

Programme

Monday, March 9th

10:00-11:30 Committee on Science and Technology (CST) opening session

- Opening statements by host country representatives:
Juan Jose GUERRA ABUD, *Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*
Jorge RESCALA PEREZ, *General Director of the National Forestry Commission*
Roberto BORGE ANGULO, *Governor of the State of Quintana Roo*
- Opening statement by **Monique BARBUT**, *Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*
- Opening statement by **Uriel SAFRIEL**, *Chair of the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology (CST), Emeritus Professor at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev – Israel*
- Statements by representatives of regional and interest groups

11:30-12:15 3rd UNCCD Scientific Conference opening session

Session Chair: **Uriel SAFRIEL**

- Welcome address by **Bernard HUBERT**, *Chair of the STK4SD Consortium in charge of the conference organization, President of Agropolis International – France*
- Welcome address by **Bill PAYNE**, *Chair of the conference Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Dean and Professor at the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada – USA*
- Welcome address by **Tarja HALONEN**, *UNCCD Drylands Ambassador, former President of Finland*

12:15-13:00 **Introductory keynote by Mark REED**, *Director of the Knowledge ExCHANGE Research Centre, Birmingham City University – UK*

15:00-18:00 Session 1 – DIAGNOSIS OF CONSTRAINTS

How to best characterize and understand the vulnerability and adaptive capacities of ecosystems (in particular agro-ecosystems) and populations in affected regions, including regions newly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change?

Session Chair: **Bill PAYNE**

15:00-15:45: Session introductory keynote by **Uriel SAFRIEL**

16:00-18:00: Parallel workshops (16:00-16:45: poster session in the exhibition hall – 16:45-18:00: introduction and discussion in the workshop rooms)

- **Workshop 1.1: Climate change**
- **Workshop 1.2: Environmental and ecological set up**
- **Workshop 1.3: Food security, agriculture, pastoralism**
- **Workshop 1.4: Socio-economics**
- **Workshop 1.5: Integrated methodology and policy making**

Tuesday, March 10th

10:00-13:00 Session 2 – RESPONSES

How can adaptive capacities be developed or maximized at short, medium and long term? What are the major contributions from traditional and local practices and scientific research? How are they related to specific settings? How can they be generalized so that they can be adapted and applied to broader settings? What are the obstacles to more widespread use?

Session Chair: **Matthias MAGUNDA**, *Member of the CST Bureau, Researcher at the National Agricultural Research Institution – Uganda*

10:00-10:45 Session introductory keynote by **Richard THOMAS**, *Director of the Dryland Systems CGIAR Research Program, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) – Jordan*

11:00-13:00 Parallel workshops (11:00-11:45: poster session in the exhibition hall – 11:45-13:00: introduction and discussion in the workshop rooms)

- **Workshop 2.1: Crops, livestock, genetics and seed systems**
- **Workshop 2.2: Agro-ecosystems**
- **Workshop 2.3: Soil and water issues**
- **Workshop 2.4: Knowledge and knowledge transfer**
- **Workshop 2.5: Desertification, land degradation and restoration**

15:00-16:00 The role of local knowledge in addressing land degradation, desertification and drought

Session Chair: **Mariam AKTHAR-SCHUSTER**, *Member of the SAC, Member of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI), Coordinator of the Advisory Board of DesertNet International*

Keynote speech by:

- **Úrsula OSWALD SPRING**, *Professor at the Regional Multidisciplinary Research Centre, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) – Mexico*

16:00-17:00 Session 1 – DIAGNOSIS OF CONSTRAINTS: Wrap-up

Session Chair: **Bill PAYNE**

Presentations by the rapporteurs of each workshop

17:00-18:00 Session 2 – RESPONSES: Wrap-up

Session Chair: **Matthias MAGUNDA**

Presentations by the rapporteurs of each workshop

Wednesday, March 11th

10:00-13:00 Session 3 – MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

How can we best measure the performance of actions to combat land degradation and desertification? How can we cost-effectively evaluate the efficiency of drought-mitigation strategies?

Session Chair: **Tao WANG**, *Member of the SAC, Member of the UNCCD SPI, Director and Research Professor of the Key Laboratory of Desert and Desertification, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) – China*

10:00-10:45 Session introductory keynote by **Elena Maria ABRAHAM**, *Director of the Argentine Dryland Research Institute (IADIZA), National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) – Argentina*

11:00-13:00 Parallel workshops (11:00-11:45: poster session in the exhibition hall – 11:45-13:00: introduction and discussion in the workshop rooms)

- **Workshop 3.1: Indicators**
- **Workshop 3.2: Remote-sensing and mapping**
- **Workshop 3.3: Drought, water, hydrology**
- **Workshop 3.4: Sustainable land management / Land degradation neutrality**
- **Workshop 3.5: Processes of degradation**

15:00-17:00 Synergies between the three Rio Conventions

Session Chair: **Uriel SAFRIEL**

Keynote speeches by:

- **Tomasz CHRUSZCZOW**, *Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- **Graciela METTERNICHT**, *Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales (UNSW) – Australia*
- **Graham VON MALTITZ**, *Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – South Africa*

17:00-18:00 Session 3 – MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT: Wrap-up

Session Chair: **Tao WANG**

Presentations by the rapporteurs of each workshop

Thursday, March 12th

10:00-11:30 Combating Desertification, land degradation and drought in Mexico

Session Chair: **Cuauhtemoc OCHOA FERNANDEZ**, *Undersecretary of Environmental Development and Regulation of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Technical Secretary of the National System to Combat Desertification and Degradation of Natural Resources (SINADES) – Mexico*

Session Moderator: **Norma Salome MUNGUIA ALDARACA**, *Director General of Primary Sector and Renewable Natural Resources of SEMARNAT – Mexico*

Keynote speeches by:

- **Jorge RESCALA PEREZ**, *Director General of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), UNCCD Focal Point – Mexico*
- **Cuauhtemoc OCHOA FERNANDEZ**
- **Jesus David GOMEZ DIAZ**, *Professor at the Chapingo Autonomous University (UACH), Science & Technology Correspondent to the UNCCD – Mexico*

11:30-13:00 Conference conclusions

Session Chair: **Bernard HUBERT**

- Main scientific conclusions by **Bill PAYNE** and **Mélanie REQUIER-DESJARDINS**, *Vice-Chair of the SAC, Researcher at the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM) – France*
- Main policy recommendations by **Mariam AKTHAR-SCHUSTER** and **Elena Maria ABRAHAM**

15:00-18:00 CST closing, adoption of the report

Session Chair: **Uriel SAFRIEL**

- Provision of scientific advice on the topic: “Explore the options to achieve land degradation neutrality in the context of sustainable development”
- Adoption of the report of the CST
- Closing remarks by **Uriel SAFRIEL**