



UNCCD CSO PANEL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

Food. Feed. Fibre.

Sustainable production and consumption



17 June 2020

**DESERTIFICATION
AND DROUGHT DAY**

Welcome to this new issue of the CSO panel,

We hope it finds you in good health. As everyone begins to take stock of the crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as many of us reflect on how to build « the day after », it remains imperative to continue mobilization and action to protect lands, that is the support of biodiversity, source of our food, and indispensable for our health.

The celebration of 17 June « Desertification and Drought Day » is an opportunity to make noise about the situation of drylands. This year, the theme chosen by the UNCCD secretariat « Food.Feed.Fibre » invites us to question the impact of our consumption practices, particularly for our food and clothing, on the land. Many of you are also taking advantage of this day to raise awareness and make your messages heard by governments. Do not hesitate to share your experiences with the entire CSO community!

Finally, in this newsletter, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Jiajia Luo, as alternate CSO Observer to the SPI, and the launch of the new CSO panel website. We look forward to staying in touch with you!

Your CSO Panel

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NEWS

Today is the Desertification and Drought Day!

Desertification and Drought Day, a United Nations observance day held on 17 June each year, will in focusing on changing public attitudes to the leading driver of desertification and land degradation: humanity's relentless production and consumption.

Visit to learn more on the day, events, and campaign materials <https://www.unccd.int/actions17-june-desertification-and-drought-day/2020-desertification-and-drought-day>

Csopanel.org website is now online!

This website will be one of our tools to keep you regularly inform and keep you up to date on the activities that we will undertake. We also want the website to be yours and to reflect CSOs commitments to combat desertification. So please, keep sharing your stories with us!

Visit <https://csopanel.org/>

New SPI Observer Alternate is elected!

We would like to introduce Jiajia Luo from China Green Foundation (China), who will be representing the civil society organizations (CSOs) accredited to the convention. Ms. Luo will act as an alternate of the current CSO observer to the Science-Policy Interface until the end of 2021 and will become the fully-fledged CSO observer for the biennium 2022–2023.



Luo Jiajia (China) joined the China Green Foundation (CGF) in 2012 and now is the deputy director of the Project Management Department and is mainly responsible for collaboration projects with international NGOs in China. Regarding the UNCCD related experience, Ms. Luo attended COP 12 in Ankara, 2015, and CRIC 15 in Nairobi, 2016, representing CGF. As the UNCCD CSO Panel members in 2018-2019, she helped Chinese CSOs get registered with UNCCD, organized the CSO preparatory meeting prior to the COP, and helped publish and distribute daily ECO News during the COP to make sure that CSOs voice is heard.

#Zerofoodwaste CSO Alliance's first global campaign



If it takes chopping down forests about the size of South Korea annually to add the food global population needs, it's debatable. But if food 100 times that amount is wasted after the deforestation each year, something's definitely wrong.

Food, Feed and Fiber is this year's theme for the Desertification and Drought Day. The #zerofoodwaste campaign led by the CSO Alliance, aims to raise awareness on how much food is wasted and how much it contributed to desertification.

Stopping the 1.3 billion tons of annual food waste is huge. Theoretically, it can free up farmland area 100 times the annual deforestation, 23% of all global freshwater use and carbon emission allowance of 32% from manufacturing or 25% from transportations.

The combined efforts of people and governments in the form of policy-making already shows progress, and much work needs to be done.

The Campaign has started on 10 June and will continue until the 17th. It is the first campaign led by CSO Alliance under one unified logo. The campaign has so far successfully demonstrated the potential for the impact the global CSO's can have when focused under one logo. For this Campaign, member CSO's voluntarily contributed by preparing the campaign kit in 13 languages including Korean, Portuguese, Persian, Croatian, Romanian, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, French, English, Thai, Hind and Bengali. The kit uploaded to an open platform and participating CSOs can download their own kit by submitting their logo. Participants are asked to take action by uploading photos of cleared plates and by challenging friends with hashtags #zerofoodwaste #cso_alliance #unccd #dndd.

CSO Alliance plans to continue future endeavors. How much the CSO Alliance can contribution to raising global awareness on the issue of Land Degradation and reaching LDN remains on the hands of participating CSO's.

Learn more: <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/unccd-cso-alliance-launches-zero-food-waste-campaign>

Antigua and Barbuda: a tale of community development and the right to water

The Barnes Hill Community Development Organization and the Freetown Community Group from Antigua and Barbuda in the Eastern Caribbean which have restored their reservoirs as important water management sites. Five reservoirs built in the 1980's provided daily two buckets of water per family, but there was a lot of fighting in the lines for water was scarce.

Currently, 127 years later the reservoirs have no cracks and all still holding water with only the roofs made of galvanizing sheets rotten. Nevertheless, past innovations not being maintained or continually funded or replicated by current and past Governments. Why were the five reservoirs that were carefully built and engineered in specially chosen locations left in ruins?

So, local actions in restoring the reservoirs that have led to the development of Community Conservation Areas for planting food and fruit trees that support pollinators, saving seeds and leading to the propagation and recovery of local plant species that were previously threatened, endangered, and in extinction contributing to food security and

nutrition. Restoring the reservoirs was the community's response to the ongoing drought which was negatively impacting the personal and community food supply, hygiene, health, and sanitation of families with plants and animals dying.

This tale of two villages securing and protecting their rights to water has led to multiple benefits in the development of community conservation areas supporting Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), biodiversity and ecosystems protection, food production, nutrition security and livelihoods enhancement all evolving during COVID-19 crisis.

Ruth Spencer, Women 4 Biodiversity/CBD Women's Caucus

New project launched to protect water resources of Azerbaijan



In recent decades, natural populations of salmon, sturgeon, and other endangered fish species have come to the brink of extinction as a result of human activities. In this regard, a number of crucial initiatives are being implemented in order to protect and restore the aquatic fauna of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region.

Abundant Basins - a major new project to protect and improve the internal water resources of Azerbaijan was launched at the initiative IDEA founder Leyla Aliyeva.

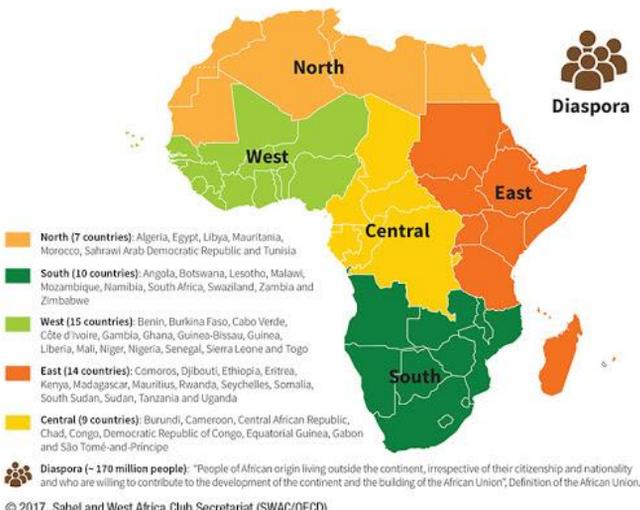
Conducted by [IDEA](#) and [Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan](#), the project oversees scheduled fish stocking events in the rivers and lakes to replenish the country's fish populations, cleanup activities to reduce the water pollution levels and promotion of sustainable fishing to ultimately restore the marine environment. The new project kicked off with the start of the spawning season in the country, during which 10,000 trout fish were released into Nohurgishlag lake in Gabala district on 7 May 2020.



Learn more:

http://ideacampaign.org/new_project_launched_to_protect_water_resources.html#.Xu3uEBuKUn

THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION



A new Strategy for Africa

The new UNCCD- CSOs Panel Officer for Africa Mr. Tcharbuahbokengo NFINN has another vision for the Continent. The Africa Region has sorted out and considered leaving no one behind in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 in the entire continent. This innovative approach has promoted election of Country Civil Society Focal Points in all 54 countries in Africa and the Five Regional Coordinators namely Central Africa, Western Africa, Northern Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa Regions. The intentions and objectives is to promote transparency, accountability, collect and document appropriately data on Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Tenure and Land Rights, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, Climate Change, the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030

and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. The innovation has extended in us registering over 350 Civil Society Organizations in a WhatsApp platform where information is exchange among all stakeholders on daily basis. We kindly welcome Synergies and Partnerships among country parties and other stakeholders