

Date: 01 March 2013

## MESSAGE OF THE UNCCD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### UNCCD 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference

Dear Members of the Scientific Community,

As you know the UNCCD scientific conference will be held from 9-12 April 2013 in Bonn, World Congress Centre (WCCB) under the theme “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”. The success of this important Conference very much depends to the continued engagement of all scientists working on matters relating to land and soils.

To improve the living conditions of the people in the drylands, there is an urgent need to advance our understanding of the economics of land degradation and desertification. Scientific knowledge is central to building the resilience of dryland communities and ecosystems, and providing food, energy and water security, particularly in affected developing countries.


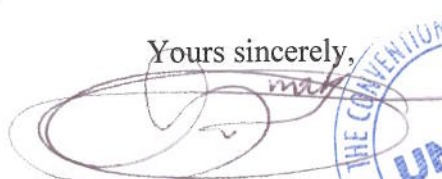
The UNCCD 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference will offer a unique opportunity to transform our understanding of the real value of drylands and associated ecosystem services, by assessing the risk of inaction and the potential positive economic impacts of our various actions.

Valuable inputs from conference participants are expected to further bridge the gap between theory and the practical application of strategies and policies. By strengthening existing methodologies and looking ahead to provide tool boxes of advice and support, this Conference will contribute to better implementation of existing policies and programmes and help develop sound approaches.

I do hope that the outcomes of this Conference will provide the evidence needed for bold actions. It is my expectation that your investment of time and resources to this work will drive future policy on drylands worldwide, securing the health and productivity of the drylands for the well-being of present and future generations.

I look forward to meeting you all in Bonn in April 2013.

Yours sincerely,



Luc Gnacadja  
Executive Secretary