



Side event Soil Information Systems as levers to Sustainable Land management and Land Restoration

Introduction: Soil data and information have been long considered key assets to support the design of sustainable land management (SLM) practices land restoration interventions. Two research projects funded by PRIMA Initiative (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) and European Commission Horizon Europe are building Soil Information Systems (SIS) in the Mediterranean (SOILS4MED Project) and in Africa (African Union Soil Observatory, AUSO project). In close collaboration with DesertNet International (DNI) network, SOILS4MED and AUSO will provide an overwhelming overview of how soil information systems under development will impact land restoration particularly in Africa. DNI mandate to disseminate knowledge and bridge the science policy interface by linking DLDD scientific community to international, national, or sub-national levels will provide an excellent platform useful for many stakeholders. The expected outcomes will be knowledge dissemination focusing on bridging science and policy, fostering collaboration, and accelerating the adoption of SLM practices and mobilizing investments in SLM. The target audience include DNI members, partners of the SOILS4MED and AUSO projects, policy and decision makers and NGOs, including farmer organizations.

Room: MET-04: 260

Time: 20 August 8:30 – 10:00 Ulaanbaatar time -

Programme:

Time	Title	Speaker
8:30 – 8:45	The role of DNI in promoting SLM for restoration of degraded landscapes.	Rachid Serraj, DNI Chair
8:45 – 9:00	AUSO project: towards a soil information system for sustainable soil management in Africa.	Melissa Allan (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)
9:00 – 9:15	SOILS4MED's soil information system for the Mediterranean region: achievements and lessons learnt.	Claudio Zucca (University of Sassari)
9:15 – 9:25	How soil data and information linked to SLM can help achieve LDN and land restoration: the WOCAT experience.	Tatenda Lemann (WOCAT-University of Bern)
9:25 – 9:35	How soil data and information can help achieving LDN: the UNCCD Secretariat perspective	Barron Orr (UNCCD Secretariat)
9:35 – 10:00	Questions, discussions, debate, conclusions.	Panel discussion Moderator: Pandi Zdruli (CIHEAM-Bari, DNI Vice Chair)