



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

DRYLANDS MONITORING WEEK 2015

From the 19th to the 23rd of January 2015, in Rome, FAO, WRI and IUCN with funding support of EU-ACP and GEF, organized a workshop on “Monitoring and assessment of drylands: forests, rangelands, trees and agrosilvopastoral systems”.

Gathering 80 participants from countries and international organizations. This event led to the “Rome Promise” in which participants agreed to:

- Form an open-ended collaborative network or community of practice to advance monitoring and assessment of drylands, including understanding of their users
- Communicate the value and importance of drylands monitoring to relevant stakeholders, including policy makers and resource partners
- Develop a dynamic roadmap for collaborative action

ROAD MAP FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION

- **Communicate workshop outcomes** including the Rome Promise on “Monitoring and Assessment of Drylands for Sustainable Management and Restoration” to workshop participants and other relevant organizations and stakeholders
- **Develop a detailed work plan** for the Rome Promise Collaborative Network on Drylands Monitoring, including deliverables, activities, and technical and financial contributions of the network members
- **Develop modalities** for facilitating the work of the Rome Promise Network
- **Identify and engage relevant organizations** and thematic groups in the Rome Promise Network
- **Compile and integrate information** on drylands monitoring tools, in view of developing guidelines for comprehensive monitoring in drylands
- **Develop mechanisms for sharing** drylands monitoring methods and tools including through the establishment of a central spot (website) where summary presentations of available tools and links to further information are provided
- **Customize Collect Earth** and other relevant tools for baseline assessment and monitoring within the context of the project Action Against Desertification in support of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, as well as other national, regional and global initiatives
- **Develop mechanisms to enhance participation** of local communities and grassroots organizations in monitoring initiatives
- **Produce a “Collective Product”** on the Status of Drylands (incl. forests, agroforestry systems, rangelands, oases, agriculture, ...)

PARTNERS

This initiative is supported by workshop participants from organizations including the African Union Commission, the Agrhymet Regional Center of the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Bioversity International, the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (Senegal) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility Secretariat, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Environment Programme, the University of Leeds, the World Bank, WeForest, the World Agroforestry Center and the World Resources Institute, as well as countries including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

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THE ROME PROMISE ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF DRYLANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

We, participants of the Drylands Monitoring Week, 19-23 January, 2015 hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy:

- **AWARE** that several international agreements and initiatives call for restoration* of degraded lands, including the Rio+20 Outcome document where world leaders agreed to strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development, the Millennium Development Goals and the emerging Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (UN), the focus of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification on rehabilitation, conservation, and sustainable management of land and water resources, the “REDD-Plus” goal of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity and supported by other biodiversity related conventions, the Bonn Challenge on Forests, Climate Change and Biodiversity, the New York Declaration on Forests, the CGIAR Program on Dryland Systems; the International Year of Soils declared by the UN General Assembly; and the African Union Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative
- **ADDRESSING** the recommendation of the FAO Council 2014 to develop a global assessment of the extent and status of drylands forests, rangelands, and agrosilvopastoral systems and to present a recommendation to the Committee on Forestry for the establishment of a working group on dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems, for consideration and possible adoption at its next session
- **RECOGNIZING** the importance of natural capital for national development and human well-being in drylands
- **CONCERNED** by the slow progress in addressing the continuing degradation of drylands
- **CONVINCED** that an appropriate and sustainable monitoring and assessment system, including a comprehensive baseline and participatory approaches, is necessary for effective management and restoration of natural capital in drylands
- **HAVING REVIEWED** a wide range of methods and tools for monitoring and assessment of different aspects of drylands, as well as emerging new technologies
- **CONCERNED** by the inadequacy of the current state of the art, including insufficient scale of application, lack of capacity, and gaps in comprehensiveness and integration
- **ENCOURAGED** by the evident potential for developing more comprehensive and cost-effective methods, including using existing methods and tools as building blocks and developing new methods that integrate remote sensing and local participation
- **AGREE TO**
 1. Form an open-ended collaborative network or community of practice to advance monitoring and assessment of drylands, including understanding of their users
 2. Communicate the value and importance of drylands monitoring to relevant stakeholders, including policy makers and resource partners
 3. Develop a dynamic roadmap for collaborative action.



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* Restoration is the process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across degraded landscapes.

Rome on the 23rd Day of January 2015

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