

# **THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION ITS IMPLICATIONS AND BENEFITS TO UGANDA**

**RIO Multi-lateral Environment Agreements and National  
Frameworks in Uganda**

*achievements, lessons, best practices and emerging issues*

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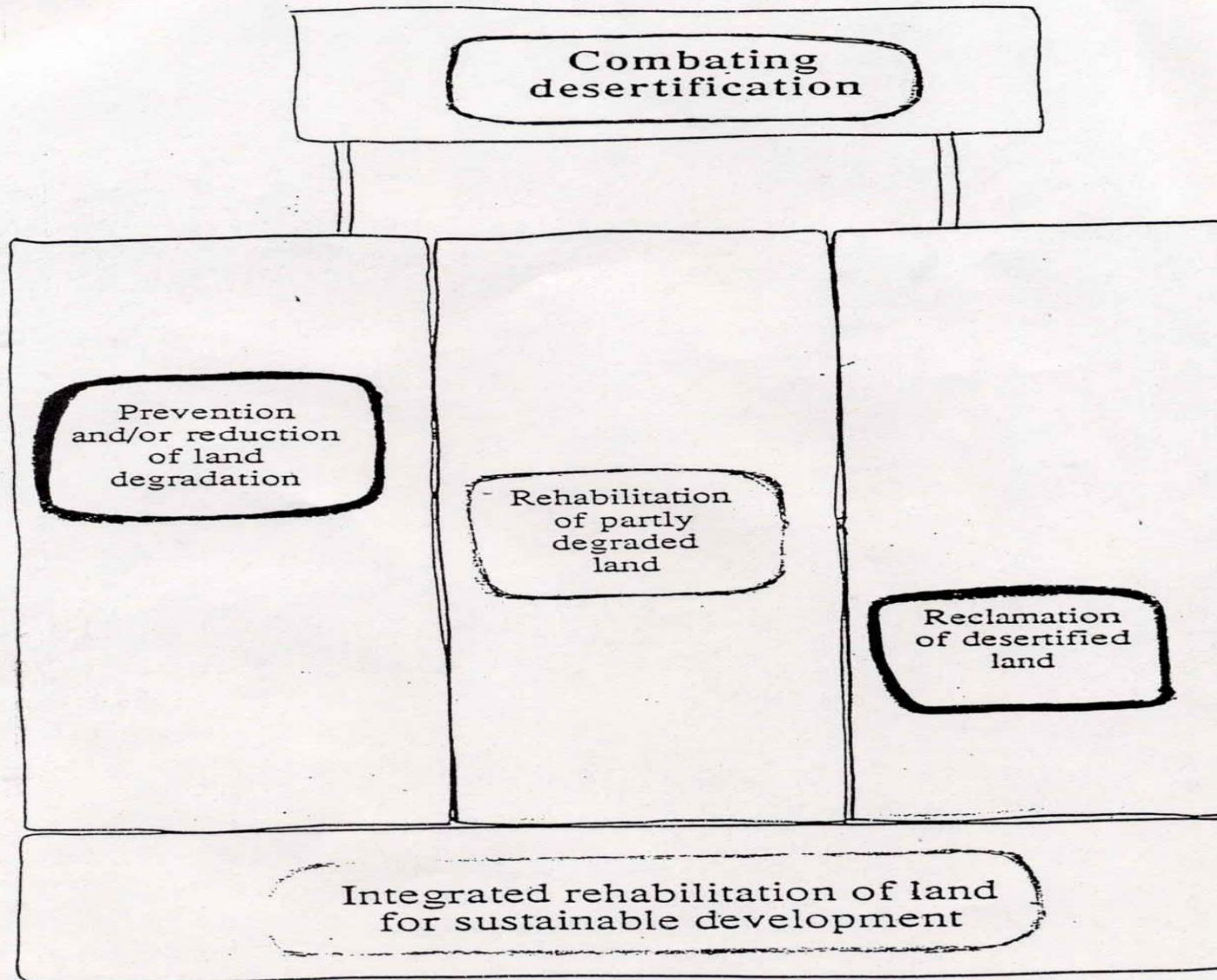
# What are the objectives of the UNCCD?

The objective of the UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, so as to achieve sustainable development.

# What exactly is Desertification?

“Desertification” as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities;

Land degradation” as reduction or loss, of the productivity and complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or processes, such as; soil erosion, deterioration of soil properties and loss of natural vegetation.



What is involved in combating desertification ?

# Some of the practices leading to Land Degradation in Uganda

- Inappropriate agricultural practices such as non-application of soil and water conservation measures
- Cultivation along riverbanks leads to siltation and may lead to floods.
- Overgrazing on rangelands leaving soil exposed to erosion.
- Indiscriminate felling of trees for wood fuel, construction and other uses causes loss of vegetative cover and windbreaks that protect the land from erosion.
- Inappropriate land use such as conversion of fragile lands under forests, game reserves and wetlands to other uses e.g. settlements and farmland.
- Uncontrolled burning of vegetation predisposing the soil to erosion.
- Over-cultivation of land leading to depletion of soil fertility.

# Obligations of Affected Country Parties:

- Give due priority to combating desertification and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities;
- Establish strategies and priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- Address the underlying causes of desertification and the socio-economic factors contributing to desertification processes;
- Promote awareness and participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of Non-Governmental Organizations; and
- Strengthen existing legislation and enact new laws as well as put in place policies and action programs.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

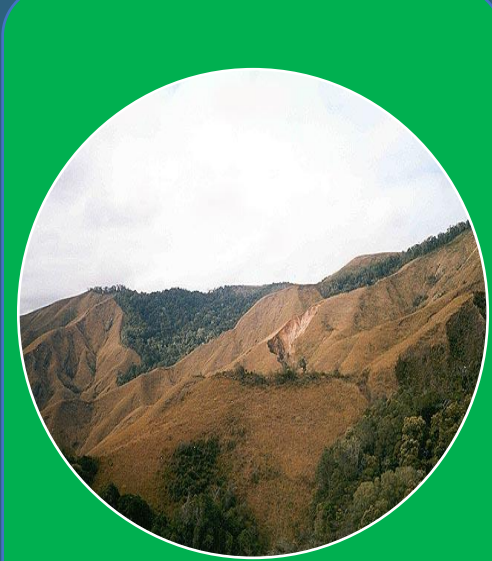
# Measures to implement the UNCCD in Uganda

- National Action Program to Combat Desertification 2000
- Road Map for NAP implementation and Resource Mobilization
- Integrated Dryland Development Program
- Mainstreaming of the NAP into Development Frameworks
- Integration of Drylands issues into District Environment Action Plan and District Development Plans
- National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) of Multilateral Environment Agreements



# SLM Strategic Investment Framework

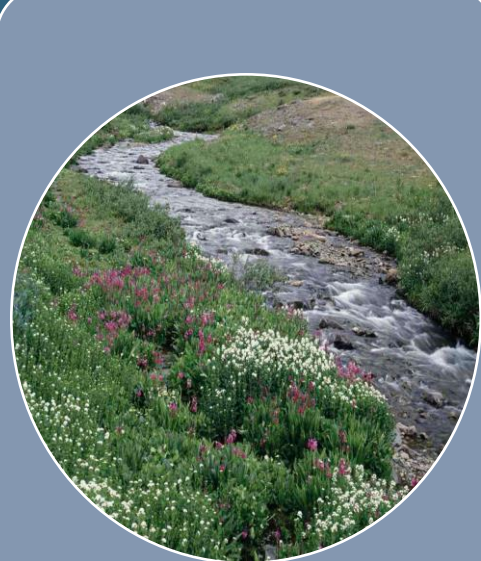
- Formulation of the Uganda Sustainable Land Management Strategic Investment Framework (2010 – 2020)
- commissioned by the Government of Uganda with direct support from key TerrAfrica partners including NEPAD, UNDP, FAO, UNCCD-GM, and the World Bank and the GEF



**MAAIF  
SIP**



**MTIC  
SIP**



**MWE  
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**MEMD  
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**MLHUD  
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**SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK**

is a tool to allow National SLM Committees to coordinate SLM activities as a portfolio.

# Land Degradation Neutrality

- Land degradation neutrality (LDN)
  - “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 ecosystems”.
- LDN achievement is monitored using land based indicators

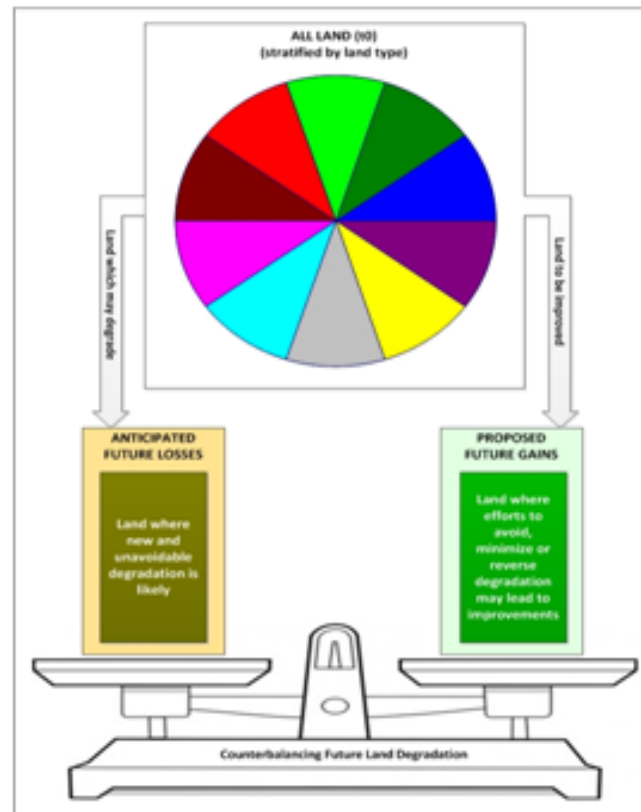
# LDN Concept

## UNCCD and land degradation

LDN = Balancing challenges and opportunities

### Challenges

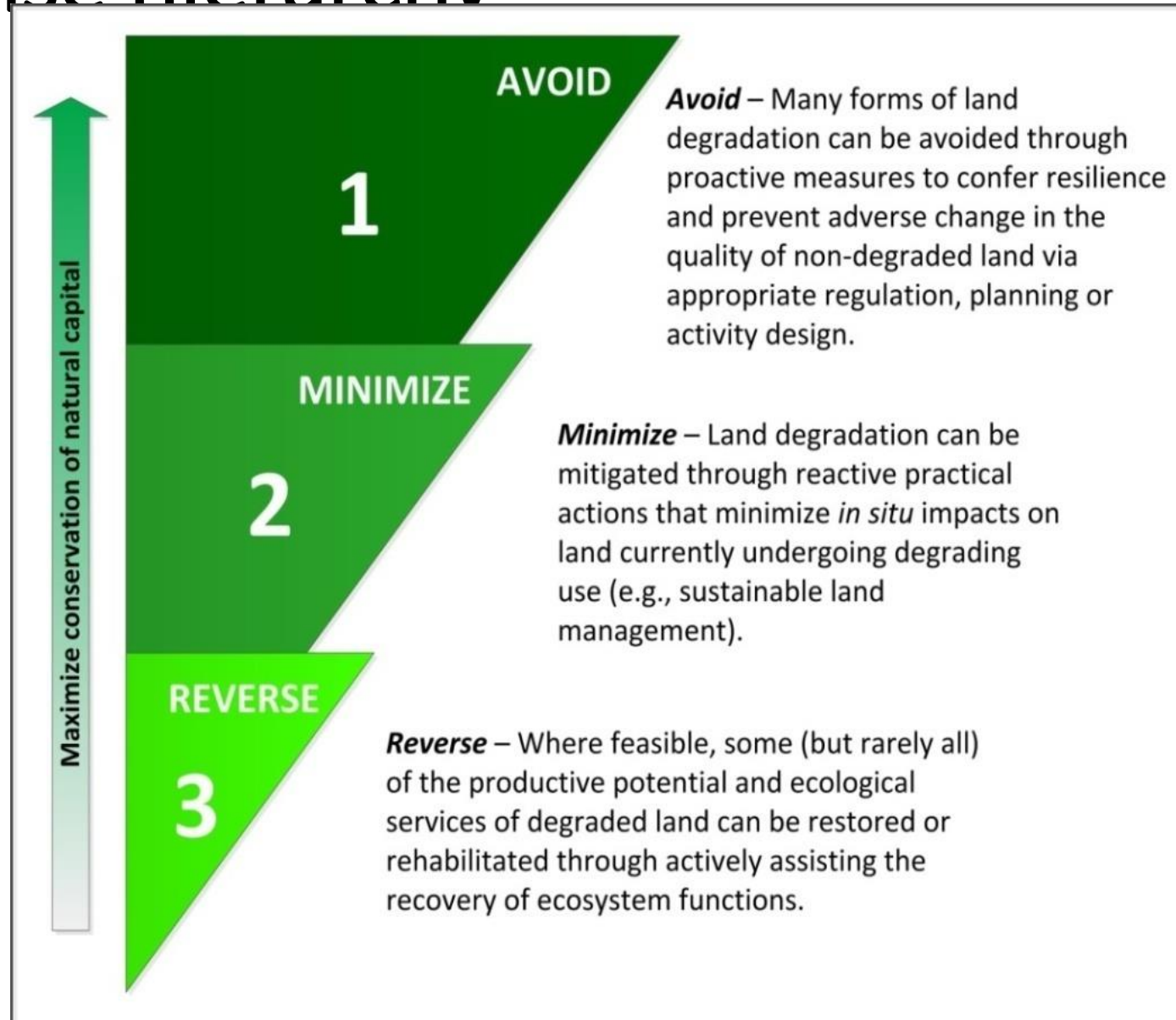
- Land degradation
- “Losses”



### Opportunities

- Avoidance
- Minimisation
- Rehabilitation
- Restoration
- “Gains”

# LDN response hierarchy



# *LDN Targets at the national scale*

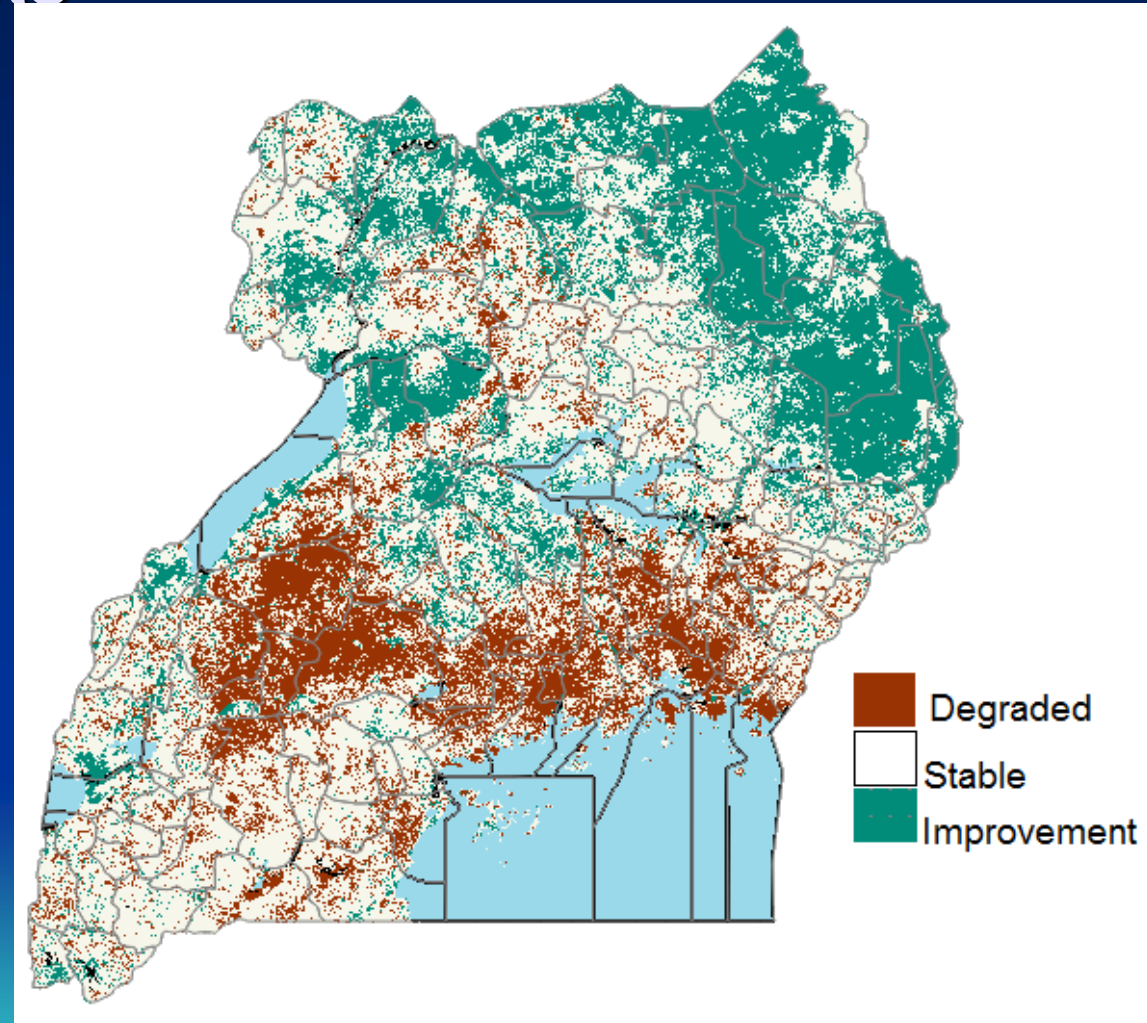
- i. Land Degradation Neutral Uganda in 2030 compared to baseline (or 2015) i.e. LDN achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss)
- ii. 21% tree/forest cover by 2030 (in line with Vision 2040 & NDC)
- iii. 12 % wetland cover by 2030 (in line with Vision 2040 & NDC)
- iv. Areas of declining/stressed land productivity reduced by 50% by 2030
- v. Level of SOC at county level by 2030 maintained or improved compared to baseline



# Proportion of degraded land based on default Global Datasets

Proportion of degraded land (SDG 15.3.1)

	Area (sq km)	% area
Total land area:	204,548.3	100.0
Improved:	81,738.7	40.0
Stable:	76,166.5	37.0
Degraded:	43,991.9	21.5%



# BEST PRACTICES





A photograph of two women standing in a field of green plants. The woman on the left is wearing a patterned top and a colorful skirt, and a green headwrap. The woman on the right is wearing a yellow and black top and a white skirt. They are looking at the plants. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky.

## Some of the strategies underpinning success of the project

**Minimum 50% women participation** in all knowledge management activities

**Putting emphasis on farmer to farmer learning initiatives and Trainers of Trainers** as a key approaches to scaling up of SLM /CSA technologies /practices.

**Use of schools to reach out to the youths** and the wider community

**Value Chain Approach** especially the integration of post harvest technologies, bulking and agro-processing reduce losses and increase profit.

**Support transformation of farmers groups into viable economic organisations** (Producer Cooperatives)

**Integrate use of ICT to access extension , weather and marketing information**

**Link farmers organisation to private sector** (input, services and marketing) firms

# District SLM Task Force

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Chief Administrative Officer  
District Production Officers  
District Agricultural Officer  
District Natural Resource Officer  
District Environment Officer  
District Commercial Officer  
District Education Officer  
District Community Dev. Officer



Capacity of  
District Local  
Governments  
Enhanced





# Transformation from Farmer Groups to Cooperatives

Capacity Building Support for:

- Registration
- Establishment of office
- compliance with cooperative requirements
- put in place management structures and systems
- Financial Management and Book keeping
- Business Plan Development
- Produce Bulking





# SLM Technologies and Practices with targets

- Farm Plans
- Contour bunds
- Grass bunds
- Conservation Agriculture
- Agroforestry
- Watershed rehabilitation
- Woodlots
- Water harvesting
- Small scale irrigation
- Agronomic practices



# Minimum Tillage scaled up for Small, medium and large scale Farm Holdings

Permanent Planting Basins



Animal Draught Power Ripping



Tractor Ripping to Start Next Season





# Value Chain Integration: Quality produce, ease marketing and increase income

Marketing processed products

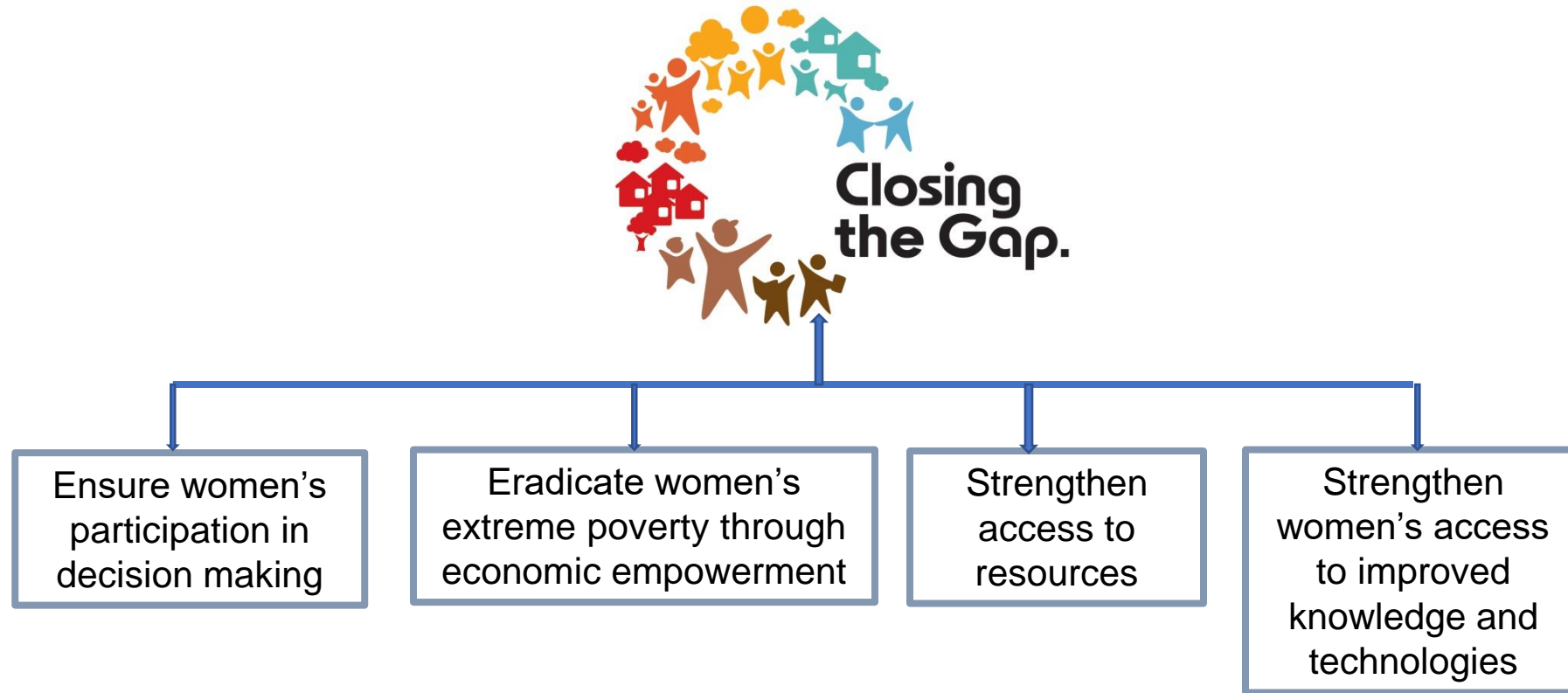
Agri-Processing equipment

Use of Vacuum Bags to improve storage



# LESSONS LEARNED

# Priorities for action: What do we do?



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



# Benefits inspiring women



- Increase in yield
- Increased resilience of crops to drought
- Improved Food security at Household Level
- Improved Household incomes
- Improved Gender equity in participation, access to productive assets and information.
- Access to Markets, credit and saving through cooperatives

Transformation of landscapes and livelihoods through scaling up CSA Practices, Strengthening farmers institutions and value chains		
Elements	2014	2019
Community organisation	Nkondo Farmers Association	Nkondo Multipurpose Rural Produce Cooperative
Approach	Group	Cooperative Organisation
No of Sub- Groups	Non	3 Saving and Credit Organisations
No of Members	27	95
Gender inclusion	25% Women	60% Women
Area of Coverage	1 Village	3 Parishes
Land Area under CSA	100 Ha	542.4 Ha
Average yield of Maize	4 bags (400kg) / Ha	15 bags (1500kg) /Ha
New economic activities integrated	Vegetable growing,	Goat rearing, Citrus growing, irrigation, Maize Mill, Tractor , Bulking produce (Maize)

# Challenges & constraints

- Inadequate funding of Natural Resources management activities;
- Adoption of some SLM technologies require a lot of money, making it unaffordable to many farmers
- Urgent need for the mechanisation
- High population growth rate and
- substantial young population
- Climate Change
- Inadequate capacity to monitor and assess land degradation

# EMERGING ISSUES

# A UNCCD COP14 decision-on Policy Advocacy on Drought

- Recognized that **droughts** are occurring **more frequently** and becoming **more common, intense, severe** and **extended** in space and time,
- Noting the objective of the Convention in Article 2 which is to combat desertification and **mitigate the effects of drought** in countries experiencing serious desertification or drought, **particularly in Africa,**
- Noted the **synergies in addressing drought** with the **other Rio conventions** as well as a number of **Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly those dealing with **land, food, water, and energy security,**

# Progress indicators for drought strategic Objective

Trends in the proportion of land that is under drought over the total land area
Trends in the proportion of the population exposed to drought of the total population
Trends in the degree of drought vulnerability

# Inter-governmental Working Group

Established an intergovernmental working group with the following **terms of reference**;

(a) to take stock of and review the existing policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response and to consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention, in the context of a wider holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems;

# Submissions

Invites Parties, international organizations, and stakeholders to make submissions on:

- (a) Policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks and implementation measures for addressing drought under the Convention: and
- (b) Barriers, challenges, opportunities and implementation measures as well as preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought;



# Regional Coordination

- The **secretariat to inform** key United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification **stakeholders** and **relevant regional organizations**, including, where appropriate, United Nations regional economic commissions, on the establishment of the intergovernmental working group **and invites their collaboration to promote regional coordination** in support of the discussions of the intergovernmental working group, taking into account their role in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;