

# UNITED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME TO COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION



**October 11, 2011 8-10 am**

Venue: Conference Room MET-04

**Breakfast provided!**

What is it about? The side event will explore opportunities for developing a multi-stakeholder partnership Fellowship programme for the UNCCD, followed by a discussion on suitable options.

## Programme

**8:00- 8:15** Breakfast

**8:15 – 8:25** Introduction to the challenge of a UNCCD Fellowship program by the Chair: Dr Lawrence Townley-Smith, CST Bureau

**8:25 – 8:40** Dr. Hafþís Hanna Ægisdóttir, Programme Director United Nations University – Land Restoration Training Programme, Iceland

**8:40 – 8:55** Dr. Richard J. Thomas, Assistant Director Drylands, United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Canada

**8:55 – 9:10** Prof. Dr. Uriel Safriel or Prof. Pedro Berlinger, Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes, Israel

**9:10 – 9:25** Perspectives from a National Focal Point (tbc)

**9:25 – 10:00** General discussion

Following decision 20/COP.9 that invited agencies to contribute to the implementation of a revised fellowship programme, the United Nations University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) has joined forces with the United Nations University-Land Restoration Training Programme, the Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes and UNESCO to propose the following ideas for the development of a multi-stakeholder partnership to develop a UNCCD Fellowship Programme.

After consideration of the earlier proposals for a UNCCD fellowship programme, originating from the CST inter-sessional meeting held in Beijing, China in 2004, a multi-partnership approach is suggested that would enable Fellows to:

- Participate in existing short-term training courses offered by collaborating institutions in affected countries
- Undertake field visits to established research sites involving exchange visits
- Develop skills in interdisciplinary approaches to land degradation
- Begin to establish regional nodes for training including the development of distance learning courses that are adapted to the particular region of interest and that include local knowledge
- Become members of an interacting network of experts to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and dissemination of lessons learned
- Become equipped to train others in reporting progress to the COP
- Identify gaps in the convention and thereby contribute to future scientific conferences

The side event will address the following questions:

- What model is appropriate for UNCCD fellows to increase their knowledge of combating land degradation?
- What role can a fellowship programme play in helping countries fulfill their reporting requirements?
- How can the experience of a Fellowship be used to reach a greater audience?
- How can a fellowship programme contribute to the implementation of NAPs?



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Land Restoration Training Programme