

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory Side Event

Land Degradation Neutrality: Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Advocacy

November 15th, 2023-1pm to 3pm (Met 12), Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Context

Following the adoption of the SDGs by the UN General Assembly, LDN was adopted by the UNCCD at the twelfth session of the COP (COP 12) in Ankara in October 2015, seeing it as a “strong vehicle for driving the implementation of the Convention.”


The event references the Goals and Commitments for the Restoration Decade (2020), revealing that there are opportunities ahead to develop better alignment between restoration commitments under the various conventions and the Bonn Challenge, including the new national plan cycles in, for example, the CBD or UNFCCC, as well as the new restoration monitoring framework. For this purpose, country commitments could serve as a benchmark for assessing implementation and reporting progress regarding existing commitments.

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) plays a crucial role in implementing programs/transformational projects to enable countries reaching restoration targets. Through its mission, OSS provides its members and partners with technical and institutional support to develop project proposals to address the impacts of climate change and contribute to countries’ adaptation and mitigation efforts. It is in this context that the OSS was accredited as an implementing entity by the Adaptation Fund and by the Green Climate Fund. Furthermore, OSS has made a substantial contribution to the design and development of monitoring-evaluation systems for the implementation of the UNCCD Framework, becoming a reference center for African countries.

The event also accentuates the pivotal role of Earth observation data, remote sensing, and GIS in effectively monitoring land degradation and in providing reliable and useful knowledge that can be used as a decision-making tool for decision-makers, to positively impact public policy decisions in favor of land restoration. It underscores the significance of the UNCCD PRAIS Platform, acting as a linchpin for African countries in monitoring LDN progress, facilitating regional collaboration, and ensuring that decision-makers are well-informed.



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Objective

This side event aims to demonstrate the importance of monitoring land degradation, and to provide policy makers with relevant information on the state of resources and to monitor outcomes and impacts. The purpose is to raise awareness and build capacity among stakeholders involved in reporting, identifying and analyzing land degradation-related data.

The debate will draw on the experiences of OSS and its partners, focusing on the following:

- Mobilize the international scientific and political community to address crucial issues related to sustainable land management;
- Stimulate debate and exchange on the state of land degradation in Africa and possible solutions for its restoration;
- Disseminate and share results from current monitoring progress in investments in sustainable land and water management;
- Share and promote technology and free high-resolution geospatial data to assess land use change, land productivity and carbon stocks;
- Inspire action for planning and implementing LDN targets leading to positive ecosystem outcomes;
- Explore potential areas of collaboration among global partners to provide effective support to countries in their national implementation efforts.

Thematic Focus

Land Degradation Neutrality, Transformative Projects and Programmes, UNCCD flagships, LDN Monitoring-Evaluation, PRAIS platform, High-level advocacy

Target audience

National desertification focal points, scientists, decision-makers, ONG, etc.

Panelists

OSS, Representatives from: GM/UNCCD, the African Working group UNCCD focal points, CBD, IUCN, IRD/SPI/CSFD, AFD, CARI

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