



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / FEBRUARY 2025



Annual Report 2024

## [G20 GLI 2024 Annual Report Released](#)

The 2024 G20 Global Land Initiative Annual Report highlights major progress in land restoration. Global commitments reached 1.2 billion hectares, with 30 countries—11 from the G20—pledging over 10 million hectares each. Key international summits prioritized restoration, and the EU passed a Restoration Law with mandatory targets. The first Global Land Restoration Economy report valued the sector at \$37 billion, growing 8.2% annually, with projections to hit \$70 billion by 2031. The Initiative trained 100 young entrepreneurs through the global Youth Ecopreneurs Program. It also launched the Global Restoration Information Hub, funded 41 community projects in 24 countries and introduced a university curriculum on innovative sustainable agriculture solutions. Public engagement grew through the *Save Land: United for Land* Exhibition and a global photography festival that drew over 17,000 entries from 153 countries. With momentum at an all-time high, the future of land restoration has never looked more promising! Read the report [here](#).

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# Stories



## Global Restoration Information Hub

The Global Restoration Information Hub (GRIH) is an initiative by G20 member states to support land restoration commitments by the international community, including the G20's ambition to reduce land degradation by 50% by 2040. GRIH provides accessible information on land degradation, conservation, restoration and sustainable land management, promoting collaboration among stakeholders worldwide.

## Interactive Discussion of the Save Land. United for Land Exhibition

The UNCCD-G20 GLI event at the *Save Land. United for Land* exhibition on 4 February 2025 at the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, Germany, explored the critical role of land restoration in combating climate change and driving business growth, and the use of new technologies to reach children and young people with messages about land restoration. Featuring interactive digital tools and historical insights, the exhibition inspires pro-land action. Watch a video on the exhibit [here](#).







## **Three-Quarters of Earth's Land Became Permanently Drier in the Last Three Decades: UN**

UNCCD reveals that 77.6% of Earth's land has become drier in recent decades, with drylands expanding by 4.3 million km<sup>2</sup>. Climate change is driving this shift, threatening 2.3 billion people with worsening water scarcity, desertification and displacement.

## **The Peatland Breakthrough**

Peatlands are vital for climate action, storing one-third of global soil carbon—twice as much as forests. Despite covering just 3% of land, their degradation contributes to 5% of global emissions. The Peatland Breakthrough initiative aims to halt drainage, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable land use, uniting stakeholders to protect these crucial carbon sinks.





## Wetlands International Receives €9 Million from the COMON Foundation

This €9 million gift will go to expanding wetland conservation efforts, building on past successes like mangrove restoration in Guinea-Bissau. The funding will boost partnerships, fundraising and communications to address climate change, biodiversity loss and water scarcity through nature-based solutions.

## Closing in on an End to Plastic Pollution

A global treaty to end plastic pollution is close, with agreement on 29 of 32 articles. Key issues remain: product regulations, sustainable production and financing. Urgent action from governments, businesses and civil society is needed to finalize the treaty and tackle rising environmental and economic costs.







## Youth Ecopreneurs Showcase a Land of Opportunities at COP16

At COP16 in Riyadh, the G20 Global Land Initiative highlighted 12 youth ecopreneurs from the YECO Programme, showcasing land restoration innovations. Participants engaged in panels, pitch competitions and networking, emphasizing the economic potential of sustainability while securing investment and global recognition for their solutions.

## Growing Change, Delhi Public School Launches its own OMG Greens Nature Lab

Delhi Public School (DPS) Nacharam became the first Cambridge school in India to establish the Organic Microgreens (OMG) Lab, promoting sustainability and agriculture education. The inauguration gathered esteemed guests who emphasized land restoration, youth empowerment and the importance of nutrition security.



# Publications

## Biosaline Agriculture as an Approach to Land Restoration in the Arab World

This report highlights the G20 Global Land Initiative's partnership with ICBA and the League of Arab States to promote biosaline agriculture in the Arab world. Through a specialized training in Cairo, 24 participants from 13 countries explored sustainable solutions for restoring marginal lands affected by salinity and water scarcity. As climate change accelerates desertification and food insecurity, the report underscores the potential of salt-tolerant crops and innovative water management to enhance agricultural resilience in arid regions. Find the report [here](#).

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## Meet the Interns:



### Bryce Dershem

Intern

Bryce Dershem is a dedicated scholar with a passion for social justice, policy advocacy, and fostering community impact. Currently pursuing a BA in Women's and Gender Studies with a minor in Classics at SUNY Stony Brook, he is set to graduate Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* in Spring 2025 as the valedictorian of his class. Afterwards, he will be attending the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Outside his professional endeavors, Bryce enjoys surfing, ethical traveling and baking. With plans to work for the government after law school, he is eager to leverage his skills and experiences to make a meaningful impact in public service and policy. Read more [here](#).



# Vacancies

[Website and Online Strategy Consultant](#)| United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 17 February 2025)

[Land Restoration Education Consultant](#)| United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 21 February 2025)

[University Curriculum Expert Consultant](#)| United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 24 February 2025)

# Events



The poster features a green background with a subtle pattern of leaves and branches. At the top left is the LSE logo and 'Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa'. In the center is the United Nations logo and 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'. At the top right is the G20 Global Land Initiative logo. The main title 'STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION OF LAND RESTORATION' is in large white and yellow letters. Below it is 'MASTERCLASS'. A paragraph states: 'The G20 Global Land Initiative (GLI) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) are offering a fully funded, 5-day Masterclass for communicators, in London.' Another paragraph says: 'Designed to equip communicators with the skills and tools needed to raise awareness on land degradation and restoration, the program supports GLI's mission to reduce degraded land by 50% by 2040.' The bottom section is titled 'WHAT WE OFFER' and lists six items with icons: 1. Introduction to land restoration—the problems and the solutions (leaf icon); 2. Power and systems thinking for effective public influencing (lightbulb icon); 3. Strategic communications and effective narrative-building (megaphone icon); 4. Media strategy development in a crowded public sphere (group of people icon); 5. Exploring advanced communication media like VR, AI, digital platforms, etc. (clapperboard icon); 6. Site visits to land restoration projects in the UK (location pin icon).

## Strategic Communication of Land Restoration Masterclass

Dates: 2-6 June 2025 (TBC)  
Location: London, United Kingdom

Application Deadline: **16 February**  
Apply [here!](#)

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G20 GLOBAL  
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SAVE THE DATE: **Online** Training of Instructors course: **Europe**

**Trigger Change!**  
**Innovative Sustainable**  
**Agriculture Solutions for**  
**Land Restoration**

DATE / Wednesday, 26 March to Friday, 28 March, 2025  
TIME / 13:00 - 15:30 CET

SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO  
**REGISTER  
NOW!**

Educators, researchers,  
academics & agricultural  
professional are  
encouraged to apply.



## Trigger Change! Innovative Sustainable Agriculture Solutions for Land Restoration - Europe

Dates: 26-28 Marc 2025  
Location: Online

Sign up [here!](#)

UCUENCA | G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

Capacitación a instructores para el curso:

## ¡Impulsar el cambio!

Soluciones innovadoras de agricultura  
sostenible para la restauración de tierras,  
un curso global.



17 - 21 de marzo  
09:00 a 11:30 (GMT-5)  
Modalidad virtual

Últimas Inscripciones



## Trigger Change! Innovative Sustainable Agriculture Solutions for Land Restoration - Latin America

Dates: 17-20 March 2025  
Location: Online

Sign up [here!](#)





## RestorLife Awards

Dates: 23-31 July 2025

Location: Victoria Falls,  
Zimbabwe

Application Deadline: **28**

**February**

Apply [here!](#)



## 16th Greenstorm Global Photography Festival

Winner: US\$10,000

Popular Choice: US\$5,000

3 Special Jury Mentions:

US\$1,000 each

Application Deadline: **28**

**February**

Apply [here!](#)

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification | G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE

## THE GLOBAL CHANGEMAKER ACADEMY FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS (G-CAP)

**25 - 29 AUGUST 2025**

**BONN, GERMANY**

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Third Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians (G-CAP) is an exclusive 5-day in-person leadership academy that brings 30 selected parliamentarians from around the world to come together to explore the criticality of land restoration agenda both globally and within their national and local contexts.

At G-CAP, we believe that collaboration is key to driving meaningful change. Together, in this leadership academy we will dive deep into the challenges and opportunities presented by land restoration, sharing insights and fostering innovative approaches.

**G-CAP OVERVIEW**

Over five days in Bonn, Germany, the parliamentarians will engage in **masterclasses, legislation workshops,**

[APPLY NOW](#)

## The Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians (G-CAP): Call for Applications

Dates: 25-29 August 2025  
Location: Bonn, Germany

Application Deadline: **28 February**  
Apply [here!](#)

**G20**  
SOUTH AFRICA 2025

## First Climate and Environment Sustainability Working Group Meeting

Date: 5-6 March 2025  
Location: Online





## START x HACK

Dates: 19-21 March 2025  
Location: St. Gallen, Switzerland

Application Deadline: **5 March**  
Apply [here!](#)

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 GLOBAL RESTORATION  
INFORMATION HUB

5-day training workshop on:  
**BUILDING RESILIENT  
AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS:  
SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT  
AND RESTORATION FOR AFRICA'S  
AGRICULTURAL FUTURE**

21-25 April 2025  
Saint Louis, Senegal

 AfricaRice

 UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION  
2021-2030



Scan here to  
register

## Building Resilient Agricultural Systems: Sustainable Land Management and Restoration for Africa's Agricultural Future

Dates: 21-25 April 2025  
Location: Saint Louis, Senegal

Application Deadline: **15 March**  
Apply [here!](#)



## Reforest Fest 2025

Dates: 18-21 April 2025  
Location: Bodhi Kaya Nature  
Retreat, Walker Bay  
Conservancy, South Africa

Apply [here](#)

Other [Tickets on sale now!](#)

Watch a video on the festival  
[here.](#)



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**Our mailing address is:  
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