



Desertification

UN Entities

- Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
<https://www.unccd.int/>

UN Treaties and Declarations

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
<https://www.unccd.int/convention/about-convention>



Sustainable Development Goal 15:

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/desertification-land-degradation-and-drought>

UN Conferences and Observances

- Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17), Mongolia, 2026
<https://unccdcop17.org/>
<https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/press-releases/mongolia-host-next-un-conference-sustainable-land-management>
- Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2 to 13 December 2024: <https://www.unccd.int/cop16>
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - 17 June
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/desertification-day>
<https://www.unccd.int/events/desertification-drought-day>
<https://www.unesco.org/en/days/desertification-drought-combat>
- International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms – 12 July
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-combating-sand-and-dust-storms>
- United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, 2025–2034
<https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/un-declares-2025-2034-decade-combating-sand-and-dust-storms>
- High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, 14 June 2021
<https://www.un.org/pga/75/event/high-level-dialogue-on-desertification-land-degradation-and-drought/>
- United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification 2010-2020
http://www.un.org/en/events/desertification_decade/
<https://www.unccd.int/events/un-decade-deserts-and-fight-against-desertification>

- General Assembly High-level Meeting High-level Meeting on Desertification, 20 September 2011
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/desertification2011/>
- International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006
<http://www.iydd.org/>

Selected Statements and Speeches of UN Officials

- 'We must reverse degradation, boost finance for restoration', Secretary-General stresses on World Day to Combat Desertification, Drought (3 June 2025, SG/SM/22673):
<https://press.un.org/en/2025/sqsm22673.doc.htm>
- 'You are in Riyadh to turn the tide', Deputy Secretary-General urges as United Nations Desertification Conference Opens (DSG/SM/1954, 2 December 2024):
<https://press.un.org/en/2024/dsgsm1954.doc.htm>
- 'We must be united for land', stresses Secretary-General, in Video Message for World Day to Combat Desertification, Drought (SG/SM/22268, 12 June 2024):
<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22268.doc.htm>
- Increase cooperation, commit to practical action towards limiting sand, dust storms, Secretary-General stresses in conference message (SG/SM/21930, 9 September 2023):
<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sqsm21930.doc.htm>
- Women restore, protect land, Secretary-General stresses on World Day to Combat Desertification, Drought, urging equal right, elimination of legal barriers (SG/SM/21827, 9 June 2023): <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sqsm21827.doc.htm>
- Taking caring of 'our land, its biodiversity' can help address climate crisis, Secretary-General says in Message for Day to Combat Desertification, Drought (SG/SM/21325, 16 June 2022):
<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21325.doc.htm>
- Build on existing frameworks to improve women's lives, Deputy Secretary-General tells High-Level Gender Caucus at Conference on Desertification (DSG/SM/1739, 9 May 2022):
<https://press.un.org/en/2022/dsgsm1739.doc.htm>
- 'Business as usual' not working, Deputy Secretary-General tells Heads of State at Climate Change Conference on Desertification, Land Degradation (DSG/SM/1738, 9 May 2022):
<https://press.un.org/en/2022/dsgsm1738.doc.htm>
- Make healthy land central in all planning, urges Secretary-General, in Message for World Day to Combat Desertification, Drought (SG/SM/20780, 16 June 2021):
<https://press.un.org/en/2021/sqsm20780.doc.htm>
- Simple, unifying act of land restoration will help tackle intersecting planetary crises, Deputy-Secretary-General tells High-Level Dialogue on Desertification (DSG/SM/1598, 14 June 2021): <https://press.un.org/en/2021/dsgsm1598.doc.htm>

Further information

- Rio Conventions Synergy Platform: <https://rioconventions.org/>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Action Against Desertification: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification/en/>
 - Dryland Forestry: <http://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/en/>
- UN Development Programme (UNDP) – Nairobi Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED): <https://www.undp.org/policy-centre/nairobi>
- Global Environment Facility – Land Degradation: <http://www.thegef.org/topics/land-degradation>
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – Drought: <https://wmo.int/topics/drought>

Selection of Publications available online

- UNCCD Publications: <https://www.unccd.int/publications>
- World Drought Atlas (UNCCD, November 2024):
<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/world-drought-atlas>
- Drought in Numbers, 2022 (UNCCD):
<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/drought-numbers>
- Global Land Outlook Second Edition: Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience (UNCCD, April 2022):
<https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/global-land-outlook-2nd-edition>
- Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021 (UNDRR): <https://www.undrr.org/gar2021-drought>
- Trends in Sustainable Development, 2008-2009: Agriculture, rural development, land, desertification and drought (DESA, 2008):
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/30fullreport.pdf>

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<https://unric.org/en/unric-library-backgrounder-desertification/>