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**UNU-LRT**

Land Restoration Training Programme



UNU Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT)

Annual Report 2018

United Nations University Land Restoration  
Training Programme

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ISBN: 978-92-808-5508-1



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## CONTENT

DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY FOR 2018 .....	5
ABOUT UNU-LRT .....	6
PROGRESS REPORT .....	7
Six-month training programme 2018	
Short courses	
ENABLE project	
Other highlights of the year	
EVALUATION OF THE UNU-LRT	
SIX-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAMME .....	16
UNU-LRT SITE VISITS .....	16
UNU-LRT PRESENTATIONS .....	18



## DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY FOR 2018

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2018 Annual report of UNU-LRT.

The year 2018 has been a very good year for UNU-LRT. On 14 September, 17 fellows graduated successfully from the annual six-month training programme, including two fellows from Tajikistan, a new partner country in Central Asia. The international guest lecturer this year was Dr Richard Thomas, Scientific Coordinator of ELD (the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative) and Consultant to ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas).

This year, UNU-LRT gave its first short course in Mongolia in collaboration with Mongolian partner institutions. The 7-day course, entitled *Communicating Knowledge for Sustainable Rangeland Management under Climate Change – Improving Analytic and Reporting Skills*, was held in late June to early July. A short course was also carried out in Uganda this year, this time in Masindi in western Uganda. As before, the Ugandan partners and former fellows collaborated with UNU-LRT in organising the course.

UNU-LRT was one of the organisers of the SER Europe Conference ([sere2018.org](http://sere2018.org)) that was held in Reykjavik, Iceland. All of the UNU-LRT fellows and staff attended the Conference, as well as 17 former fellows, who UNU-LRT sponsored to come to Iceland and present their work at the Conference, either in a poster or with an oral presentation. The Conference was held in mid-September and gave us the opportunity to invite the former fellows to attend the 2018-graduation ceremony as well. During the ceremony, we were also honoured to have Dr Barron Orr, the Lead Scientist for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), who addressed the guests.

The collaboration between the ENABLE partners continued from the previous years and one of the outputs this year was *Experiential Learning-module*. This was a two-day training and interactive field excursions, focused on equipping the participants with the skills and knowledge required to restore landscapes while bringing back social, cultural, and financial benefits to society.

Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir  
UNU-LRT Director



## ABOUT UNU-LRT

The United Nations University Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT) was established in early 2010. The mission of UNU-LRT is to train specialists from developing countries to combat land degradation and restore degraded land, and to assist strengthening institutional capacity and gender equality in the field of land restoration and sustainable land management.

The Programme started as a three-year pilot project in 2007, aiming at becoming a UNU training programme by the end of the pilot phase. After a successful mid-term evaluation by an international evaluator, the Programme was accepted as a UNU training programme. The Programme is implemented jointly by the Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI) and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland (SCSI). UNU-LRT is also supported by a wide range of other Icelandic institutions, UNU programmes and international institutions.

UNU-LRT is governed by a Board of members that are representatives of AUI, SCSI, the Icelandic Forest Service, United Nations University, and an expert nominated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Moreover, a Studies Committee academically governs the Programme, chaired by the UNU-LRT Director. The Studies Committee consists of members from leading research institutes and universities working in the field of land restoration and sustainable land management.

The main activity of UNU-LRT is an annual intensive six-month postgraduate training programme on land restoration and sustainable land management. The first half of the training is dedicated to course work which includes lectures, practical training, field visits, exercises, and group work where the focus is on the active participation of each fellow. In the latter half of the training the focus is on individual research projects which are tailored to the academic and practical background and needs of the individual fellows and their institutions. Since LRT was launched in 2007, 118 fellows have graduated from the training, 56 women and 62 men. The fellows have come from the following 13 countries in Africa and Central Asia: Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Tunisia, Uganda, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and finally Tajikistan, a new partner country of UNU-LRT.



Short training courses in partner countries are an important part of UNU-LRT capacity development activities. This year, a 9-day course was held for the second time in Uganda and a new 7-day course was held in Mongolia for the first time. In total, 84 specialists have participated in UNU-LRT short courses since their initiation in 2017.

Furthermore, UNU-LRT offers scholarships to former fellows who have completed the six-month training programme to pursue graduate studies at Icelandic universities in land restoration and related subjects.

UNU-LRT has a webpage ([www.unulrt.is](http://www.unulrt.is)) where information about the programme, the latest news and the individual projects of former fellows are accessible. Furthermore, UNU-LRT has a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/unulrt](https://www.facebook.com/unulrt)) and a twitter account (@UNULRT).

## PROGRESS REPORT

### SIX-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAMME 2018

The six-month training programme in 2018 started on 12 March. Seventeen fellows (10 women and seven men) participated in the programme. The fellows came from Ghana (2 fellows), Malawi (3), Uganda (3), Ethiopia (1), Lesotho (2), Uzbekistan (1), Tajikistan (2), Kyrgyzstan (1) and Mongolia (2). The group graduated on 14 September and received their certificates from the Permanent Secretary of State, Mr Sturla Sigurjonsson. The graduation ceremony included speeches from Dr Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir, UNU-LRT Director, Dr Arni Bragason, Chair of the UNU-LRT Board and Director of the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, and Dr Sæmundur Sveinsson, the Rector of AUI. A special guest at the ceremony, Dr Barron Joseph Orr, the Lead Scientist at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), addressed the fellows and other invited guests. Two of the graduating fellows, Ms Robiya Turdimatovna Nabieva from Tajikistan, and Mr Iddrisu Latif Nasare from Ghana, spoke on behalf of the graduating fellows. Seventeen former fellows were invited to join the graduation ceremony as they were attending the SERE 2018 Conference in Reykjavik that same week (see text under “Other highlights of the year” below).



The curriculum of the six-month training programme is divided into eight modules. The first six modules are organized according to the UNU-LRT project cycle framework where the first three modules provide the programme's backbone, the basic knowledge and understanding needed to use the project cycle, which is then the focus of modules four to six. By applying the project cycle as a process management framework in the six-month training curriculum, the theoretical and practical aspects of land issues and project management are effectively linked. Modules one to six include lectures, practical training, exercises, diverse field visits and individual and group work. Module seven is on special topics that vary from one year to another and includes each year's international guest lecturer(s). The last module (number eight) focuses on the development of individual research projects, an integral part of the training programme, where fellows work closely with their supervisors in Iceland on a research topic of their choice. The individual research projects are aimed at increasing knowledge and developing relevant skillsets on a topic relevant to the work of the fellows in their home countries.

UNU-LRT hosted two international guest lecturers in 2018. Dr Richard Thomas, a consultant to ICARDA (International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas) and a scientific co-ordinator of ELD (Economics of Land Degradation), gave lectures in May on the economics of land degradation. Dr Thomas has vast experience in managing and implementing research projects on natural resource management and a great deal of his work has been on strengthening managerial and institutional capacity by building networks between scientists from many parts of the world, including Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Dr Matthew Bowker, an Assistant Professor in Community and Ecosystem Ecology of Soils at the Northern Arizona University, was the second international guest lecturer this year. He gave a lecture in September on the biocrust as a restoration material for disturbed ecosystems. Dr Bowker's research focuses on ecosystem multifunctionality, soil organism roles in plant migrations, biotic controls on soil erosion, and biocrust restoration materials which can be applied after disturbances such as woodland wildfires, overgrazing or other environmental damage.



## SHORT COURSES

### **Uganda**

A 9-day training course entitled "*Sustainable land management, land restoration and linkages to climate change*" was held for the second time in Uganda. This year, the course was given in late October in Masindi District, in western Uganda, with a specific focus on the cattle corridor. The course was organised in co-operation with the Ugandan partner institutions of UNU-LRT: The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Makerere University. There were 25 participants, all working as environmental-, forestry, or natural resources officers in their respective districts. Apart from the three experts in Uganda, Dr Jerome Sebadduka Lugumira from NEMA, and Dr Daniel Waiswa and Dr Gerald Eilu from Makerere University, two former UNU-LRT fellows, Ms Zalfa Businge (fellow in 2017) and Mr William Nsimire (fellow in 2012), assisted with the preparations and execution of the course. The UNU-LRT team consisted of Professor Asa L Aradottir (AUI), Dr Johann Thorsson (SCSI), Dr Bryndis Marteinsdottir (SCSI) and Dr Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir, UNU-LRT Director.

During the course, the participants took part in interactive lectures, group assignments and exercises as well as three short field trips to visit restoration sites. The final day of the course was devoted to a comprehensive evaluation of the course content and practicalities. The outcome of the evaluation showed that the course was very well received by the participants and that they felt better equipped to deal with unsustainable land use in this time of climate change.

### **Mongolia**

A 7-day training course entitled "*Communicating knowledge for sustainable rangeland management under climate change – Improving analytic and reporting skills*" was held in the Tuv Province in Mongolia from 29 June to 5 July. The course was organised in co-operation with three Mongolian partner institutions: The Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS), the National Federation of Pasture User Groups of Herders (NFPUG) and the Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IRIMHE). Twenty-four specialists, including researchers, lecturers, land managers and monitoring officers from eight different provinces in Mongolia, successfully finished the course. The course curriculum development team included four specialists from Mongolia: Dr Bulgamaa Densambuu (from NFPUG and a former LRT fellow), Dr Bayigal-Amar Tulaikhuu and Dr Khishigjargal Mookhor (MULS), and Dr Bat-Oyun Tserenpurev (IRIMHE); and four from UNU-LRT: Dr Isabel Barrio (AUI), Dr



Kristin Svavarsdottir (SCSI) and Dr Bryndis Marteinsdottir (SCSI), and UNU-LRT Deputy Director Berglind Orradottir. Moreover, Dr Burenjargal Ogonsuren, Dr Delgerjargal Dugarjav, and Dr Undrakh Od Baatar from MULS taught in the course. Four former UNU-LRT fellows contributed to field demonstrations and assisted with running the course: Ms Altantsetseg Balt (fellow in 2011), Ms Badam Ariya (fellow in 2017), Mr Budbaatar Ulambayar (fellow in 2015) and Ms Sumjidmaa Sainnemekh (fellow in 2014). The course was given in Mongolian.

The course started with two days of interactive lectures, followed by a field trip day where participants explored grazing and climate change impacts in different habitats. In the latter part of the course the focus was on the basic project framework, where the rangeland health monitoring system in Mongolia was used as a case study to explain the different elements of the framework. In this part, the participants were assigned to working groups, where they explored the different components of the basic project framework. Comprehensive evaluation of the course was done on the final day. The evaluation showed that the course was very well received by the participants and many of them found the course highly relevant to their field of work.

#### ENABLE PROJECT

UNU-LRT is working with its ENABLE partners to develop a holistic and applicable high-quality education platform for business-driven landscape restoration. This year, the consortium partners have focused on: 1) creating a second massive open online course (MOOC), 2) developing five teaching cases 3) developing an electronic learning and communication platform, and 4) organizing and giving 2-day interactive field excursions.

The European Network for the Advancement of Business and Landscape Education (ENABLE) is a partnership of organisations, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. ENABLE has a webpage where information about the project can be found: <https://www.rsm.nl/enable/home/>

#### MOOCs

The MOOC *A Business Approach to Sustainable Landscape Restoration*, which was launched on 1 May 2017, had attracted more than 2600 learners from all



over the world by the end of 2018. Participants in the MOOC are encouraged to answer an online evaluation survey. According to the survey results, the participants were in general satisfied with the course content and 83% of the learners indicated that they would be interested in participating in a follow-up MOOC on similar topics.

A second MOOC is under development by the ENABLE consortium members. This new MOOC will be entitled *Business Innovation for Sustainable Landscape Restoration*. Thorunn Petursdottir (Senior Expert at SCSI), Dr Isabel C Barrio (Associate Professor at AUI) and Berglind Orradottir (UNU-LRT Deputy Director) are working on the MOOC on behalf of UNU-LRT. The MOOC will use three of the five teaching cases, developed by ENABLE, to demonstrate how the issues being taught in the MOOC have been carried out in practice. The Hekluskogar case is one of those three cases. The cases will be showcased in the MOOC with different dissemination methods such as videos, photos, interviews, and lecture slides. The MOOC was prelaunched on 5 December, the World Soil Day, and will be fully launched in February 2019.

#### The Hekluskogar teaching case

UNU-LRT, with its partners in the ENABLE consortium, is developing five teaching cases that are aimed for business students at the master's level, as well as students in environmental sciences and natural resource management. UNU-LRT is responsible for the development of a case study that deals specifically with a large-scale restoration project in the Hekluskogar area in Iceland.

The Hekluskogar teaching case is also intended for the UNU-LRT six-month training programme. The teaching of the case was piloted for the UNU-LRT fellows on 20 June in Gunnarsholt. The session created good discussion among the fellows and the experience was used to improve the case study further. The Hekluskogar case was also used in a workshop at the SER Europe Conference in September, where UNU-LRT co-organised a workshop with partners in the ENABLE consortium (see item below).



#### Knowledge exchange platform

Within the ENABLE consortium, work is ongoing on the establishment of an open electronic learning and communication platform where participants can exchange knowledge, expertise, and contacts on landscape restoration with a business approach. UNU-LRT will share restoration stories from partner countries on the platform.

#### Experimental learning module

A two-day Experiential Learning module, developed by the ENABLE consortium, was held in south-east Spain in late October. The interactive field excursions focused on equipping the participants with the skills and knowledge required to restore landscapes while bringing back social, cultural, and financial benefits to society. Participants experienced the impacts of land degradation on nature, society, and the economy, and studied how to prevent degradation. They also experienced different solutions to restore landscapes based on sustainable business models and explored the importance of land restoration for ecosystem services. UNU-LRT sponsored two participants from UNU-LRT partner organisations to attend the Experiential Learning module, Ms Irene Jamilatu Yenuyet Yaro from the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana and a UNU-LRT fellow in 2014, and Ms Enkh-Amgalan Tseelei from the National Federation of Pasture User Groups of Herders (NFPUG) in Mongolia.





## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

### SER Europe Conference

The 11th SER Europe Conference was held in Reykjavik, Iceland, from 9-13 September. The Conference was jointly organised by UNU-LRT, the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, the Agricultural University of Iceland, and the Icelandic Environment Association Landvernd. The main theme of the Conference was restoration in the era of climate change, which was also the topic of the Conference. All 17 fellows in the UNU-LRT 2018 six-month training programme took part in the Conference, as well as 17 former UNU-LRT fellows whose attendance was sponsored by UNU-LRT.

All former fellows either gave a talk or presented a poster at the Conference on issues they are working on in their home countries. One of the former fellows, Ms Beatrice Dossah from Ghana, gave a keynote speech on means to raise awareness of environmental issues through the arts. UNU-LRT Director Dr Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir also gave a keynote speech on the commonalities of restoring ecological function and biodiversity to degraded landscapes across different biomes for improved livelihoods and climate change mitigation.

A special symposium on how to use knowledge on land restoration to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals was organised by UNU-LRT at the Conference. Three former UNU-LRT fellows, Mr Emmanuel Lignule from Ghana, Ms Malipholo Hae from Lesotho and Mr Zhyrgalbek Kozhomberdiev from Kyrgyzstan, gave separate talks at the symposium on how land restoration can improve people's food security and income, on the drivers of rangeland degradation and benefits of restoration, and on the cost of land degradation and economic benefits of reversing it, respectively. UNU-LRT Deputy Director Berglind Orradottir gave a talk on the role of land restoration in the UN 2030 agenda and Dr Barron Orr, the Lead Scientist for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), gave in his talk a global perspective on how SDG target 15.3 can help integrate and accelerate other SDGs.

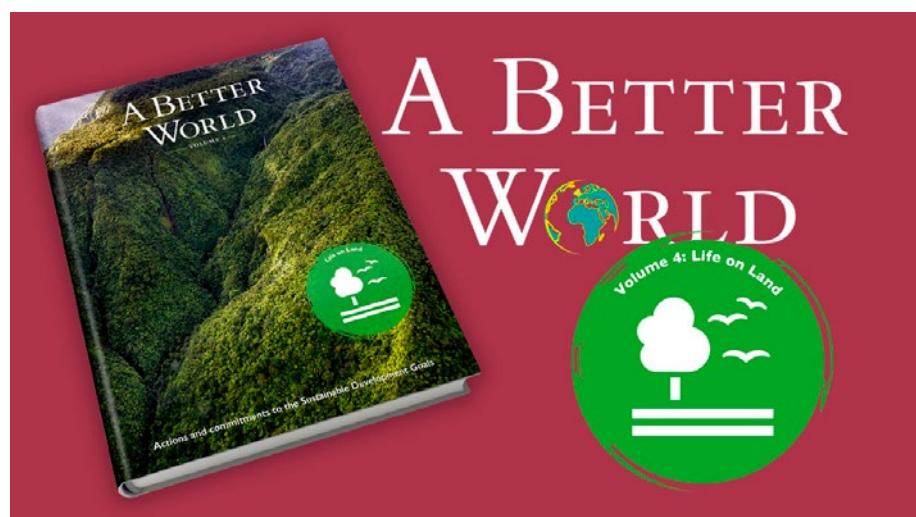
UNU-LRT also organised a workshop at the Conference with partners in the ENABLE consortium. The title of the workshop was *Chief Ecosystem Officers - and how the ENABLE consortium works to educate these*. In this interactive workshop, participants were introduced to the basic principles and concepts of integrated landscape management based on sustainable business models. The



Hekluskogar case study was presented, and participants were engaged through group discussions in finding innovative solutions to finance the project and find business opportunities by combining knowledge gained from the economy and ecology. Participants were exposed to why bridging these two worlds is an important way to accelerate effective landscape restoration and sustainable land management.

#### A Better World

This year, the book *A BETTER WORLD Volume 4* was published by Tudor Rose publishing company in co-operation with UNCCD. The book is part of a series of publications produced in partnership by Tudor Rose and the United Nations and its agencies showing practical implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This edition looks at the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 15, which is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. More specifically, Goal 15.3, which aims to strive towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) globally by 2030, was highlighted in this edition.





Among the contributors to the publication is UNU-LRT with the report by the UNU-LRT Director Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir and Deputy Director Berglind Orradottir entitled *Land and quality education — building the capacities of the change agents of the future*. The book was the graduation gift to the graduating fellows from the six-month training programme this year. The book is available as a digital edition on the following link: <http://digital.tudor-rose.co.uk/a-better-world-vol-4> and the UNU-LRT report starts on page 14.

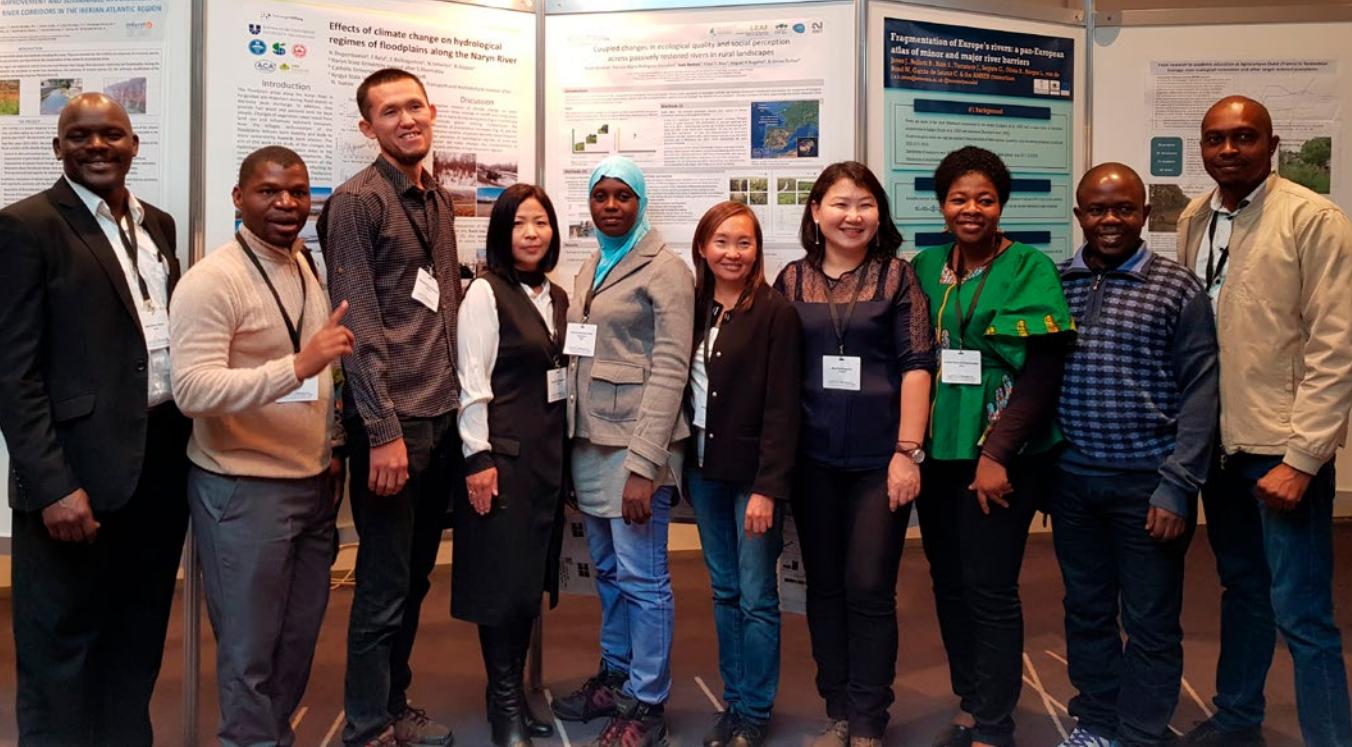
#### Master's and PhD scholarships to former UNU-LRT fellows

In September, UNU-LRT announced scholarships for a master's and a PhD at Icelandic universities for former fellows of the UNU-LRT six-month training programme. A great number of applications from former fellows were received. An independent committee evaluated the applications and the UNU-LRT Team took note of that. UNU-LRT will grant two former fellows scholarships, and they will commence their studies in 2019.

#### Sheep in the Land of Fire and Ice

UNU-LRT has collaborated in the development of a short massive open online course (MOOC) on sheep grazing, management, and land conservation in Iceland. The course, titled Sheep in the Land of Fire and Ice examines the sustainability of sheep grazing in Iceland and explores how history, socioeconomic factors and environmental conditions have influenced the management of grazing resources. Grazing management is a common challenge in many regions of the world, and this course uses Iceland as a case study because here traditional sheep grazing has been associated with extensive environmental degradation.

The course is taught by Dr Isabel C Barrio and a group of experts, including many UNU-LRT lecturers. The short course will be launched in January 2019 and will be open for all and free of charge. The course is designed for students in environmental sciences and for anyone interested in understanding one of the drivers of landscape change in Iceland: sheep grazing.



## EVALUATION OF THE UNU-LRT SIX-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAMME

Every year the UNU-LRT six-month training programme is evaluated weekly throughout the three-month period of course work. At the end of the six-month training, the programme is evaluated by the participants by filling out an extensive overall anonymous evaluation on all parts of the programme, followed by group discussions with the fellows. A thorough evaluation of the programme allows adjusting the programme to the needs of the fellows. The evaluation is also important for the continuous improvement of the training curriculum and practical issues of the UNU-LRT six-month training programme.

There was an overall very high satisfaction with the six-month training programme, as assessed by the overall evaluation conducted on the evaluation day. The fellows stated their satisfaction with the contents and organisation of the courses and thought that the concepts and theory presented during the lectures were relevant and covered many important aspects. During the weekly evaluations in the first part of the programme, the fellows highlighted the high quality of lecturers and the usefulness of the topics being presented. The majority of the fellows were satisfied with the organisation and outcome of the individual research project work. They felt that developing their projects had enhanced their professional skills, not only because of the knowledge gained, but also through learning how to manage time and improving their writing and presentation skills.

## UNU-LRT SITE VISITS

UNU-LRT works with partner countries in Africa and Central Asia. Within each of these countries, partner institutions that play a key role in land restoration and sustainable land management are identified. The training of the fellows is considered a contribution to capacity building of their institutions. The institutions propose candidates for the UNU-LRT six-month training programme, who are then personally interviewed by UNU-LRT employees. To ensure the effectiveness of their training, the candidates should fulfil the following requirements: they should have at least one university degree, at least one-year experience working in the field of specialization that they will pursue at UNU-LRT, have a permanent position at the partner institution, have good English skills and be under the age of 40.



Every year the UNU-LRT employees conduct site visits to the partner countries and the selected institutions to take interviews with candidates for the six-month training programme and to strengthen partnerships with local institutions in those countries. The UNU-LRT Director, Deputy Director and Office Manager visited three partner countries: Ghana, Ethiopia, and Uzbekistan.

#### Ghana

In January 2018, the UNU-LRT Director, Dr Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir, visited Ghana. The aim of the trip was to strengthen collaboration with the partner institutions of UNU-LRT in Ghana, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the University for Development Studies, and the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), which is one of 13 research institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The Director interviewed 22 candidates for the annual six-month training, and a reunion with former fellows was conducted.

Furthermore, the Director participated in a kick-off workshop on 31 January held by Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) and the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) in Ghana. The aim of the workshop was to kickstart the project “Reversing Land Degradation in Africa through Scaling-Up EverGreen Agriculture”, funded by the European Union, and to officially introduce the ELD activities in Ghana and provide a platform for national stakeholders to discuss potential spatial and thematic focuses for an upcoming ELD study in Ghana. Additionally, the capacity development concept was presented to the stakeholders. A total of 37 participants attended the workshop representing the agricultural and environmental policy level, academia and research, co-operation and private sectors. Many of the Ghanaian workshop participants represented institutes which UNU-LRT partners with or institutes that are potential partners of UNU-LRT. During the workshop, Dr Aegisdottir gave a presentation about UNU-LRT, its aims and activities, with a special focus on Ghana. Following the workshop, Dr Aegisdottir had a meeting with ELD representatives on potential collaboration in training courses.

### Ethiopia

In October 2018, the UNU-LRT Office Manager Halldora Traustadottir visited Ethiopia. This was the third visit of a UNU-LRT representative to the country and the first one since 2012. The visit was short, and the focus was on visiting partner institutions in Mekelle in the Tigray Region in northern Ethiopia.

Two institutions were visited, Mekelle University and the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Tigray Region. A total of 22 candidates, 15 from Mekelle University and seven from the Bureau of Agriculture, were interviewed. Former fellows were very helpful in the preparation of the visit as well as on site in Mekelle. Dr Tigist Araya Gessesse (2009), Merkeb Woldu Bezabeh (2013), Mulugeta Sebhateab Tesfay (2014) and Haftamu Deribe Zenebe (2015) all made the visit a very effective and pleasant one.

### Uzbekistan

In November 2018, the UNU-LRT Deputy Director Berglind Orradottir visited Uzbekistan. This was the third visit of a UNU-LRT representative to the country; the earlier visits were in 2008 and 2011. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen existing institutional partnerships in Uzbekistan, explore new institutional links and to interview potential UNU-LRT six-month training candidates proposed by these institutions. Dr Toshpulot Rajabov and Mr Akbar Akhmedov, former fellows from 2009 and 2017, respectively, provided much help with organising the visiting agenda. Both attended the six-month training as employees of Samarkand State University.

State institutions and state universities were visited in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. Altogether 27 candidates were interviewed. Additionally, the GIZ Office, the GEF office and UNDP office were visited to introduce the activities of UNU-LRT.

## UNU-LRT PRESENTATIONS

### Presentations

Aegisdottir HH (2018) Worlds apart, yet alike: Ecological restoration for improved livelihoods and climate change mitigation across the Earth. Keynote presentation at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Dossah B (2018) Hipsters of Nature: Raising awareness about environmental issues through the arts. Keynote presentation at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Gabou MH (2018) Land restoration: A solution to population vulnerability to climate change in Fakara, Niger. Presented in the session on Restoration and Climate Change (Part I) at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Hae ME (2018) Drivers of rangeland degradation in Lesotho and potential benefits of land restoration. Presentation in the session on *How to Use Knowledge on Land Restoration to Reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals?* at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Isakov A, Ridder R, Kasymov U, Kozhomberdiev Z (2018) Transformation in pasture use in Kyrgyzstan: The costs of pasture degradation. Presented by Kozhomberdiev in the session on How to Use Knowledge on Land Restoration to Reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals? at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Lignule E (2018) Knowledge on land restoration and the process for attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Presentation in the session on How to Use Knowledge on Land Restoration to Reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals? at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Muluneh A (2018) Impact of Climate and Land Use Changes on Soil Erosion in Rift Valley Basin, Ethiopia. Presented in the session on Restoration and Climate Change (Part I) at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Orradottir B, Aegisdottir HH (2018) The role of land restoration in the UN 2030 agenda. Presentation given by Orradottir in the session on How to Use Knowledge on Land Restoration to Reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals? at the SER Europe Conference, 10 September, Reykjavik.

Orradottir B, Barrio IC (2018) From Bare to Birch: Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration in Iceland. Presentation given by Orradottir in the workshop "Chief ecosystem officers - and how the ENABLE consortium works to educate these" at the SER Europe Conference, 11 September, Reykjavik.

Orradottir B (2018) The importance of land restoration in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Presentation at Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan, 19 November.

Teferi HH, Giday K, Van Orshoven J, Muys B (2018) Enrichment plantation does not increase carbon sequestration in the exclosures in the highlands of Ethiopia. Presented by Teferi in the session on Restoration and Climate Change (Part II) at the SER Europe Conference, 11 September, Reykjavik.

Thorsson J (2018) The background of UNU-LRT: Land degradation in Iceland. Presentation at Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan, 17 November.

Thorsson J (2018) Land assessment and land condition. Presentation at Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan, 19 November.

#### Posters

Amoako EE, Kranjac-Berisavljevic G, Misana S (2018) Fire effects on indigenous tree species in the Guinea savanna: Implications for climate change mitigation. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Balt A, Densambuu B, Ulambayar B, Sainnemekh S, Battur A (2018) Results of ESD application as a restoration roadmap in desert region, Mongolia. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Degembayeva N, Betz F, Baibagyshov E, Ismailov N, Aiypov B (2018) Effects of climate change on the hydrological regimes of floodplains along the Naryn River, Kyrgyzstan. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Kozhomberdiev Z (2018) The Mountain forests of Kyrgyzstan in the conditions of climate change, problems, and solutions. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Lkhagvajav O, Namdag L, Chimed M (2018) Degradation process of Fescue-forbs rangeland in mountain steppe of Mongolia. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Nyirenda H, Chirwa P, Geldenhuys C, Assede E (2018) Vegetation and soil fertility restoration in natural and agroecosystems in Salima, Malawi. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Orradottir B, Traustadottir H, Barrio IC, Aegisdottir HH (2018) UN University Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT): Who are we and what do we do? Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Oumarou MBD, Akponikpe PBI, Abasse T, Fatondji D, Agbossou EK (2018) Trees in Niger agroforestry systems to restore soils and enhance farmer resilience to climate change. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Rampai R (2018) Rangeland resources as a life support for human beings, birds, plants and animals. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

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Sigurdsson BD, Viðarsson GJ, Owona JC, Snorrason A, Traustason B, Eggertsson Ó (2018) Aboveground and soil carbon sequestration rate in three afforested areas in SW-Iceland. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Ssekubwa E, Muwanika VB, Tweheyo M (2018) Restoration methods, age and proximity to seed sources affect convergence of restored to old-growth forests. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

Tatek AE (2018) The Role of Restoration and community Resilience to climatic shocks: Experience from Ethiopia. Poster presented at the SER Europe Conference, 10-13 September, Reykjavik.

#### Other

UNU-LRT organized a symposium at the SER 2018 Europe Conference on Restoration in the Era of Climate Change, 10-13 September, Reykjavik, Iceland. The title of the symposium was How to Use Knowledge on Land Restoration to Reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

UNU-LRT and its ENABLE partners organized a workshop at the SER 2018 Europe Conference on Restoration in the Era of Climate Change, 10-13 September, Reykjavik, Iceland. The title of the workshop was *Chief ecosystem officers – and how the ENABLE consortium works to educate these*.

#### Publications

Aegisdottir HH, Orradottir B (2018) Land and quality education – building the capacities of the change agents of the future. Pages 14-17. In: L Trowbridge (ed) A Better World, Volume 4. Tudor Rose, Leicester. <http://digital.tudor-rose.co.uk/a-better-world-vol-4/20/>

Barrio IC, Hik DS, Thorsson J, Svavarsdottir K, Marteinsdottir B, Jonsdottir IS (2018) The sheep in wolf's clothing? Recognizing threats for land degradation in Iceland using state-and-transition models. *Land Degradation and Development* 29:1714-1725.



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