



# GyeongNam Declaration

Declaration by the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum

Environmental challenges cannot be solved without a dynamic and growing private sector involvement as businesses increasingly play a role in addressing complex environmental challenges. These may be achievable through active corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes to meet local vital needs leading to economic growth and innovations via modern scientific knowledge, education, investments and profitability of activities dealing with combating desertification assurance of livelihood improvement. In this regard we, the UNCCD Business Forum call on respective governments' wisdom to provide support to business initiatives for mitigating climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought, and loss of biological diversity.

Combating desertification may not provide immediate return from investments, so, governments should integrate their own efforts with those of the business community and civil society. In the long-run timeframe, a decrease of the carbon footprint via sustainability of agriculture, forestry and land management will hopefully result in at least 'zero land degradation'.

The first UNCCD Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Business Forum was launched in line with the UNCCD COP 10, adding value to the UNCCD COP 10 and emphasized the critical role of the business community in tackling desertification, land degradation and drought, taking as its theme "Care for Land, Land for Life".

The Forum was held at the Changwon Exhibition Convention Center in GyeongNam Province, Republic of Korea from October 17–18, 2011. The Opening session was addressed by Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Dr. Don Koo Lee, Minister of Korea Forest Service, ROK and Mr. Doo Kwan Kim, Governor of GyeongNam province.

The Forum examined current efforts towards combating desertification by the private sector and at national level. The participants including representatives from land and

forest-related organizations and academia, examined the challenges around the world, by sharing cases from South and North Korea to Mongolia, China, Southeast Asia and Africa. The Forum also discussed lessons from private sector involvement in the UNFCCC and CBD in order to find ways for the UNCCD Business Forum to collaborate better across countries by creating a permanent UNCCD Business Forum with Headquarters in the Republic of Korea.

On the basis of our deliberations, the UNCCD Sustainable Land Management Business Forum hereby declares the following:

1. Acknowledging the fact that both the United Nations Climate Change Convention and the Biological Diversity Convention are already engaging the private and business sectors by holding Business Forums, while the Convention to Combat Desertification has not made such effort yet.
2. Recognizing the importance of SLM, for land degradation causes the destruction of topsoil, home and habitat for all living things, leads to biodiversity degradation and climate change.
3. Therefore, the aim of the Forum is to raise awareness within the private sector of the importance of land, forest and topsoil and in particular, issues of desertification, land degradation and drought.
4. The SLM Business Forum will discuss ways to establish a framework for effective public-private cooperation to resolve desertification, land degradation and drought.
5. The SLM Business Forum will join efforts to reverse and prevent desertification, land degradation and drought.
6. The SLM Business Forum aims to become the most influential network among world business leaders in Sustainable Land Management.

7. The SLM Business Forum will open doors to a global partnership between and with land, agriculture, forest, water, life and environment-related companies from all over the world as well as facilitate opportunities for business leaders to engage with policy makers.

8. The SLM Business forum will become the hall of fame to business leaders of land, agriculture, forest, water, life, and environment-related companies. The Forum will encourage participants from the business community to reflect on their past environmental impact and consider ways to exercise corporate social responsibility.

9. The SLM Business forum will provide a platform to forge cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders. It will encourage government officials to integrate advanced technologies and creativity of business community and people power of civil society into decision-making. It will invite academia and experts to provide their advice on environmentally sound and sustainable business growth. Furthermore, it will explore the potential for establishing practical partnerships with the private sector and across the whole world and play a crucial role in preserving the productivity of land for life.

10. The Forum will set realistic, practical targets every year. We will mobilize funds accordingly to make our contribution to combat desertification. The forum will draw up its own guidelines and encourage members to implement these guidelines on a voluntary basis. Members will be requested to disseminate voluntarily their best practice based on the guidelines.

11. The Forum will extend to over 1,000 memberships in 5 years. Regular meetings will be organized and all members will be invited to attend. At the First UNCCD Business Forum held in GyeongNam, Republic of Korea over 100 leaders attended. The Forum aims to position itself as an influential, long-lasting global collaboration network.

12. The Forum shall strongly support foundation of the International Panel to Combat Desertification (IPCD) and Technology Executive Committee.

13. The Forum will encourage business leaders to engage in Environmental Business Plan Competition and Incubation of social and business ventures and the SLM Champions Award.

14. The Forum calls respective governments to develop new policies and incentives related to SLM.

15. The main office of SLM Business Forum shall be located in Seoul, Republic of Korea and its United Nations office shall be in Bonn, Germany, where the UNCCD headquarter is.

16. Members of the SLM Business Forum will hold its second forum in line with the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20 Summit).

17. The SLM Business Forum will hold its third forum in line with UNCCD COP 11 in 2013.

18 October 2011  
Changwon Exhibition Convention Center  
GyeongNam, Republic of Korea

*Signed by*  
*All Members of*  
*UNCCD Business Forum*

