

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2007

Events around the world

Events that mark the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June 2007, the United Nations will celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification. To mark this date, Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as institutions and civil society organizations plan events and public awareness activities. Listed below are some of the many events that will take place to mark the day.

BURKINA FASO

The NGO Association Prudence au Sahel (APS) is planning to hold a number of activities including a march against desertification, a donkey race, a tree-planting ceremony and an awareness-raising talk on desertification by a representative from the department of the environment of Rambo region.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

More than 200 students and local people will participate in reforestation activities organized by the NGO Fondation Centre Africaine pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources Naturelles (FOCSARENA) at the severely depleted forested area of Mbaiki.

FRANCE

A humanitarian concert organized by SOS Sahel International France will be held on June 17 at the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.

The exhibition "Sahel, man facing the desert", presented on the Grilles du Jardin du Senat (rue de Médicis) until 1 July 2007, is the first exhibition of the human aspect of desertification, which the Senate is pleased to offer to the public, with photographs by Roberto Neumiller - for SOS Sahel - whose beauty is matched only by the pain and misery they reflect.

As part of this exhibition and in order to continue this public awareness of the challenges of desertification, the Senate will host a free concert by SOS SAHEL on 17 June, World Day to Combat Desertification, in the Gardens of Luxembourg (kiosk of the Garden - entry by the Grille Saint Michel).

After the success of the three previous editions at the Cabaret Sauvage, the Jam'Sahel will take place this year in the heart of Paris. In order to silence the silence around the Sahel, a group of sixty musicians will gather voluntarily under the direction of Cheick Tidiane Seck to perform a group improvisation session.

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CHINA

Article on combating desertification written by Mr. Jia Zhibang, head of State Forestry Administration, being published in People's Daily on June 17 China Handbooks instructing rural people on basic actions against sandstorms China CCTV Channel 7 showing a special programme on June 17 called Green Space-Time with the theme of combating desertification China CCTV News to broadcast a three-day special on the theme of combating desertification.

ITALY

The Italian Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the National Committee to Combat Desertification and Drought (NCCDD) has launched a nationwide awareness-raising campaign entitled 100 initiatives to combat drought and desertification. Governmental institutions, universities, schools, research institutes, NGOs and other local associations involved in environmental issues have been invited to celebrate the WDCD with various activities during the month of June 2007.

LESOTHO

The Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation will mark the Day by reseeding a denuded area in one of the southern districts of the country.

MOROCCO

The NGO Association Oasis Ferkla pour l'Environnement et le Patrimoine (AOFEP) (Tinjdad, Errachidia, Morocco) is organizing a study day on the subject of Desertification and climate change in cooperation with the research team for Climate Science, Water, the Environment and the Land (SCEEP) from the science and technology faculty of the Moulay Ismail Meknes University of Morocco. The event will take place in Tinjdad Town Hall.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korea Forest Service (KFS) launched the first government-led tree planting project in the Mongolian deserts to combat desertification and mitigate dust and sandstorms. This Greenbelt Plantation Project aims to plant 3,000 ha of forest in Mongolia by 2016. A grand launching ceremony was held on June 3 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with distinguished representatives from both governments and international organizations.

The KFS is also holding a seminar on combating desertification and dust and sandstorms on June 15 in Seoul with the participation of delegates from relevant state agencies, research institutes, academia and NGOs.

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PERU

The INRENA is organizing a national conference on the issue of Desertification in the framework of the Peruvian National Action Programme to Combat Desertification to be held on June 15 2007.

TANZANIA

The NGO the Journalist Environmental Association of Tanzania will hold a press conference on the extent of desertification in Tanzania, its effects on livelihoods, and what should be done to combat it. It will also look at the links between desertification and climate change.