



APPLICATION FORM for CSO representative in the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

Please complete this form in English and send it to cso@unccd.int by April 6^h 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Noel		Surname Oettle	
Name of the CSO Environmental Monitoring Group			Country of Operations South Africa
Date of birth (<i>dd.mm.yy</i>) 10.12.51	Place of birth Cape Town		Nationality South African
Present address 1 Neethling Street, Nieuwoudtville 8180, South Africa			
Telephone number(s) +27 27 218 1117	E-mail address(es) dryland@global.co.za		Gender (<i>Please select</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male

Please, indicate your geographic region of expertise :

Southern Africa

Please briefly describe (*max. half a page*) your **working experience related to interdisciplinary matters of DLDD**.

My experiences in the field convinced me many years ago that positive and sustained action to advance the DLDD agenda must be undertaken in the context of interdisciplinary research and action with land users. I thus have lengthy experience in this field that can only briefly be summarized in this document.

Between 1990 and 1998 I served as the Director of the Farmer Support Group of the University of KwaZulu Natal and developed the curriculum for the inter-disciplinary Rural Resource Management course offered to undergraduates to enable them to engage in a practical manner with the challenges of DLDD.

Since 1998 I have coordinated a succession of interdisciplinary participatory research processes related to DLDD, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change. Much of the work undertaken can be accessed via the Synbiosysfynbos information system that I co-developed. See <https://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/synbiosysfynbos/>

I contributed to the BIOTA project between 2003 and 2008, and co-authored the chapter



“Lessons learnt from interdisciplinary participatory research in the BIOTA project” in Schmiedel & Jürgens [Eds.]: Biodiversity in southern Africa. Volume 2: Patterns and processes at regional scale: pp. 343–348, Klaus Hess Publishers, Göttingen & Windhoek. Since 2004 I have consistently engaged with scientists and land users to address the challenges of sustainable land management in a changing climate. Much of this is summarized in the chapter “Poverties and wealth: perceptions, empowerment and agency in sustainable land management” published in Land Restoration: Reclaiming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future in 2015 (Chabay, Frick & Helgeson, Eds.. Boston: Elsevier, Inc.).

Please briefly describe your experiences **in providing scientific advice** to policy makers, Civil Society Organizations, land users and/or other UNCCD stakeholders at national and/or regional level, also indicating the respective discipline/thematic area (*Please list in chronological order starting with the most recent one, and specify duration of each experience*).

Current: Member of the Advisory Committee for Ntabelanga-Lalini Ecological Infrastructure Project (NLEIP) since March 2018. *Discipline/thematic area: LDN, SLM.*

Current: Member, UNCCD National Coordinating Body since 2003. *Discipline/thematic area: all matters pertaining to the UNCCD.*

Current: Member, National LDN Target Setting Task Team since 2017. *Discipline/thematic area: LDN, land rehabilitation and restoration.*

Current: Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Program since 2015 (a partnership between the National Biodiversity Institute, WWF, CapeNature, Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, IUCN, WWF, Conservation South Africa and EMG). *Discipline/thematic area: SLM, biodiversity conservation, participation.*

Current: Vice-Chair, Steering Committee, Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor since 2003: multi-stakeholder, multidisciplinary biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management initiative in a global biodiversity hotspot. *Discipline/thematic area: SLM, biodiversity conservation, participation.*

Current: Secretariat Manager of the South African Adaptation Network since 2014, responsible for submission of policy advice in terms of the development of the National Adaptation Strategy by the national Department of Environmental Affairs since 2015. *Discipline/thematic area: Adaptation to drought and climate variability and change.*

Current: Member of the organising task team of the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference (to be held in Cape Town I June 2018): review of abstracts, design of conference programme, editing of conference proceedings for all disciplines and contributing to a thematic input from the conference for the IPCC AR6. This is a one-year engagement. *Discipline/thematic area: Adaptation to drought, climatic variability and change*

2015 - 6: Lead author, Impacts on Agriculture Chapter, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Shale Gas Development in South Africa. This 18-month engagement involved working with lead authors and contributors from a wide range of disciplines in an interdisciplinary undertaking. *Discipline/thematic area: Sustainable use of agricultural resources including land and water.*

Are you familiar with the **UNCCD process**? Please briefly describe.



Yes, I am very familiar with the UNCCD process. I have been engaged in UNCCD processes for many years and have attended 12 COPs (COP 2 – COP 13), including sessions of the CRIC and the CST.

At the national level I have been an active member of the South African National Coordinating Body and have conducted meetings before and after COPs in order to inform and consult civil society about the issues on the agenda and decisions subsequently made. I have also convened a number of annual events to celebrate the 17th June in ways designed to raise awareness and educate land users and learners about sustainable land management. As a member of the LDN Target Setting Task Team I have provided practical input into and critique of the process of setting achievable targets for South Africa.

Please briefly describe your experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes and in synthesizing information for non-specialists (*max. half a page*).

As editor of the Adaptation Network newsletter (<http://www.adaptationnetwork.org.za/news/>) and the series of publications “Adaptation & Beyond” (<http://www.adaptationnetwork.org.za/support-desk/resources-2/>) I have regularly synthesized and communicated information for non-specialists and actively promoted the incorporation of science into policy development processes.

As lead author of the “Impacts on Agriculture” Chapter, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Shale Gas Development in South Africa I was responsible for drafting a summary of the findings in this chapter for non-specialist policy makers based on the scientific findings of the study.

I commissioned ground-breaking participatory research with farmers on the sustainable management of populations of wild rooibos and subsequently co-authored the popular farmers manual “Sustainable Harvest of Wild Rooibos: A Manual for the Northern Cederberg and the Bokkeveld Plateau” with lead researcher Rhoda Malgas. This book provided the basis for the guidelines of the sustainable management of wild rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*) subsequently adopted by the entire rooibos industry and supported by the relevant conservation authorities.

In 2013 I was a co-author for the UNFCCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Southern African Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (<http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>).

In 2016 I contributed the chapter “Ancient Soils Reborn” on SLM to the UNCCD publication “Living Land”

I have regularly presented inputs for policy development processes based on scientific findings at official Side Events of UNCCD and UNFCCC COPs, and at a range of national and international scientific conferences. Over recent years I have engaged in co-organising events designed to synthesize current scientific thinking and findings with practical experience towards informing policy including the 2016 and 2017 South African Adaptation Colloquiums and the 2017 Development & Climate Days at UNFCCC COP 23.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is your **mother tongue**?

English

