The Rio Conventions Pavilion Science Day on 5 September 2019 in New Delhi

Our Planet Urgently Needs Action: From Science to Policy Response

Rio Conventions Pavilion: Hall 5, Room MET 11
India Mart and Expo, in the Greater Noida area of New Delhi

The event is organised by the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD with technical support of the UNCCD Secretariat.

**Aim:** The Science Day will provide a forum for brief presentations, expert statements and interactive discussions on support for planning and implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at country level. Experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) among others will provide insights into how actions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation can also halt the loss of biodiversity and support land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation, through pursuit of LDN.

Key messages emerging from the Science Day are intended to inform the high level segment of the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD, and to stimulate and equip the science community, land managers and civil society organisations with practical ideas for progressing LDN for multiple benefits.

**Session 1 (09:00-09:20): Overview of Science Day and introduction to LDN**

*Facilitator:* Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, SPI

- **09:00** Welcome address and introduction to the Science Day
  Pradeep Monga, UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary

- **09:05** Introducing Land Degradation Neutrality
  Annette Cowie

**Session 2 (09:20-10:20): Introducing the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land**

*Facilitator:* Mariam Akhtar-Schuster

- **09:20** Opening remarks
  Mariam Akhtar-Schuster and Annette Cowie

- **09:30** Introduction to the report
  Jim Skea (Co-Chair, Working Group III), Minal Pathak (Technical Support Unit Working Group III, Drafting Author, SPM), and Alisher Mirzabaev (Coordinating Lead Author)

- **10:20** Panel
  Annette Cowie, Fatima Denton (Coordinating Lead Author), Jagdish Krishnaswamy (Coordinating Lead Author), Alisher Mirzabaev, Minal Pathak, Jim Skea and Lindsay Stringer (Coordinating Leader Author; University of Leeds)
Session 3 (10:20-11:30) Foundation for a healthy planet: The Enabling Environment for LDN
Facilitator: Nichole Barger

10:20 Brief statements on:

- Sustainable land management for LDN
  Jean-Luc Chotte

- Food security and LDN
  Eduardo Mansur, Vera Boerger

- Human dimension of LDN
  Lindsay Stringer, University of Leeds

- Making LDN inclusive
  Marioldy Sanchez Santivanez

- The role of CSOs in achieving LDN
  Youssef Brahimi (DesertNet International)

- The Rural-Urban Nexus and LDN
  Graham von Maltitz; Poonam Dabas (environmental journalist)

- Governance and policy for LDN
  André Francisco Pilon

11:00 Discussion:

Session 4 (11:30-12:30) Tools and practices to achieve multiple benefits through LDN
Facilitator: Jim Skea, Co-Chair, IPCC Working Group III

11:30: Brief statements on:

- Soil carbon – a key indicator for LDN
  Ermias Betemariam

- Tools for soil carbon estimation
  Eleanor Campbell (University of New Hampshire)

- Integrated land use planning to reconcile sustainable use and conservation
  Peter Verburg (tbc)

- Measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation
  Marijana Kapović Solomun

- The land-drought nexus and drought-smart solutions
  Mark Svoboda

- Connecting consumption and production to create sustainable supply chains
  Nichole Barger
12:00 Discussion:

LUNCH buffet (12:30-13:00)

Session 5 (13:00-15:00) The diagnosis: Scientific Assessment to inform Policy

Facilitator: Barron Joseph Orr

13:00 Welcome address
Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary

13:15 Introduction to Session 5
Jean-Luc Chotte

13:20 Land Restoration and Sustainable Development
Jeffrey Herrick, UN Environment International Resource Panel (IRP)
IRP Think Piece “Land Restoration for Achieving the SDGs”

13:35 Convergence of Evidence
Michael Cherlet, EC-Joint Research Centre
World Atlas of Desertification

13:50 Land, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Josef Settele, IPBES
Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

14:05 Land and Climate Change:
• The interconnections between climate and land
  Fatima Denton, IPCC SRCCL Coordinating Lead Author
• Achieving co-benefits through managing land and climate risks
  Jagdish Krishnaswamy, IPCC SRCCL Coordinating Lead Author

14:35 Making Assessments Matter: The Knowledge Hub Approach
Douglas Cripe, GEO
Group on Earth Observations

14:50 Reflections
Barron Joseph Orr

COFFEE BREAK (15:00-15:30)

Session 6 (15:30-17:00) Regenerating a Liveable Planet

Facilitator: Lindsay Stringer (supported by Graham von Maltitz)

This discussion session will include (i) opportunity to pose questions of clarification to speakers in session 5, (ii) short interventions from invited experts, (iii) a panel of invited experts to highlight key findings from preceding sessions, and additional findings, comments and questions from the floor.