Ms. Yingzhen Pan, the Director of the National Bureau to Combat Desertification of State Forestry Administration started her journey to combat desertification in 1984 in the Bureau of Construction of Shelter Forests in three northern regions in China.

Under her leadership, the restoration of the Three North Regions Shelterbelts has achieved:

- afforestation of 29.2 million hectares of degraded land, generating forest resources worth 17 billion US dollar, helping to alleviate poverty for 15 million people
- counteraction of sand encroachment over 336,200 km²
- restoring nearly 450,000 km² of land affected by soil erosion.

"As the China National Focal Point of Combating Desertification, I will continue together with my colleagues to lead and realize the work of rehabilitating degraded land. Let our land be alive again, giving more hopes and opportunities."

Ms. Yingzhen Pan pursued continuous innovation and support for rehabilitation initiatives for areas affected by land degradation and desertification by:

- coordinating the National Plan for Development of Desert Parks (2016-2025) encompassing 70 desert parks
- supervising regulations for the protection and development of desertified areas that cover 71 counties in China
- managing two key national projects that aim to combat desertification and restore degraded land.

For more information on Land for Life Programme, email L4L@unccd.int

The Land for Life Programme is made possible by the following partners:

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Email: secretariat@unccd.int

WINNER OF 2017 LAND FOR LIFE CHINA AWARD – MS. YINGZHEN PAN

Ms. Pan received her National Bureau to Combat Desertification of State Forestry Administration started her journey to combat desertification in 1984 in the Bureau of Construction of Shelter Forests in three northern regions in China.

In a town of a thousand inhabitants, this organization led by a 75-year-old lady has successfully soared hope not only in the fields but also in the lives of people that now feel they are part of a community.

Florencia Escudero Fonseca, through her inspiring work and dedication, has mobilized a whole community from all ages and walks of life to protect and preserve the environment and its resources by:

- restoring abandoned and degraded land through sustainable agricultural practices and reforestation
- planting 2,000 trees in 40 ha of land, 1,000 more trees will be planted each year in the future of deceased and disabled people and others who have social difficulties.

For more information on Land for Life Programme, email L4L@unccd.int

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It is estimated that in the last 40 years one third of the world’s arable land has been lost to erosion and continues to be lost at a rate of more than 12 million hectares per year. Around 135 million people may be displaced by 2045 as a result of desertification.

When practices like these are amplified globally, sustainability, food security, poverty eradication and resilience to climate change will be achieved. The winners show that restoration of degraded land can halt this trend, make a positive impact on people's lives and transform lives and livelihoods for the future. By promoting awareness campaigns and sharing information on sustainable land practices through recognizing successful cases of sustainable land management (SLM), it creates pathways to more responsible land management and sustainable livelihoods. Land for Life Award recognizes communities suffering from the impacts of land degradation.

Land for Life Programme launched at the UNCCD COP10 in the Republic of Korea as part of the Changwon Initiative, seeks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality. The Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-DRR) programme in North Darfur, implemented in 2012 to 2015 as a pilot project by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its partner Practical Action Sudan to improve food security and disaster resilience.

In order to manage the scarce resources sustainably, SLM practices were adopted through: rehabilitation of the water retention structures that increased water retention by 17.5 times; increased agricultural production which benefited 30,000 farmers; 4,500 farmers gained access to more land to cultivate; irrigated and cultivated land expanded from 364 ha to an approximate 6,300 ha annually; increased agricultural product which benefited 36,000 inhabitants; increased number of farmers that adopted this practice from 544 to 2,048 in three years; established Women Self Help Groups that helped approximately 6,300 ha annually; reduced vulnerability of 17,500 people to drought; decreased grazing pressures on degraded lands; 51.15 billion liters of water were harvested; land under perennial irrigation increased from 0 to 50 hectares and vegetables by 18% and 20.5% respectively.

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 (LDN). The Programme recognizes those whose work and initiatives have made a significant contribution in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The Programme recognizes those whose work and initiatives have made a significant contribution in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

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