



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.

#### Opening session

14:30 - Nuno Banza, Chairman of ICNF

14:40 - Miriam Medel, UNCCD

14:50 - Maria Amélia Martins-Loução, FCUL/SPECO

#### Land under pressure

*Moderator: Cristina Branquinho* 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.

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

15:15 - Victor Castillo Sanchez, CEBAS - Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura: "Land Degradation Neutrality: from the concept to the implementation"

15:30 - Nuno Gracinhas Guimar, MED - Universidade de Évora: "Coping with emerging threats to drylands and temperate regions in Europe: the new generation of wildfires"

15:45 - José Lima Santos, ISA – Universidade de Lisboa: "Linking public policies with their biodiversity and ecosystem-service outcomes: a farming system approach"

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

16:00 - Jordi Cortina, Universidade de Alicante: "Effective ecological restoration to reverse land degradations"

16:15 - Cristina Cruz, cE3c/FCUL - Universidade de Lisboa: "One Health: the soil component"


16:30 - Charles Godfray, Oxford Martin School - University of Oxford: "How can we reconceptualize and redesign landscapes so that they produce multiple public and private goods and services, and are resilient to future environmental change"

16:45 - Q&A

#### Closing session

17:15 – Vanessa Quico, Chair of Working Party of Environmental Issues on Desertification

17:20 - João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Portuguese Minister for the Environment and Climate Action (to be confirmed)

 [Link to the webinar](#)

