

The Secretariat of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has the pleasure to invite you to the side event

“ UNCCD: Sustainable land management for adaptation to climate change”

The side event will take place on 13th December 2007, from 13:00 –15:00 in the Wind Room, Grand Hyatt Husa Dua Bali International Convention Centre

Light lunch and refreshments will be offered

The interactions between poverty, environment and natural resource exploitation are typically complex, but can be understood at the local level. Local economic pressures can result in the overexploitation of land, resulting in the further marginalization of the rural poor, already referred to as the “poorest amongst the poor”. Land conservation may indeed constitute an enabling platform through which an extensive range of sustainable development issues could be successfully addressed.

The side event intends therefore to address the issue of an enhanced coverage of SLM issue by emerging mechanism and innovative funding, chiefly market-based tools. To do so, several options might be explored, particularly those encompassing an important potential for success on the short and medium run. In this context, the present side event is geared towards presenting a revolutionary method aiming at restoring carbon in soil, where it belongs.

It is also intended to underline the capital importance of soil as a common denominator for the successful implementation of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to attain three Millennium Development Goals: (i) to combat desertification, (ii) to sequester atmospheric CO₂ in the long term, and (iii) to maintain biodiversity hotspots such as tropical rainforests.

Finally, and within a prospective approach, the side event also brings about the debate on the inclusion of soil carbon sequestration in the post 2012 Kyoto Protocol climate change regime (e.g. CDM), which would be a significant source of funding for sustainable land management.

Introductory statements by the President of the UNCCD COP8, Ms. Cristina Narbona, Minister of Environment of Spain, Ms. Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Minister of Development of Germany and Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

The panelist are Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Zech of the Institute of Soil Science and Soil Geography in the University of Bayreuth in Germany, Dr. Christoph Steiner of the Bio-refining and Carbon Cycling Program carried by the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering of the University of Georgia in US and Mr. Goodspeed Kopololo, Senior Program Officer of UNCCD.