

# Land Under Pressure

**Webinar 25 Jun 2021 | 14:30-16:30**

**online event by Microsoft teams**

## Concept note

To conclude the works of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council, and also in the context of the celebrations of the desertification and drought day (17 Jun), this webinar is intended to discuss the pressures on Soil. What indications do we have of this pressure and what solutions are available to us?

The webinar will be moderated by Cristina Branquinho Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, who will give the wider context of this different topics while making the holistic and integrated approach of the three important conventions: UNCCD, Climate Change and Biodiversity, and features national and international experts in the field of landscape, agriculture and Biodiversity.

Land is now under strong pressure caused mainly by the loss of utility or potential utility through the reduction of or damage to physical social cultural or economic features and/or reduction of ecosystem diversity.

We need to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the achievement of the Paris Agreement, while we need to care towards the provision of ecosystem services, avoiding biodiversity loss. Beyond that we have a twin problem. The evidence available strongly suggests that the threat of the demand for food is great enough to reclaim more land use and radical actions are needed throughout the food system, particularly linked to a better management and land degradation neutrality.

Land degradation and desertification is thus a truly risk, though a complex phenomenon not only connected with drought but particularly to land change and overexploitation. We need to understand what are the best available approaches to measure and monitor land degradation. After knowing how to measure we need to propose possible solutions to minimize degradation processes and restore using, as much as possible, nature based-solutions.

This webinar decision represents a groundbreaking difference from preceding webinars, since it intends to make a full integration between desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss. Thus it offers two major issues:

### **1. How to measure and identify Land degradation**

Indicator-based approaches are often used to monitor land degradation and desertification from the global to the very local scale. And we need indicators of soil degradation and landscape degradation. However,

there is still little agreement on which indicators best reflect both status and trends of these phenomena. In this part, various approaches connected with soil degradation and landscape desertification under climate change situation are presented taking into account the crucial aspect of economical issues of land management

## **2. Strengthening the solutions towards Land degradation neutrality**

Here we propose different possible solutions of reducing deforestation, land restoration and better soil management. Achieving the grand challenges of sustainably increasing food security, enhancing ecosystem resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, and reducing agriculture's carbon footprint will require unprecedented innovations. One promising approach is to harness knowledge of microbiomes to benefit agricultural systems.