



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE**

NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / JULY 2025



Apply Now: \$17,000 Grants for Land Restoration Projects

After a very successful first grant round in which 39 organisations from 22 countries received funding, we are thrilled to launch the next round of the Restoration Returns Grant! This grant supports organisations working on land restoration, helping to revive ecosystems, restore degraded landscapes and improve livelihoods. Selected organisations will receive \$17,000 USD to advance their restoration projects and create lasting environmental and community impact. The application period runs from 15 July to 15 September 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to apply - find the application form [here](#)!

Stories



G20 GLI National Pilot in Kenya: Unlocking the Power of Youth Ecopreneurs

The G20 GLI launches its Kenya National Engagement Pilot to strengthen and build a robust ecosystem supporting early-stage ecopreneurs in regenerative agriculture and nature-based solutions. Find out about YECO and or growing network in Brazil [here](#).

Supporting Grassroots Restoration: G20 GLI Small Grants Uniqueness

The Small Grants awarded USD 395,000 to 39 community-led restoration projects in 22 countries. These grassroots efforts will boost local economies, food security and ecosystem resilience. A second round with increased funding will launch soon. Watch the Announcement of the winners [here!](#)



United Against Drought: Riyadh Partnership Moves to Action

This aims to shift from crisis response to proactive drought risk reduction through early warning systems and sustainable land management. At its inaugural conference, stakeholders agreed on governance, financing and technical support to help vulnerable countries.

Resurrecting Dead Soils

In Kenya, the BOOST initiative by FAO, IFAD and the EU is reviving degraded soils through agroecological training and support hubs. Farmer Agnes Barasa transformed her yields by switching to organic practices, increasing her corn harvest fivefold. BOOST has reached 40,000 farmers across five counties, improving soil health and food security.





From Dumpsite to Dream: How Green Go is Transforming Eldorado Park with Greenpop & Heineken


Go Green Go Clean, with Greenpop and Heineken's support, transformed Eldorado Park from a dumpsite into a vibrant green space. Through art, gardens and community-driven clean-ups, the project fosters pride, safety and cultural heritage.

Nature's Solution in Action: How the UAE is Tackling Global Challenges Through Conservation


As host of the 2025 IUCN Congress, the UAE is championing global action rooted in local innovation. With nature-based solutions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem resilience making conservation a national priority.




Key Speakers




Prof. Rattan Lal
Distinguished Professor & Director,
Carbon Management Center, Ohio
State University



Audrey S-Darko
Farmer, entrepreneur, land and
climate youth negotiator



Muhithi Aguwaveedi
Soil & Policy Advocate | UNCCD
Youth Caucus Steering Committee
Member



Moderated by
Keely Chauke
Lead Curator, The Knowledge
Lounge - Generation Restoration
Dialogues | UNCCD-G20 GLI

Generation Restoration Dialogues: Regenerative Legacies of Agriculture

Aiming to reach 1,000 young people each month, the third session delivered an energising look at regenerative agriculture, soil health and climate resilience. Speakers offered practical ways to restore degraded lands and strengthen food systems. Watch the live recording [here!](#)

Nations Urged to Unlock a Trillion-Dollar Land Restoration Economy

On Desertification and Drought Day 2025, the UN called for urgent action to restore 1.5 billion hectares of degraded land. Restoring land could unlock a trillion-dollar economy and create millions of jobs.



Aubrey Barker Fund - Urban Kickstart Programme 2025-2026

The Aubrey Barker Fund launches the 2025–2026 Urban Kickstart Programme, offering up to £15,000 for early-career professionals in Africa and Asia. Grants support research and projects improving urban land access and housing. Apply by 1 September 2025 [here](#).

Publications

Drought Hotspots Around the World 2023-2025

Global climate patterns in 2023 and 2024 produced record-breaking heat and severe drought impacts that continue into 2025, causing water shortages, food insecurity and displacement, especially in parts of Africa. This report identifies the regions most affected by these droughts and examines their social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. It explores the climatic factors that intensified these impacts and highlights why understanding them is essential for better mitigation and resilience planning. By analysing these drivers and vulnerabilities, the report offers actionable insights for policymakers, researchers and humanitarian organisations. Find the summary article [here](#) and the report [here](#).

Global Wetland Outlook 2025: Valuing, Conserving, Restoring and Financing Wetlands (GWO25)

The Global Wetland Outlook 2025 warns that without urgent action, 20% of the world's remaining wetlands could vanish by 2050, risking \$39 trillion in essential benefits like clean water, food production, flood protection and carbon storage. Wetlands are disappearing faster than any other ecosystem, with 22% already lost since 1970 and severe declines in regions like Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. The report calls for coordinated investment and outlines solutions including integrating wetland value into planning, innovative financing and public-private partnerships for restoration. Featuring global data and success stories, it serves as a roadmap to align wetland conservation with climate, biodiversity and development goals. Read more [here](#).

Meet the Interns:



Elisha Olukanni

Intern

Elisha is a purpose-driven professional passionate about youth leadership, empowerment, entrepreneurship and sustainability. He spent five years with AIESEC, working in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Jordan. Impacting over 1,000 youths across 30+ conferences in 15 countries. He has also supported gender equality as a Human Resource Support Advisor at Crossroads International and worked in innovation roles in Tanzania and Uganda. With a background in Agriculture focused on Sustainability and International Agribusiness, he is committed to driving meaningful change. In his free time, he enjoys exploring new places, watching comedy and spending time with friends. Read more [here](#).

Vacancies

Editing Services for CRIC23 Preparation | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Deadline: 18 July 2025)

Events



Land Restoration as an Opportunity: Capacity Building for Startups and Eco-Entrepreneurs

Application Deadline: 17 July 2025

Location: Aimorés, Brazil

Register [here!](#)



Faith4Land Masterclass

Application Deadline: 18 July 2025

Dates: 3-7 November 2025

Location: London, UK

Register [here!](#)



Training Workshop: Use of Geospatial Data and Remote Sensing Technologies

Dates: 21-24 July 2025

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Find more details [here!](#)



Land in Focus: Unlocking Global Restoration with GEOgli

Dates: 29 July 2025

Time: 11:00 AM CEST

Location: Hybrid

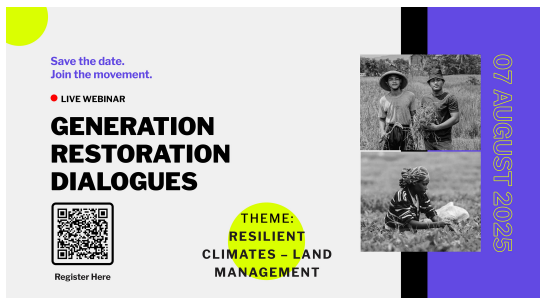
Register [here!](#)



RestorLife Awards Ceremony

Dates: 30 July 2025

Register [here!](#)



Webinar: Climate Change and Land Restoration

Dates: 7 August 2025

Join us in highlighting real-world land management projects. Register [here!](#)

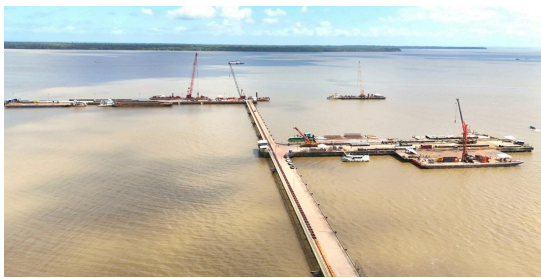


NAP Expo 2025 - Innovations in the NAP Process

Dates: 12 - 15 August 2025

Location: Lusaka, Zambia

Register [here!](#)



2025 UN Climate Change Conference COP30

Dates: 10 - 21 November 2025

Location: Belém, Brazil

Learn more [here!](#)

UNCCD CRIC23

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA | 01 - 05 DECEMBER 2025



UNCCD CRIC23

Dates: 1 - 5 December 2025

Location: Panama City, Panama



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Our mailing address is:

G20 Land Initiative

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United for land

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