

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2002

Events around the world

ALGERIA

The NGO AREA/ED organized a meeting with students in the framework of the project "Enfance et eau" (Childhood and water). The NGO Association ecologique pour la protection de l'environnement de la faune et de la flore de Bechar organized two round tables with governmental representatives, local communities with the theme "Combating desertification and land degradation". The discussions were broadcasted through the regional radio.

ARGENTINA

The Ministry of Environment will hold a press conference prior to June 17, during which it will distribute a press release and other relevant information. The Ministry of Social Development launched a poster commemorating the day. Press coverage may be found at the following links:

CAMEROON

The NGO RUDEOR organized an awareness raising campaign on the UNCCD in the Bamboutos Division. The campaign targeted the local population and students on holidays.

CHINA

The State Greening Commission, the Ministry of Personnel and the State Forestry Administration will jointly issue a document and hold a meeting to commend outstanding agencies and individuals in the fight against desertification. Television stations will interview and report their stories.

COSTA RICA

Through a poster which Costa Rica issued, on the strategies of the Caribbean NGOs on how to tackle Land Degradation, it indicated that, The problem of land degradation in the Caribbean is to be tackled head on for the first time by a group of 17 Caribbean NGOs at a Sub-Regional Workshop to be held from 28- 30 July 2002 in Barbados. The Workshop, which is being hosted by CNIRD, is also geared towards establishing a network of Caribbean NGOs on Desertification. These NGOs are expected to form the largest Caribbean delegation at any UNCCD forum as they sit in on the VIII Regional Meeting of Parties to the UNCCD in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being held parallel to the Workshop. Sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat, the Workshop will allow participants to:

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1. Be further sensitized and informed about the UNCCD and issues related to land degradation and the LAC (International Network of NGOs on Desertification) RIOD.
2. Share experiences about efforts to combat land degradation.
3. Develop an Action Plan to guide further collaboration efforts among NGOs in the region. The Sub-Regional Workshop for NGOs is part of the capacity-building programme of the LAC RIOD. At the close of the Workshop, participants will have earned accreditation to the UNCCD and committed themselves to establish National RIOD Networks in their countries.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Network for Environment and Sustainable Development held demonstrations in commemoration of the day.

CUBA

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment launched a series of activities. Democratic Republic of Congo. The NGO OSEAHC organized lectures on desertification and actions to be taken to combat it in the presence of around 600 students.

GUATEMALA

A national awareness raising campaign was launched on the day with broadcasts in 32 radio stations, including in languages Quiche, Cakchiquel, Quekchi, Mam and Tzutihil.

HUNGARY

Meeting entitled "The Role of the UNCCD in the Mitigation of Land Degradation" will be hosted by the Ministry for Environment.

ITALY

The Università degli Studi della Basilicata Facoltà di Agraria launched a series of lectures to commemorate the day.

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KENYA

The NGO Econews will organize events together with a community in the Baringo District to promote the establishment of the Desertification Trust Fund. The NGO Green Belt Movement issued a press release. In Lao People's Democratic Republic, the National Disaster Management Office hung banners on main roads and organized a meeting at Lao National University as part of an awareness raising campaign about the day.

MALI

Radio and television strips will be broadcast; a speech will be delivered by H.E. the Minister of Environment; information will be disseminated to school children and tree planting will be launched; a documentary on participatory management of forests will be released on television. The cities of Nara and Bamako will hold special events on the theme of synergy between the three Rio conventions of climate change, desertification and biodiversity

MAURITANIA

The NGO Institut Marieme Diallo organized educational and awareness raising activities in three communities of the Brakna Region (Abdallah Diery, Sorimale and Dar El Barka). The NGO carried out reforestation campaigns with women and children of the three communities.

MOLDOVA

The Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development will hold a round-table discussion.

NAMIBIA

Special events will be hosted by a community at Grootberg from 13-17 June for all the communities that participated in Desertification 2002 Conference entitled "Alternative Ways to Combat Desertification - Connecting Community Action with Science and Common Sense." Awareness and information materials will be shared and a video shown throughout the SADC region.

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NIGERIA

The Nigerian Concerned Group for Environment, Population and Development held Presentations on land degradation, erosion and women's involvement in agriculture, group discussions and a Q&A session with students in commemoration of the day.

PANAMA

The National Authority of Environment will hold a workshop on the degradation of land in Panama, which will be covered by a national newspaper.

PERU

The NGO Proterra participated in a round table discussion on the role of civil society in the implementation of the UNCCD organized by the governmental focal point. Additionally, they prepared a press release that was sent to major national mass media.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The NGO ASCOFROID organized a meeting on land degradation.

SAUDI ARABIA

A statement delivered by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Water will be broadcast by the mass media and statements by senior officials in the ministry will be disseminated to local newspapers. A webpage will be devoted to the day by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water.

SENEGAL

The government will visit two regional projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and rehabilitating degraded land. Also, the Minister of Rural Development and Environment will deliver speeches, which will be broadcast on television. The NGO network CONGAD will organize a two-day workshop on capacity building on desertification and environmental conventions, and a public conference on soil degradation in Thies (70km East of Dakar). The Association pour le développement du village de Bougoutoub Banny organized a meeting in the village of Bougoutoub Banny with clubs, committees, associations, local authorities and teachers to discuss about desertification and land degradation.

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ST. LUCIA

A press release will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Articles on desertification will be published in local newspapers, radio and television programmes will be broadcast, and a panel discussion will be held. In addition, field planting exercises for school children will be conducted along major riverbanks.

THAILAND

The Land Development Department will launch a national campaign to reduce soil erosion by planting Vetiver grass in the center of erosion prone area of Northeast Thailand with 400 farmers, 100 students and 100 government officials.

TOGO

The government will hold conferences and debates, and communicate with the media between 30 May and 17 June 2002 as part of a national campaign to raise awareness on afforestation. The NGO Ecole et vie organized debates in rural areas on land degradation as a threat to farm production.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The NGO Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) issued a newsletter entirely dedicated to the World Day to Combat Desertification. Protectors of the Environment (POE), a community organization from Lopinot in Trinidad, commemorated the day by conducting a tree planting exercise in the hills overlooking the Caura Valley, and invited CNIRD staff to participate. In addition to reforestation activities, POE also acts a volunteer fire brigade on the hillsides during the fire-prone dry season.