

Elements of context

The diversity of life is declining globally at a rate unprecedented in human history, according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Approximately 1 million living species are threatened and the erosion of populations is occurring at a rate 100 to 1,000 times greater than previous extinction processes.

IPBES considers the combat against land degradation as a priority to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services fundamental to all life on Earth in relation to the objectives of sustainable development. In drylands, this would not only secure the future of ecosystems, but also the sustainable development of human societies that depend on them closely.

The 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt a new post-2020 global framework for biodiversity as a first step towards 2050 for “living in harmony with the nature”. The three Rio Conventions deal with global environmental issues that are of fundamental concern: climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification. Anthropogenic activities are central to the Conventions, both for the impacts they generate and the solutions they can provide. Loss of biological diversity, climate change and desertification are interdependent according to the [CSFD \(French Scientific Committee on Desertification\)](#), with the corollary that the implementation of solutions can sometimes produce tensions and contradictions: for example, the construction of a hydroelectric dam to reduce the use of fossil fuels can have negative impacts on the biodiversity of downstream rivers. Its sustainability will depend on measures to combat desertification upstream.

Combating desertification and biodiversity

According to the UNCCD, soil degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of the world's land surface, and up to \$577 billion in annual global crops are at risk from the loss of pollinators.

Three quarters of the terrestrial environment has been significantly modified by human activities. The average abundance of native species in most major terrestrial habitats has declined by at least 20%, mostly since 1900. Soil degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of the world's land surface, and the loss of pollinators threatens \$577 billion in annual global crops.

According to the UNCCD, land-use change is the main direct cause of biodiversity loss, with the greatest relative global impact. As habitat loss is the main driver of species extinction worldwide, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of habitats and ecosystems are recognized as the most effective way to protect existing target species.

There are also new tools promoted by the UNCCD, CBD and IUCN, such as “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs), which refer to a geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed so as to achieve long-term positive and sustainable outcomes for in situ biodiversity conservation, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where appropriate, locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other values.

Working on biodiversity at a national workshop Désertif'actions 2022

Question to be addressed: To what extent can agroecology be considered as a relevant solution to the loss of biological diversity?

Learn more about Biodiversity :

- [The CBD website](#)
- [The IUCN website](#)
- [The IPBES website](#)