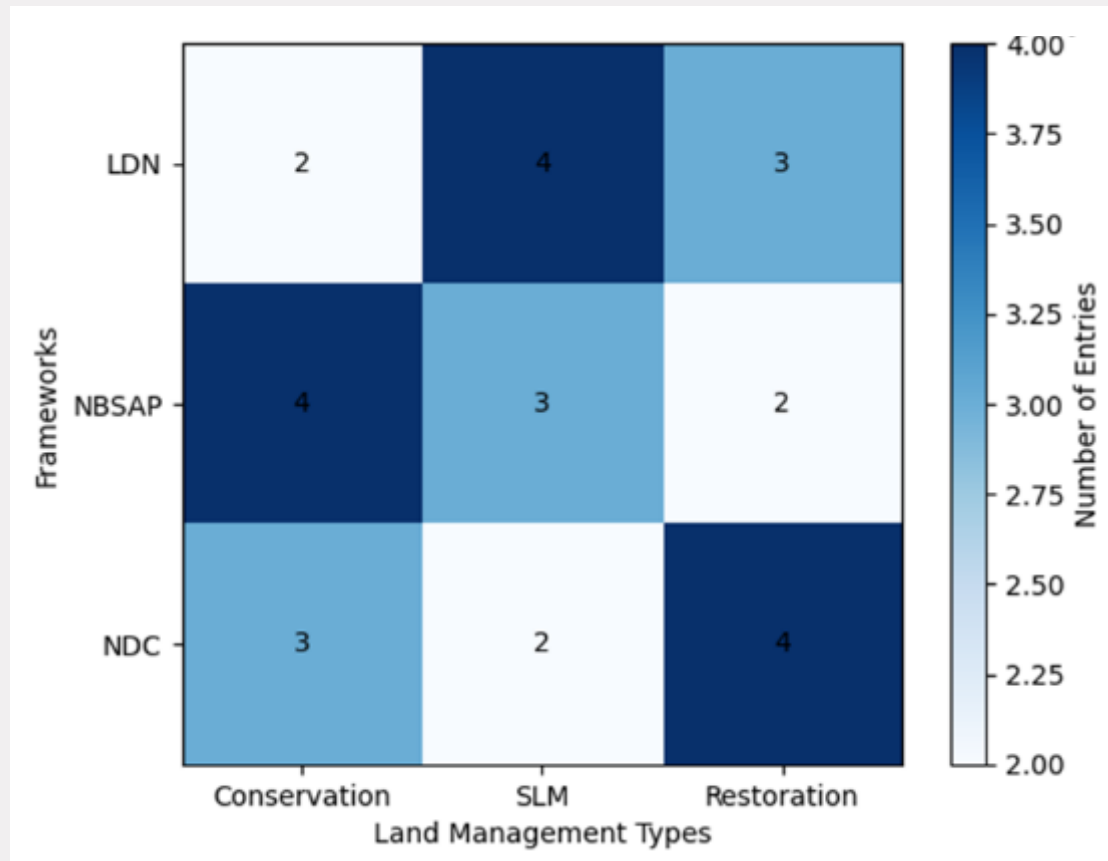
Total area of commitments:
3.87 million ha

Total area of Rwanda:
2.6 million ha

* NBSAP: “at least 10.3 per cent of national territory holding biodiversity and ecosystem services is protected”, ...

Sources: Rwanda’s NDC, LDN, and NBSAP documents, IUCN

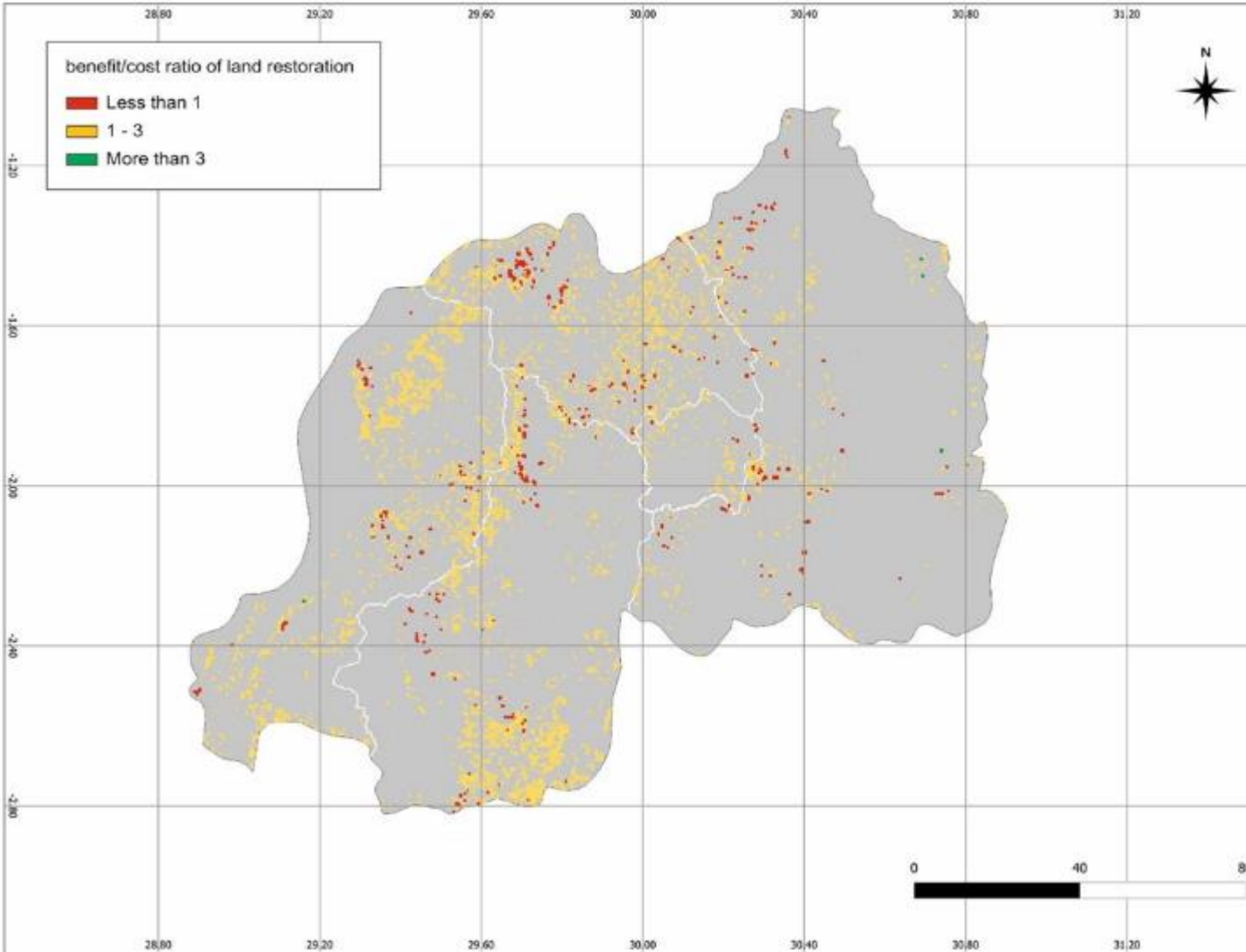
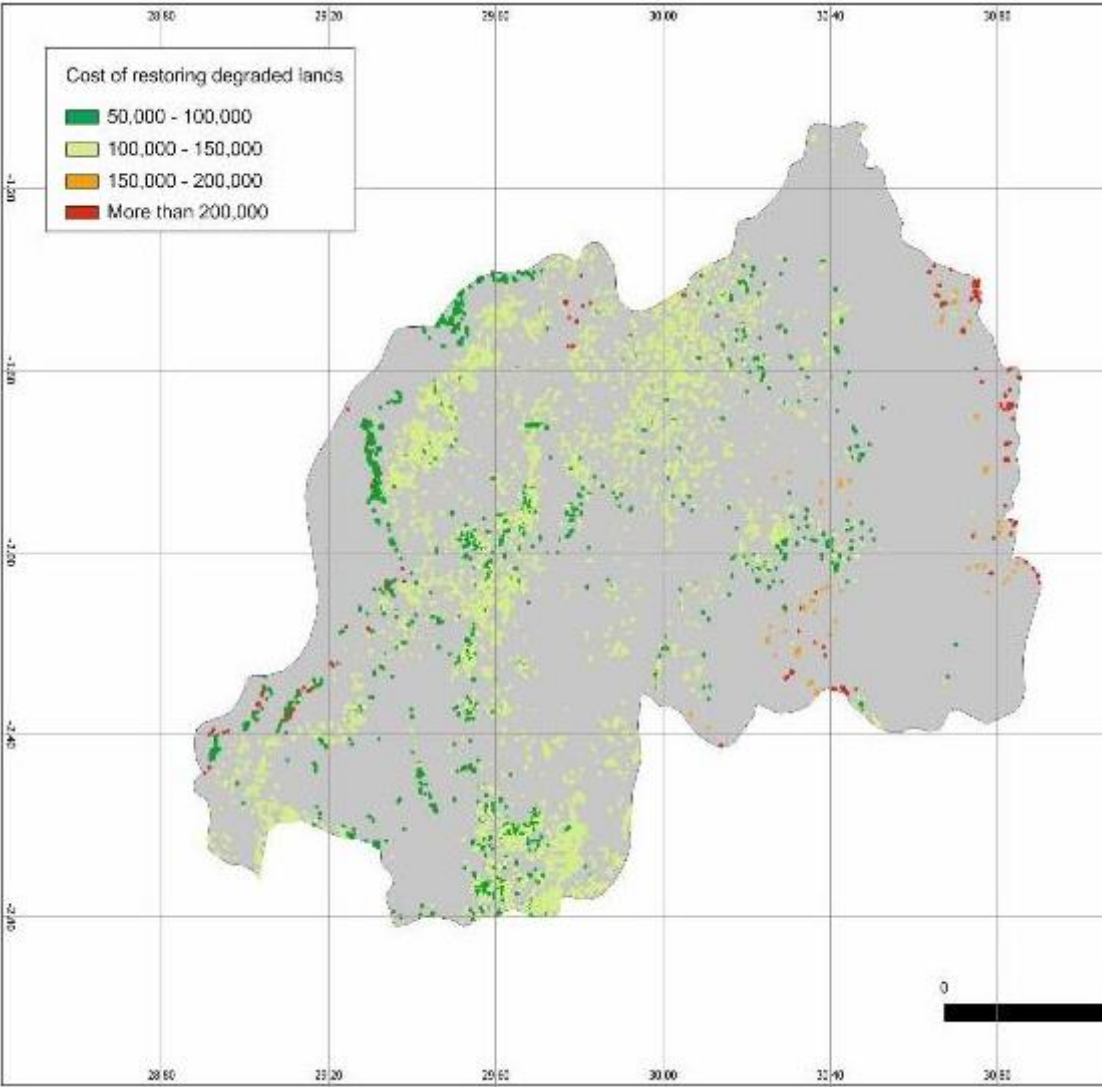
Overlaps between Rio Conventions in Rwanda



Note: The numbers represent land-focused targets pursued by NDC, LDN, and NBSAP in Rwanda.

Costs and benefits of restoring degraded lands

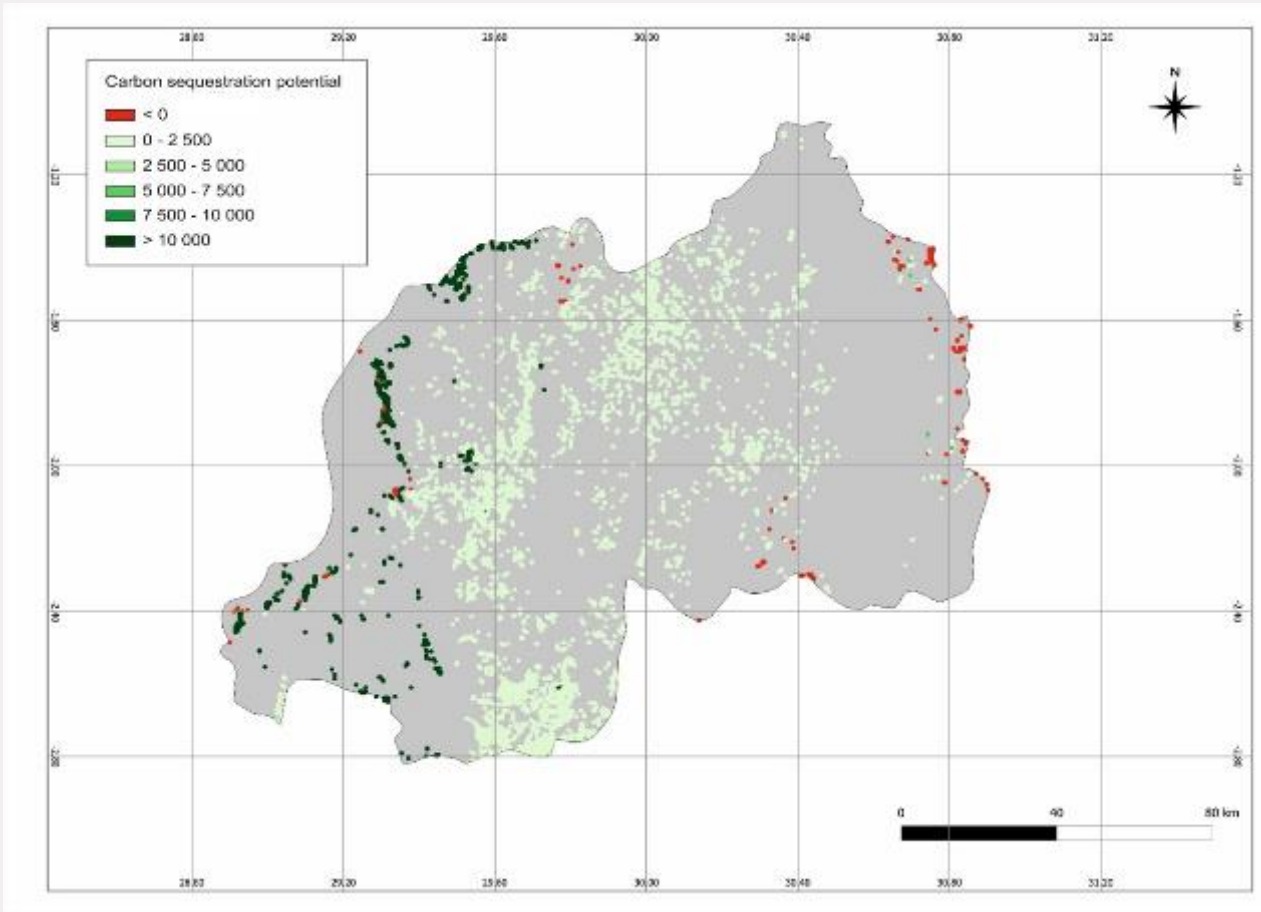
Annual investments of about 300 million USD needed for conservation, SLM, land restoration until 2030.



In US dollars, Period: 2020-2050



Carbon sequestration potential



Ecosystem to be restored	Gain in above ground biomass carbon after restoration (millions of tons)	Gain in below ground biomass carbon after restoration (millions of tons)	Total carbon gain (millions of tons)
Evergreen broadleaf forest	6.4	1.2	7.6
Wetlands	-0.02	0.03	0.01
Agroforestry systems	4.8	1.1	5.9
Total	11.1	2.4	13.5

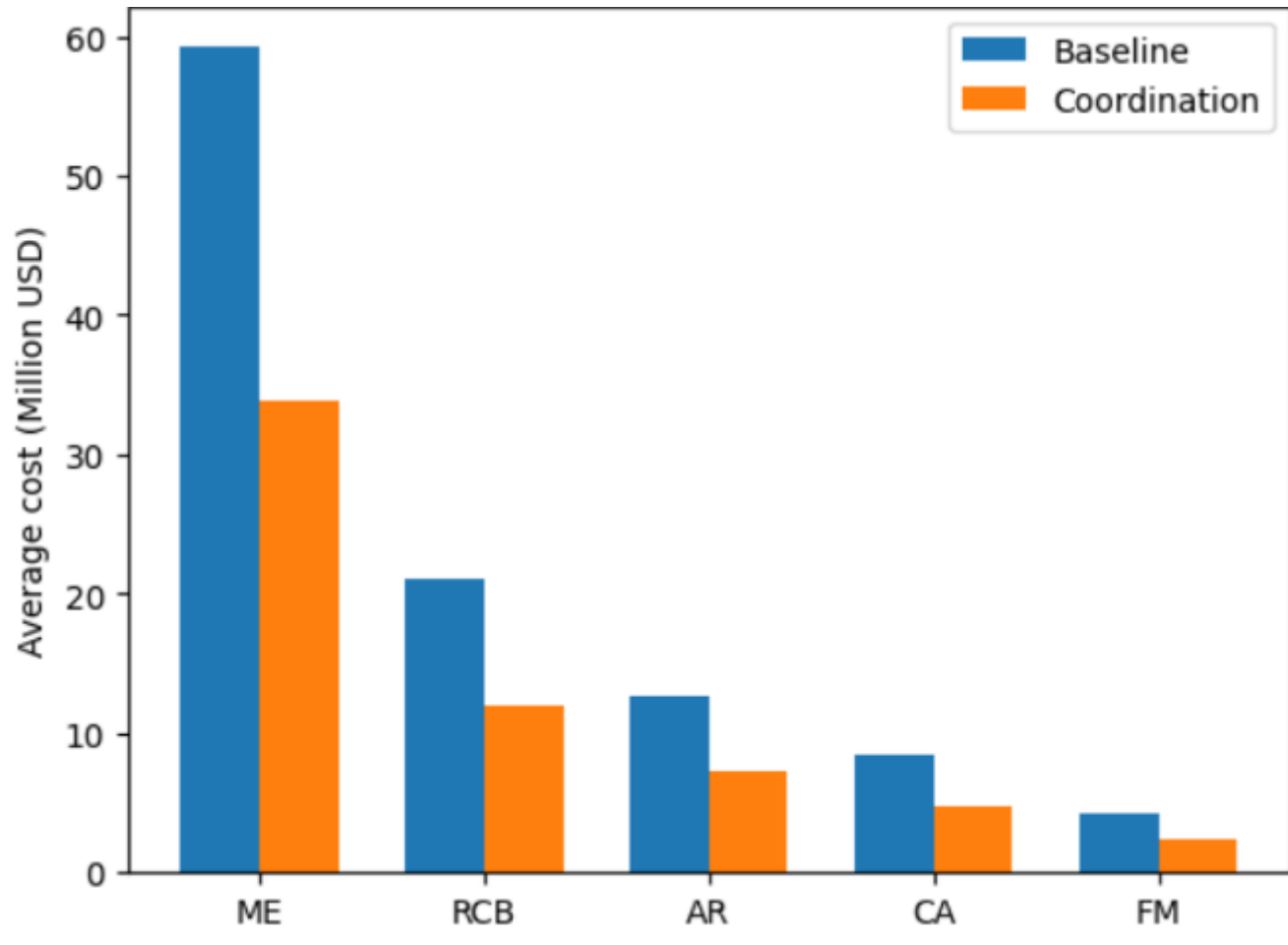
Scenarios for reduced transaction costs through coordination

Coordinated vs. separate implementation of land targets under the three Rio Conventions (in millions of US dollars) until 2030.

Scenarios for synergy collaboration	Annual transaction costs when Rio Conventions' land restoration activities implemented in coordination	Annual transaction costs when Rio Conventions' land restoration activities implemented separately	Total annual gains from collaboration in Rwanda
Scenario 1 A joint inter-agency working group for land restoration, including the process for joint designing of land restoration (CA)	4.77	8.46	3.69
Scenario 2 An information exchange platform and website for land restoration, awareness raising and advocacy activities (AR)	7.19	12.69	5.5
Scenario 3 A joint monitoring and evaluation system for land restoration (ME)	33.82	59.20	25.38
Scenario 4 Joint funding mobilization for land restoration (FM)	2.41	4.23	1.82
Scenario 5 Joint research and capacity building for land restoration (RCB)	11.94	21.14	9.2
Total of all scenarios	60.13	105.72	45.59

5 mechanisms for synergies

Coordinated action on LDN, NBSAP, and NDC targets in Rwanda



Monitoring and Evaluation

Research and capacity building

Awareness raising

Administrative coordination

Funding mobilization

- > Coordinated implementation can
 - help avoid inherent tradeoffs
 - **save about 45.6 million US dollars per year (15%)** compared to activities carried out separately
 - **reduce transaction costs** of land restoration by almost **56%** in Rwanda.

Note: averages of 10,000 modelling simulations

Leveraging Synergies: Rwanda key findings



- > NDC, LDN, and NBSAP processes in Rwanda overlapping and mutually complementary.
- > Implementing without coordination lower effectiveness and efficiency of achieving of targets.
- > Harmonise the institutional set up
- > Efficiency gains from coordinated action arise through:
 1. **Joint inter-agency working group**
 2. **Information exchange platform** to enhance communication and accessibility to data
 3. Joint and **coherent monitoring and evaluation system** facilitates timely information sharing
 4. **Joint planning and fund mobilization** to streamline land restoration efforts
 5. Engaging in **joint research** to promote skill and data sharing and to optimize resource utilization

Ongoing study process:

Leveraging Synergies from integrative land-biodiversity-climate action for improving monitoring, reporting, and investments into sustainable agri-food system transformations in Central Asia

conducted in partnership between



[GIZ Regional Programme for Integrative and Climate-sensitive Land Use in Central Asia \(ILUCA\)](#)

- Synergies: Economic comparison of segmented vs. coordinated land restoration at **national and regional level** with focus on
 - **Investment case** for integrated land-biodiversity-climate action
 - Improving/building **MRV** systems (hotspot map)
- **Uzbekistan deep-dive**: policy and institutional measures for implementing synergies
 - **inform policy making, monitoring and investment decisions**

UNCCD CRIC (11/2023)
Kick-off Study process in Central Asia

Launch at UNCCD COP 16 (12/2024 - tbc)

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Desertification



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