



Short history of COP decisions relevant to CSOs

Desertif'Actions 2019

19 June 2019


Nathalie van Haren

Both ENDS, The Netherlands

UNCCD CSO panel member WEOG

Both ENDS

Connecting people for change



Both ENDS

GROUNDING SUSTAINABILITY
LAND, SOILS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This document
This is a summary of policy analysis undertaken by Both ENDS as part of the iSQAPER project (Interactive Soil Quality Assessment in Europe and China for Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Resilience (iSQAPER)), which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

www.isqaper-is.eu

www.isqaper-is.eu



[@iSQAPER](https://twitter.com/iSQAPER)

[facebook.com/groups/745245628996396](https://www.facebook.com/groups/745245628996396)

Both ENDS Discussion paper January 2019


The Land Degradation Neutrality Fund: A guide for civil society

Chris Chancellor

Unlocking Public Finance for Agroecology

Catalysing the potential of agriculture in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



SOUTHERN ROOTS ORGANICS, United Kingdom • CENESTA, Iran • KEYSTONE FOUNDATION, India
• RAINFORREST RESCUE INTERNATIONAL, Sri Lanka • INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE AND ECOLOGY, Kenya
• ENDA PRONAT, Senegal • CAATINGA, Brazil • PROBIOMA, Bolivia



2009: UNCCD COP 09 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Decision 1/COP9

Implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)

Section F. Civil society

20. Reminds Parties and the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies actively to engage civil society organizations in implementation of The Strategy and the workplans.

2009: UNCCD COP 09 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Decision 5/COP9

Revised procedures for the participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

4. Requests also the secretariat to facilitate active participation of CSOs in the process in preparation for the meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies [CRIC and CST], with the view of enhancing the effectiveness of inputs from the civil society;

Annex: The Executive Secretary shall convene a selection panel consisting of two representatives of civil society networks and two representatives of the secretariat in order to select candidates in accordance with the agreed upon eligibility criteria.

2011: UNCCD COP 10 – Changwon, Korea

Decision 5/COP.10

Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

4. Decides furthermore to grant observer status and participation in official meetings of the governing bodies of the UNCCD to those business and industry entities that: (a) have expressed interest in participating in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies; (b) have specific expertise in matters relating to the Convention; and (c) participate in the United Nations Global Compact.

2013: UNCCD COP 11 – Windhoek, Namibia

Decision 2/COP.11

Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment and implementation of action programmes with The Strategy

21. Calls upon Parties to engage civil society and the private sector to support the effective implementation of the Convention through greater incentives for investment, including financial and market-based incentives;

Decision 5/COP.11

4. Decides that the composition of the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel should include two representatives from the secretariat and one representative from civil society organizations from countries belonging to each of the five United Nations Regional Groups of Member States

2013: UNCCD COP 11 – Windhoek, Namibia

Decision 23/COP.11

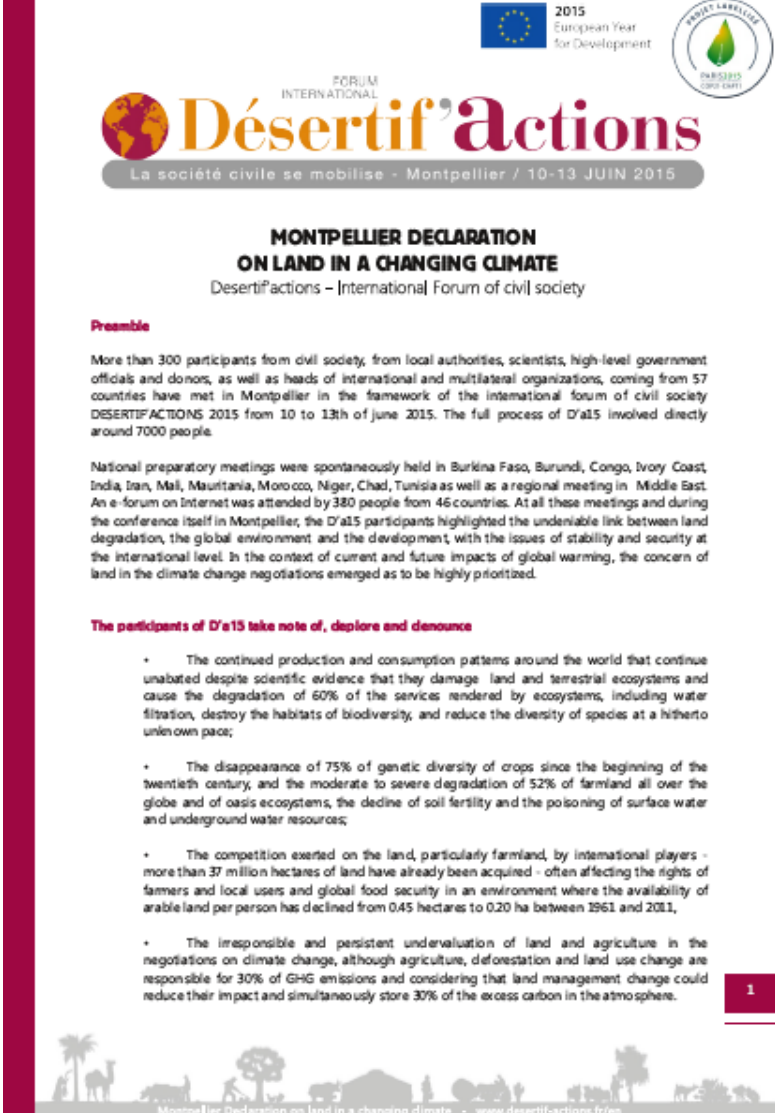
Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought

4. Decides that the membership of the **Science-Policy Interface** should comprise: (1) members of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology; (2) five scientists, one nominated by each Regional Implementation Annex regions; (3) ten scientists selected by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology through an open call taking into account regional and disciplinary balance; and (4) **three observers: one from a civil society organization, one from an international organization and one from a relevant United Nations organization;**

Desertif'Actions 2015: Civil Society formulated actions

To stimulate sustainable land management, land rehabilitation and prevention of land conflicts, **good governance of land** must be in place.

To ensure good governance, the **"Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security"** developed by the UN Committee on World Food Security should be the basis for governments, investors, donors, the private sector and civil society.



The poster for the 2015 Desertif'Actions forum is presented on a white background with a vertical magenta bar on the left. At the top right, it features the European Union flag and the text '2015 European Year for Development', along with a circular logo for 'DESERTIF' ACTIONS'. The main title 'FORUM INTERNATIONAL Désertif'Actions' is prominently displayed in the center, with the subtitle 'La société civile se mobilise - Montpellier / 10-13 JUIN 2015' below it. The central theme, 'MONTPELLIER DECLARATION ON LAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE', is highlighted in bold, followed by 'Desertif'actions - International Forum of civil society'. The 'Preamble' section describes the gathering of over 300 participants from various backgrounds in Montpellier, June 2015. It notes that national preparatory meetings were held in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Ivory Coast, India, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Tunisia, and a regional meeting in the Middle East. An e-forum on Internet was also held, attended by 380 people from 46 countries. The preamble highlights the undeniable link between land degradation, the global environment, and development, with issues of stability and security at the international level. In the context of current and future impacts of global warming, the concern of land in the climate change negotiations emerged as to be highly prioritized. The section 'The participants of D'e15 take note of, deplore and denounce' lists four key concerns: 1. The continued production and consumption patterns around the world that continue unabated despite scientific evidence that they damage land and terrestrial ecosystems and cause the degradation of 60% of the services rendered by ecosystems, including water filtration, destroy the habitats of biodiversity, and reduce the diversity of species at a hitherto unknown pace; 2. The disappearance of 75% of genetic diversity of crops since the beginning of the twentieth century, and the moderate to severe degradation of 52% of farmland all over the globe and of oasis ecosystems, the decline of soil fertility and the poisoning of surface water and underground water resources; 3. The competition exerted on the land, particularly farmland, by international players - more than 37 million hectares of land have already been acquired - often affecting the rights of farmers and local users and global food security in an environment where the availability of arable land per person has declined from 0.45 hectares to 0.20 ha between 1961 and 2011; 4. The irresponsible and persistent undervaluation of land and agriculture in the negotiations on climate change, although agriculture, deforestation and land use change are responsible for 30% of GHG emissions and considering that land management change could reduce their impact and simultaneously store 30% of the excess carbon in the atmosphere. The bottom of the poster features a silhouette illustration of a desert landscape with palm trees, camels, and people, and the footer text 'Montpellier Declaration on land in a changing climate - www.desertif-actions.fr/en'.

2015 European Year for Development

FORUM INTERNATIONAL
Désertif'Actions
La société civile se mobilise - Montpellier / 10-13 JUIN 2015

**MONTPELLIER DECLARATION
ON LAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**
Desertif'actions - International Forum of civil society

Preamble

More than 300 participants from civil society, from local authorities, scientists, high-level government officials and donors, as well as heads of international and multilateral organizations, coming from 57 countries have met in Montpellier in the framework of the international forum of civil society DESERTIF ACTIONS 2015 from 10 to 13th of June 2015. The full process of D'a15 involved directly around 7000 people.

National preparatory meetings were spontaneously held in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Ivory Coast, India, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Tunisia as well as a regional meeting in Middle East. An e-forum on Internet was attended by 380 people from 46 countries. At all these meetings and during the conference itself in Montpellier, the D'a15 participants highlighted the undeniable link between land degradation, the global environment and the development, with the issues of stability and security at the international level. In the context of current and future impacts of global warming, the concern of land in the climate change negotiations emerged as to be highly prioritized.

The participants of D'e15 take note of, deplore and denounce

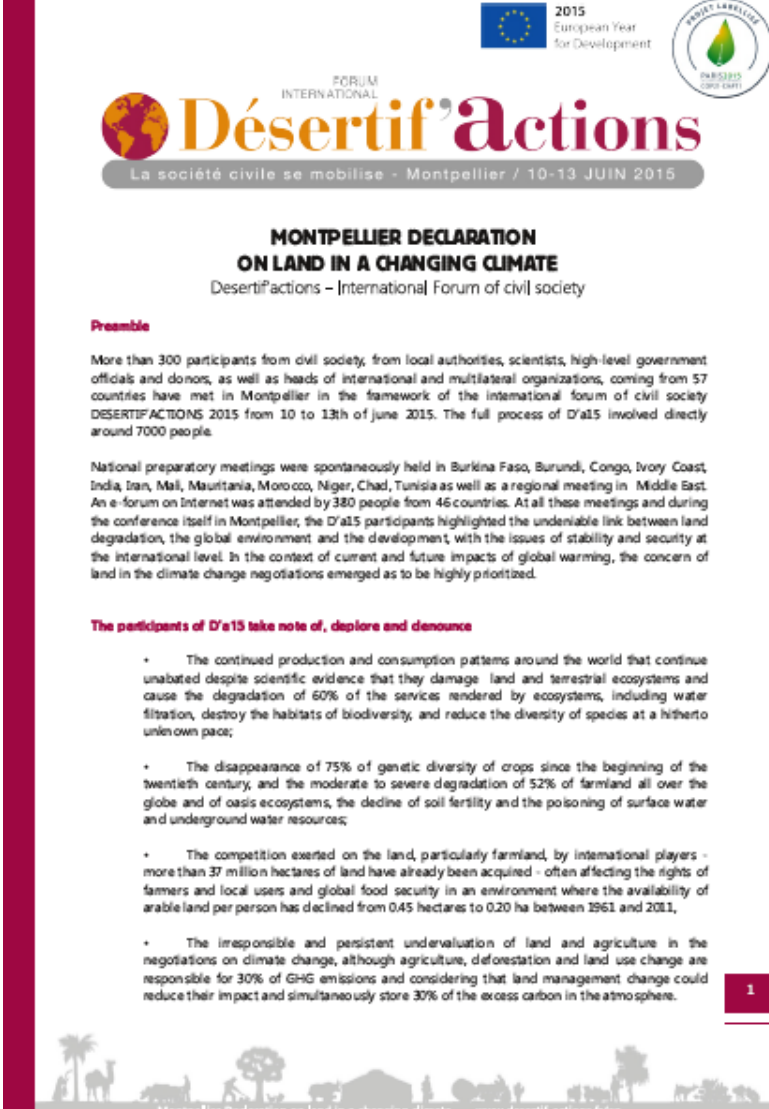
- The continued production and consumption patterns around the world that continue unabated despite scientific evidence that they damage land and terrestrial ecosystems and cause the degradation of 60% of the services rendered by ecosystems, including water filtration, destroy the habitats of biodiversity, and reduce the diversity of species at a hitherto unknown pace;
- The disappearance of 75% of genetic diversity of crops since the beginning of the twentieth century, and the moderate to severe degradation of 52% of farmland all over the globe and of oasis ecosystems, the decline of soil fertility and the poisoning of surface water and underground water resources;
- The competition exerted on the land, particularly farmland, by international players - more than 37 million hectares of land have already been acquired - often affecting the rights of farmers and local users and global food security in an environment where the availability of arable land per person has declined from 0.45 hectares to 0.20 ha between 1961 and 2011,
- The irresponsible and persistent undervaluation of land and agriculture in the negotiations on climate change, although agriculture, deforestation and land use change are responsible for 30% of GHG emissions and considering that land management change could reduce their impact and simultaneously store 30% of the excess carbon in the atmosphere.

1

Montpellier Declaration on land in a changing climate - www.desertif-actions.fr/en

Desertif'Actions 2015: Civil Society formulated actions

Land Degradation Neutrality, must first be at the service of local communities and prevent land grabbing and that this fundamental orientation should be part of the objectives and mode of operation of any further developments of LDN



The poster for Desertif'Actions 2015 features a vertical pink bar on the left. At the top right, it includes the European Union flag and the text '2015 European Year for Development', along with a circular logo for 'DESERTIF' ACTIONS. The main title 'Desertif'Actions' is prominently displayed in a stylized font, with 'FORUM INTERNATIONAL' written above it. Below the title, it states 'La société civile se mobilise - Montpellier / 10-13 JUIN 2015'. The central focus is the 'MONTPELLIER DECLARATION ON LAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE', with the subtitle 'Desertif'actions - [International] Forum of civil society'. The text is organized into sections: 'Preamble', a paragraph of introductory text, a paragraph about national preparatory meetings, and a section titled 'The participants of D'e15 take note of, deplore and denounce' which contains four bullet points. At the bottom, there is a silhouette illustration of a desert landscape with palm trees, camels, and people. The footer contains the text 'Montpellier Declaration on land in a changing climate - www.desertif-actions.fr/en' and a small page number '1' in a pink box.

2015 European Year for Development

FORUM INTERNATIONAL

Desertif'Actions

La société civile se mobilise - Montpellier / 10-13 JUIN 2015

**MONTPELLIER DECLARATION
ON LAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

Desertif'actions - [International] Forum of civil society

Preamble

More than 300 participants from civil society, from local authorities, scientists, high-level government officials and donors, as well as heads of international and multilateral organizations, coming from 57 countries have met in Montpellier in the framework of the international forum of civil society DESERTIF' ACTIONS 2015 from 10 to 13th of June 2015. The full process of D'a15 involved directly around 7000 people.

National preparatory meetings were spontaneously held in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Ivory Coast, India, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Tunisia as well as a regional meeting in Middle East. An e-forum on Internet was attended by 380 people from 46 countries. At all these meetings and during the conference itself in Montpellier, the D'a15 participants highlighted the undeniable link between land degradation, the global environment and the development, with the issues of stability and security at the international level. In the context of current and future impacts of global warming, the concern of land in the climate change negotiations emerged as to be highly prioritized.

The participants of D'e15 take note of, deplore and denounce

- The continued production and consumption patterns around the world that continue unabated despite scientific evidence that they damage land and terrestrial ecosystems and cause the degradation of 60% of the services rendered by ecosystems, including water filtration, destroy the habitats of biodiversity, and reduce the diversity of species at a hitherto unknown pace;
- The disappearance of 75% of genetic diversity of crops since the beginning of the twentieth century, and the moderate to severe degradation of 52% of farmland all over the globe and of oasis ecosystems, the decline of soil fertility and the poisoning of surface water and underground water resources;
- The competition exerted on the land, particularly farmland, by international players - more than 37 million hectares of land have already been acquired - often affecting the rights of farmers and local users and global food security in an environment where the availability of arable land per person has declined from 0.45 hectares to 0.20 ha between 1961 and 2011,
- The irresponsible and persistent undervaluation of land and agriculture in the negotiations on climate change, although agriculture, deforestation and land use change are responsible for 30% of GHG emissions and considering that land management change could reduce their impact and simultaneously store 30% of the excess carbon in the atmosphere.

Montpellier Declaration on land in a changing climate - www.desertif-actions.fr/en

1

2015: UNCCD COP 12 – Ankara, Turkey

Decision 3/COP.12

Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Working Group report on **Land Degradation Neutrality**

2015: UNCCD COP 12 – Ankara, Turkey

Decision 5/COP.12

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

1. Encourages those Parties which have no or few CSOs accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote and support the involvement of CSOs in the UNCCD process at the international level in order to ensure more participation of CSOs from all regions in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
2. Requests the secretariat and the CSO Panel to make proposals to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on ways to support the work of the Panel and expand its membership;
4. Invites Parties, international and financial organizations, and CSOs and private sector institutions to consider contributing substantially and promptly to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, and to support the work of the CSO Panel;

2015: UNCCD COP 12 – Ankara, Turkey

Decision 30/COP.12

Declaration of civil society organizations attending the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note with appreciation of the Declaration;
2. Decides to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session.

Desertif'Actions 2017: Civil Society formulated actions

A fast increase of financial resources is needed that support synergies between the promotion of sustainable land use and restoration of degraded lands with the actions against climate change and that support local land users.

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security of the Committee on World Food Security for inclusive land governance is crucial for the achievement of SDG 15 Life on Land.



INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT DESERTIF ACTIONS 2017

27/28th June 2017, Strasbourg

STRASBOURG DECLARATION OF NON-STATE ACTORS

« REDUCING LAND DEGRADATION AND REHABILITATING DEGRADED LAND MUST BECOME A PRIORITY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY »



Desertif'Actions 2017: Civil Society formulated actions

The role of women must be better acknowledged.

Although women represent 40 to 80% of the agricultural workforce depending on the region, they own less than 2% of worldwide land.

Desertif'Actions 2019 stressed that Civil Society support women's land rights in order to contribute to gender equality and reinforce women's global contribution to combating desertification



INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT DESERTIF ACTIONS 2017

27/28th June 2017, Strasbourg

STRASBOURG DECLARATION OF NON-STATE ACTORS

« REDUCING LAND DEGRADATION AND REHABILITATING DEGRADED LAND MUST BECOME A PRIORITY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY »



2017: UNCCD COP 13 – Ordos, Inner-Mongolia in China

Decision 3/COP.13

Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 which states: “to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”, into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

4. Requests the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate UNCCD bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates, to:

(a) Continue to develop partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality [...] promoting gender responsive approaches in line with the Gender Action Plan found in decision 30/COP.13

2017: UNCCD COP 13 – Ordos, Inner-Mongolia in China

Decision 30/COP.13

Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

5. Also requests the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat to:

(a) Subject to the availability of resources, facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD institutions and bodies, United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society, prior to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, on the effectiveness of the Gender Action Plan based on the piloting experiences;

2017: UNCCD COP 13 – Ordos, Inner-Mongolia in China

Decision 5/COP.13

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

2. Invites Parties to consider the recommendations made by the Civil Society Organization Panel,⁵ regarding land rights;

4. Also encourages the Civil Society Organization Panel to consider the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and topics under the Conferences of the Parties when designing its programme of work for 2018–2019

2017: UNCCD COP 13 – Ordos, Inner-Mongolia in China

Decision 27/COP.13

The Ordos Declaration Annex

Highlighting the importance of full and effective participation of both **men and women in decision-making at all levels** and reaffirming our commitment to achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls,

Acknowledging the call, championed by civil society, **for better access, control and stewardship over land, including strengthening tenure security, access and user rights for women and men, in particular the poor and vulnerable, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, as a critical element of sustainable development**

To conclude

The work that CSOs are doing with local communities to promote sustainable land use and restoration of degraded lands is increasingly being recognised by the parties of UNCCD.

- First in Buenos Aires (2009) by establishing “a selection panel” of 2 CSOs
- In Windhoek (2013), the CSO panel consisting of 5 members was established and a cso w.as included as an observer to the UNCCD Science Policy Interface
- And in Ordos (2017), the concerns and policy options by CSOs regarding land tenure security, gender and inclusive land governance were being explicitly mentioned in the declaration.



Thank you!

Nathalie van Haren

Both ENDS, The Netherlands

UNCCD CSO panel member WEOG

n.vanharen@bothends.org