DesertNet International Newsletter n. 3/2014

This quarterly electronic newsletter is intended to inform the scientific community about dryland-relevant research matters. The **deadline** for receipt of material for the next issue is **15.03.2014.** Please send your contributions (1000 characters max, including spaces) to nrd@uniss.it and czanolla@uniss.it

Contents:

1. DesertNet updates on DNI elections and General Assembly

Results of the Elections of DesertNet International

The DNI electronic election was successfully held on 6-7 November 2014. According to the results of the election, the DNI Boards for the next two years are the following:

Steering Committee (alphabetical order):

- Prof. Elena Abraham (Argentine Institute of Arid Zones, IADIZA-CONICET, Argentina)
- Dr. Michael Cherlet (European Commission DG Joint Research Centre, Italy/Belgium)
- Dr. Richard Escadafal (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD , France)
- Dr. Wafa Essahli (Consultant, Tunisia)

- Dr. María José Marqués (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain)
- Dr. Abdul Raziq Kakar (Al Ain Camel Dairy - UAE)
- Prof. Pier Paolo Roggero (NRD University of Sassari, Italy)
- Dr. Gergerly Toth (European Commission DG Joint Research Centre, Italy)
- Dr. Fei Wang (Inst. Of Soil & Water Conservation, Northwest A&F University, China)
- Dr. Pandi Zdruli (CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy)

Advisory Board (alphabetical order):

- Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster (PT-DLR, Berlin, Germany)
- Prof. Jorge Battle-Sales (Universidad de Valencia, Spain)
- Dr. Dau lal Bohra (Seth Gyaniram Bansidhar Podal College, India)
- Prof. Giuseppe Enne (NRD, University of Sassari, Italy)
- Prof. Norbert Juergens (University of Hamburg, Germany)
- Dr. Christopher Martius (Centre for Intl. Forestry Research, Indonesia)
- Dr. Mark Schauer (GIZ, Germany)
- Dr. Mary Seely (Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, Namibia)
- Dr. Stefan Sommer (European Commission DG Joint Research Centre, Italy/Germany)
- Prof. Lindsay Stringer (University of Leeds, UK)

Third General Assembly of DesertNet International in Hamburg, Germany

The third General Assembly of DesertNet International was held in Hamburg (Germany) on 15th November 2014, kindly hosted by the Biocenter Klein Flottbek – University of Hamburg. It was attended by 15 DNI members. On this occasion, the new DNI Bureau, whose members are elected from among the Steering Committee members, was inaugurated. During the General Assembly a few amendments to the DNI Statute were approved, mostly concerning the differentiation between services provided by DNI to paying and non-paying members and to the composition of the SC and AB. Please refer to the enclosed minutes of the General Assembly and the revised Statute for more information. The Minutes and the Statute will also be available on the DNI website.

Message from Giuseppe Enne, former Chair of DNI

At DNI's 3th General Assembly, on 15th November 2014 in Hamburg, Germany, the newly elected DNI Steering Committee and Advisory Board were formally inaugurated. It is with great pleasure that I would like to inform you that based on the decision taken by the new Steering Committee and Advisory Board, the following well-known and experienced members of the new Steering Committee will hold the following positions:

Chair: Dr. Wafa ESSAHLI (Consultant, Tunisia)
Co-Chair: Dr. Richard ESCADAFAL (IRD , France)
Treasurer: Dr. María José MARQUÉS (Univ. Autónoma de Madrid, Spain)
Secretary General: Prof. Pier Paolo ROGGERO (NRD Univ. of Sassari, Italy)

With this said and as former DNI Chair, I would like to most warmly thank the former DNI's Board for their great support during the past two years together with the Steering Committee and Advisory Board and all members of DNI, which enabled DNI to accomplish major goals at the science-policy interface and at the cutting edge scientific level. DNI

products, which were produced in the period 05.07.2012 to 15.11.14 show that DNI's mandate was fully implemented by (i) providing a platform for scientifically based discussions, addressing also knowledge gaps and identifying research areas, (ii) by communicating as a think tank with all stakeholders and with policy-makers and identifying issues and priorities for them, (iii) organizing side events during the 11th COP of UNCCD in Windhoek, (iv) promoting the constitution of the consortium STK4SD for the organization of the 3rd CST-UNCCD International Scientific Conference that will be held in Cancun next March 2015, (v) implementing the realization of a Network of Networks (NoN) between DNI-GNDRI-WOCAT (for details on products delivered in DNI´s working phase from 05.07.2012 to 15.11.2014 see the full report of DNI´s 3rd General Assembly).

We have new challenges ahead of us in order to consolidate the important achievements reached by DNI during the past two years. During the next biennium I believe it is important to reinforce DNI participation from all continents, particularly those where it is least represented, in order to fully implement its role at the science-policy interface.

I would like to wish to the new Chair, Dr.Wafa Essalhi, to the members of the Bureau, the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board, the wider success while assuring them all my practical and extensive support.

Giuseppe Enne, former DNI Chair

Message from Wafa Essahli, newly elected DNI Chair

Dear members of DesertNet International,
By electing a woman and an African citizen as the new DNI Chair, our network has shown to keep regional and gender balance among its basic principles of action. I believe this is a great achievement and I want to express my deep gratitude to all who have worked for this. In addition by choosing an Engineer rather than a scientist as a new Chair shows a dedication to make DNI an interface between science and development.
In particular, I wish to pay a vibrant tribute to the former DNI Chairs, Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster and Prof. Giuseppe Enne. Thanks to their precious commitment, their invaluable efforts and their perseverance, they brought DNI to its current level of achievements and successes. I am aware that it will be difficult to do as well as them, but I am determined to do my best and work to strengthen DNI accomplishments. I already know that I can count on the commitment and the involvement of the new SC and AB members and I hope to be able to count on yours too. Your active support and participation is fundamental to promote our Network in your organizations/institutions, countries and regions.
I would like to thank all those who responded to the call of the DNI Operational Secretariat by taking part in the recent elections of DesertNet governing bodies and by doing so you have shown your interest and commitment to the Network. Unfortunately the number of those who did not participate in the election process is still high as we recorded less than 30% of voters. This is something that really concerns us. I will personally put in a lot of effort, together with the Steering Committee and Advisory Board, to increase the involvement of all the members in the DesertNet activities.
Our great challenge for the next two years will be to develop our services to become more efficient and in line with DNI members' expectations as well as mobilizing new members especially from the underrepresented regions (Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and Asia). However this is not the only challenge we will have to face: we will also push for a higher participation of early career researchers who will be able to find in DesertNet an opportunity to strengthen their careers and capabilities.
Our work plan for the coming two years will be a continuation of the great work already initiated by the former governing bodies: the organization of the 3rd UNCCD Scientific Conference which will be held in March 2015 in Cancun (Mexico); the consolidation of our participation in the various initiatives of great interest to us (IPBES, SDSN, ...) and the launch of the Network of Networks with WOCAT and GNDRI.
We will keep you informed on the progress in the implementation of these activities. Thanks to the support of the Desertification Research Centre (NRD) from the University of Sassari, we will continue to benefit from our Operational Secretariat coordinated masterfully by Chiara Zanolla who will be assisted by Francesca Demuro. Their meticulous work, their tireless efforts and kind attention allow us to be constantly informed of DesertNet activities through this periodical Newsletter and up-dated website, to be alerted of all the events and updates happening in our field and to

keep our Network functioning perfectly. I thank them very warmly and through them all the NRD management and staff.
I am looking forward to collaborating with you all in the implementation of our plan,

Wafa Essahli, DNI Chair

2. Information relevant to DesertNet members

2015, the International Year of Soils

The international Year of Soils (IYS) is going to be a platform for raising awareness on the importance of sustainable soil and land management. Links between soil conservation and building ecosystems' resilience, climate change adaptation and food security will be highlighted thanks to the mobilization of the international community.

- Share the information. You can use the communication material that the FAO and Global Soil Partnership have develop (cards, posters, etc) to help people understand why soils are so important and why we need to safeguard them. http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/campaign-material/en/
- Mapping events. When you are organising a presentation or an event related to soil, put your event on the FAO map and help to build soils and land conservation awareness! http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/events/en/

For more information visit: http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

E-Consultation: The Economics of Land Degradation

Organized by the Eurasian Centre for Food Security (ECFS) and the World Bank, this electronic consultation is open from 17th November to 12th December 2014. It is intended to generate a discussion on the key socio-economic drivers and impacts of land degradation in the Eurasian region (Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus), identify available tools to guide sustainable land use decisions, and examine the role of policies and institutions in promoting sustainable land systems.

For more information visit: https://collaboration.worldbank.org/groups/russia-ecfs

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

Funding for Short-Term Scientific Missions on Arid Lands Restoration 2014-2015

Funding will be made available for Short-Term Scientific Missions that contribute to the scientific objectives of this COST Action: ES1104, Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification.
Missions are aimed at strengthening the network by, for example, allowing scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique, or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory.
Deadline for applications: 15 April 2015 for STSMs to be initiated and completed between March-May 2015

For more information visit: http://desertrestorationhub.com/funding-for-short-term-scientific-missions/

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

International Soil Reference and Information Centre. ISRIC Spring School 2015

This spring school for soil and environmental scientists will consist of two 5-day courses run in parallel. Students at MSc and PhD level will be trained on Global Soil Information Facilities, and World Soils and their Assessments.
Dates 18-22 May 2015; Wageningen Campus. The Netherlands.
Deadline for registration: 15 February 2015.
Registration fees: € 350 to € 700

For more information visit: http://www.isric.org/content/isric-spring-school-2015

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

Postdoctoral Research at the International institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Every year IIASA provides full funding for postdoctoral researchers. Scholars are expected to conduct their own research in collaboration with one or more of IIASA's research programs or special projects. Postdoctoral positions, up to 2 years duration, can begin up to 6 months after selection.
Next application deadline: 1 April and 1 November 2015

For more information visit: http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/education/postdocs.html

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

3. Researchers' Updates

Camel in Transition - Turning a Beast of Burden into a Modern Farm Machine

The camel, a unique and incredible animal, was domesticated for milk, and later on used for baggage, riding/transportation both in peace and wars. Accessibility in remote and deserted land, long walking ability along with minimum feed and water requirements were the drivers for the selection of traits that resulted in the today's hardy and adapted animal. Many reasons (challenges) resulted in diverting the camel back to its original task of milk production. Of particular importance were its high tolerance to high temperatures and its low water requirements.
Selection for high yielding camels with adaptation traits resulted in creating highly productive (milk) herds. The high yielding camels are mainly found in the GCC countries led by the UAE. UAE is hosting the world's most famous camel dairies with high yielding camels, producing thousands of litres of milk daily. The advanced dairying and processing facilities add value to this precious food and attract millions of people. The camel brand milk products are available in supermarkets and efforts to export to EU countries are under way. The main attraction of camel milk is its therapeutic characteristics and camel milk is well known as a form of natural pharmacy.

For detail and further study on camel milk, please visit: https://camel4milk.wordpress.com/; https://camel4all.wordpress.com/; http://camel4all.blogspot.ae/; http://biodiversityandclimatechange.blogspot.ae/

Information provided by: Raziq Kakar, SAVES, Pakistan

A WMO Press Release About the Evolution Of Greenhouse Gas (GhG) Concentrations in the Atmosphere.

The Greenhouse Effect is usually considered as negatively impacting desertification, thus bridging the UFFCCC and UNCCD targets through the impacts of climate change.

The WMO Press Release 1002 addresses Greenhouse Gas (GHG) concentrations. In short, it evidences a 34% increase in radiative forcing between 1990 and 2013 because of long-lived GHG such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Very detailed information can be found in the original document referenced hereunder.

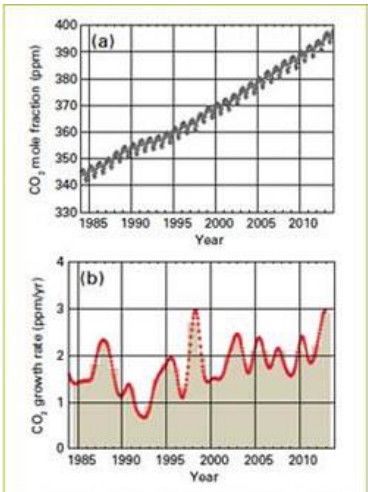


Figure 3. Globally averaged CO_2 mole fraction (a) and its growth rate (b) from 1984 to 2013. Differences in successive annual means are shown as shaded columns in (b).

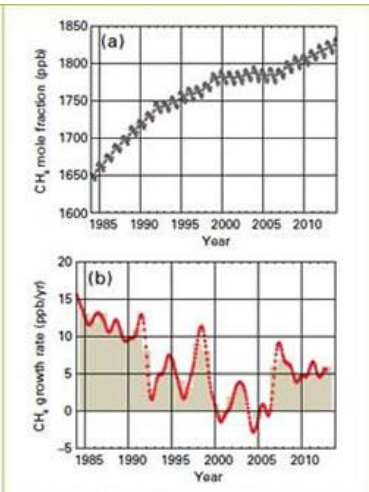


Figure 4. Globally averaged CH_4 mole fraction (a) and its growth rate (b) from 1984 to 2013. Differences in successive annual means are shown as shaded columns in (b).

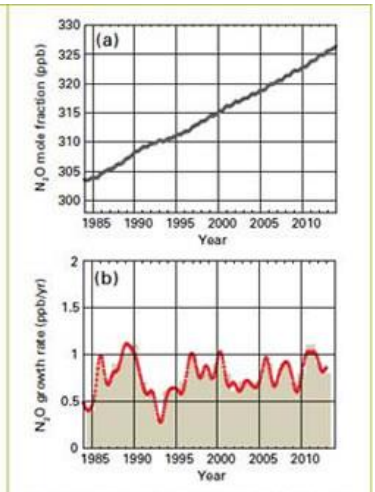


Figure 5. Globally averaged N_2O mole fraction (a) and its growth rate (b) from 1984 to 2013. Differences in successive annual means are shown as shaded columns in (b).

Results presented by the WMO Press release 1002 - Credits: WMO.

For more information, visit: http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_1002_en.html

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI – CSFD

July 2, 2014 - NASA Successfully Launched The Oco2 Satellite

On July 2, 2014, the OCO2 NASA satellite was launched and joined the so-called 'A-Train constellation'. OCO2 is NASA's first dedicated Earth remote sensing satellite to study atmospheric carbon dioxide from Space. OCO2 is an exploratory science mission designed to collect space-based global measurements of atmospheric CO2 with the precision, resolution, and coverage needed to characterize sources and sinks (fluxes) on regional scales (≥1000km). OCO2 will also be able to quantify CO2 variability over the seasonal cycles year after year. This mission will also validate a space-based measurement approach and analysis concept that could be used for future systematic CO2 monitoring missions.

Artist's view of OCO2 – Credits: NASA

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI - CSFD

Correlating GPS Measurements and Drought Water Loss In The Western United States (A 'Science' Journal Paper)

Western USA has been experiencing severe drought since 2013, leading to a huge deficit in terrestrial water storage TWS). This loss induces vertical and horizontal ground displacements, which were measured locally by GPS and at larger scale by GRACE, a satellite measuring Earth gravity at low resolution. These displacements were carefully analysed and detrended over 2003 to 2014, and were shown to be significantly correlated to soil loads. An Earth deformation model was then used to retrieve these loads on a 0.5° grid. Vertical displacements evidence a maximum in the central Sierra Nevada equivalent to 50 cm of water in March 2014. At that time, the area-integrated water deficit in Western USA is estimated to 240 gigatons – the magnitude of the current annual mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet.

The front cover of the journal presents an image superimposing the ground vertical displacements (in color) superimposed onto a 'classical' remote sensing image (monochrome).

For more information, visit: http://oco.jpl.nasa.gov/science/ ; http://news.sciencemag.org/earth/2014/06/carbon-mapping-satellite-will-monitor-plants-faint-glow

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI - CSFD

IIED - Managing the Boom and Bust: Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Sahel

A paper by Ced Hesse, Simon Anderson, Lorenzo Cotula, Jamie Skinner, Camilla Toulmin has been issued on December 2013 by IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development), addressing the support to climate resilient livelihoods in the Sahel. The paper identifies the considerable potential of the Sahel's dryland ecosystems. It explores the inherent resilience within existing crop and livestock production systems based on exploiting climatic variability and used by local people in the

Sahel to establish successful local and national economies. This new profile could help re-define development interventions and promote a more climate resilient future.

Picture: A woman stands with her goats in a dryland area in Niger. Photo: Stephen Anderson – Credit: IEED

For more information visit: http://pubs.iied.org/11503IIED.html

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI – CSFD following circulation by Bernard Bonnet, IRAM – CSFD.

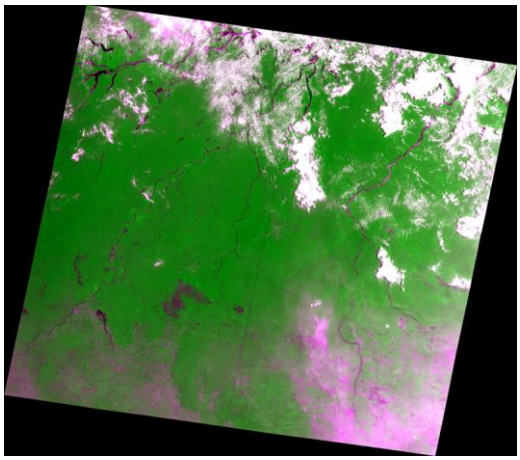
Geoecological Niche Modeling of Fog Ecosystems in Arid Regions under Climate Change – Tillandsia species as bio-indicators for changing environmental conditions in the coastal Atacama Desert

Plant organisms in the coastal area of northern Chile as a part of the Atacama Desert have developed highly specialized adaptation strategies concerning the availability of water. Species from the genus Tillandsia spp. are the ecological dominants over extensive areas of communities called "Tillandsia lomas". Tillandsia spp. grow without functional roots and are entirely dependent on fog moisture. Their spatial distribution is constrained to areas covered by coastal fog of sufficient frequency, duration and intensity. The goal is to understand the relationship between the geoecological niche of Tillandsia spp., its connection to the historical stratocumulus development, oceanic upwelling and solar radiation as well as the spatial extension, genetic variety and spatial dynamics of the plants.

Information provided by: Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund, University of Education & University Heidelberg, Dept. of Geography, Research Group for Earth Observation rgeo, Germany

China and Brazil have just launched their 5th observation satellite to monitor deforestation in Amazonia

China and Brazil have jointly built up CBERS-4 their 5th optical monitoring satellite. CBERS-4 has just been succssfully lauched from China on Dec. 7, 2014. Its priority mission is to monitor deforestation in Amazonia, a phenomenon which slowed down during the 2004-2012 period and is now acceleraing again. Deforestation in Amazonia leads to local desertification due to intense ersosion of bare soil by rainwater (thus leading to unsustainable development and everlasting progression of deforestation practices), and also a decrease in local rain due to lack of trees and evapotranspiration. It also leads to global climate change by suppression of major carbon sinks – which is a UNCCD COP-20 & 21 concern. Finding out the right balance between sustainable development of Brazil and deforestation practices raises difficult management problems – among others it requires economic modelling taking into account major indogeneous and exogeneous factors.



Note – CBERS stands for China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite.

A CBERS image over Amazonia. Deforested areas appear in pink color (credit: INPE).

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI – CSFD/CAC

The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (ELD) moves into the International year of soils

ELD is a global initiative on the economic benefits of land and land based ecosystems. The Initiative highlights the value of sustainable land management (SLM) and provides a global approach for analysis of the economics of land degradation.

Within the last year, the ELD Initiative has published a wide range of case studies and reports highlighting economic benefits of SLM, e.g. in Botswana, where different land tenure systems were assessed. An e-learning course has provided more than 1800 participants with economic valuation methods and background knowledge.

Within 2015, the international year of soil, ELD will publish tailored reports for political decision makers, scientist and the private sector, which aim to raise the awareness and provide tools for these stakeholders. A subsequent online course and tailored training courses and policy dialogues will address the issue of implementing economic arguments into decision processes.

For more information visit: http://www.eld-initiative.org

Information provided by: Mark Schauer, ELD Initiative; DNI SG member; Germany

The voice of Civil Society: Desertif'actions (Montpellier, France, June 10 to 13, 2015).

From June 10 to 15, 2015, the NGO CARI, its network and partners have taken the Desertif'actions initiative, an International Forum of Civil Society aiming at voicing the concerns of Civil Society in the international debates on land degradation. Climate change, land degradation, desertification, loss of biodiversity, melting glaciers and so on are all collective threats that humanity faces.

Estimated consequences will further deteriorate the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Furthermore, they will limit their development, increase forced migration and generate global social instability. It is now vital for civil society organizations to be speaking partners and make their voices heard at international meetings that decide the future of the planet and of people!

2015 will be a critical year for decisions relating to climate change, marked by decisive meetings of international governance (Desertification Convention COP12, Climate Convention COP21, General Assemblies of the United Nations). It is essential for civil society to weigh in on that decision making process.

For more information visit: http: //www.cariassociation.org/desertif-actions.html; contact@desertif-actions.fr

Information provided by: Gerard Begni, CNES – DNI – CSFD/CAC & CARI member (on behalf of CARI)

4. Important upcoming events

List of links to next meetings regarding desertification, water conservation and land degradation.

2015		
14-19 Jan	ICBRDS 2015 — International Conference on Building Resilience and Developing Sustainability http://sustainabilityconference2015.upb.edu.ph	Baguio City, Philippines

15-17 Jan	UN-Water Annual International Zaragoza Conference. Water and Sustainable Development: From Vision to Action http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterandsustainabledevelopment2015/index.shtml	Zaragoza, Spain
15-17 Jan	Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/home.html	Berlin, Germany
10-13 Feb	3rd International Conference on Natural Resource Management for Food and Rural Livelihoods http://www.soilcsi.in/	New Delhi, India
15-17 Feb	Agriculture and Climate Change: Adapting Crops to Increased Uncertainty. http://www.agricultureandclimatechange.com/	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
9-12 Mar	3rd UNCCD Scientific Conference. Combating Drought, Land Degradation and Desertification for poverty reduction and sustainable development http://3sc.unccd.int/	Cancun, Mexico
15-17 Mar	Nexus 2015: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference http://nexus.unc.edu/	Chapel Hill, NC, USA
16-18 Mar	Third global science conference on climate-smart agriculture http://csa2015.cirad.fr/index.php/csa2015	Montpellier, France
23-26 Mar	Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2015 http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/08/06/landconference2015	Washington D.C., USA
19-23 Apr	3rd Global Soil Week http://globalsoilweek.org/	Berlin, Germany
4-7 May	International Conference on Soil. Conference Theme: "Soil sustain life: too slow to form, to quick to lose" http://icos.org.al/	Tirana, Albania
9-10 May	SOAS Camel Conference. School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Contact: ed.emery@soas.ac.uk	London, UK
11-14 May	Integrated Land and Water Resources Management in the Dry Areas under Climate Change http://www.ildac2015.tn/	Djerba, Tunisia
2-4 Jun	Land Quality and Landscape Processes http://lq2015.georgikon.hu/	Keszthely, Hungary
8-11 Jun	17th WOCAT Network Meeting https://www.wocat.net/en/news-events/events/upcoming-events.html	Feldafing, Germany
16-17 Jun	DesertLand II: Conference on Desertification and Land degradation http://www.desertland.eu/index.asp	Ghent, Belgium
22-25 Jun	MDC International Research Conference — Research: An Imperative for Economic Reforms and Development in Developing Countries http://www.mercdataconsulting.org/#!news/c2t8	Enugu State, Nigeria
7-10 Sep	The 5th international symposium for farming systems design http://fsd5.european-agronomy.org/	Montpellier, France
20-24 Sep	5th International symposium on soil organic matter http://www.som2015.org/	Göttingen, Germany
23-26 Sep	Soil Functions and Climate Change - do we underestimate the consequences of new disequilibria in soil properties? . SUSTAIN http://www.soils.uni-kiel.de/de/sustain-2015	Kiel, Germany
11-14 Oct	2nd International Conference on Global Food Security http://www.globalfoodsecurityconference.com/	New York, USA

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

Call for Abstracts for the EGU General Assembly, Vienna 2015

The General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union Sessions held in Vienna, from 12 to 17 April, holds several sessions related to desertification.

SSS2.1. World land Degradation and Desertification. A human and biophysical approach

SSS2.2. Large scale land deals – large scale land degradation

SSS2.3. Land degradation and Cross Compliance standards

SSS2.4. Traditional soil conservation practices in Maghreb

SSS2.6. New and old successful managements in agriculture and forest areas. Positive impacts of land management to improve the soil and water quality, reduce soil losses and increase the biota diversity

SSS2.7. Agriculture and Land Degradation - Cause and Effect

SSS2.8/BG4.8/GM1.15/HS2.1.7. Connectivity in hydrology and sediment dynamics: how do we move forwards? (co-organized). Convener: Saskia Keesstra | Co-Conveners: Tobias Heckmann , Anne Van Loon , Ronald Pöppl , Anthony Parsons , Artemi Cerdà , Laura Turnbull

SSS2.11. Evidence for the contribution of sustainable land management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, to safeguarding biodiversity, food security, and ecosystem services.

SSS2.15. Stakeholders' perceptions and participation in land-based adaptation to environmental change

For more information visit: http: //meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2015/sessionprogramme

Information provided by: Maria José Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

SOAS Camel Conference

The next SOAS Camel Conference [School of Oriental and African Studies, London] will be held on the weekend of Saturday 9 to Sunday 10 May 2015.
Call for Papers is open; persons wishing to present a paper at this conference are invited to send proposals to the organiser at the following address: ed.emery@soas.ac.uk
Please submit a title, plus an Abstract (max. 200 words) and a CV (max 100 words). The deadline for submissions is 15 January 2015, but early expressions of interest are welcomed.

Information provided by: Ed Emery, SOAS, UK

5. Publications and Special Issues

1. Chong, J., 2014, Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation: progress and challenges: International Environmental Agreements-Politics Law and Economics, v. 14, p. 391-405.
2. Favretto N, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ 2014 Unpacking livelihood challenges and opportunities in energy crop cultivation: perspectives on Jatropha curcas projects in Mali. Geographical Journal 180(4), 365–376.
3. Fleskens L, Nainggolan D, Stringer LC. 2014 An exploration of scenarios to support sustainable land management using the PESERA-DESMICE integrated environmental socio-economic models. Environmental Management 54(5) 1005-1021 doi: 10.1007/s00267-013-0202-x.
4. Geeson, N., J. Brandt, G. Quaranta, and R. Salvia, 2014, Designing a Public Web-Based Information System to Illustrate and Disseminate the Development and Results of the DESIRE Project to Combat Desertification: Environmental Management, v. 54, p. 1043-1055.

5. Hessel, R., M. S. Reed, N. Geeson, C. J. Ritsema, G. van Lynden, C. A. Karavitis, G. Schwilch, V. Jetten, P. Burger, M. J. V. ten Bosch, S. Verzandvoort, E. van den Elsen, and K. Witsenburg, 2014, From Framework to Action: The DESIRE Approach to Combat Desertification: Environmental Management, v. 54, p. 935-950.

6. Karnieli, Arnon; Qin, Zhihao; Wu, Bo; Panov, Natalya; Yan, Feng. 2014. "Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Land-Use and Land-Cover in the Mu Us Sandy Land, China, Using the Change Vector Analysis Technique." *Remote Sens.* 6, no. 10: 9316-9339.

7. Landmann, T., and O. Dubovyk, 2014, Spatial analysis of human-induced vegetation productivity decline over eastern Africa using a decade (2001-2011) of medium resolution MODIS time-series data: International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation, v. 33, p. 76-82.

8. Muna Ndulo and Nicolas van de Walle (Eds.), Problems, Promises, and Paradoxes of Aid: Africa's Experience, Cambridge Scholars Publishing. IAD/CSP 2014, 377 pages, 978-1-4438-6745-0, 1-4438-6745-4

9. O'Connor, D., and J. Ford, 2014, Increasing the Effectiveness of the "Great Green Wall" as an Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change and Desertification in the Sahel: Sustainability, v. 6, p. 7142-7154.

10. Oraib Nawash, Amani Al-Assaf, Ahmad El-oqlah, Mohammad Omari (2014). Floristic Features, Distribution, and Ethnobotany of Plants Gathered and Used by Local People from the Mediterranean Forest in Northern Jordan. http://lib-ojs3.lib.sfu.ca:8114/index.php/era/article/view/986.

11. Panagopoulos, Y., C. Makropoulos, M. Kossida, and M. Mimikou, 2014, Optimal Implementation of Irrigation Practices: Cost-Effective Desertification Action Plan for the Pinios Basin: Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management, v. 140.

12. Reed MS, Stringer LC, Fazey I, Evely AC, Kruijsen J. 2014. Five principles for the practice of knowledge exchange in environmental management. Journal of Environmental Management 146: 337–345. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2014.07.021.

13. Salvati, L., M. Zitti, and M. Carlucci, 2014b, Territorial Systems, Regional Disparities and Sustainability: Economic Structure and Soil Degradation in Italy: Sustainability, v. 6, p. 3086-3104.

14. Schwilch, G., H. P. Liniger, and H. Hurni, 2014, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Practices in Drylands: How Do They Address Desertification Threats?: Environmental Management, v. 54, p. 983-1004.

15. Stringer LC, Dougill AJ, Dyer JC, Vincent K, Fritzsche F, Leventon J, Falcao MP, Manyakaidze, P, Syampungani S, Powell P, Kalaba G. 2014 Advancing climate compatible development: lessons from southern Africa. Regional Environmental Change 14(2), 713-725, doi: 10.1007/s10113-013-0533-4.

16. Stringer LC, Fleskens L, Reed MS, de Vente J, Zengin M 2014 Participatory evaluation of monitoring and modeling of sustainable land management technologies in areas prone to land degradation. Environmental Management 54 (5) 1022-1042, doi: 10.1007/s00267-013-0126-5.

17. Vargas-Amelin, E., and P. Pindado, 2014, The challenge of climate change in Spain: Water resources, agriculture and land: Journal of Hydrology, v. 518, p. 243-249.

18. Zheng, J. Y., L. B. Xiao, X. Q. Fang, Z. X. Hao, Q. S. Ge, and B. B. Li, 2014, How climate change impacted the collapse of the Ming dynasty: Climatic Change, v. 127, p. 169-182.

6. Other Information

Forthcoming book: “Coping with climate change - the roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture”

Genetic resources for food and agriculture play a crucial role in food security, nutrition and livelihoods and in the provision of environmental services. They are key components of sustainability, resilience and adaptability in production systems. They underpin the ability of crops, livestock, aquatic organisms and forest trees to withstand a range of adverse conditions. Thanks to their genetic diversity, plants, animals and micro-organisms, in terrestrial and aquatic environments, adapt and survive when their environments change. Genetic diversity is also globally threatened by climate change.

Given the importance of the issues, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared, at the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, thematic studies on the interactions between climate change and plant, animal, forest, aquatic, invertebrate and micro-organism genetic resources

(available at www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cross-sectorial/climate-change/en/). The results of these studies are summarized in the forthcoming book entitled: "Coping with climate change - the roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture".

For more information please contact, Linda Collette, Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at cgrfa@fao.org

Information provided by: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Advisory Board DNI

New paper release: Managing For Resilience: Framing an integrated landscape approach for overcoming chronic and acute food insecurity

Despite the efforts of food security programs, many communities continue to be at risk of hunger and malnutrition. To strengthen food security and livelihoods, programs must help vulnerable communities build socially and ecologically resilient landscapes.

This paper presents a landscape management framework for building resilience to the twin pressures of land degradation and climate change in communities of agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists who are vulnerable to acute and chronic food and livelihood insecurity. It draws on academic literature, field observation, insight from development researchers and practitioners, and agency reports to build a framework for guiding investment in initiatives that stand to sustainably improve the livelihoods of rural populations whose livelihood security is at risk from a combination of poverty and draught, deforestation, over-grazing, forced migration or other shocks.

For the full paper please visit: http://peoplefoodandnature.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2014/07/Managing-for-Resilience-Buck-and-Bailey-2014.pdf

Information provided by Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Advisory Board DNI, following circulation by Louis Wertz, EcoAgriculture Partners

Secretariat DesertNet International

c/o Biozentre Klein Flottbek and Botanical Garden, University of Hamburg
Ohnhorststr. 18
22609 Hamburg, Germany
Tel. +49 (0)40 42816-260