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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI



**URNS TWENTY**  
**THE DESERTIFICATION RESEARCH CENTRE**  
**OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASSARI**

**On 17 June, a webinar to celebrate the  
World Day to Combat Desertification**

Twenty years ago, in June 2000, the University of Sassari formalised the **NRD** as Interdepartmental Centre, with the aim of promoting the research and international cooperation projects to combat desertification and environmental degradation.

Prof. Giuseppe Enne had founded the **Desertification Research Centre** in 1993 from the team of the European project “MEDALUS”, a milestone for the international scientific community at the time of signature of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification ([UNCCD](#)), the highest level international body that provides the guidelines and strategies to address this issue on a global scale. NRD's activities are framed into the UNCCD mission and vision, with a focus on the need for a trans-disciplinary and participatory approach to effectively address complex issues such as climate change and land degradation.

Forty professors and twenty young researchers, PhD students from various disciplines such as agronomy, livestock science, environmental sciences, hydrogeology, environmental health, economics, sociology, law, are the core business of NRD activities. The scientific skills are integrated with cross-cutting skills of research and financial managers and efficient administrative staff, which have played a key role in the successful design of international projects. NRD is also the operational secretariat of [DesertNet International](#), an international network of desertification scientists accredited to UNCCD, and is part of the Global Network of [Dryland Research Institutes](#) (GNDRI).

International cooperation, research and higher education courses have always been the backbone of NRD, which in the first twenty years has coordinated dozens of projects on the governance and sustainable management of water resources in Tunisia and Algeria, the integrated coastal zone management in Egypt, soil fertility restoration in the desertified lands of Morocco and Tunisia, the mitigation of soil and water pollution in East Africa, the development of renewable energy facilities in Ghana and Burkina Faso, the adaptation of agriculture to the climate crisis and the sustainable intensification of agriculture in East and West Africa.

In Sardinia, the main research topics focus on hydrogeology, development of new agri-food supply chains, plant biodiversity, groundwater pollution, wastewater reuse, and the transformation of livestock wastewater into organic fertilizers. These studies have also been used by the Department of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Sassari in the development of the Regional Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change of Sardinia. Much of this research has been carried out in partnership with prestigious Italian and foreign research institutions.



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On Wednesday June 17, on the occasion of **World Day to Combat Desertification**, the Asinara National Park and NRD organize an online **webinar**, which will be divided in two sessions:

1. **Water and Asinara** with representatives of the local institutions and experts discussing the peculiar condition of the island's water resources and future perspectives.
2. **SDG-30 vs COVID-19: Opportunities from combating desertification** with some of the leading international experts on combating Desertification.

The event will be broadcasted on **the platform asinarawebmeeting.it** with **simultaneous** (ITA-ENG/ENG-ITA) **translation** for both sessions: the live web will air in the social and YouTube channels of the Asinara National Park and NRD, and the materials related to the topics covered will be made available and downloadable.



## 17 GIUGNO 2020 GIORNATA MONDIALE CONTRO LA DESERTIFICAZIONE

🕒 ORE 10:00

### L'ACQUA E L'ASINARA PRESENTE E FUTURO DELLE RISORSE IDRICHE

**Vittorio Gazale** Direttore Parco Nazionale Asinara  
**Anita Pili** Assessore Industria R.A.S.  
**Giovanni P. Sanna** Direttore Conservatoria Coste  
**Sean Wheeler** Sindaco Porto Torres  
**Abramo Garau** Amministratore Unico Abbanoa  
**Giorgio Ghiglieri** Idrogeologo, Unica e NRD Uniss

🕒 12:00 P.M.

### SDG-30 vs COVID-19 OPPORTUNITIES FROM COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

**Gabriela Scanu** Commissario Parco Naz. Asinara  
**Pier Paolo Roggero** NRD University of Sassari  
**Youssef Brahimi** Desertnet international, France  
**Naem Mazahrih** NARC, Jordan  
**George Karatzas** University of Crete  
**Anna Luise** ISPRA, Italy  
**Elena Abraham** CONICET, Argentina  
**James Kombiok** KDC, Ghana

traduzione simultanea a cura di Tonito Solinas

