



How to improve the institutional framework of responses to LEDD – The European perspective

**LEDDRA Conference
Hotel Aquino, Berlin
18 March 2014**

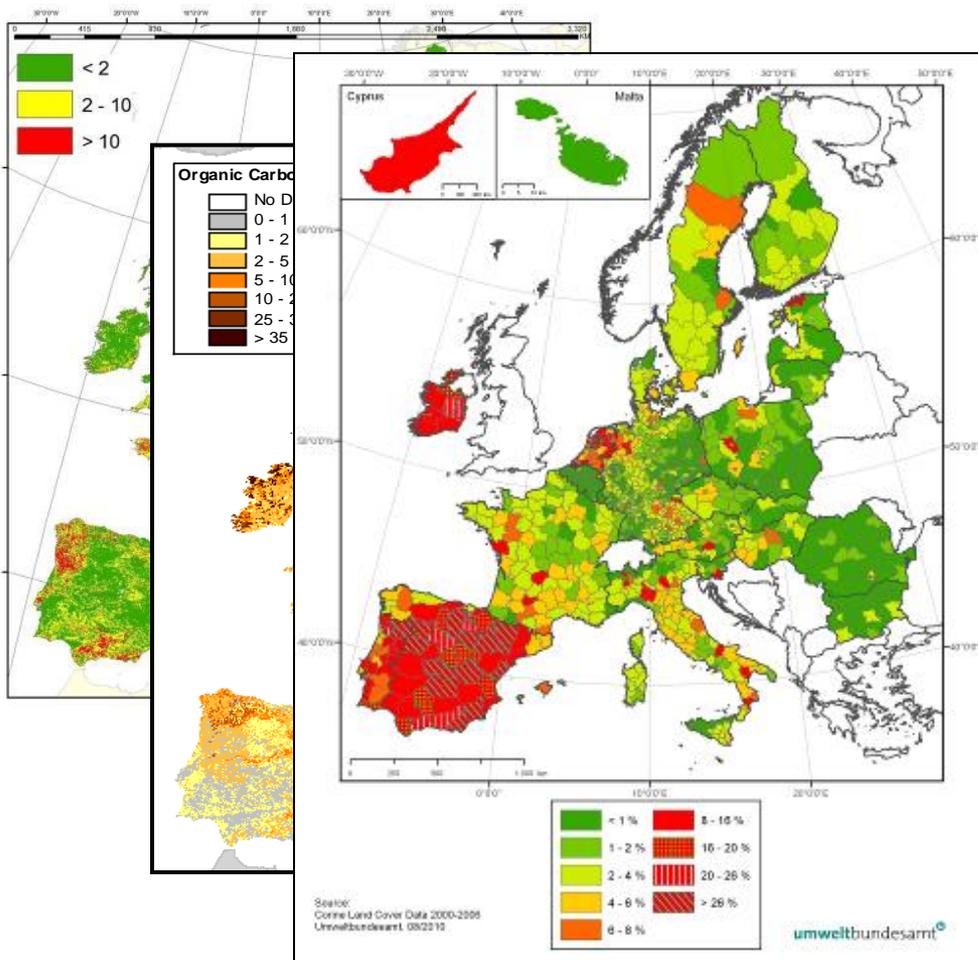
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Problem definition (1/2)

An Environmental problem

- Land is a finite resource
- The resource is shrinking:
 - **Land take: almost 1,000 km² of agriculture or natural land disappear every year in the EU**
 - **Growing share of EU land affected by degradation process (e.g. erosion, loss of organic matter) and loss of ecosystem services provision potential**
- This is a global problem:
 - **EU-driven land degradation outside the EU**
 - **Growing global land demand for settlement, food, biomass**
 - **Climate change impacts on land demand, availability, degradation...**

Land degradation in the EU



Complex phenomenon including:

- **Inappropriate agricultural intensification**
- **Soil sealing**
- **Agro-silvo-pastoral land abandonment**
- **Loss of productive land**
- **Ecosystem fragmentation**
- **Pollution**
- **Increased frequency of climatic extremes**

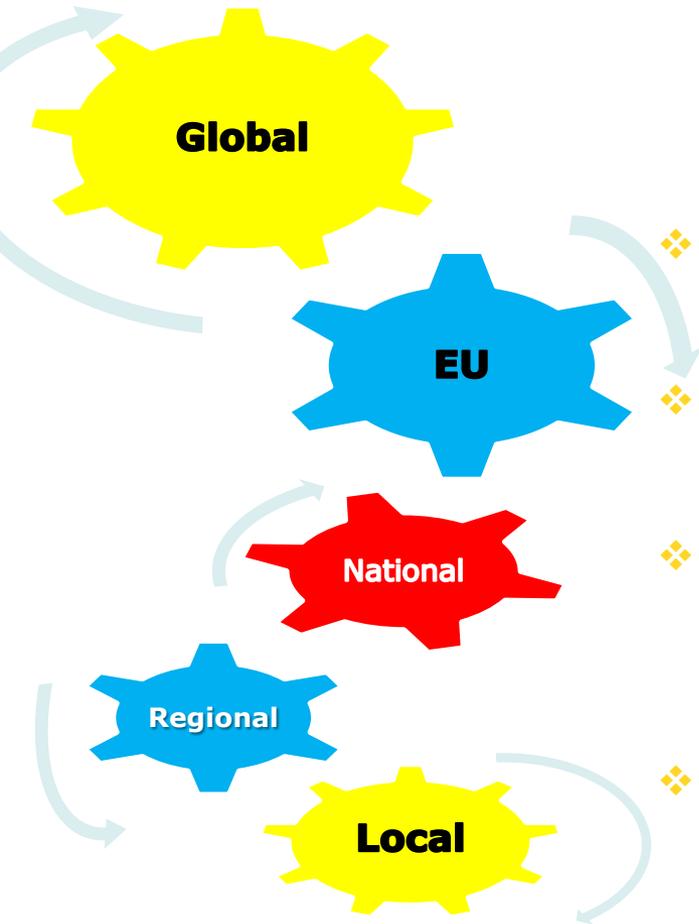
12 MSs affected by land degradation / desertification under UNCCD

Problem definition (2/2)

A policy development problem

- Lack of integration of sustainable land resource management at various levels
 - **EU policies and funding instruments**
 - **Public policies**
 - **Behaviour of land users**
- Insufficient knowledge and assessment tools
 - **Monitoring of land cover/use/management changes**
 - **Sustainable land planning tools**

Subsidiarity concerns

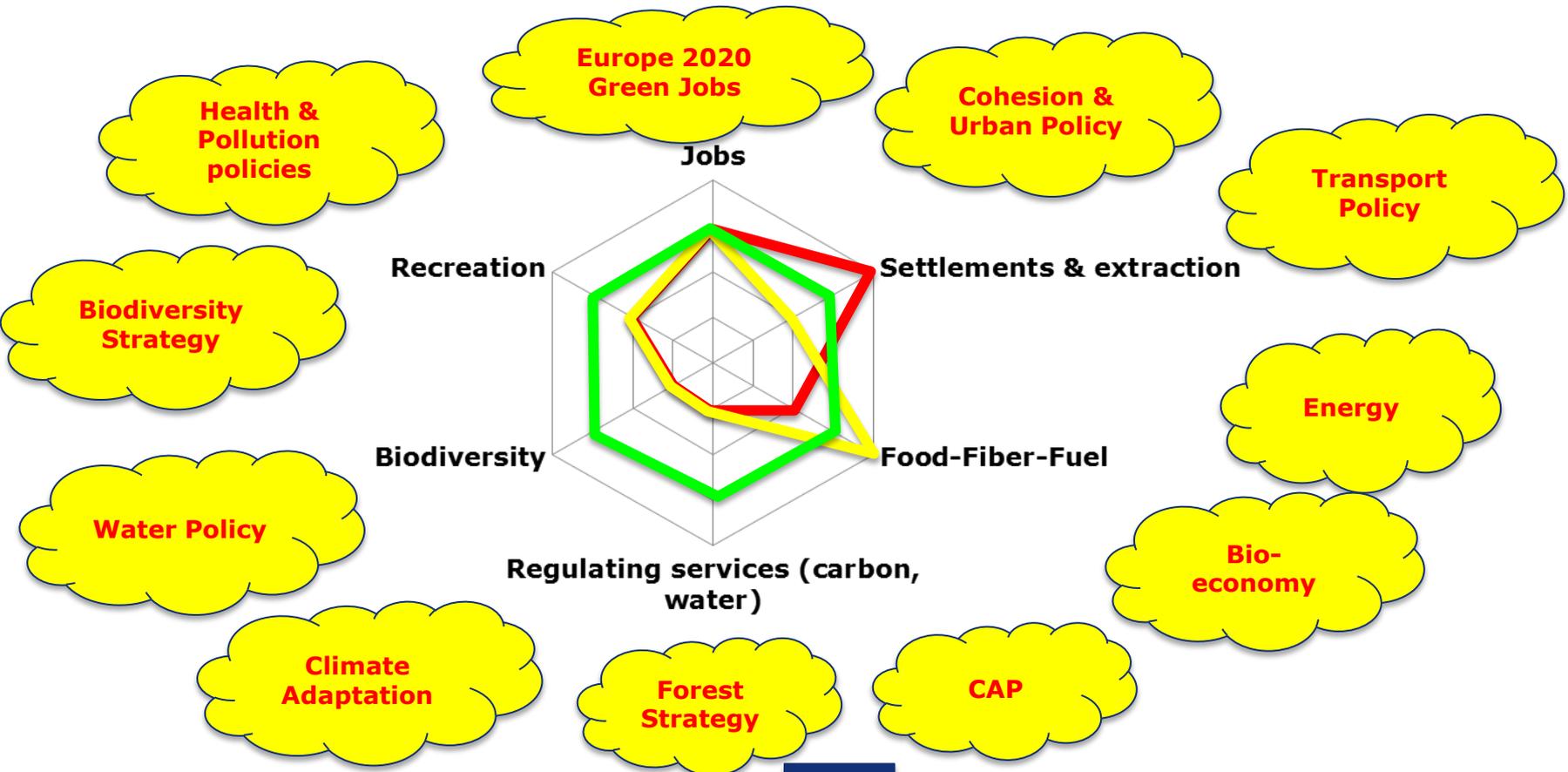


- ❖ Proposal for **SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE** adopted by the EC in 2006
- ❖ Eight years of political blockage on grounds of subsidiarity and costs
- ❖ This shows the political sensitivity and the difficulty to legislate on soil degradation issues
- ❖ It is essential, yet very difficult, to involve all decision-making levels



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The challenge: Land/soil multiple functions: how to deal with synergies and trade-offs?





POLICY CONTEXT

2011 EU2020 Strategy / Road Map for resource-efficient Europe (RERM):

- **Milestone: "By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050; soil erosion is reduced and the soil organic matter increased, with remedial work on contaminated sites well underway"**

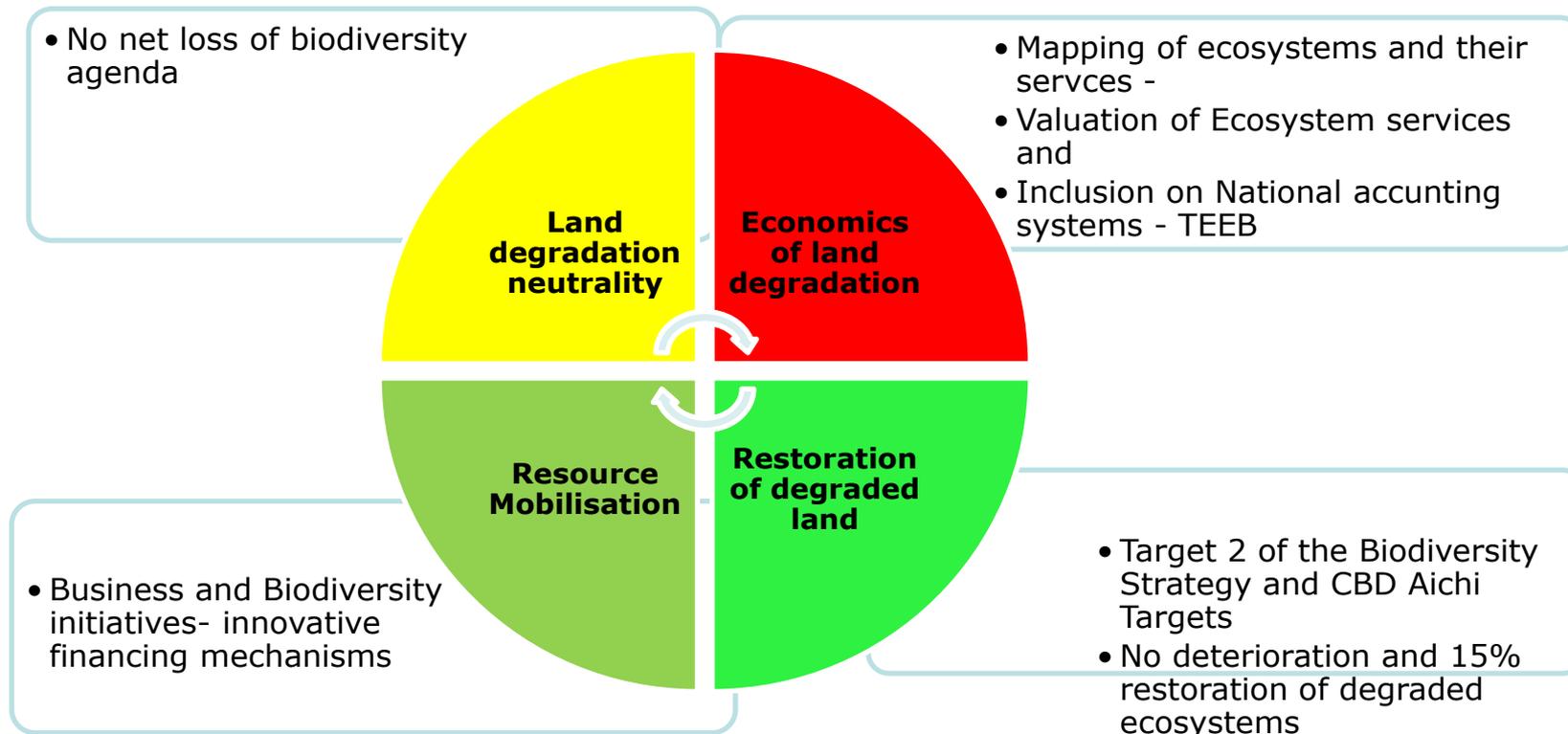
2012 Rio+20 outcome document "The future we want":

- **Land and soil degradation recognised as a global problem**
- **Milestone on land: "Strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development"**

2013 7th Environment Action Programme for the EU:

- **Calls for setting targets on land take and on a number of crucial soil quality aspects (erosion, organic matter and contamination)**

Strengthening the institutional framework Essential to ensure an integrated approach for the land and biodiversity protection policy agendas



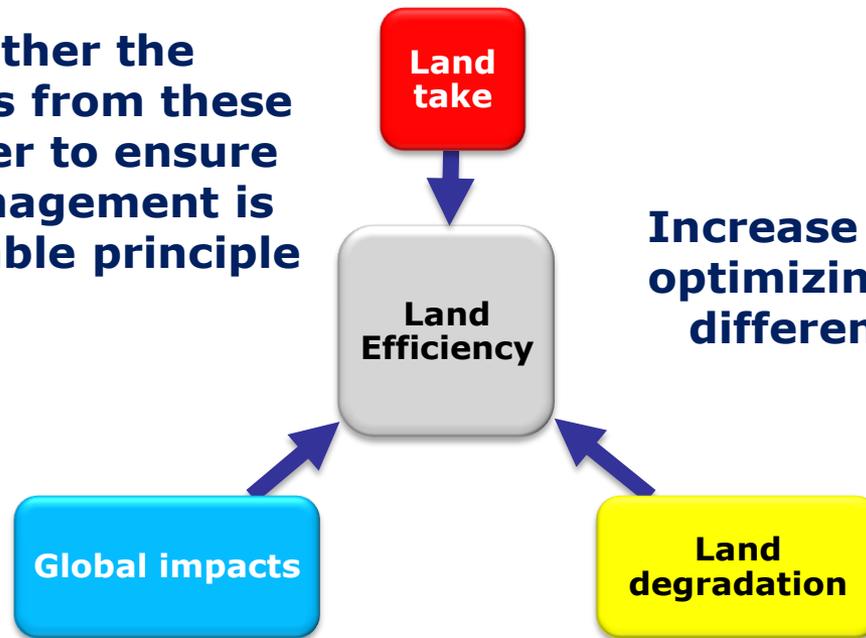
What next?



- ❖ Follow-up on the **7EAP commitments- Targets and Soil initiative**
- ❖ Preparation of a **Communication on 'land as a resource'**
- ❖ **No-net-loss initiative** in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- ❖ **Internat'l Year of Soils 2015** and **Expo** in Milan
- ❖ Delivery of **recommendations by the Intergovernmental Working Group** under the UNCCD on "land degradation neutrality"
- ❖ Establishment of an EU position on the **post 2015 framework**, notably on SDGs

The Communication on “Land as a resource” responds to different political mandates

Bringing together the common elements from these processes in order to ensure that EU land management is based on sustainable principle



Increase land efficiency by optimizing the provision of different land functions

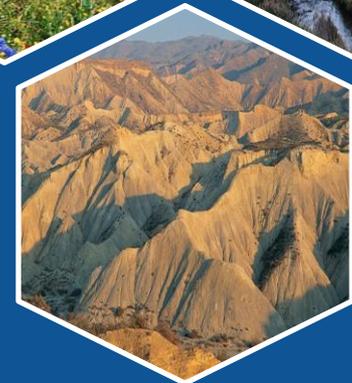
What will be the Land Communication about?

- Raising awareness about :
 - **the value of land as a resource for crucial ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, cultural, etc.);**
 - **the limitation of the resource and how it is affected by land take and land degradation;**
 - **how the gap can increase particularly in the context of global challenges (increase in population, food demand, bioenergy, climate change)**
- Providing pointers for further action at EU level:
 - **Evaluate the effectiveness of current policy instruments at National, EU and global levels;**
 - **Define the sustainable level of ambition for a set of objectives (targets) for pressures, state, impacts or responses**
 - **Assess options for EU contribution to a more sustainable management of land as a resource.**



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**Thank you
for your
attention!**



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/land_use/index_en.htm