SEEA and SDG 15.3.1
Metadata sheets

• Concepts and definitions remain as per the current SDG 15.3..1 metadata sheet

• Confirmed that a spatially explicit approach was required and that input data should be organised at at least 250m resolution grid or finer

• We worked sub-indicator by sub-indicator:
  1. Land cover change flows
  2. Land Productivity Dynamics (Default Annual Net Primary Productivity)
  3. Above and below ground carbon
Nationalize the interpretation of sub-indicators (is it degraded or not)

• Land cover change flows
  • Derived via the SEEA land cover account
  • Supported by translation tables for the UNCCD indicator and IPCC land cover classes
  • Nationally determined matrix of what is a land cover flow that represents degradation (this may need to be redefined at various subnational scales)
Nationalize the interpretation of sub-indicators (is it degraded or not)

• Land Productivity Dynamics
  • Derived via the SEEA ecosystem condition account
    • Default data is Annual Net Primary productivity
    • National applications require a consensus on where trends in ANPP represent a degradation. For example, increases in ANPP in wetland may indicate degradation through eutrophication
  • Derived via ecosystem condition account – aspirational
    • For agro-ecosystems and forestry yields would be useful to communicate on productivity dynamics
Nationalize the interpretation of sub-indicators (is it degraded or not)

• Below ground carbon
  • Derived via the SEEA ecosystem condition account
    • Tier 1 (default global SoC data and land cover data),
    • Tier 2 (enhanced with active management data from spatial land use accounts),
    • Tier 3 (supported with in-situ monitoring – e.g. LUCAS).

• Above ground biomass carbon – Carbon Account.
  • Mind the difference with LULUCF Inventory rules
Calculation on whether an area is degraded

• Follow one out all out!
• National level interpretation
• Data a grid cell – allows multiple aggregations for different accounting areas
Potential policy applications

• How to attribute land degradation (and its cost) to economic units via the SEEA CF.

• Steer policies towards internalizing these costs and design appropriate policy instruments (e.g., subsidies, taxes, restoration costs approaches to support LDN).

• Communicate on the relative land degradation footprint of different economic units, activities, product within and between countries.