



UNITED FOR LAND: OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE – OBSERVING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT DAY 2024

INFOPOINT HYBRID CONFERENCE



17 JUNE



12:00 CEST



Screening of documentary: 'Le Périmètre de Kamsé'

Aurélie Godefroy

Deputy Head of Unit, INTPA F2- Environment,
Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission

Luc Jacobs

Special Envoy for Climate and Environment (Ministry of Foreign
Affairs Belgium)

Ibrahim Thiaw (pre-recorded video message)

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD

The event will continue with a Lunch at Kamilou

François Grenade

Advocacy officer, Humundi / ex-SOS Faim (Belgium)

Manon Albagnac

Chargée de mission Sahel et Désertification, Cari, Member of the
UNCCD CSO Panel (France)

Laurence Defrise

Environment expert, Enabel (Belgium)

Niclas Gottmann

Policy Officer Land and Environment, INTPA F2, Environment,
Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission

For information and technical problems please contact:
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InfoPoint conference: United for land: Our Legacy, our future – observing desertification and drought day 2024

Event organised in the framework of the [World Desertification and Drought Day \(DDD\) of UNCCD](#) in Brussels, on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Desertification and Drought Day 2024, “United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.”, will spotlight the future of sustainable land stewardship. The theme is a global call to mark the 30th anniversary of the UNCCD – the sole legally binding treaty to manage and restore the world’s land for the sustainability of humanity and the planet. As the European Union is a key actor in the combat against Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is co-hosting an event, together with the European Commission (DG INTPA), to observe this day.

Practical information

When: Monday 17 June 2024, 12:00 - 14:00 (CEST)

Where: [InfoPoint](#), Wetstraat 43-45, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Languages: English, French

Organisers: International Partnerships InfoPoint, Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU

Description

Up to 40 per cent of the world’s land is already degraded, affecting close to half of humanity. Further land degradation will lead to escalating energy and food costs, with long-term socio-economic impacts. Desertification and Drought Day is a pivotal moment for raising global awareness and mobilising all parts of society in support of sustainable land stewardship. Please join us, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission (DG INTPA) in observing this important day together.



Programme:

● 12:00 – 12:10 Opening Remarks

A pre-recorded video message by UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim THIAW will kick us off, together with **welcoming remarks** by Luc JACOBS (Special Envoy for Climate & Environment, Belgium) and Aurélie GODEFROY (Deputy Head of Unit, INTPA F2-Environment, European Commission).



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● 12:10 – 13:00 Documentary Screening

The event will then feature a bespoke screening of the **documentary, 'Le Périmètre de Kamsé'** on community-led efforts against desertification in Burkina Faso:

In the north of Burkina Faso, desertification is eating away at the land and immigration is emptying the villages. In Kamsé, the remaining inhabitants have embarked on a pharaonic project with tools from another era: digging a network of dikes and ponds in the oven, using shovels and pickaxes, and then planting thousands of trees to cross the desert to make conquered areas green and fertile. A battle fought by women, while a new threat, this time from jihadists, looms on the horizon. Long shots, flush with the dry ground, bodies emerging in the blinding heat, a dike rising, a place transformed. In Kamsé it is hoped that those who have emigrated will return.

● 13:00 – 14:00 Panel Discussion

A subsequent **panel discussion** will highlight the work of two NGO's (Humundi and CARI) and programmes that Belgium and the European Commission support on the topic. The challenges and opportunities of COP16 of the UNCCD (Dec. 2024 in Riyadh) will also be addressed.

● 14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Reception (different location)

Please also join us for a **lunch reception** at [Kamilou Arts-Loi](#) (Rue Joseph II 36, 1000 Bruxelles) following the InfoPoint Conference.

Speakers and Panellists:

Speakers:

- **Aurélie Godefroy**, Deputy Head of Unit, INTPA F2- Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission
- **Luc Jacobs**, Special Envoy for Climate and Environment (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Belgium)
- **Ibrahim Thiaw** (pre-recorded video message), Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD

Panellists:

- **François Grenade**, Advocacy officer, Humundi / ex-SOS Faim (Belgium)
- **Manon Albagnac**, Chargée de mission Sahel et Désertification, Cari, Member of the UNCCD CSO Panel (France)
- **Laurence Defrise**, Environment expert, Enabel (Belgium)
- **Niclas Gottmann**, Policy Officer Land and Environment, INTPA F2, Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission

Language: English

Q&A session languages: English and French

Registration:

[Onsite \(InfoPoint\)](#)

[Online \(Webex Meetings\)](#)

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