



Rio Conventions Pavilion @ Rio+20

13-24 June 2012

Athlete's Park, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



www.riopavilion.org

World Day to Combat Desertification Global Observance Event: Securing Healthy Soils and Stopping Land Degradation

17 June 2012, Athletes Park, Rio Pavilion, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 10:30 am - 7:00 pm (Including Reception)

A special day is planned during the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development (known as Rio+20) to focus high-level political attention on securing healthy soil and stopping land degradation for sustainable development.

The program will focus on the growing demand for resources on the earth's land and soils, which are expected projected to rise significantly over the next 20 years. About 50% more food will be needed, 40% more energy and 35% more water. Land, the foundation of these goods and services, is not only getting destroyed, but is in many cases outside the radar screen of policy-makers. Falling on the annual observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification, 17 June, the event will bring together high-level representatives from governments, civil society and the private sector to consider future options. For those unable to be present in Rio, a live webcast will be available.

This event will cover the current status of land and soils, as well as the political will necessary for creating the "Future We Want", including setting commitments to become land-degradation neutral. This commitment would mean a pledge to preserve non-degraded land and soil, as well as restore an equal amount of land in every instance where land becomes degraded.

The day's program will cover:

- How sustainable land and soil management can help achieve the Millennium Development Goals
- Setting global targets towards zero net land and soil degradation
- The role of science in achieving zero net land and soil degradation
- The economics of land degradation
- Sustainable development in the drylands
- Announcement of the winners of the UNCCD's first Land for Life Award

Featured speakers include:

- Her Excellency Izabella Teixeira, Brazilian Minister of Environment
- His Excellency Mr Don Koo Lee, Minister, Korea Forest Service
- Her Excellency Ms Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environment, South Africa
- Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization
- Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- Professor Antonio Magalhães, Chair of the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology
- Dr Dennis Garrity, Executive Board Member at the World Agroforestry Centre; and
- Mr Luca Montanarella, SOIL Action Leader, Joint Research Center, European Commission, among others.

The World Day to Combat Desertification is a United Nations day observed all over the world every 17 June to honor the contributions of the world's drylands people and to draw global attention to the changes taking place in the world's most fragile ecosystems.

[> More information, including link to the full program and live webcast](#)

[> Read the UNCCD's Policy Brief on Zero Net Land Degradation: A Sustainable Development Goal for Rio+20](#)

The event is open to public. Portuguese-English simultaneous interpretation service is available.

Programme as of June 11 2012. Updates available on  and www.riopavilion.org. Email: Info@riopavilion.org

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