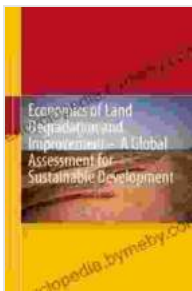


Unlocking the Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement: A Global Assessment for a Sustainable Future

Land, the foundation of human civilization, is facing unprecedented challenges due to degradation and unsustainable land management practices. The consequences of land degradation extend beyond environmental damage, impacting the economic and social well-being of societies around the world.

To address this critical issue, the "Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement" (ELD) Initiative, a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has conducted a comprehensive global assessment.



Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement – A Global Assessment for Sustainable Development

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 20083 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 972 pages

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The Economic Impacts of Land Degradation

Land degradation, the deterioration of land's physical, biological, and chemical properties, has severe economic consequences:

- **Reduced Agricultural Productivity:** Degraded land yields lower crop yields, reducing food security and incomes for farmers and rural communities.
- **Loss of Ecosystem Services:** Degraded land provides fewer ecosystem services, such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity habitat.
- **Increased Vulnerability to Climate Change:** Degraded land is more susceptible to drought, floods, and other climate-related disasters.
- **Health Impacts:** Land degradation can lead to increased exposure to dust, pollution, and disease.
- **Social and Economic Instability:** Land degradation can displace communities, create conflicts over scarce resources, and undermine social cohesion.

The ELD assessment estimates that the global economic cost of land degradation is approximately \$300 billion per year, equivalent to approximately 0.3% of global GDP.

Benefits of Land Improvement

While land degradation carries significant costs, land improvement offers substantial benefits:

- **Increased Agricultural Production:** Improved land management practices can significantly boost agricultural productivity, ensuring food

security and reducing poverty.

- **Enhanced Ecosystem Services:** Well-managed land provides critical ecosystem services that support human well-being and economic development.
- **Reduced Vulnerability to Climate Change:** Improved land management practices can enhance resilience to climate change and reduce its impacts.
- **Improved Health and Well-being:** Healthy land improves air and water quality, promotes physical activity, and supports mental well-being.
- **Social and Economic Stability:** Sustainable land management fosters cooperation, reduces conflicts, and creates opportunities for economic growth.

The ELD assessment estimates that the potential benefits of land improvement far outweigh the costs of implementing sustainable land management practices.

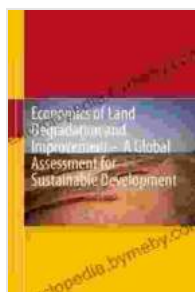
Key Findings and Recommendations

The ELD assessment highlights key findings and provides recommendations for sustainable land management:

- **Land degradation is a major global economic problem.**
- **The benefits of land improvement are significant and exceed the costs.**
- **Sustainable land management practices must be widely adopted.**

- **Investments in land restoration and improvement are essential.**
- **Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to create an enabling environment for sustainable land management.**

The ELD global assessment provides a comprehensive analysis of the economics of land degradation and improvement. It underscores the urgent need for action to address land degradation and harness the benefits of sustainable land management. By investing in land restoration and improvement, we can create a future where land supports human well-being and economic prosperity while ensuring the health of our planet.

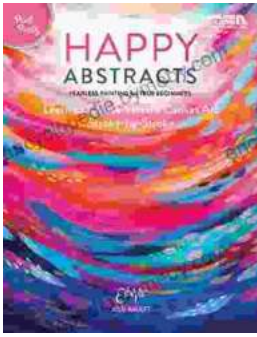


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