

Tuesday, 01.06.2010 | 10:30 – 12:00

## Plenary 4 (TUE 2.1): Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought



*Chaired and supported by UNCCD, Bonn Germany and  
Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, SDC, Bern, Switzerland*

Disasters are exacerbated by desertification, land degradation and drought which are among the most pressing global environmental challenges of our time. The sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems is the basis for the provision of critical services, such as food, water, and energy. Sustainable land use management contributes to poverty alleviation, human security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of nature and to biodiversity.

What are the necessary mechanisms to prevent desertification and land degradation worldwide? What are the implications of climate change induced desertification for policy making and governance processes? How is soil quality interlinked with climate change, energy and food security and biodiversity?

This panel will discuss the available frameworks to address the challenges posed by land degradation and desertification and highlight their weaknesses. Furthermore the panel will focus on providing ideas and possible ways on how to tackle the problems in the future.

### Chair:

**Gnacadja, Luc**



***Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD, Bonn, Germany***

Luc Gnacadja is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Born in Benin, Mr. Gnacadja is an architect by profession, having graduated from the African School of Architecture and Urbanism in Lome. He was also the successful CEO of a consultancy firm and an accomplished manager, honing his skills at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and the World Bank Training Institute. Before taking up his position as UNCCD Executive Secretary, Mr. Gnacadja served as Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development of Benin from 1999 to 2005. He gained first-hand knowledge of the UNCCD process over a number of years in his capacity as Head of Delegation to the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD.

Mr. Gnacadja was also Head of Delegation to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. His pronounced leadership qualities enabled him at the national level to initiate and build synergies between the Rio Conventions, in conjunction with the National Commission on Sustainable Development.

He has served as Chairman of several international ministerial Conferences, meetings and workshops related to the environment, urban and regional development, and sustainable development, including the African Ministers Conference on Environment and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In March 2003 Mr. Gnacadja was honoured with the "2002 Green

Award” in Washington by the World Bank.

### Moderator

#### **De Kalbermatten, Gregoire**



#### ***Former Deputy Executive Secretary UNCCD, Switzerland***

Gregoire G. de Kalbermatten studied law in Geneva, international relations at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in Bologna/Washington DC and political philosophy at the JHU Baltimore Campus where he was a fellow of the President of the JHU.

As a diplomat of his country, Switzerland, and as an international civil servant, G de Kalbermatten has over 30 years of professional experience in multilateral diplomacy, sustainable development and environmental policy planning, coordination and evaluation. He co-authored, directed and published a number of books and studies in related fields. He served the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the UNCCD where he was the Deputy Executive Secretary. He led over 300 missions and/or organized events in some eighty countries of Africa, Asia, America and Europe. He is member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Evolutionary Learning. He is married and has three children.

### Panellists:

#### **Burger, Patrice**



#### ***Executive Director CARI, France***

Patrice Burger – french- is involved since 20 years in rural development in drylands in sud Saharan and northern Africa . His experience is based on project activities related to natural ressources management in training and technical support in agroecology towards farmers and their organisations. He is active in taking lobby initiatives in order to increase the priority of drylands in the development agenda and decision makers foras. Currently he is the exe. director of CARI - NGO - based in Montpellier and involved in different networks like DESIRE, DRYNET and RADD0 in order to give a future to drylands and oases by combating desertification.

#### **Jansen, Roland A.**



#### ***CEO Mother Earth Investments AG, Freienbach, Switzerland***

Roland A. Jansen, from The Netherlands, holds a degree in Business Administration (lic.oec.HSG) from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Mr. Jansen is CEO of Mother Earth Investments AG (Switzerland). The company manages assets in natural resources for banks, private clients, pension funds and family offices in several funds and certificates. He publishes his research bi-monthly in the Mother Earth Commodity Analysis Report.

Mother Earth Investments AG also develops jatropha plantations in West Timor (Indonesia) and China to produce biodiesel and biokerosine.

He is the author of „Profits from Natural Resources“, John Wiley & Sons, New York, (1998) where he forecasted correctly the end of the commodity bear markets and the start of a new supercycle upwards.

He is appearing regularly on Bloomberg Television to give his views on commodity trends. He is also a regular guest speaker at conferences and universities around the world.

Mr Jansen serves as a honorary consul for The Netherlands in Liechtenstein. He is fluent in Dutch, English, French, German and Swiss German and has a working knowledge of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

## **Razavi, Khadija-Catherine**



### ***Executive Director of Center for Sustainable Development (CENESTA), Tehran, Iran***

Specialist in community participation, biodiversity conservation, women in sustainable development and appropriate technology, with over twenty years of experience in Iran and other countries. I have worked as NGO organiser and leader, and as free-lance consultant. Special emphasis on land degradation and the role of seasonal migration as a means of sustainable land use.

Main areas of experience include the promotion of sustainable and participatory development, renewable energies, women's participation in sustainable development, environmentally sound pest management programmes, desertification prevention, nomadism and development, training of community animators, public awareness, and project design and implementation.

## **Reij, Chris**



### ***Senior specialist in Sustainable Land Management UV University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands***

Chris Reij is trained as a human geographer. From 1978 till 1982 he worked in Burkina Faso as a regional planner, where he developed an interest in soil and water conservation. Since 1982 he is working as a specialist in sustainable land management at the Center for International Cooperation of VU University Amsterdam. He has been involved in numerous consultancies for multilateral and bilateral agencies (World Bank, IFAD, UNSO, OECD/Club du Sahel, EU/CTA), as well as for NGOs, mainly in Africa. During the last 15 years he has coordinated research programs on indigenous soil and water conservation practices in Africa (13 countries) , on farmer innovation in Africa (7 countries) and on long term trends in agriculture and environment as well as impacts of investments in natural resource management in the Sahel (4 countries). These research programs have led to a number of publications. Chris is at present facilitator of a new initiative to promote re-greening in Africa's drylands, which builds on existing success stories. This initiative is operational in Burkina Faso and Mali and is now expanding to Niger and Ethiopia.

**International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2010**  
*Risk, Disasters, Crisis and Global Change - From Threats to Sustainable Opportunities*  
**3rd International Disaster and Risk Conference**  
30 May - 3 June 2010 | Davos, Switzerland



*“From Thoughts to Action”*

---