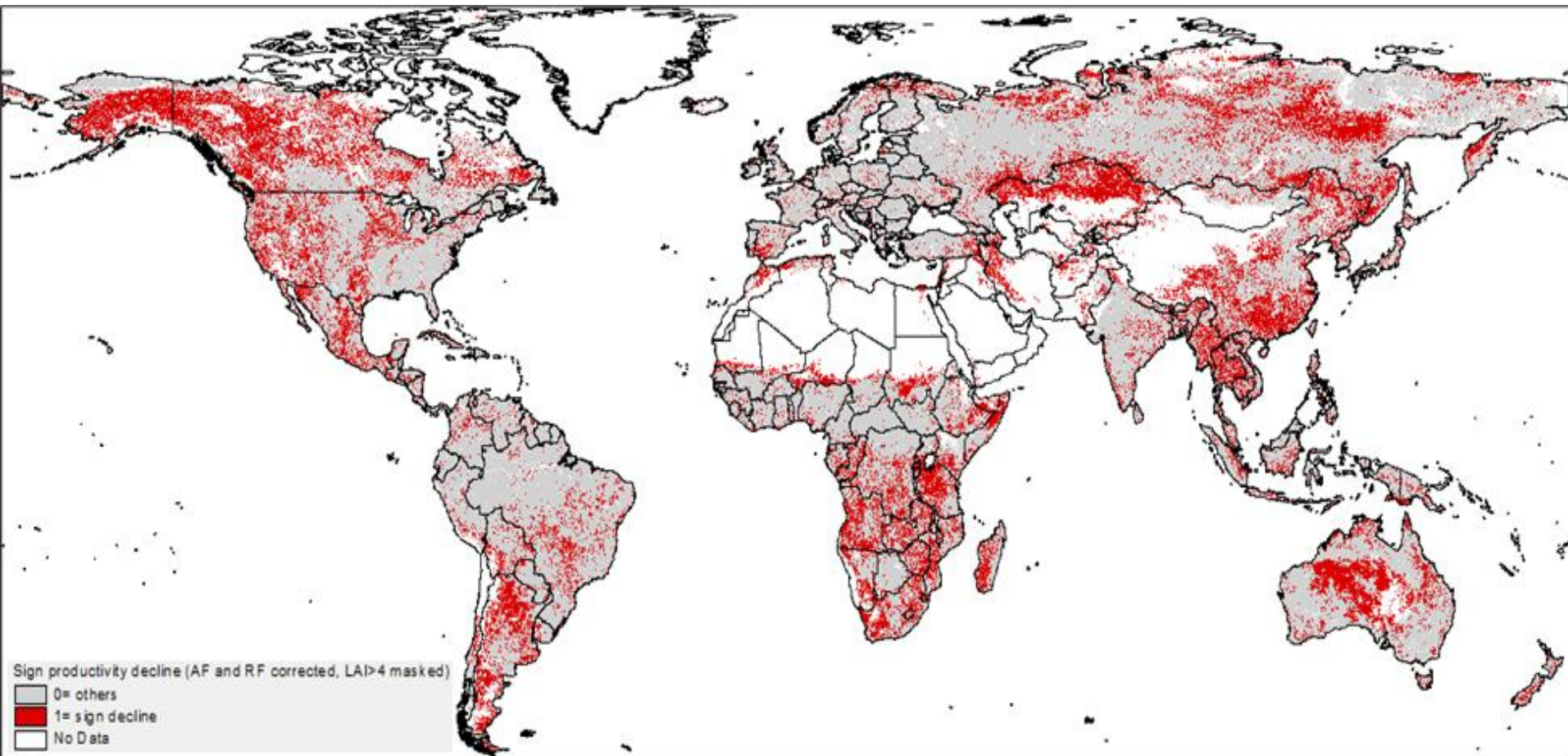


# **IPBES Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration**

Alisher Mirzabaev  
Center for Development Research  
University of Bonn

**3. Nationales Forum zu IPBES  
27 November 2014**

# Land Degradation: a Global Problem



**Accounts for the masking effects of rainfall and atmospheric fertilization. Groundtruthed through community focus group discussions and, in some cases, soil samples collections.**

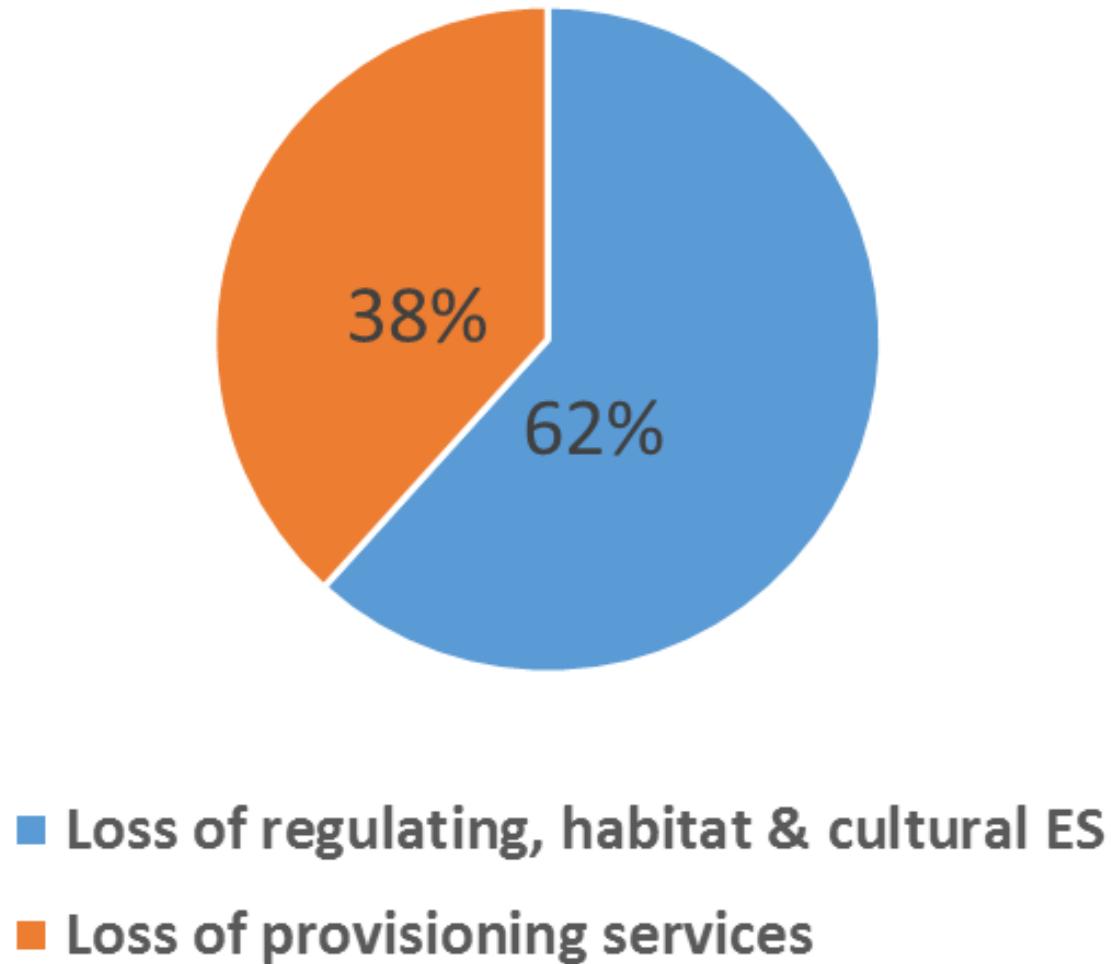
Source: Le et al. (2014). Baseline – 1982-86. Endline: 2004-06. Based on biomass productivity.

# The TEV Cost of Land Degradation

Regions	Cost of land degradation (2001-2009), bln USD	Cost of action (30 yrs)	Cost of inaction (30 yrs)	Ratio
SSA	543	797	3343	4
LAC	473	754	2977	4
NAM	238	751	4545	6
East Asia	164	508	2594	5
Oceania	125	407	2442	6
South Asia	87	210	646	3
SE Asia	52	135	400	3
East Europe	52	777	4813	6
West Europe	47	181	926	5
Central Asia	216	53	277	5
NENA	94	80	504	6
Total	2091	4653	23465	5

**Source:** Nkonya et al. (forthcoming). TEV: Total economic value. NPV, Constant USD value for 2007.

# Who Bears the Cost of Land Degradation?



# Key Definitions for the Assessment

- **Degraded land** - state of land which results from the persistent decline or loss in biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services that cannot fully recover unaided within decadal time scales.
- **Land degradation**- myriad of processes that drive the decline or loss in biodiversity, ecosystem functions or services, and includes the degradation of freshwater and coastal ecosystems which are closely interconnected with terrestrial ecosystems
- **Restoration** is defined as any intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state, and this includes the halting or reduction of ongoing degradation processes. The term **rehabilitation** is used to refer to activities that seek to restore important ecosystem functions (e.g. nutrient cycling, water flow) but may fall short of fully restoring the biotic community to its pre-degradation state.

# Assessment Outline

1. Concepts and Perceptions of Land Degradation and Restoration
2. Direct and Indirect Drivers of Land Degradation
3. Land Degradation Processes and Changes in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Structure and Functioning
4. Land Degradation associated with Changes in Nature's Benefits to People and Impacts on Quality of Life
5. Responses to control land degradation and rehabilitate and restore degraded land
6. Decision support to address land degradation and support rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land
7. Scenarios of Land Degradation, Rehabilitation and Restoration

# Contributions of the Study

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of the drivers of land degradation (LD)
2. A more comprehensive conceptual framework and knowledge base
3. Creating a framework for embedding a systems approach to understanding, monitoring and acting against LD
4. Identifying the most effective methods and approaches for assessing, avoiding, minimizing LD, and responses to restore/recover/rehabilitate
5. Decision support to help build capacity
6. Identifying priority knowledge gaps

# IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment

- Wide range of sources for reviewing: “all relevant articles, books, national and international assessments government, United Nations, national and international NGO reports and indigenous and local knowledge” – **need for strong vetting and quality check process.**



# Germany's Potential Contribution

- Data and knowledge
- Review of the assessment
- Use of the assessment results
- Other
- For the working group discussion.

# Next Steps

- 2014: Submission to 3rd IPBES Plenary for approval
- 2015:
  - Expert nominations by Governments and other stakeholders
  - MEP selects co-chairs, coordinating and lead authors...
  - First draft of the report (1st author meeting)
- 2016:
  - First draft reviewed
  - Second draft (2nd author meeting), 1st draft of Summary for policymakers
  - Both reviewed
  - Final report and Summary for policymakers (3rd author meeting)
  - Final review by all stakeholders
- 2017:
  - Final report and summary for policymakers submitted to the Plenary
  - Dissemination and Outreach