



UNCCD COP13

Ordos, China, 6-16 September 2017

SIDE EVENT

Land Restoration for Peace and Profit

Date: Thursday 14 September

Time: 13:30-15:00 hrs

Venue: Rio Pavilion (MET 1)

Around a quarter of the globe's land area is estimated to have been degraded. Land degradation releases soil carbon, worsening global climate change; it reduces yields, creating food insecurity; and it erodes livelihoods, driving migration.

Under these conditions, instability can take hold, order can break down, and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) can become established, leading in turn to impacts such as increases in wildlife poaching, deforestation and even large-scale violence. However, land restoration and trust building initiatives offer practical solutions. For example, carbon sequestration in soils and biomass can mitigate the impacts of climate change and boost agricultural productivity; and restored, resilient landscapes can open up new opportunities through farming, tourism, and pastoralism.

Yet despite these multiple benefits, such initiatives are largely ignored by capital markets and often fail to attract significant investments.

This side event will explore the relationships between land degradation, restoration, conflict and peace. It will discuss how policies and research can catalyse positive restoration outcomes, and how large-scale investment capital can be harnessed for peace and profit.

Key speakers at the event will include:

- Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD
- Dennis Garrity, World Agroforestry Centre
- Elizabeth Kucinich, Rodale Institute, UNRWA USA
- Cai Man Tang, Elion Resources
- Noel Oettlé, Drynet
- Ermias Betemariam, World Agroforestry Centre