

World Day to Combat Desertification 2016: Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People.



Dear UNCCD Focal Points and Stakeholders,

As you are aware, the World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) is observed every year on 17 June. I would like to extend my invitation to celebrate the Day.

This year, we are advocating for the importance of comprehensive participation and cooperation in working towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. There is probably no greater issue than land in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that affects everyone universally. From the food we eat, to the clothes we wear and the houses we live in – it all stems from land resources. In order to “leave no one behind”, as proclaimed in the new SDGs, achieving Land Degradation Neutrality needs to be in the forefront.

However, leaving no one behind is an enormous challenge that sustainable land management practices alone, nor any other single discipline, can solve. With the slogan, “Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People. “, we send the strong message that, together with our stakeholders, Land Degradation Neutrality would provide additional benefits to achieving other SDGs.

To support your observance plan, we have uploaded some relevant documents and materials on our web-site at: <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WDCD/wdcd2016/Pages/default.aspx>

More information will be posted on the page as it becomes available.

Additionally, as with every year, we will post your WDCD observance plans and reports on our web-site. I strongly encourage you to send your plans to WDCD2016@unccd.int.

The global observance event on 17 June 2016 will be held in Beijing, China and will be hosted by the State Forestry Administration of China (SFA).

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Yukie Hori (yhori@unccd.int, +49 228 815 2829), Communication Team Leader/Spokesperson - External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit.

We look forward to celebrating the WDCD with you and hope to reach and inspire more people than ever before with our unified message and commitment.

Monique Barbut
Executive Secretary