

# European DesertNet

## EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR GLOBAL DESERTIFICATION RESEARCH

### EUROPEAN DESERTNET EVOLUTION

The creation of the European DesertNet started on the occasion of CRIC 3 in Bonn (May 2005) with tri-national talks among members of the following national scientific networks:

- Belgian Expert Group on Desertification,
- Comité Scientifique Français de la Désertification;
- German Scientific Network on Research to Combat Desertification.

The members had the firm belief that the creation of the European DesertNet would strengthen participatory-based research to combat desertification, safeguard dryland ecology and support sustainable social and economic development in drylands. In addition, the European DesertNet would back science as a major partner in formulating best development options for drylands.

Representatives of the three national networks met in June 2005 and compiled a European Declaration; the interim coordination in Hamburg then created a first e-mail distribution list.

On 6th September 2005 the Declaration was sent to all EU Focal Points and numerous researchers and research institutes and was thus opened for signature.



In order to further consolidate the structure and aims of the European DesertNet, a first 2-day European DesertNet workshop was held in Bonn, Germany on 16th and 17th of October 2006.

38 scientists from 7 countries and representatives of the European Commission, UNCCD, UNESCO and representatives of national ministries (e.g. Foreign Ministry of Finland) attended the first international workshop of the European DesertNet.

At this workshop the aims and a clear structure for E-DN were discussed, formulated and adopted.

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### EUROPEAN DESERTNET AIMS

European DesertNet is a recently established network of scientists involved in land degradation/ desertification research and a think tank.

As a **network**, we

- provide a platform for scientific discussion and exchange of ideas, foster cutting edge science, identify topics and research areas,
- identify and document scientific state of the art of the main topics in desertification assessment, risk evaluation, mitigation and restoration,
- identify and articulate the economic drivers and the socio-economic consequences of desertification,
- integrate scientific findings across disciplines, translate into common language and communicate scientific findings, and
- work in and on affected areas inside and outside Europe.

As a **think tank**, we communicate with stakeholders and policy-makers. We

- identify minimum consensus on consolidated knowledge,
- evaluate scientific knowledge for stakeholders and policy-makers,
- disseminate knowledge,
- respond to demands for assessment and information needs,
- address knowledge gaps,
- translate knowledge to improve governance, and
- identify issues and priorities for stakeholder and public policies.



Niger: desertified area



Niger: Example of salinisation and loss of fertility



Niger: Laterisation and loss of fertility

### E-DN MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The European DesertNet was established by an interdisciplinary group of European Scientists to improve scientific research on combating and preventing desertification including in Europe and at a global scale and to support communication with policy makers and with other stakeholders.

The European DesertNet is located in Europe and closely cooperates with the Research Directorate of the European Community and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bonn, Germany.

The initiative is firmly based on the idea of creating a global network of scientists and research institutions who are interested in the topic and who share the vision and the objectives delineated in the Declaration of the European DesertNet.

To become a member of European DesertNet, please visit the network web site [www.european-desertnet.eu](http://www.european-desertnet.eu) or send an e-mail with your name and your e-mail address to: [office@european-desertnet.eu](mailto:office@european-desertnet.eu)