



**Press Release – Not an official document**

**In Windhoek, World Builds Synergies for Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity Protection and Climate Change**

**Rio Conventions Pavilion a success at UNCCD COP 11**

*Windhoek, Namibia 27 September 2013.* Over 2000 delegates attending UNCCD's COP11 came to the Rio Conventions Pavilion and joined in the conversation on synergistic approaches to achieving a land-degradation neutral world and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

The dialogues ranged from target setting for land degradation neutrality, to ecosystem restoration and adaptation to climate change. Resource mobilization was also discussed, as well as sustainable land management and the role of women and men in combatting land degradation. Among the variety of themes, common threads emerged: there is an awareness of the need for synergistic implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), but more work is needed at the national level to make this a reality.

“The Rio Conventions Pavilion at the UNCCD COP 11 has been a wonderful space for learning and dialogue. We have been overwhelmed by the high turn-out of participants from governments - including ministers and ambassadors - international organizations and civil society who shared experience and debated emerging ideas that might better combat desertification, land degradation and drought. Participants explored the linkages between climate change, biodiversity and sustainable land management and these interactive Rio Pavilion sessions brought new opportunities for concerted action to the fore.” Said Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

“Evidence and innovation from the grassroots support the vision of a land-degradation neutral world. In a changing climate it will help bring the objective of food security and poverty eradication through enhanced livelihoods for rural communities around the world much closer to reality, especially in drylands” he said.

One of the best attended programmes of parallel events held at the COP, the Rio Conventions Pavilion brought together key actors from Parties to the UNCCD, international organizations, academia and civil society, in interactive dialogues and presentations that communicated the co-benefits from a coordinated implementation of the CBD, the UNCCD and the UNFCCC, the three ‘Rio conventions’.

Organisations that contributed to the vibrant programme included, UNDP, FAO, IAEA, the Global Mechanism, ICRAF, IUCN, The University of Namibia, The Green Wall initiative, The Korean Forest Service, NEPAD, and others.

One of the core partners in the Rio Conventions Pavilion is the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). On 23 September, the GEF organized a full day of sessions related to



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



United Nations Convention  
to Combat Desertification



United Nations  
Climate Change Secretariat



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resource mobilization for land degradation. As a financial mechanism of the UNCCD the GEF used this opportunity to present an overview of the 6th Replenishment programming, to launch a new publication on "Two decades of experience - investing in ecosystem services and adaptation for food security", to outline the GEF-6 strategies for the land degradation focal area, to show incentive mechanisms on sustainable forest management (SFM) / REDD+; and to consult on the draft GEF-6 Signature Programs.

A number of information products were launched at the Rio Conventions Pavilion, including a Land for Life magazine, a review of 20 years of GEF experience in investing in Africa, a CBD report on the economic valuation of ecosystem services, a UNDP publication outlining case studies of community-led development initiatives and a joint publication of GIZ, GEO magazine and the CBD, on communicating climate change.

The Rio Conventions Pavilion at Windhoek was made possible by the support of the Government of Namibia, along with contributions from the Equator Initiative, World Indigenous Network, United Nations Development Programme, the German Development Cooperation (GIZ/BMZ), and other partners.

Photos and coverage of the activities at the Rio Conventions Pavilion are available either on the website [www.riopavilion.org](http://www.riopavilion.org) or through the coverage of IISDs Earth Negotiations Bulletin: <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop11/pavilion/>

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