



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

## NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / MAY 2025



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● LIVE WEBINAR

# GENERATION RESTORATION DIALOGUES

A bold new monthly webinar series to elevate global voices in land restoration—powered by UNCCD and the G20 Global Land Initiative

**One event  
each month**

MAY 2025 – FEB 2026 →

1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION:  
THEME:  
**The Foundations  
of Land Restoration**



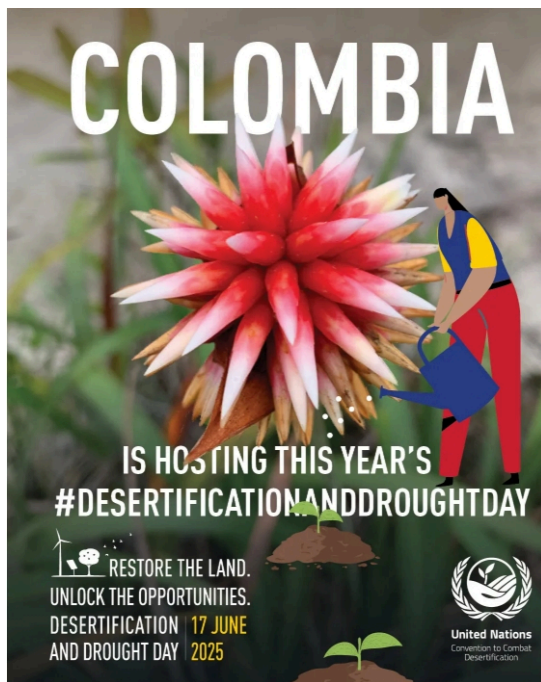
20 May 2025

### Generation Restoration: Join a year-long global journey to shine a light about restoring our earth

The UNCCD G20 GLI has launched Generation Restoration Dialogues, a year-long webinar series aimed at engaging youth and educators in global land restoration efforts. Held monthly, the series links restoration to key global issues like biodiversity, food systems, jobs and culture. The first session took place on 20 May 2025, moderated by Keely Chauke, and featured speakers John Mbugua Kimani, Joshua Steib and Dr. Nick Leimu-Brown. Discussions focused on youth-led restoration, the impact of food systems and restoring ecosystem services. [Watch the webinar](#) and [register here](#) for the next session on 13 June 2025, which will focus on “Land Restoration Economic Benefits – Empowering Communities for Land Resilience” by highlighting how restoration generates green jobs, attracts investment and equips youth with tools and mentorship to build restoration-centered enterprises.

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## Stories



## Colombia to Host Desertification and Drought Day 2025

Colombia will host the 2025 global observance of Desertification and Drought Day on 17 June in Bogotá, spotlighting its commitment to large-scale land restoration as part of the Global Land Forum. Under the theme “Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities,” the event will emphasize the link between healthy land and sustainable development, food security, peace and climate resilience.

## Restoring Land, Reconnecting with the Earth: Reforest Fest 2025 at the Halfway Point of a Decade on Restoration

Reforest Fest 2025 gathered over 1,000 people in South Africa’s Uilenkraal Valley to plant 5,021 trees and celebrate the halfway mark of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The festival combined hands-on restoration with UNCCD G20 GLI.



## Africa Rice Training: Advancing Resilient Landscapes Across Africa

The “Building Resilient Landscapes” training in Senegal brought together 30+ participants and experts from across Africa to explore sustainable land restoration.



## **New Educational Materials to Meet Global Urban Challenges**

Designed for educators and practitioners, the course offers 48 hours of content, global case studies and interactive tools to promote innovative, nature-based solutions for urban challenges. You are invited to join upcoming regional webinars and a [LinkedIn](#) community to foster global participation and collaboration.



## **Making AI Accessible, Inclusive, and Beneficial for All**

Two YECOs recently presented an automated circular waste solution at the UN in New York, highlighting its potential for improving efficiency in agricultural waste management. Read [more!](#)

## **Youth Ecopreneurs Shine at ChangeNow 2025**

Youth Ecopreneurs took center stage, pitching bold solutions in climate, biodiversity and sustainability through investor sessions and global networking, they left with momentum to scale impact.





## **RestorLife Awards 2025 Honors Two Visionary Environmental Initiatives**

On Earth Day, Restor and the G20 GLI announced the 2025 RestorLife Award winners: Ecoporé (Brazil) for community-led Amazon restoration and Terraformation for global reforestation innovation.

## **UNCCD Launches: IWG on Future Strategy and Regional Representative Nominations**

The UNCCD's launch of IWG to shape its post-2030 strategy and calling for regional group nominations aims to align future UNCCD priorities with global challenges.




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# **Publications**

## **After Action Report START Summit x Hack 2025**

The G20 GLI, launched by G20 leaders in 2020 to reduce global land degradation by 50% by 2040, participated in the START Summit x Hack 2025 to engage emerging talent and drive innovation toward this ambitious goal. Held annually in St. Gallen, Switzerland, the START Summit is Europe's largest student-led conference and hackathon focused on entrepreneurship and technology, drawing over 7,000 participants including founders, investors, policymakers and developers. G20 GLI's involvement in the event, particularly in the START Hack segment with over 600 top students, provided a platform to explore tech-driven solutions to real-world land restoration challenges while raising awareness of the initiative's mission among future leaders and changemakers. Find the report [here](#).

## **'There is no Solution to Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss Without Healthy Forests', Says Senior Official, as Forum on Forests Opens Session**

The United Nations Forum on Forests opened with strong calls to prioritise forest protection as essential to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. Leaders and experts emphasized the urgent need for sustainable forest management, enhanced financing, innovation and multilateral cooperation. Countries shared national efforts and challenges, including successful afforestation policies and a lack of resources, while also endorsing the



new UN “Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation” as a key opportunity to accelerate global action. Read in detail [here!](#)

## Meet the Interns:



**Karthika Sreekumar**

Intern

Karthika Sreekumar is a passionate and goal-driven academic committed to environmental restoration. With a background in Civil Engineering from MG University in India, her early research focused on using copper extraction waste in mortar to enhance sustainability. She also collaborated with FRBL to convert fertilizer waste into building materials for disaster-resilient construction. Karthika later pursued a degree in Social Design in Italy, where her thesis, “*Green Lungs*,” promoted Miyawaki forestation in urban areas to combat pollution, urban heat and water scarcity while enhancing public health. Read more [here](#).

## Vacancies

Junior Consultant for the UNCCD Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 26 May 2025)

Drought Resilience Guidelines for Businesses Senior Consultant | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 26 May 2025)

Consultants (3) to Produce the Global Land Outlook Small Island Developing States | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 30 May 2025)

# Events



## **XII International Rangeland Congress**

Dates: 2 - 6 June 2025

Location: Adelaide Convention Centre,  
Adelaide, Australia

Register [here](#).



## **Global Land Forum**

Dates: 12 - 20 June 2025

Location: Bogota, Colombia

Learn more [here](#)!



## **Desertification and Drought Day 2025**

Dates: 17 June 2025

More Information [here](#).



## **Unveiling the World Drought Atlas: Risks, pathways and regional perspectives**

Dates: 17 June 2025

Location: Online

[More Information](#)



## **World Environment Day Event Registration**

Dates: 2025

Location: Anywhere Globally

Register your event [here!](#)



## **The RestorLife Awards**

Dates: 23 - 31 July 2025

Location: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

More information [here!](#)



## Desertif'actions 2025-2026

Get ready in 2025 to join the momentum!

Dates: 25 to 28 March 2026

Location: Djerba, Tunisia

Learn more information [here!](#)



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