

## The Rio Conventions Pavilion Science Day on 5 September 2019 in New Delhi

### Our Planet Urgently Needs Action: From Science to Policy Response

Rio Conventions Pavilion: Hall 5, Room MET 11  
India Mart and Expo, in the Greater Noida area of New Delhi

The event is organised by the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD with technical support of the UNCCD Secretariat.

**Aim:** The Science Day will provide a forum for brief presentations, expert statements and interactive discussions on support for planning and implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at country level. Experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) among others will provide insights into how actions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation can also halt the loss of biodiversity and support land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation, through pursuit of LDN.

Key messages emerging from the Science Day are intended to inform the high level segment of the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD, and to stimulate and equip the science community, land managers and civil society organisations with practical ideas for progressing LDN for multiple benefits.

#### Session 1 (09:00-09:20): Overview of Science Day and introduction to LDN

*Facilitator: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, SPI*

- 09:00 Welcome address and introduction to the Science Day**  
Pradeep Monga [tbc], UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary
- 09:05 Introducing Land Degradation Neutrality**  
Annette Cowie

#### Session 2 (09:20-10:20): Introducing the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land

*Facilitator: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster*

- 09:20 Opening remarks**  
Mariam Akhtar-Schuster and Annette Cowie
- 09:30 Introduction to the report**  
Jim Skea (Co-Chair, Working Group III), Minal Pathak (Technical Support Unit Working Group III, Drafting Author, SPM), and Alisher Mirzabaev (Coordinating Lead Author)
- 10:20 Panel**  
Annette Cowie, Fatima Denton (Coordinating Lead Author), Jagdish Krishnaswamy (Coordinating Lead Author), Alisher Mirzabaev, Minal Pathak, Jim Skea and Lindsay Stringer (Lead Author; University of Leeds)

### Session 3 (10:20-11:30) Foundation for a healthy planet: The Enabling Environment for LDN

*Facilitator: Nichole Barger*

#### 10:20 Brief statements on:

- **Sustainable land management for LDN**  
Jean-Luc Chotte
- **Food security and LDN**  
Eduardo Mansur, Vera Boerger
- **Human dimension of LDN**  
Lindsay Stringer, University of Leeds
- **Making LDN inclusive**  
Marioldy Sanchez Santivanez
- **The role of CSOs in achieving LDN**  
Youssef Brahim (DesertNet International)
- **The Rural-Urban Nexus and LDN**  
Graham von Maltitz; Poonam Dabas (environmental journalist)
- **Governance and policy for LDN**  
André Francisco Pilon

#### 11:00 Discussion:

- How can LDN lead to transformative change?
- How do we make this happen: who needs to act, and how?
- How can we ensure that LDN benefits everyone, no one is left behind?

### Session 4 (11:30-12:30) Tools and practices to achieve multiple benefits through LDN

*Facilitator: Jim Skea, Co-Chair, IPCC Working Group III*

#### 11:30: Brief statements on:

- **Soil carbon – a key indicator for LDN**  
Ermias Betemariam
- **Tools for soil carbon estimation**  
Eleanor Campbell (University of New Hampshire)
- **Integrated land use planning to reconcile sustainable use and conservation**  
Peter Verburg (tbc)
- **Measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation**  
Marijana Kapović Solomun
- **The land-drought nexus and drought-smart solutions**  
Mark Svoboda
- **Connecting consumption and production to create sustainable supply chains**  
Nichole Barger

**12:00 Discussion:**

- What new knowledge and tools are available to land managers and policy-makers?
- What technologies and approaches can support transformation to sustainable land use?
- What is required to enable these to be applied?

**LUNCH buffet (12:30-13:00)**

**Session 5 (13:00-15:00) The diagnosis: Scientific Assessment to inform Policy**

*Facilitator: Barron Joseph Orr*

**13:00 Welcome address**

Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary [tbc]

**13:15 Introduction to Session 5**

Jean-Luc Chotte

**13:20 Land Restoration and Sustainable Development**

Jeffrey Herrick, UN Environment International Resource Panel (IRP)  
IRP Think Piece "Land Restoration for Achieving the SDGs"

**13:35 Convergence of Evidence**

Michael Cherlet, EC-Joint Research Centre  
World Atlas of Desertification

**13:50 Land, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

Josef Settele, IPBES  
Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

**14:05 Land and Climate Change:**

- **The interconnections between climate and land**  
Fatima Denton, IPCC SRCL Coordinating Lead Author
- **Achieving co-benefits through managing land and climate risks**  
Jagdish Krishnaswamy, IPCC SRCL Coordinating Lead Author

**14:35 Making Assessments Matter: The Knowledge Hub Approach**

Douglas Cripe, GEO  
Group on Earth Observations

**14:50 Reflections**

Barron Joseph Orr

**COFFEE BREAK (15:00-15:30)**

**Session 6 (15:30-17:00) Regenerating a Liveable Planet**

*Facilitator: Lindsay Stringer (supported by Graham von Maltitz)*

This discussion session will include (i) opportunity to pose questions of clarification to speakers in session 5, (ii) short interventions from invited experts, (iii) a panel of invited experts to highlight key findings from preceding sessions, and additional findings, comments and questions from the floor.