



26 February 2021

Dear UNCCD Focal Points and Stakeholders,

Subject: Desertification and Drought Day, 17 June 2021

Land restoration can contribute greatly to Post-COVID-19 economic recovery. Investing in land restoration creates jobs and generates economic benefits and could provide livelihoods at a time when hundreds of millions of jobs are being lost.

This year's Desertification and Drought Day will send a strong message that investing in healthy land as part of a green recovery is a smart economic decision, not just in terms of creating jobs and rebuilding livelihoods, but in terms of insulating economies from future crises caused by climate change and nature loss, and accelerating progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

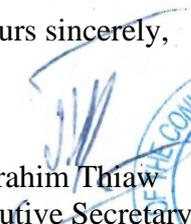
The slogan for this year is "Restoration. Land. Recovery." The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will work with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) of Costa Rica, the host of this year's global observance, to encourage households, communities, private sector and countries to have a better relationship with nature as we recover from COVID-19.

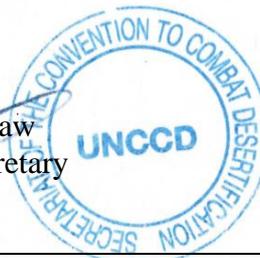
I count on your continuous support to reach out to people and communities about the pivotal role of land in build back better. The announcement and background note are available in all UN languages from the 2021 Desertification and Drought Day webpage: <https://bit.ly/3qYZVxM>.

Please send us your plan for the observance event [DDD2021@unccd.int](https://www.unccd.int/observance/ddd2021). We are then happy to share your plans and activities on the above webpage. More information will be posted on the page as it becomes available. For further information, please contact Ms. Yukie Hori, Chief of Communications (yhori@unccd.int, +49 228 815 2829).

Through the observance of this year's Desertification and Drought Day, let us show our determination on building back better with healthy land.

Yours sincerely,


Ibrahim Thiaw
Executive Secretary



Distribution: To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for UNCCD