

PRIVATE SECTOR GUIDE ATTENDING UNCCD COP17



Join Business4Land at UNCCD COP17

Become a member today – [sign the Call to Action](#) and stay engaged

This guide outlines what business representatives can expect from COP17 and how they can maximize opportunities to engage, connect, and create impact.

OVERVIEW

The 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be hosted by Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 28 August 2026 under the theme **Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.**

COP17 will bring together delegates from UNCCD's 197 Parties, alongside leaders from business, civil society, academia, youth, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, and smallholder farmers. As the first COP in this "Triple COP" year, it will set the tone for the biodiversity (UNCBD) and climate (UNFCCC) COPs that follow.

For the private sector, COP17 will be a unique platform to scale solutions to the interconnected challenges of land degradation and drought, which affect supply chains and long-term economic resilience.

Restoring land is not only an environmental priority but a business imperative to reduce operational risk, strengthen market stability, and safeguard future growth.

For more detailed information on COP17, please visit the official [UNCCD COP17 website](#).



Rangelands: A Strategic Opportunity for Business at COP17

COP17 is taking place during the [International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists \(IYRP 2026\)](#). For business, rangelands represent both a critical risk and a significant opportunity.

Covering half of the Earth's land surface, rangelands underpin food systems and supply chains, support rural economies, and store up to 30% of global soil carbon.

Yet, up to 50% of rangelands are at risk of degradation, threatening productivity and long-term value.

COP17 offers a strategic platform for companies to strengthen resilience, advance nature-based solutions, and unlock opportunities in rangeland restoration and sustainable management.

50%

**of Rangelands
at Risk of
Degradation**

BUSINESS FOR LAND AT COP17

Private sector engagement with the Convention, including at COP17, is coordinated by the Business4Land (B4L) Initiative, a global network of companies committed to responsible land stewardship, that aims to accelerate private sector action for sustainable land management.

Most multi-stakeholder engagement will take place during the second week (August 24-28).

On August 24th, the B4L Initiative will host the Eighth Business 4 Land Forum (B4L Forum), the largest private sector event of the conference. The Forum will bring together business executives, policymakers, opinion leaders, and experts. Find the full range of private sector events and engagement opportunities on pages 4-7.



Join Business4Land by signing the Call to Action and showcase your commitment to sustainable land, soil, and water management – [Click here.](#)

COP17 ACCREDITATION GUIDE

UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia will welcome a wide range of participants. The Green Zone will be open to the public for networking and exhibitions, while **the Blue Zone will be reserved for UNCCD Parties and accredited organizations**. There, negotiations and high-level discussions will bring together policymakers, businesses, and civil society.

Already Accredited to UNCCD?

Online registration for UNCCD COP17 is available on the [UN Indico System](#). All participants are required to upload a nomination letter confirming their delegate status with an [accredited entity to attend COP17](#). For more information on the online registration, please refer to the [UNCCD COP17 website](#).

Not Yet Accredited?

Join the delegation of an accredited umbrella organization, such as a business association or private sector platform. Contact your umbrella organization to request a nomination letter. If you need support connecting with a suitable one, please contact the B4L Team at b4l@unccd.int.

Joining COP17 as part of an umbrella organization?

Start your accreditation [NOW](#) to become a UNCCD observer at future COPs.

All COP participants are responsible for obtaining their own visas, hotel reservations, and any type of health or other insurance they may need.

PRIVATE SECTOR EVENT GUIDE

COP17 will take place over a period of two weeks, combining formal negotiations with high-level engagement and stakeholder dialogues. The first week (17–21 August) will focus on technical discussions and negotiations. The second week will begin with the Heads of State Summit on August 23rd, followed by the ministerial segment, high-level special events, and the Action Agenda, with its thematic days.

ACTION AGENDA & THEMATIC DAYS

On the Thematic Days, high-level meetings, forums, and side events will take place in both the Blue and the Green Zone as part of an ambitious Action Agenda for COP17. Up-to-date information on COP thematic days and the events will be uploaded on the official UNCCD COP17 website.

24.8	25.8	26.8	27.8
Finance	Water	Land & People	Food Systems & Soil Health
Business for Land Forum	Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) Launch	Special High-Level Event on Rangelands and Pastoralists	B4L Public-Private Dialogue on Agriculture and Private Sector Roundtable

Finance Day – 24.08:

Restoring land at scale requires around one billion US dollars per day, but current funding falls short. Finance Day will highlight opportunities for businesses to mobilize capital, scale nature-based solutions, and align financial flows with sustainable land use.

Water Day – 25.08:

By 2050, floods and droughts could cost the global economy USD 5.6 trillion. Water Day will advance proactive drought risk management and strengthen cooperation on the integrated management of water resources.

Land and People Day – 26.08:

Rangelands support the livelihoods of 500 million people, yet they remain among the most undervalued ecosystems globally. Land and People Day will spotlight the voices of land stewards and highlight opportunities for businesses to engage in sustainable sourcing, landscape restoration, and partnerships with local communities.

Food Systems and Soil Health Day – 27.08:

By 2050, the world will need to produce at least 50 per cent more food, even as food systems remain the leading driver of land degradation globally. This day will spotlight regenerative practices that enhance soil health, agricultural productivity, supply chain resilience, and farmers' livelihoods.

FINANCE DAY

BUSINESS FOR LAND FORUM

24 August 2026 | 09:00-19:00

At COP17, the **B4L Forum** will take place across Finance Day as an integrated arc of high-level sessions anchored in the Action Dome. It will bring together business leaders and policymakers to exchange on the role of business in the sustainable management of land and the building of drought resilience.



Some highlights will be:

Case Study Showcase: Theory and practice of aligned public-private target-setting and disclosure, and how they drive action on land.

Dialogue on Agriculture: High-level hand-over ceremony of business-led recommendations to scale private sector contributions to the sustainable management of agricultural lands.

Business Advocacy: Private sector showcase of best practices and business cases, including those by the B4L Champions Council.

Schedule:

Finance Day High-Level Opening Ceremony 24 August | 09:00 - 9:45 | Action Dome/Yurt

This high-level plenary will open Finance Day and the B4L Forum by establishing the political and financial case for investing in land restoration and drought resilience, framing the private sector as a critical actor in closing the financing gap.

Land as an Asset Class 24 August | 09:45 – 10:30 | Action Dome/Yurt

This high-level session will demonstrate how business transformation, finance, and advocacy can support the restoration of 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030. Through SBTN Land country case studies showcasing the contribution of corporate science-based targets to national LDN commitments, insights from the WEF White Paper on Soil Health on investor-grade soil data, and GRI case studies demonstrating practical land-related disclosure, it will highlight the measurement, data, and accountability tools needed to position land as a credible, investable asset class.

Leadership for a Land-Positive Future: High-level Forum of Mining Industry Leaders

24 August 10:30 – 12:00 Action Dome/Yurt

This high-level forum will challenge the mining industry to evolve from resource extraction to ecosystem regeneration, positioning it as a key driver of land restoration and sustainable development. By uniting global CEOs, ministers, and international partners, the event will launch a landmark best-practices compendium and secure bold restoration commitments.

Pitching Bankable Solutions for Mongolia's Rangelands 24 August | 12:00 - 13:00 | Action Dome

This session focuses on addressing Mongolia's total adaptation financing needs, estimated at USD 7.8 billion by 2030, where 76.9 percent of the land is currently affected by desertification and degradation. The event showcases how nature-based solutions represent one of the country's most cost-effective pathways to climate resilience and economic diversification.

De-risk and Scale to restore 1.5 Billion Ha of Land 24 August | 13:00 – 15:00 | Action Dome/Yurt

This high-level forum showcases real-time financial instruments, pipelines, and corporate partnerships designed to make land restoration bankable. Built for investors and executives across agriculture, fashion, mining, and technology, the session details how to transform supply chains into investable projects using de-risking tools like parametric insurance, carbon credits, and blended finance vehicles.

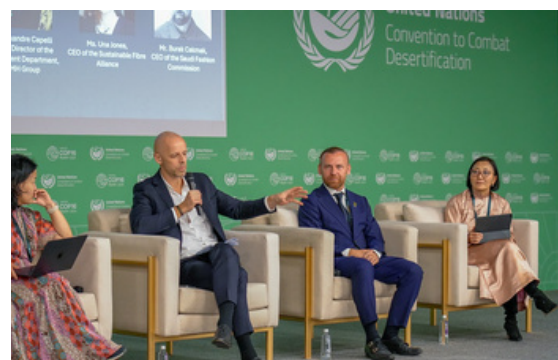
Future for Financing Roundtable 24 August | 15:00 – 18:00 | MET22 (Zone D)

This roundtable will convene senior leadership from MDBs, DFIs, and philanthropic capital for a peer exchange exploring a post-aid financing architecture for land and drought resilience. The session will focus on identifying practical solutions to institutional barriers and translating the MDB Common Nature Taxonomy from a classification framework into operational lending practice. The dialogue aims to build a coalition of financial partners committed to specific, measurable implementation milestones over the next 24 months.

FASHION FOR LAND

24 August 2026 | 15:00 – 17:30 | Action Dome/Yurt

This half-day forum, held under the Business4Land umbrella, will spotlight the intersection of sustainable fashion, land restoration, and regenerative livelihoods. The event will highlight the role of sustainable fibers in connecting local livelihoods to global value chains. By linking creative solutions with technical expertise, its three sessions aim to spark policy discussions on navigating and harmonizing global fashion sustainability standards.



Designing Tomorrow: Youth Innovation in Sustainable Fashion 15:00–15:45

A panel showcasing youth-led innovation in sustainable fashion, bringing together emerging designers and industry leaders to explore how creativity, traditional knowledge, and new business models are shaping the sector's future.

Wool at the Crossroads: Rediscovering Natural Fibres in a Synthetic Age 15:50–16:35

A discussion on the renewed role of natural fibres, examining how materials such as wool and cashmere can support regenerative production, strengthen rural livelihoods, and drive the transition away from synthetic textiles.

Navigating Fashion Standards: Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Regulations 16:40–17:25

A high-level policy dialogue on the evolving landscape of fashion sustainability regulations, exploring opportunities to improve coherence across standards, reduce compliance challenges, and support more effective global value chains.

HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING EVENT

B4L Champions' Council Reception and Fashion Show 17:45 – 19:00 | Action Dome/Yurt

This high-level evening reception will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of Finance Day through the perspective of the B4L Champions' Council, representing the broader business community. The evening will conclude with a fashion show featuring sustainable collections by international and Mongolian designers, followed by a reception that will foster networking and informal dialogue among senior leaders from business, government, finance and civil society.

OTHER KEY EVENTS

WATER DAY

Transforming Agricultural Water Management for Drought Resilience and Food Security

25 August | 11:30 – 13:00 | MET 24, Zone D

This session, organized in collaboration with CGIAR, demonstrates how science-driven innovation can transform agricultural water management for drought resilience across water-stressed regions. The event will show technological and digital innovations, including AI-driven Irrigation Demand Management and Forecasting (IDMF), and highlight how these can accelerate impact to turn local innovations into action.

Official Launch of the Drought Resilience Investment Facility 25 August | 16:00 – 17:30 | TBD

This event will formally announce the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) as a flagship blended finance initiative aimed at mobilizing private capital for drought resilience. The launch will highlight early commitments and partnerships, while showcasing DRIF's role in scaling investments across water infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and nature-based solutions.

B4L Dialogue on Corporate Disclosures and Target-setting 25 August | 09:30 – 11.15 | TBD

An exchange between standard setters, policy makers, and businesses on the role of corporate disclosure and target-setting standards in driving positive land action, and how alignment across public and private standards forms the basis for collective action.

LAND AND PEOPLE DAY



Special High-Level Event on Rangelands and Pastoralists

26 August | 13:00 – 15:00 | Action Dome

This high-level event will serve as a platform for governments, development finance institutions, private investors, and civil society to accelerate investment in rangeland restoration, sustainable pastoralism, and nature-based climate solutions.

FOOD SYSTEMS & SOIL HEALTH DAY

Private Sector Roundtable: Mobilizing Finance for Soil Health and Food Systems Transformation

27 August | 09:00 – 10:30 | MET22 (Zone D)

This session will convene private sector representatives to address the enabling environment supporting private sector engagement in agricultural restoration industry, to advance private sector initiatives on metrics identification and reporting mechanisms, as well as financial models and financial contributions into the land restoration industry. The event will be opened by the launch of the WEF/UNCCD white paper developed under the Global Future Council of Soil.

Building the Case: Shared Soil Health Indicators for Food Systems Transformation

27 August | 09:00 – 10:30 | MET24 (Zone D)

This session will focus on relevant agricultural land and soil health metrics, contributing to the definition of a common framework for measuring progress on soil health, regenerative agriculture and agroecological practices, as well as showcasing tools that strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

B4L Public-Private Dialogue on Agriculture 27 August | 11:15 – 12:30 | TBD

A designated session for in-depth dialogue on the business-led recommendations on agriculture between decision-makers and companies.

Scaling Innovative Financing Solutions to Accelerate Investments 27 August | 11:00 – 12:30 | Action Dome/Yurt

This session will focus on scaling innovative financing solutions to accelerate investments in soil health, land restoration and nature-positive agrifood systems. It will showcase practical investment frameworks and blended finance approaches that connect conservation and restoration objectives with investable financial structures.

Innovations at the Service of Transformation of Food Systems

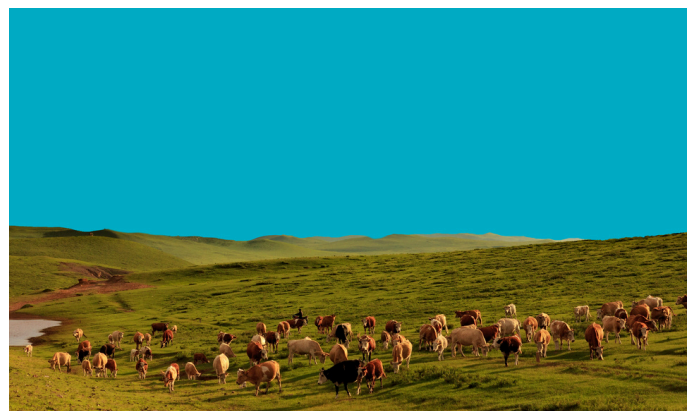
27 August | 09:00 – 10:30 | MET22 (Zone D)

This session will highlight the most recent innovative tools supporting the scale up and acceleration of the agricultural restoration industry.

Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Value-Chains

27 August | 09:00 – 10:30 | MET24 (Zone D)

This session will focus on how sustainable and inclusive value-chain approaches can contribute to effectively transform food systems, such as seabuckthorn restoration and value chains, including cosmetic products or oil production. Presentations will also address sheep wool-based organic fertilizer and circular bioeconomy solutions, alongside camel milk production and value addition.



THE B4L PAVILLION IN THE BLUE ZONE



Similarly to COP16, B4L will again host a designated **Pavilion** in the **Blue Zone** with an event stage, lounging, a coffee area, and meeting rooms. B4L partners are invited to **co-create the program**.

The B4L Pavilion will host a **business capacity-building training**, co- developed by B4L with the Economics of Land Degradation initiative and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Showcase Business Leadership at COP17 by Organizing an Event in the B4L Pavilion!

B4L Partners are invited to submit proposals to highlight innovations, share expertise, and engage with key stakeholders. Submit your proposal to B4L at b4l@unccd.int.

SIDE EVENTS

Strengthening Resilience and Investment in the Great Green Wall: From Evidence to Action

24 August | 10:30-12:00 | MET06

This session showcases how robust land health data, community data systems, and scalable rangeland restoration practices generate innovative business models. Partnered with the Business4Land Initiative, the event demonstrates to investors and private sector actors how verified ecological evidence de-risks commercial capital to unlock large-scale restoration solutions across the Great Green Wall's Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan (2021–2030).