Report on:

The 13th Session of the Conference of Parties
The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China
6-16 September 2017

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About the UNCCD

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the Convention at international level to combat desertification and land degradation. The Convention established in 1994, adopted on 17 June 1994 and entered into force on 26 December 1996. The UNCCD currently has 196 Parties and is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

The Convention’s parties work together to improve the living conditions of drylands people, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought. The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.

The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.

As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

The Convention has five world regions including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe in which have an important role in implementation of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties (COPs) is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and it makes decisions with the participation of the representatives of country parties to the convention.

http://www2.unccd.int/
The Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD (COP13 of the UNCCD)

The thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) including the sixteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC16), the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST13), the high-level segment, three round-tables and various dialogues were held at International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China from 6-16 September 2017.

Prior to COP13, the Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention’s regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern European Country Parties as well as the CSOs preparatory meeting, were scheduled on 4 and 5 September 2017.

The COP13 of the UNCCD brought together about 1,200 participants including representatives from government officials, United Nations bodies and agencies, civil society organisations, local communities’ organisations, trade unions, business and media members.

The COP13 of the UNCCD adopted 37 decisions, including on agenda items related to desertification, land degradation and drought, the target to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN), how to align the UNCCD’s goals and parties’ action programmes with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on the Strategic Framework that will guide action under the Convention from 2018-2030. [http://www2.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-13-ordos-china-2017/cop1321add1](http://www2.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-13-ordos-china-2017/cop1321add1)

The representatives of the accredited CSOs of the UNCCD including environmental and social activists, indigenous peoples, small scale farmers, fisher folks, women and youth had remarkable efforts during the COP13 of the UNCCD. These efforts mainly include organising various side events, contribution of the CSOs representatives to develop 18 statements during the COP13 to reflect the perspectives and views of all affected communities, contribution in open dialogue sessions, dissemination of publication, multi-media production, press conference, formal and informal debate, negotiation and discussion with delegates from parties, EU, private sector and international organisations.
From Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Dr. Garshasbi, Parviz Deputy Head, Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization
- Mr. Sardari, Farhad, Director General, Desert Affairs Bureau, Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization
- Mr. Abdolhoseini, Mohsen, National Focal Point, Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization
- Mr. Jamshidi, Arsalan, Attaché Division of International Environmental and Energy Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs

And

- Ms. Vaziri, Leila, Senior Expert, Centre for sustainable development and Environment,
  - Ms. Naghizadeh, Nahid, Senior Expert, Centre for sustainable development and Environment, and Member of Drynet¹ Board [http://dry-net.org/](http://dry-net.org/)

attended to the 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP13) and took part in various events and sessions of the conference.

With special thanks to all organisers, funding agencies, in particularly the government of China, the UNCCD Secretariat and the CSO panel members for providing this valuable opportunity for us to participate in the COP13 of UNCCD. [http://www2.unccd.int/convention/conference-parties-cop/unccd-cop13-ordos-china](http://www2.unccd.int/convention/conference-parties-cop/unccd-cop13-ordos-china)

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¹ Drynet is a network of NGOs working to support communities affected by land degradation and drought to develop their capacities, strengthen their networks and lobby for more supportive policies in drylands in 15 countries formed in 2007.
Activities Carried Out Prior to the COP13 with the CSOs in the Network or Constituency

Contribution with Iranian CSOs to Organise a People’s Campaign to Stop Land Degradation in West of Iran

The Iranian environmentalists CSOs and activists have organized a people’s campaign demanding, Safeguarding Hoor al-Azim and Stop Land Degradation in West of Iran. CENESTA as one of the Iranian environmental civil society organization, participated actively in the people’s campaign through being a member of its core working group, technical support, translation of the petition to other languages and contribution in sharing the online link of the people’s campaign with various national and international interested networks, CSOs and institutions for their support and signature for creating a regional and global demand against big dam buildings in neighbouring county “Turkey”.

The petition was a result of an endogenous and social effort to advocate and publicize the effect of current environmental changes at local, national, regional and international levels and it was a call for solidarity to prevent and stop the progressive land degradation in West of Iran, stopping the future socio, economic, political and environmental challenges within the region and sensitizing the policy makers at national and regional levels to deal with this issue and think about the future of this valuable region as a very sensitive, vulnerable and under threat area in the world.

https://www.change.org/p/mr-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres-secretary-general-of-the-united-nations-safeguarding-hoor-al-azim-lagoon

Unfortunately, nowadays extractive industries and inappropriate development projects destructing nature and disconnect the existing connection among land and water, therefore we believe construction of such huge dam (Ilisu) in Turkey not only will affect all bio-cultural features of the region’s ecosystems, but also will cause numerous social, environmental and political shocks within the region. So the people’s role in Iran, Turkey, Iraq and Syria and their solidarity is very important to push the higher levels of policy makers for negotiation and action hopefully in a positive manner with respecting the customary rights of the nature and other dimensions of the story in a win-win strategy and action.
Participation in the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

The International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms: Challenges and Practical Solutions was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, with 90 international participants from 36 countries attended from 3-5 July 2017. The event was hosted by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of IRI, with the cooperation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

Considering the various challenges caused by the issue of dust around the world, and in particular in parts of our country, Iran’s civil society organizations have made extensive efforts in informing and sensitizing different people and influencing policy makers and decision makers in reflecting the challenges of dust storm within the sensitive areas of Iran (Khuzestan and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces) during the conference. One of the efforts was advocating and publicizing the prepared petition in preventing the destruction of land in western Iran and Mesopotamia “Safeguarding Hoor al-Azim and Stop Land Degradation in West of Iran”.

The event was a very important event for Iranian CSOs to be a louder vocal of rural and Urban communities and population, whom increasingly are under pressure due to climate change issues, drought and land degradation in different parts of the country.

CENESTA representative participated actively in this event and prepared a report for sharing with other interested groups and communities such as indigenous nomadic tribes and local communities and CSOs of the country.

The most significant achievements of the International Conference on Dust are the issuance of two official document including Ministerial Statement and the Tehran Declaration.


Collaboration in preparing Drynet action plan at COP13 of the UNCCD

Drynet board along its members had close collaboration to be ready for collective collaboration with other CSOs at the COP13 of the UNCCD aiming being involved in policy discussions at various levels, awareness raising amongst CSOs, alliance with other networks and platforms, knowledge and experience sharing, collaboration with the CSO panel and organising different side events to be actively present during the COP13 events and discussions and negotiations with parties, international organisation and other stakeholders during the COP13. http://dry-net.org/blog/
Participation in Desertif'actions 2017, International Summit of Non-State Actors

The Desertif'actions 2017, International Summit of Non-State Actors, land degradation and climate change in local territories was held on Strasbourg, France from 27-29 of June 2017 [http://www.desertif-actions.fr/en/].

The event brought together 200 participants from some thirty countries to convene the multi-stakeholder dialogue among various stakeholders involved in combating desertification, land degradation and climate change issues. The participants of the event took part in various plenary sessions and thematic workshops, and along high solidarity and synergy, developed a roadmap for actions to be delivered on the ground and political messages to take to upcoming international meetings such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, at Ordos, in China (COP13), in September 2017 such as high level dialogue with the participation of the mayor of Strasbourg, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Bonn, Germany (COP23), in November 2017.

CENESTA representative Ms. Khadija Catherine Razavi, participated in this event and presented the various adaptation & resilience tools and strategies of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes and Rural Communities of Iran in Drylands, Adaptation and Resilience workshop of Desertif’actions 2017.

The participants of Desertif’actions 2017, adopted a declaration, reiterating their determination to place land at the centre of local actions and international agendas. [http://www.desertif-actions.fr/wp-content/uploads/DA17-Declaration-EN.pdf]

Preparation for side events and reviewing COP13 documents

Prior participation to the COP13th of the UNCCD, CENESTA representative was in touch with some organisations such as FAO, IUCN and Both Ends to have presentation about the indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran. In addition, reviewing CSO’s necessary relevant document including the new Strategic Framework of the Convention from 2018-2030, documents and reports by the CSOs panel of the UNCCD, was a part of preparatory work for active collaboration during the COP13 of the UNCCD.
List of Activities carried out during the COP13 of the UNCCD

Participation in Civil Society Organisations Preparatory Meeting

Prior to the official meetings of the UNCCD COP13, Accredited CSOs had opportunity to participate in the CSOs preparatory meeting that took place 4th of September. The meeting started with welcoming addresses by Republic of China, State Forestry Administration and followed by opening remarks and general introduction of UNCCD by Mr. Marcos Montorio, UNCCD Secretariat and then the representative of designated CSO focal Point for COP13 “China Green Foundation” and the CSO panel members gave necessary information of COP13 Agenda to the participants.

CENESTA representative had the opportunity to attend this meeting and collaborated with other CSOs representative to have an active participation during the COP13 and ensure that CSOs concerns and views will be reflected within the decisions to be taken by the parties during the COP13. For this reason, the CSO panel members along other CSOs representatives arranged to have a concise strategy during the COP13 for accomplishment the following items:

- Formation of different thematic working groups such as 2030 agenda for SD (Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3), effective implementation of the Convention at various levels, CRIC and CST for active participation in relevant session and preparing necessary CSOs statement of each thematic working groups;
- Collective and team working in preparing the CSOs statements and interventions in high priority discussed topics during COP13 of the UNCCD including CST, CRIC, COW, High Level Segment, Roundtables, Opening session, Closing session, etc.;
- Discussion on arrangements and implementation of the Open Dialogue Session;
- Preparation of CSOs ECO newsletter, press conference, position papers etc.;
- Planning for daily meeting of the CSOs for reviewing daily agenda of the CSOs community, exchange of important information by thematic working groups, consultation and finalization of the prepared statements and strong collaboration and participation and intervention of CSOs in important side events etc.

For more information on CSOs activities during COP13 of the UNCCD please refer to: https://www.csopanel.com/
The Preparatory Meeting of Civil Society Organisations, 04 September 2017, COP13 of the UNCCD
Collaboration in preparing CSOs collective statement’s & interventions during COP13 of the UNCCD

Collaboration and participation in preparing the CSOs statements and interventions on important topics, on various sessions of COP13 such as CST, CRIC, COW, High Level Segment, Roundtables, Opening Session, Closing Session, etc., was another part of CSOs representatives’ activities during the COP13 of the UNCCD. The CSOs representatives including CENESTA’s representative participated in preparing various statements in identified working groups and finalise it with the CSOs representative for delivering in relevant sessions of the COP13.

CENESTA’s representative was an active member in giving inputs and collaboration to prepare the following statements along other members of the working group:

- CSOs Opening Statement;
- CSOs Closing Statement;
- CSOs statement on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the related target 15.3. (part of 2030 Agenda);
- CSOs statement on the Future Strategic Framework of the UNCCD Convention (part of 2030 Agenda);
- Contribution in suggested text for the UNCCD Future Strategic Framework;
- CSOs statement on Round table 1, “Land Degradation”;
- Press release by CSOs at the UNCCD COP 13.
Opening session of the 13th Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD

The 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) of the UNCCD started on Wednesday 6th of September in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China with about 1,200 participants including representatives from government officials, United Nations bodies and agencies, civil society organisations, local communities’ organisations, trade unions, business and media members.

The opening speeches of the COP13 referred to national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target setting in 110 countries, and that over 1.5 billion people in more than 100 countries are exposed to desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD), which endangers global peace.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD Ms. Monique Barbut, referred to the new strategy framework of the UNCCD 2018-2030 and her trust in endorsement of the strategy during the COP13. She specified “with land degradation neutrality as an organizing principle embedded within the strategy and as Convention is recognized as the custodian of this target, we have an important accelerator target for the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Change agreement”.

She added, at this COP and in the near future, we need to focus on implementation. Implementation means: 1) Turning your LDN targets into action; 2) take decisions on issues that we have not yet dealt with such as droughts and sand dust storms, gender and land tenure security and 3) On all these issues, Knowledge/Strategic Communication for more support.
Opening speech of Ms. Monique Barbut, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD
http://www2.unccd.int/news-events/unccd-es-monique-barbut-cop13-opening-speech

CSOs Opening Statement at the COP13 of the UNCCD in Ordos
Delivered by Jaja, China Green Foundation, CSO Focal Point for COP13

Thank you Madam/Mr Chair

I am speaking on behalf of more than 300 CSOs accredited under the UNCCD. We thank the Government of the People’s Republic of China and its friendly citizens for hosting us in this beautiful city of Ordos.

Land is the basis of life for all humanity. It is our primary source of food, shelter and income. Ensuring land tenure security improves the livelihoods of the poor by offering social, economic and environmental benefits.

Land degradation and desertification are advancing rapidly as observed by scientists and felt daily by land users. This has extreme consequences in terms of food security, food sovereignty and human security. For example, this year, in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, many lives have been lost because of climate change and human-induced land degradation. Many people have been displaced and become refugees. Similar tragedies happened in many countries around the world.

Millions of rural people still have limited or no access to, ownership and control over land while this is a precondition for improving living conditions and sustaining the land.

We have never been more vulnerable! Today, here in this COP13, we, Parties, civil society and other stakeholders have a unique opportunity to give hope, life and justice to these people. The voices and concerns of the people affected by land degradation and desertification must be heard and responded to.

For many years, CSOs have been contributing to sustainable land management by co-generating and disseminating successful practices. We have also promoted traditional, including indigenous peoples’ knowledge, engaged local communities, and enhanced the role and rights of women.

CSOs are committed to achieve the SDGs, particularly the 15.3. We have already been contributing to the LDN target through diverse activities to restore and maintain functional ecosystems. In this context, the evidence shows that land tenure security is a prerequisite
for achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN). We embrace the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT) for land tenure in this context.

We recognize the efforts made by the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM to access new financing streams, including private capital. We believe that LDN projects must achieve the highest human, social and environmental standards. The new funds should prioritize societies and ecosystems that are more exposed to the impacts of land degradation. The interests of pastoralists, small scale farmers, indigenous peoples, women and landless peasants who will be directly or indirectly affected by the funded projects must be protected.

Land degradation is recognized as a significant driver of migration and as a triggering factor of conflicts. Policies providing landless people with small-scale agricultural opportunities should be an important component of managing migrant and resettlement programs. For this reason, CSOs welcome the sustainability, stability and security (3S) initiative and call for its effective implementation.

We would like to emphasize that the Convention assigns CSOs specific roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the convention. However, we are deeply concerned that the New Strategy proposal does not mention CSOs. Furthermore, the recommendations of the CSO Panel in relation to lands rights, indigenous peoples and gender mainstreaming have not been reflected in the proposal of the New Strategy. We must work together to see more active and equal participation of CSOs as key allies in the work of the convention.

Madam/Mr Chair, distinguished delegates

We call upon the Parties to adopt a COP decision on land rights that would ensure millions of small farmers, indigenous peoples, women and youth to have secure access to land. This is fundamental to achieve the goals of the Convention.

Thank you.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) during the various sessions of COP13 expressed their concern that the new Strategic Framework as part of 2030 Agenda, did not consider CSOs as one of the main and important stakeholders, and did not incorporate the recommendations of the CSO panel for inclusion of the CSOs in the new Strategic Framework (2018-2030). Therefore, they started issuing relevant statements and negotiation with their delegates to support their demands in decision making process. The followings are the CSOs statements on the future strategic framework and integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the related target 15.3 including their demands:

**CSOs statement on the Future Strategic Framework of the UNCCD (part of 2030 Agenda)**

Delivered by Karin van Boxtel – Both ENDS – The Netherlands

Thank you, Madame Chair

We are grateful for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CSOs and share our input on the Strategic Framework of the UNCCD Convention.

We acknowledge the efforts to formulate a joint Strategic Framework for the UNCCD work from 2018 to 2030. Yet, a strategy is not only about objectives, but also about stakeholders. WHO will implement the Strategic Framework? Unfortunately, the current strategic framework does not mention CSOs as crucial partners in the UNCCD and the partnerships which are pursued. The CSO community has been actively involved in the UNCCD activities since its start. Because the accredited CSOs are closely related to the land use realities of indigenous and local communities, and experience trends in sustainable land use management and impacts of climate change, policies as well as human-induced activities. We strongly request Parties to explicitly acknowledge the crucial role of CSOs in the UNCCD Future Strategic Framework and call upon the contact group to take up this issue and engage in the negotiations.

Considering the need and increased attention for financial and technical resource mobilization in the Convention’s implementation, the access of affected populations to financial and technical resources is crucial. Community-led initiatives and innovations are numerous and have proven to be effective. Yet, this crucial issue of bottom-up co-creation should be better considered. Also, large-scale private and/or public finance mechanisms such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund will be difficult to access by local communities and CSOs. At the same time, small grants facilities or community-managed revolving funds have a huge potential to provide opportunities for communities’ access to finance. It is therefore important for the Parties present to ensure the access to financial and technical mechanisms for indigenous peoples and local communities’ organizations, as well as female and male (young) local land users who have demonstrated successful sustainable land management practices.

We affirm the need for a participatory monitoring system to report on the progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Framework. We encourage Parties to engage in this process and to involve local communities, Indigenous Peoples and CSOs in the reporting process since these stakeholders provide a local perspective which is vital to measure progress. Therefore, we propose the Parties to include measurements on land tenure
security, community-based land restoration practices and the impacts on local communities and local sustainable land use in the indicators of the Strategic Framework.

We, accredited UNCCD CSOs, are very concerned about the land user rights dimensions which are currently not included in the UNCCD Strategic Framework. Access to, ownership and control over land are a precondition to ensure food security and sustainable land use, and to end poverty. Also the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) stress the importance of good land governance and strengthening legitimate and customary land tenure rights of especially small-scale farmers, women, pastoralists, youth, indigenous peoples and poor people, as is reiterated by SDG target 1.4, 2.3 and 5a. Including the access to, ownership and control over land for people in affected areas, as well as the adoption and implementation of the VGGT is therefore essential in the formulation of the Strategic Objectives of the UNCCD Future Strategic Framework. Also, we request to assess the land rights dimension in the indicators related to Strategic Objectives, in line with the land user rights indicators of the SDGs.

We would like to urge Parties to acknowledge the value of the CSOs as a crucial partner in the UNCCD Strategic Framework, ensure access to public and private finance for local communities and CSOs, guarantee the involvement of local communities and CSOs in the reporting process, and especially, to adopt and implement the VGGT in the UNCCD 2018 - 2030 Strategic Framework.

We thank you for your attention.

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CSO statement on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the related target 15.3. (part of 2030 Agenda)

Delivered by Nahid Naghizadeh, Cenesta, Iran

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Firstly, we would like to use the opportunity to thank the Chinese authorities and the UNCCD Secretariat for organizing the COP13. We are grateful for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CSOs and share our input on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the related target 15.3.

We acknowledge the need to integrate SDG15 into the implementation of the UNCCD and encourage the Parties to strive to realize Land Degradation Neutrality. The SDG agenda provides unique opportunities to strengthen sustainable land management, the rights of local communities and their livelihoods. Embracing the holistic approach and the ‘Leaving No One Behind’ principle of the SDGs is key and stresses the need to align with other SDGs such as SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

As we have seen since many years, local land users, indigenous peoples and local communities are key players in the sustainable land use actions on the ground. They are often even at the driving seat in community-led initiatives. We therefore strongly encourage Parties to ensure the bottom-up participation process of local communities and CSOs in the LDN and SDG 15.3 implementation, in particular the integration in National Action Plans, target-setting processes, monitoring and reporting.

To reach the SDG 15.3 target, capacities on the LDN and SDG 15.3 implementation are crucial, especially for national and local authorities, CSOs and community-based organizations. In this way, communities and local authorities can significantly contribute to LDN and SDG 15.3; for instance, by integrating the LDN targets in Community Development and Land Use Plans.

We, accredited UNCCD CSOs, are very concerned about the land user rights dimensions when implementing LDN. Access to, ownership and control over land and territories are a precondition to ensure food security and sustainable land use, and to end poverty. Also the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) stress the importance of good land governance and strengthening legitimate land tenure rights of especially small-scale farmers, women, pastoralists, youth, indigenous peoples and poor people, as is reiterated by SDG target 1.4, 2.3 and 5a. The VGGT recognizes and respects customary laws and the rights of indigenous peoples, which enables them to contribute with their rich knowledge and experience. Including the access to, ownership and control over land for people in affected areas, as well as the adoption and implementation of the VGGT, is therefore essential in the LDN and SDG 15.3 implementation.

We therefore would like to remind Parties to embrace the holistic approach of the SDGs, ensure the participation of local communities and CSOs in the LDN and SDG 15.3 implementation, build the capacities of local authorities and community-based organisations on LDN, and especially, to adopt and implement the VGGT in the SDG15.3 and LDN implementation.

We thank you for your attention.
Open dialog session on land and climate with CSOs

Open Dialogue Session (ODS) as unique feature of the UNCCD and its commitment for promoting the civil society organisations participation, where CSOs and Parties of the UNCCD meet during the COP and discuss their experiences and contributions and debate the burning concerns of CSOs.

During COP13 of the UNCCD selected representatives of civil society organisations presented their successful efforts on combating land degradation with focus on both adaptation and mitigation at the local level, the CSOs efforts in awareness raising among local communities, improving sustainability in water, energy and food among small scale farmers, as well as improving the livelihoods of dryland communities.

For more information please refer to: https://www.csopanel.com/single-post/2017/08/26/LDN-on-the-target


**Participation and interventions in COP13 side events**

Side events always are an important part of the UNCCD COPs, within the COP13, the side events provided enabling environment for discussion, intervention and sharing of experiences and knowledge among participants. Some selected side events for participation, presentation and intervention of CENESTA representative were as follows:

- **Just, accountable and responsible land governance - implementing the VGGTs in the UNCCD strategic framework 2018-2030**

  **Organised by at Both ENDS and Drynet**

  This side event focused on putting the new UNCCD strategic framework for 2018 – 2030, and putting the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT) adopted by the UN Committee on World Food Security at the heart of the UNCCD. The objective of this side event was to show how the VGGT contributes to just, accountable and responsible land governance in sustainable land management.

  The speakers at the side event were:
  
  - *Nathalie van Haren, Policy Officer Sustainable Land Use at Both ENDS and co-chair of Drynet*
  
  - *Nahid Naghizadeh, senior expert at CENESTA and co-chair of Drynet;*
  
  - *Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez, Engineer responsible of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at AIDER and CSO panel member;*
  
  - *Karin van Boxtel, Policy Officer Sustainable Land Use at Both ENDS and member of the Organizing Committee of the Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue*
Participation in Landscape Restoration Day, Large scale landscape restoration in drylands

Rio Conventions' Pavilion, UNCCD COP13, 14 September 2017

Session 4: Guardians of Rangelands: combatting desertification in the rangeland through sustainable pastoralism

This session focused to explore how sustainable pastoralism can contribute to rangelands restoration and to the global restoration initiatives.

The speakers of this session were:
- Rosanne Stanway (Conservation International)
- Nahid Naghizadeh (NGO Cenesta, Iran);
- Kirk Olsen (Wildlife Conservation Society-Mongolia);
- Jonathan Davies (IUCN)
- Moderator: Thomas Hammond (FAO).

key messages of the side event for next steps
- Sustainable pastoralism through recognizing the role of community conserved areas and use of/build on traditional knowledge;
- Improve availability of data to improve consideration of rangelands restoration in some of the assessments;
- Proposal by some countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, etc for International year of rangelands and pastoralism for 2020;
- Look at economic value and multiple benefits coming from rangelands restoration, especially for local communities;
- Rethink conservation given that pastoralism can achieve targets for protected areas if they are well managed; it can improve biodiversity status.
Landscape Restoration Day
Large scale landscape restoration in drylands
Rio Conventions’ Pavilion, UNCCD COP 13, Ordos, China
14 September, 2017 (09:00-18:00)

SUMMARY REPORT

Key findings

- Landscape restoration is an important vehicle for delivering Land Degradation Neutrality
- Restoration goes hand in hand with sustainable management and protection of the environment – together these add up to the main components required for achieving LDN.
- Landscape restoration, by definition, needs join-up thinking between sectors, ministries and different actors. This highlights the importance of creating appropriate institutions (including policies) to guide action.
- Landscape restoration delivers multiple benefits to society. These benefits can be delivered by optimising land management in order to deliver multiple benefits from the same land use systems.
- Intergovernmental initiatives, like the Great Green Wall and Sub Regional Action Programmes to Combat Desertification, can be instrumental in raising the profile of sustainable land management and generating greater action at the country level, where it is most needed.
- Biodiversity, in its broadest sense, is central to landscape management – management of landscapes and ecosystems depends on the management of biodiversity, particularly soil biodiversity, as the engine of ecosystem functionality.
- Soil organic carbon (SOC), and therefore soil biodiversity, is key to ecosystem functionality. Soil organic carbon should be better monitored as an indicator of progress and land use systems which protect and restore SOC should be given greater prioritisation.
- Achieving the desired scale of response required a combination of government leadership, stronger governance and rights for local land managers, and adapted private investments.
- Landscape restoration approaches have been developed in dry and humid biomes, but there is a common tendency to focus on forest cover. Rangelands and grasslands cover a third of the land surface of the planet, provide great value to society, and are in equal need of restoration and protection through sustainable management.
Participation and intervention at other side events including:

- **Launch of the Land Rights Report, organized by UNCCD CSO Panel;**
  
  Land is the foundation of our life; stopping the critical loss of land and turning this trend around is critical for the future prosperity and security of humankind. The Sustainable Development Goal 15 “Life on land” commits world leaders to work together to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) for safeguarding life on land. One of the objectives that comprises LDN is to reinforce responsible governance of land tenure. Land rights is indeed a key factor for achieving LDN and delivering food, water and livelihoods security for future generations, particularly the poor people, on the path to real sustainability. However, how much do key stakeholders understand the vital connection between land rights and land degradation?

  This publication by the UNCCD CSO Panel aims to analyze and highlight the linkages between land rights and land degradation with the objective of offering policy recommendations to enhance land rights for both the prevention of land degradation and the recovery of degraded lands.

  For more information please refer to: [https://www.csopanel.com/single-post/2016/08/09/This-is-the-title-of-your-post-2](https://www.csopanel.com/single-post/2016/08/09/This-is-the-title-of-your-post-2)

- **Land degradation neutrality, some perspective for action, organized by CARI, DNI and ICON-SLM**

  Some highlights and recommendations of the side event:

  **And a real need for socio-economic insights on neutrality.**

  Investors and stallholders: how could the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund bridge the gap in a equitable way?

  Land inequality is the core of economic and social inequalities in many parts of the world;

  To promote and enabling institutional environment: Need for decision process and Benefit sharing at community level to enhance the social acceptability of LDN actions;
Specific Research need: To have on board financial scientists dedicated to environmental analysis in order to better understand the social and land tenure impacts of neutrality financial products (markets for neutrality);

- Participation at the side event organised by Both Ends: “Do numbers tell the tale?” (about operationalization SDG 15.3, LDN and local initiatives)

- Small is beautiful, small grants for sustainable actions by local land users to prevent and overcome desertification, land degradation and drought; organised by Both Ends

- Predict, Plan, Prepare: How to Stop Drought from becoming Famine, organized by FAO, Islamic Republic of Iran and Kingdom of the Netherlands
Field trip to Kubuqi Desert

Along attending the formal sessions of COP13, the organisers of the conference arranged field trips for visible display of China’s strategy for controlling desertification and tremendous efforts by all stakeholders for greening the Ordos deserts. The Chinese government has put lots of work and efforts to combat desertification with tree plantings in and around the deserts to make it green with considerable mobilization of funds and resources to sustain and maintain it green. Hope for a peaceful and green world with secure and sustainable livelihoods for dryland communities and combating land degradation and desertification.
High-level segment of COP13 of the UNCCD

The two-day high level segment discussed a group of issues at three round table meetings including:

- Round table 1: Land degradation: a challenge to development, prosperity and peace;
- Round table 2: Drought and sand and dust storms: early warning and beyond;
- Round table 3: Land degradation neutrality: “From targets to action…what will it take?”;

and three dialogues including:

- Gender and land rights (a dialogue with civil society);
- How can local governments help address the challenges of land degradation? (a dialogue with elected and local government representatives);
- How can the private sector invest to help achieve land degradation neutrality? (a dialogue with the private sector).

The CSOs community actively participated in round table meetings and dialogue sessions and expressed their views by delivering their statements at round tables and dialogue session.

The followings are the CSOs statement at round table 1, and the statement on dialogue with civil society, gender and land rights and dialogue with the Private Sector.
CSOs statement on Land Degradation, Round table 1.
Delivered by Nahid Naghizadeh, CENESTA, Iran

Thank you Chair,

As CSO community, we are pleased to take the floor during this very interesting round table on land degradation.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We as CSO community believe that the most reliable answers and actions should be based on alliances of all land rights users and stakeholders in particular by involving the local people such as small-scale farmers, women, pastoralists, fisher folks as key stakeholders to deal with land degradation and achieving prosperity and peace. Locally devised practices often offer practical solutions for land degradation. These are community-led and viable on the long run since the communities themselves have the ownership over the activities. The question remains, HOW can we replicate and upscale these sustainable practices through policies?

Therefore, it is the duty of all parties here at the UNCCD, together with international bodies and CSOs to facilitate the way for such communities, to identify and analyze their challenges, plan their own desirable future regarding sustainable land management. These plans are key in developing strategies and action plans because they will be based on their traditional knowledge and practices, and form a common approach for multiple stakeholders to combat land degradation. This participatory land use management and planning process will lead to proper policies and programmes to support the actions on the ground and to merge top-down and bottom-up policy processes in which local people have the ownership and control over the process.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

In a context where more and more people, for their survival, must abandon their dignity, it is not enough to reduce the risks. We have to share the risks, and as time is passing by, we are requested to move forward to determined action! Geographic dimensions in the world seem to have shrunken and time calls for urgency, and as Gramsci said it “the old world is disappearing and the new world is slowly arising, in this semi darkness monsters show up”. Beware humanity from monsters. One of these monsters is land degradation, and its fierce and multiple consequences.

Our next meeting is that with history. Most important is to engage all into the spirit where we are ready to cooperate for a common future. The CSO community is ready! LET’S PUT CSOS IN THE FRAME!
CSOs Statement, Special Segment, Gender and Land Rights — A Dialogue with Civil Society

Delivered by Fatoumata Cherif

Dear Madame Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to see that so many of you are participating in this Special Segment on Gender and Land Rights. The contributions during this session showed that a lot of work needs to be done on women’s access to, ownership of, and control over land. We, as CSOs, would like to take the opportunity to share key recommendations with you, which are crucial to incorporate in the decisions which are formulated during this UNCCD COP13. Foremost for all women who experience struggles to secure their land every day, as they do in my own country.

Governments have the primary responsibility to raise awareness of women and men at all levels of society in their countries about gender sensitive land user rights. We call upon you, distinguished delegates, to develop the capacity of women on their rights to land and the enforceability of these rights is essential for sustainable land management and realizing SDG 15.3 on LDN.

In order to realize SDG 15.3, women’s participation in the LDN target-setting process and monitoring, as well as NAPs formulation, is especially crucial in relation to women’s access to, ownership of and control over land.

Investments in LDN require to protect the land use rights of local women by ensuring Free Prior and Informed Consent for indigenous peoples and other local people and communities who collectively manage their lands.

To ensure a good governance of women’s land use rights, we strongly urge the Parties to adopt and implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, including the creation of inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues, in government policies and programmes strengthens women’s land tenure security.

The mobilization of financial and technical resources are needed to strengthen and enforce women’s land use rights. We therefore call upon the Parties to make these funds accessible for women-led initiatives.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Let us remember for who we are gathered here today. Millions of women are at this very moment -as we speak- working on their lands while not having ownership over their lands. Their future is insecure since they cannot rely on their lands in the long run. We, as CSOs, government delegates, UNCCD Secretariat, academics and private sector, are gathered here today to improve the living conditions of these women. First and foremost by improving their access to, ownership of, and control over land!

And, of course, this can only happen with a solid representation of women’s voices within the UNCCD. Therefore, we urge you, once again: PUT THE CSOs IN THE FRAME!

We thank you for your attention.
Delivered by Nathalie van Haren, Both Ends

On behalf of more than 500 CSOs accredited under the UNCCD, I am very pleased to take the floor during this dialogue on the contributions of the private sector to achieve land degradation neutrality.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I have 3 messages to convey to you

One: There is a need for financial resource mobilization in the Convention’s implementation. We believe that transformative LDN projects must achieve the highest human, social and environmental standards. The interests of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, women and indigenous peoples must be protected.

We have followed closely the development of the LDN Fund. We have also provided formal feedback to the Global Mechanism’s consultation process. One member of the CSO Panel was also part of the Advisory Panel of the Fund in its preparation phase. We would like to urge this role should continue when the Fund is formally launched. Since the CSO Panel is elected by more than 500 accredited CSOs across the world, we believe that we could legitimately represent the perspective of the civil society. We also wish to share the local experiences of our CSO network in order to help the Fund improve its performance on the ground.

Community-led LDN initiatives are numerous and have proven to be effective. With moderate investment, these can be easily scaled-up or replicated. However, large-scale private and/or public finance mechanisms such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund will be difficult to access by local communities and are therefore not the answer for the challenges that local communities face. Consequently, it is important that parties guarantee access to financial mechanisms for local communities especially for women farmers, young people, pastoralists and indigenous peoples who want to adopt or extend sustainable land management practices.

Secondly, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land were endorsed in 2012 by the UN Committee on World Food Security. The process of articulating these guidelines was highly inclusive, and was supported by member states, civil society, academics and the private sector. The guidelines are comprehensive, especially when used in combination with the technical guides that FAO has developed. We urge all people that work with land, from women farmers and pastoralists to financial institutions and agribusiness, and parties, agencies and other organisations dealing with land policies to implement these tenure guidelines, in order to ensure inclusive LDN processes and avoid conflict over land. We call upon the parties to adopt a COP decision that makes explicit reference to the voluntary guidelines for the responsible tenure of land.

And then my last remark:

The proposed strategic framework contains 4 references to the private sector: private financial resources, public private partnerships, private sources and private sector. The framework makes it clear that governments alone cannot accomplish LDN. It is therefore all the more concerning that the document makes no reference to civil society. We assume that this must be a mistake, an unfortunate result of inattention, as the role of civil society in the implementation of the convention is made explicit in the text. Indeed, since the adoption of the convention, civil society has demonstrated its capabilities and willingness to undertake this role. Globally, thousands of CSOs support communities to develop their capacities and implement SLM. Other CSOs engage actively with focal points on NAPs, and more recently on LDN target setting. CSOs also monitor the impacts of private sector activities on land degradation, soil pollution and the right to food.

Therefore, we kindly but firmly request the parties to this convention: Please…. Correct this oversight … and Put the CSOs in the frame.
**CSOs Closing Statement, COP13 of the UNCCD**

*Delivered by: Marioldy Sanchez*

We, civil society organizations, representative of more than 500 accredited under the UNCCD, gathered for COP13 in Ordos, China, express our gratitude to the Government of the People’s Republic of China, to all of the Parties and to the Secretariat of the UNCCD for the hard work that they have done in the course of this COP.

We emphasize that CSOs are recognized as key stakeholders by the convention and that achieving LDN depends on land tenure security and the strong participation of CSOs, women, indigenous peoples, local land users, pastoralists and other marginalized groups, in the sustainable management and restoration of land, and that this would improve climate resilience and the adaptive capacity of both natural and human systems.

We invite Parties to integrate the promotion of land tenure security and the use of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in their National Action Programs and in operationalizing LDN, including ensuring free, prior and informed consent;

CSOs are already committed in the implementation of the Convention, so they should be fully involved in the Strategic Framework 2018-2030 process.

**Let’s put CSOs in the Frame and leave no one behind.**
The Civil Society Organizations’ Ordos Declaration – The COP13 of the UNCCD

We, civil society organizations (CSOs), representing more than 500 CSOs accredited to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), gathered for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) held from 6 to 16 September 2017 in Ordos, China, hereby express our appreciation to the Government of the People’s Republic of China and its friendly citizens for hosting us in this beautiful city of Ordos, to the UNCCD secretariat for their unwavering support to CSOs, and to the Governments of China, Switzerland and Turkey for their financial support to the Civil Society Organization Panel (CSO Panel) and for enabling significant CSO participation in COP 13.

Civil society welcomes decision 10/COP.13 in support of CSO participation in the UNCCD, and in particular the planned renewal of the CSO Panel. This decision recognizes the vital role played by civil society in realizing the objectives of this Convention, and we welcome the contributions of the accredited CSOs from the host country and from around the world that enriched the discourse in Ordos and contributed to the comprehensive outcomes. The CSOs contributed 18 statements in the course of the COP that also reflected the perspectives of affected populations and the spirit of Article 5 (d) of the Convention, which obliges Parties to “facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification”.

We endorse the recommendations of the CSO Panel regarding land rights contained in chapter III of document ICCD/COP(13)/15, and note that Article 8 of the Convention requires the inclusion in national action programmes of measures to improve the institutional and regulatory framework of natural resource management to provide security of land tenure for local populations. In this context, we further welcome the inclusion in decision 10/COP.13 of the invitation to Parties to consider the recommendations made by the CSO Panel regarding land rights. In this context, we urge Parties to ensure the full participation of local land users in the rehabilitation and sustainable management of land and, in this context, recall:

- That the lack of enforceable land user rights and tenure security is a significant driver of land degradation and migration, and is a triggering factor of conflicts;
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly its Article 26, stating that indigenous peoples have the right to the lands which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired and that countries shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, and Article 32 referring to the right to free, prior and informed consent;
- The General Recommendation No 34 on the rights of rural women of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which obliges Parties to take all necessary measures, including temporary special measures, to achieve the substantive equality of rural women in relation to land and natural resources;
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, which provide a sound and legitimate framework for good land governance and strengthened land tenure rights.

Civil society calls upon Parties to actively promote effective partnerships with CSOs for the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and to support the engagement of local land and natural resources users, particularly women, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and youth in the operationalization of land degradation neutrality (LDN).

We therefore welcome the decision to adopt the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (18/COP.13) and its call on stakeholders to take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures, strive to ensure participation of men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas; and the encouragement to Parties to further enhance the
We call upon all Parties to reaffirm their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 15.3 to achieve LDN. In striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 15.3, Parties must recognize that land rights have been included in the targets of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 12, 14 and 16, and that in order to holistically address the 2030 Agenda, the interconnected character of all 17 goals must be considered and the 'leave no one behind' principle must be adhered to.

We therefore invite Parties to integrate the promotion of land tenure security into their national action programmes and in the operationalization of LDN and to adopt and implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security to guide their policies related to land tenure security and for the implementation of LDN.

Recalling the importance of anchoring science in territories affected by desertification to ensure the better development of scientific research programmes that strengthen local knowledge, especially that of indigenous peoples, the civil society welcomes the adoption of the synthesis report on sustainable land management (SLM) by the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) (ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3), urges Parties to support national and local science-policy interfaces and urges the SPI to interact with scientific networks.

We welcome the adoption of the text related to gender equity and urge the Parties to implement the Gender Action Plan of the UNCCD at national level and to monitor and report on the progress of its implementation.

The CSOs recognize the valuable role of private funding to achieve LDN targets, but we nevertheless must stress that its participation in financing initiatives under this Convention must adhere to the highest human, social and environmental standards and protect the interests of pastoralists, farmers, indigenous peoples, women and landless peasants. In this context, the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) must comply with the highest human, social and environmental standards. The perspective of civil society with regard to the implementation of private-led initiatives and the activities that will be developed by the private sector under the framework of the Convention, particularly those related to the funding of transformative projects for achieving LDN targets, must ensure the engagement of representatives of accredited CSOs. We strongly urge the secretariat to ensure the participation of at least one representative of a CSO accredited to the Convention, to be elected by the CSO Panel, on the Advisory Board of the LDN Fund so as to enable the effective engagement of the CSO community in contributing its expertise to the governance and policymaking processes of the LDN Fund.

We are deeply concerned by the potential conflicts of interest that could arise in engaging the private sector in funding mechanisms in this Convention, and we call upon the Parties to ensure that private funding of UNCCD processes is managed in a transparent manner and with regular and transparent reporting procedures. The participation of the private sector in contributing financial resources towards achieving LDN targets should not be considered as a replacement of public funding, which is fundamental to achieving the goals of the Convention.

In conclusion, we congratulate the Parties on the adoption of a sound decision text at COP 13 and call upon the Parties to engage fully and effectively with CSOs in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to ensure the adoption of a decision on land rights under this Convention at COP 14.

Some of CSOs efforts at COP13 of the UNCCD

The representatives of the accredited CSOs of the UNCCD had remarkable efforts during the 10 days of COP13 of the UNCCD through organising various side events, issuing 18 statements to reflect the perspectives of all CSOs and affected communities particularly indigenous peoples, pastoralists, small scale farmers, fisher folks, women and youth, active participation in COP13 sessions including open dialogue, round tables, interactive dialogue sessions, dissemination of publication, multi-media production, press conference, formal and informal debate, negotiation and discussion with delegates from parties, EU, private sector and international organisations.

Strengthening the Role of the CSOs during COP13 of the UNCCD

- Highlighting the strengthened CSOs’s network of the Convention with 500 members and their vital role in planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the convention at all levels (local, national, sub-regional, regional and international) such as National Action Programs (NAPs) to combat desertification, strategic framework of the convention (2018-2030), the sustainable development goals in particular goal 15.3 and Land degradation neutrality;

- Emphasizing and calls upon the convention and its parties to promote effective partnerships with CSOs for the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and to support the engagement of local land users, particularly women, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and youth in the operationalization of land degradation neutrality (LDN). **This led the inclusion of the CSOs within the preamble text of the new strategic framework (2018-2030) of the convention (ICCD/COP(13)/L.18;) through stressing “Let’s put CSOs in the Frame”;**

- Inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹ and recognizing their potential contribution to the effective implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework; (preamble text of decision ICCD/COP(13)/L.18);

- Decides that while implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, all UNCCD stakeholders and partners should take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures and ensure the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas (ICCD/COP(13)/L.18);

- Draft decision in support of CSOs participation in the process of the UNCCD, and in particular the planned renewal of the CSO Panel (ICCD/COP(13)/L.10) and call Parties to consider the recommendations made by the CSO Panel regarding land rights and urge Parties to ensure the full participation of local land users in the rehabilitation and sustainable management of land;

¹ [www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf].
Emphasizing integration of SDG target 15.3 in the implementation of the UNCCD through the realization of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by all Parties and respect to SDGs key principles to “Leave no one behind” and recognition of civil society organisations as key players in the sustainable land use actions on the ground; preamble text ICCD/COP(13)/L.7

Promotion, good understanding and stress that using private funds for achieving LDN targets at all levels particularly by the UNCCD should respect to the highest human, social and environmental standards and protect the interests of pastoralists, farmers, indigenous peoples, women and landless peasants;

Stressing on effective community-led LDN initiatives with moderate investment and easily scaled-up or replicated and difficult process of large-scale private and/or public finance mechanisms on Land Degradation Neutrality to local communities. The parties should guarantee access to financial mechanisms for local communities especially for women farmers, young people, pastoralists and indigenous peoples who want to adopt or extend sustainable land management practices.

Highlighting and emphasizing recognition of the CSOs, women, indigenous peoples, local land users, pastoralists and other marginalized groups by the Convention in achieving LDN and land tenure security as well as sustainable land management and restoration;

Promoting of indigenous peoples and pastoralists and local communities role to improve climate resilience and adaptive capacity of both natural and human systems.

Effective and positive impact of a number of side events by CSOs, FAO, IUCN, GEF, Drynet, DesertNet, Rio Pavilion and other national and international stakeholders on advocating the land rights of indigenous peoples, pastoralists, women and local communities over their territories and promoting the effective role of local and indigenous governance systems in the process of implementation of the convention, land degradation neutrality and sustainable development goals particularly 15.3.
List of activities undertaken by the organization when returning to their country to ensure the sharing of information and proper follow up

Preparation a summary report in Persian

Preparation a short news for Pastoralist knowledge hub on Pastoralism at the COP13

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6qIcxU8A2KNdGiPTGw1ODZfZXc/view

FEATUE STORY

PASTORALISM AT THE COP13 OF THE UNCCD

With input from Nahid Naghizadeh, Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (Cenesta), Iran

The 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), was held in Ordos, China, from 6 - 16 September, 2017. It presented yet another opportunity to advocate customary rights over resources for pastoralists. Securing pastoral land tenure was presented as one way to ensure sustainable land management and landscape restoration. In this way pastoralists contribute to combatting desertification in the rangelands they inhabit.


The Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (Cenesta), from Iran, raised three key points relevant to pastoralism during the event. It focused on advocating the socioeconomic, ecological and conservation values of indigenous nomadic tribes in Iran and their indigenous knowledge to cope with climate change issues such as drought. It asked for pastoral areas to be recognized as Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA’s). Lastly, it sought to raise awareness and gain support for a United Nations designated International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists to highlight the contribution of pastoralists in rangeland conservation and global food security.

The Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, along with the International Union of the Conservation of Nature, co-organized a side-event titled: ‘Guardians of Rangelands: combatting desertification in the rangeland through sustainable pastoralism.” Organized as part of the Landscape Restoration Day celebrations, the event aimed to dispel myths about the negative impact of pastoralism on the landscape and to encourage the development of sustainable pastoralism for improving rangeland health. Healthy rangelands, in turn, provide a resource base conducive to sustainable pastoralism.
List of CSOs and organizations which have received the information

In Iran we have a number of national Telegram channels and environmental social networks with over 1500 members on relevant environmental topics on natural resource management, environmental solutions, wetlands, desertification, etc. which I have shared the report with these channels at all levels.

https://t.me/joinchat/AAAAADwspAV9OLsGIAc5SA
https://t.me/joinchat/BTi_hqxWkaG157nReegmFQ

E-mail list including 450 persons of CSOs, experts and environmental activists, List of CSOs and e-mail address of the contact persons, that have received the English and summary report in Persian.

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