

LAND FOR LIFE “INCREASING LAND PRODUCTIVITY”



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY (FES), INDIA— WINNER OF 2013 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD

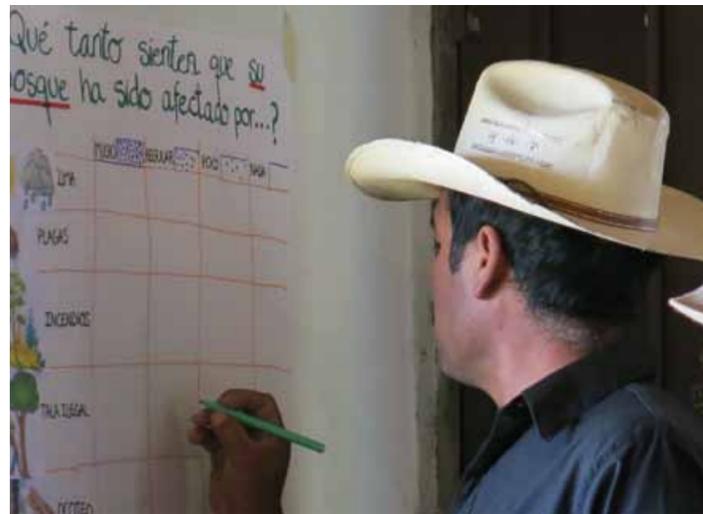
FES has helped to restore the productivity to 200,000 hectares of common property rangelands, forests and water resources in India through community governance and building local capacity for sustainable land management. The work of FES has improved the livelihoods of 1.7 million people living in more than 4,000 villages. It has also influenced national environmental policy.

“We will continue to dispel the notions that commons are ‘wastelands’ and that ‘everybody’s property is nobody’s property,’” said Jagdeesh Rao, Executive Director of FES.

LAND FOR LIFE “BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCALS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING”

CONSEJO CIVIL MEXICANO PARA LA SILVICULTURA SOSTENIBLE (CCMSS), MEXICO — WINNER OF 2013 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD

CCMSS has taken an integrated approach to tackling the problems of this varied landscape. Through building the capacity of the local farmer’s union, they have strengthened the farmers’ ability to govern their own land. And the farmers have increased their knowledge for sustainable land management. For instance, CCMSS has developed workplans to improve the quality of soil on their plots using natural fertilizer. CCMSS also works with small forest landholders to promote better land use, such as preventing invasive weeds and taking appropriate restoration steps after forest fires.



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

SLM practices include the integrated management of crops (trees), livestock, soil, water, nutrients, biodiversity, disease and pest to optimize the delivery of a range of ecosystem services. The overall objective is to maximize provisioning services (e.g. food, water, energy) while enhancing the resilience of land resources and the communities that depend on them.

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Land for Life

securing our common future

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LAND FOR LIFE “SECURING OUR COMMON FUTURE”

ABOUT THE LAND FOR LIFE

12 million hectares of productive land is lost each year and it costs the world about US \$400 billion per year or approximately US \$70 per person per year. Soil fertility and land management will be defining issues in the 21st century as the consequences of land degradation is alarming: food insecurity, poverty, water scarcity, increased vulnerability towards climate change, national insecurity and more. The overall management of land on a global level, needs to attract level of attention that matches their importance - whether in the media or in decision-making circles. In total, there are up to 2 billion hectares of land, equivalent to twice the size of China, which today can be restored and rehabilitated.



LAND FOR LIFE “CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT”



SEKEM, EGYPT — WINNER OF 2015 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD

The SEKEM initiative started in 1977 on an untouched part of the Egyptian desert (70 hectares) 60 km northeast of Cairo. Using Biodynamic agricultural methods, a desert area was revitalized and developed into a thriving agricultural business. Through a holistic concept integrating economic, societal and cultural life, SEKEM established the independent SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF), which is running various schools, a kindergarten, a vocational training center, a medical center and a lot of projects. The latest achievement was the establishment of the Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, which successfully started its operations in 2012.



LAND FOR LIFE “IMPROVING PEOPLE’S LIVELIHOOD”



GREEN ASIA NETWORK, REPUBLIC OF KOREA — WINNER OF 2014 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD

By promoting self-reliance through a variety of economic opportunities and capacity development, Green Asia Network (GAN) has helped 14,000 people to improve their livelihood. GAN has mobilized 25,000 volunteers to plant trees in the region and operates eco-tours that give tourist a close look at climate change impacts. With the Land for Life Award prize it received in 2014, GAN is replicating its success in Myanmar.



“When land degradation reaches a level where it seriously threatens people’s livelihoods, it can turn into a security issue. Data from 2007 shows that 80% of major armed conflicts affecting society occurred in vulnerable dry ecosystems,”

But it is not a fate.

“Sustainable land management practices used in parts of Burkina Faso increased harvests by four times. The water table rose by nearly 10 meters in the Maradi Region of Niger, and in China’s Loess Plateau it resulted in nearly double the grain production,”

*Monique Barbut,
Executive Secretary,
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*

The Land for Life programme aims to demonstrate that Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is compelling and achievable. Through its two components: (1) Land for Life Award and (2) Awareness raising and Knowledge Support, the Land for Life programme will show-case and highlight how the existing local, national and regional efforts in rehabilitating and managing the land sustainably, bring multiple benefits to communities through increased land productivity, employment opportunities, greater resilience in the face of climate change and more.

The Land for Life Award recognizes the excellence and innovation of individuals, groups, institutions and businesses whose work and initiatives have made a significant contribution in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Through a variety of activities in Awareness Raising and Knowledge Support, we hope to provide a quantum leap in the level of information that the public and policy-makers have on Land Degradation Neutrality.

LAND FOR LIFE “CONSERVING THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY”

ELION RESOURCES GROUP, CHINA—WINNER OF 2015 LAND FOR LIFE SPECIAL AWARD

ELION’s investment 27 years ago has helped to restore 6000 square kilometres of degraded land in Inner Mongolia, China. It has enabled opportunities such as solar energy generation, to take off. The transformed area is now home to different wildlife and has become an ecological tourist attraction with around 200,000 tourists visiting each year.



LAND FOR LIFE “BUILDING BETTER RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE”

THE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION FOR AFGHAN MOUNTAINS AREAS (COAM), AFGHANISTAN —WINNER OF 2014 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD

Decades of war, extreme poverty and severe climate conditions have resulted in severely degraded range-lands in Afghanistan which are at risk of desertification. COAM’s multiple activities have made a significant difference in changing these conditions. COAM’s green technology solutions have been distributed to over 300 villages in two districts of Bamyan province, directly benefiting more than 3000 households. Using ‘clean cook stoves’ COAM has reduced pressure for natural resources on vulnerable arid rangelands by 50%, providing health and livelihood benefits for women and families.

