DESERTIFICATION LAND DEGRADATION & DROUGHT (DLDD) - SOME GLOBAL FACTS & FIGURES

Land is a finite resource. Only 1/32 of planet Earth represents arable lands. Without addressing DLDD issues we will not achieve food security and we will miss biodiversity, climate change, forests and MDGs targets. If human needs are to be met, the Earth's natural resources must be conserved and enhanced. Land use in agriculture and forestry must be based on a scientific assessment of land capacity and the annual depletion of topsoil

The real value of Drylands

- Drylands = 40% of the world land mass and more than 1/3 of population
- 44% of the World's food production system
- 50% of the World's livestock
- Dry forests makes 42% of the earth's tropical and subtropical open or closed forests
- Home to the world's largest diversity of mammals whose survival, literally, hangs on the arid zone forests.
- But GDP in dryland areas is 50% lower than in non-drylands

Land degradation & Desertification

- 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture
- 52% of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation
- Land degradation affects 1,5 billion people globally
- Arable land loss estimated at 30 to 35 times the historical rate.
- Total land degradation affects some 1.9 billion hectares of land worldwide
- 24 billion tons of fertile soil disappear/year, the most significant, non-renewable geo-resource
- Due to drought and desertification each year 12 million ha are lost (23ha/mn!), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown.
- Six million km2 of drylands bear a legacy of land degradation.

DLDD and food security/hunger

- Land Degradation over the next 25 years may reduce global food production by up to 12% resulting in an increase of, as much as, 30% of world food prices
- Some 925 million people going hungry, 80% of them are small holder farmers & landless poor in rural areas

DLDD & Biodiversity

- Land degradation jeopardizes biodiversity. Desertification affects the global loss of biodiversity; 27,000 species are lost each year

DLDD & Climate change

- Current agricultural practices represent over 13% of GHG emissions
- Climate change will depress agricultural yields by up to 15-50% in most countries by 2050, given current agricultural practices and crop varieties
- The percentage of Earth's land area stricken by serious drought has more than doubled from the 1970s to the early 2000s

DLDD and water stress

- Land degradation undermines water availability & quality
- By 2030 water scarcity alone in some arid and semiarid places may displace up to 700 million people
- Current agricultural practices represent over 70% of the world freshwater resources

DLDD & Poverty & Migration

- 74% of the poor (42% of the very and 32% of the moderately poor) are directly affected by land degradation globally
- Some 50 million people may be displaced within the next 10 years as a result of desertification

DLDD & Gender

- DLDD has a disproportionate impact on women and children.They directly bear the burdens of land degradation and are the last to leave their land.

Potential for restoration of Earth's degraded land

- World forest cover continues to shrink by 13 million ha a year
- More than 2 billion hectares worldwide offer opportunities for restoration through forest and landscape restoration
- Over 715 million ha of deforested and degraded lands in Africa offer opportunities for restoration; Over 550 million ha in Latin America and 400 million ha in southern and eastern Asia
- Agroforestry offers promising avenue for restoration while feeding the poor

Making sustainable land-use, agriculture and food security a cornerstone of the green economy for poverty eradication and sustainable development