

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

Many actors around the world have begun sharing information about their World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) observance plans.

AUSTRIA

The Centre for Development Research Cmdr. Html of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria, will organize a dialogue event entitled "Soil health: Pathways to well-being in developing countries" on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification 2010. This dialogue event will explore the current land degradation challenges in the South and discuss strategies to enhance soil health through more sustainable land management practices. The event is organized in cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEiA).

BENIN

The NGO JVE Bénin will organize an event on "Climate Change and Desertification: Challenges and perspectives" at the Polytechnical School of Abomey-Calavi. This event will be followed by a tree-planting session within the campus.

BHUTAN

Bhutan joined the global community in observing the World Day to Combat Desertification by organizing a three-day National Level Land Management Campaign from 17 to 19th June 2010. The campaign was conducted by the National Soil Services Center (NSSC)<http://www.moa.gov.bt/nssc/> under the Department of Agriculture in one of the districts in eastern Bhutan, where land degradation is becoming a serious problem undermining the livelihoods of the poor farmers.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

BURKINA FASO

97 people attended the conference organized by the Regional Directorate for Environment and livelihood of the North region, in collaboration with the APS NGO, on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification. The main theme was "impact of climate change and measures for adaptation and mitigation" and interlinkages with desertification. During the debate session, a strong focus was put on soil improvement and SLM practices.



CAPE VERDE

The NGO ADAD; Environment and Development Advocacy Association will commemorate the World Day to Combat Desertification through workshops on Water and renewable energies. The event will start at 10:00 the 17 June in the Technical School of Assomada, Santa Catarina.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

CHINA

The UNCCD and the Chinese National Bureau to Combat Desertification of the State Forestry Administration, in cooperation with Future Forest, All China Youth Federation, Environmental Education Media Project and China Central Television 7 are organizing the observance of the WDCD 2010 at the World Expo 2010, in Shanghai, China.



FRANCE

The NGO CARI, on behalf of the French Workgroup on Desertification (GTD), in cooperation with the French Scientific Committee on Desertification (CSFD) <http://www.csf-desertification.org/>, will launch the Sahel and Desertification Network (RéSaD) on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification. A conference will be held in Montpellier with several personalities working on the field of desertification in the Sahel region.

GHANA

As part of this year's World Day to Combat Desertification celebrations, the NGO ADICODE is planning to organize a tree planting exercise on the Adaklu Mountain in the Adaklu Kordiabe and Adaklu Hlekpe Communities in the Adaklu Anyigbe District of the Volta Region (Ghana) to commemorate the occasion. Planting Mahogany, Mango and Cashew tree seedlings will aim to rehabilitate degraded forest sites on the Adaklu Mountain.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

GERMANY

At an official ceremony held at the town hall in Illingen, Germany, on 12 March 2010, students of the Illtal High School (11/12 grade) commemorated the WDCD in advance, and were awarded certificates for their commitment to sustainable development. Based on a project module entitled 'Sustainability', supervised by Ms. Anne Breit, a teacher at Illtal High School, the students focused on issues of sustainable development such as desertification, land degradation, climate change and water scarcity in a comprehensive and constructive manner. This year, the GTZ, BMZ, Koenig Museum and the UNCCD will join their efforts for organizing events in Bonn for the observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification. Several events are planned on 17 and 18 June 2010 on this occasion.

HUNGARY

The Government of Hungary will organize a commemorative meeting, spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development together with the UNCCD Hungarian Expert Team. The meeting will bring together a large number of scientists, experts and stakeholders as well as media representatives. The meeting will focus on this year's theme through a lecture examining the impacts of desertification and drought on the soils and biodiversity of the affected area, and will highlight Hungary's contributions towards the activities of UNCCD during the last decade. The aim is to increase the interest of the people in the possibilities to combat desertification and drought.

INDIA

This year a workshop was organized on the World Day to Combat Desertification on June 17 2010 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Introductory remarks by Mr. Vivek Saxena, Director (Desertification Cell), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, focused on the milestones covered by India over the years in combating the issues of droughts, land degradation and desertification; and reiterated India's commitment to the UNCCD. The technical sessions covered a vast array of issues covering the various aspects of Sustainable Land Management practices in India, including degraded coastal land and water to farmer managed ground water system.

IRAN

An Iranian NGO plans to deliver a specific newsletter on the WDCD. Furthermore, an event dedicated to the Camel in recognition of its usefulness to populations that live in deserts regions, will also be organized.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

ITALY

The Italian government, through the Ministry of Environment, Territory and Sea, in collaboration with Italian Coast Guards, ISPRA, RAM and INEA would celebrate this year World Day to Combat Desertification organizing a study in very sensitive areas in Northern Sardinia region, with the participation of local and national authorities (the undersecretary of state for the environment, Hon. Roberto Menia will participate) and press representatives. UPM International Association, in collaboration with the UNESCO Italian National Commission will commemorate the 17 June 2010, World Day to Combat Desertification, by disseminating UNCCD material on this subject. They will also create scientific and academic workgroups that shall work on papers to be published in September in a book that will be entitled "Ma-Pi Polyculture: a proposal for sustainable agriculture".

The Faculty of Agronomy of the University of La Tuscia in Viterbo is organizing a workshop on 11 June 2010, focusing on this year's theme. The meeting will gather together professors, students and scientific researchers to discuss about DLDD issues from different cultural perspectives. The Department of Agriculture of the Calabria Region, in collaboration with the Sila National Park, the Ministry of Environment and the Municipality of San Giovanni in Fiore, organized an official event on the 17 June to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification. The event, which consisted in a round table where some Italian regional stakeholders presented local activities related to DLDD, took place in the Sila National Park of the Calabria region.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Kyrgyzstan celebrated the WDCD 2010, through a press conference by Kyrgyz officials. After the reading of the message from the UNCCD Executive Secretary by Kubanychbek Kulov, Kyrgyz UNCCD National Focal Point, the Minister of Agriculture announced the launch of a State Program called "Kyrgyzstan 2020: Sustainable manufacture of ecologically clean products for the improvement of Nature, Nation and Economy". Also, on the day following the WDCD, the first National TV channel broadcast the report "Kyrgyzstan's Pastures - should the law work?" with, among other participants, representatives of a GTZ project on sustainable pasture and water resources management in the watersheds of Jergetal and Ottuk rivers.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

LESOTHO

Lesotho celebrated the World Day to Combat Desertification on the ground visiting degraded area where country program on Integrated Catchment Management is implemented using stone stabilization structures and biological measures for land restoration.



MEXICO

The President of the Republic will chair the event of the commemoration of the WDCD in Querétano on 17th June 2010. The event will be accompanied by others secondary events in each federal entity. Those will take place in the field and will show the best improvements; some of them also including conferences (Baja California, Chihuahua and Jalisco). The Secretary of Environment will present the National Strategy for the SLM and will host a side event in cooperation with the UNCCD and the UNFCCC in the frame of COP16.

MOLDAVA

On 17 June 2010, in the premises of the State Hydrometeorological Service in Chişinău, was held a Press Conference dedicated to the celebration of the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June with the slogan "Enhancing soils anywhere enhances life everywhere".

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

MOROCCO

The High Commissioner for Water, Forestry and the fight against desertification of the Kingdom of Morocco will commemorate the World Day to Combat Desertification under the theme "Sustainable management of silvo-pastoral areas in East Morocco contribute to the conservation of biodiversity". Sustainable land management will then be approached through presentation of tools, such as watershed management planning, and good practices that have been carried out successfully.

NIGER

The NGO ANSEN (Association Nigerienne des Scouts de l'Environnement) celebrated the WDCD 2010 during the closing session of the Days on Raising Awareness on GMO and Promoting Organic Agriculture. The representative of the Ministry of Environment and the fight against desertification among several officials attended the celebration.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010 Events around the world

PAKISTAN

The Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) hosting at the Ministry of Environment of Pakistan, facilitated number of activities, including seminars, radio talk show, erecting banners and issuing PDF flyers and PDF stickers focusing on WDCD. Flyers and stickers were sent to all federal ministers, parliamentarians, senators with a letter signed by the Federal Minister for Environment in order to increase awareness on land degradation and soil biodiversity issues.

Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE), a leading Pakistani NGO, is currently operating in Tharparkar district, where a precious and pristine forest at Karonjhar hills, at Nangarparkar is facing threat of extinction by timber and gum extraction. SCOPE launched a project with the assistance of UNDP-GEF, Small Grant Programme to save this forest. The project has trained about 100 Green Guards, a community volunteers who are protecting trees and natural resources. This JPG picture is about a rally of Green Guards at the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification.



WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

PHILIPPINES

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) as the UNCCD National Focal Agency celebrated the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought by organizing a seminar on the Establishment of Soil Conservation Guided Farm. With this year's theme "Enhancing soils anywhere enhances life everywhere", the BSWM also supported this year observance of the Soil Conservation Month (June 2010) with a parallel theme "Protecting our soils today, protecting our future".

SENEGAL

Senegal, like the global community, celebrated the World Day to Combat Desertification on the 17 June 2010. This year, awareness raising activities held at Joal Fadiouth organized by the NGO ENDA Tiers Monde under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment and the Directorate for Water and Forests, focal point of the UNCCD, with the participation of UICN and GTZ. At Joal Fadiouth several national and local officials attended the celebration as well as schools, NGOs and CSOs. After some field visits on land degradation and local answers, NGOs and CSOs were trained on lobbying and advocacy on environmental issues. The NGO SOS Sahel International Senegal will organize a conference under the theme "Desertification, Climate Change and Biodiversity in Senegal: the contribution of SOS Sahel international" with the participation of several political and scientific personalities.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa undertook a series of activities to observe the World Day to combat Desertification. During the world cup 2010, the general public was called to spare a moment for those affected by desertification and to change our behavior so it does not affect us. The Department also invited communities as a whole to celebrate the Day by informing them on the technical definitions, causes and preventive measures. Furthermore, during the Provincial Desertification Day on 29 June 2010, the Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Agriculture, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, urged communities including the youth groups to take care of the land in order to keep desertification at bay. The society was educated about the importance of protecting the vegetation, the causes and effects of desertification.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010

Events around the world

SPAIN

Madrid will commemorate the WDCD through an event called “La Merienda”. “La Merienda” is an initiative of Caja Madrid bank that promotes the awareness among the citizenship of Madrid. The goal of the event is to show the ongoing of the rehabilitation of the river Henares and to enhance the scattered knowledge about the synergies between conserving the health of rivers and the SLM of their basins. “La Merienda” is an event of the project “Rios Vivos” that seeks to improve the ecological status of natural habitats of Henares River.

SRI LANKA

Saviya Development Foundation, a community based, charitable and nonprofit organization in Sri Lanka, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, will organize a community environment awareness workshop and a drawing and poster competition followed by a prize awarding ceremony to commemorate the World Day to Combat Desertification. Below is an example of a picture that has been already awarded (JPG1st place Junior).



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

As the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment has done every year, it will produce educational material for schools throughout the country to commemorate the day.

WORD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2010 Events around the world

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) contributed to the World Day to Combat Desertification through a poster. EEG also raises awareness throughout the year through this material by also providing copies of the same to schools, companies and individuals to showcase the threat of land degradation. An example is as below.

