



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / AUGUST 2025



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YECO 2025: Applications are Open! **A New Cohort, A Growing Movement**

Applications are now open for the Youth Ecopreneur Programme 2025, our flagship initiative supporting young entrepreneurs building the restoration economy. This year's edition focuses on Land Restoration and Green Business, offering participants access to a high - impact bootcamp, tailored mentorship, investor connections, international visibility and a dedicated grant funding for land restoration ventures. If you are an ecopreneur looking to scale your venture, apply and join this global network of changemakers driving climate resilience and sustainable growth. To see how our previous cohort turned ideas into actions, read the blog for inspiration, and [apply here.](#)

Stories

Call for Applications: Restoration Returns Grant

The 2025 'Restoration Returns' programme will award USD 17,000 to selected community-led projects advancing ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods. Apply [here](#).



VEDAC is Turning Trees into Art and Forests into Future

The G20 GLI team showcased VEDAC, an innovative startup advancing sustainable furniture manufacturing and boosting human development in some of the most vulnerable regions of the Amazon, during its NEON 2025 session in Brazil.

Kenya's Start Ups in Land Restoration are Brimming With Potential

Kenya's bold new generation of restoration start-ups meets the G20's pilot national engagement strategy to unlock their full potential.



Greenstorm Unveils Winning Images Celebrating the World's Most Beautiful Wetlands

The festival, now on its 16th year, attracted more than 11,000 entries from 155 countries for a Grand Prize of US\$10,000.

"Brasil Chegamos!": A story of Connection, Collaboration and Commitment

On its first trip of the year to Brazil to engage with ecopreneurs who can scale up impact and build capacity in land restoration, the G20 GLI team met over 200 ecopreneurs.

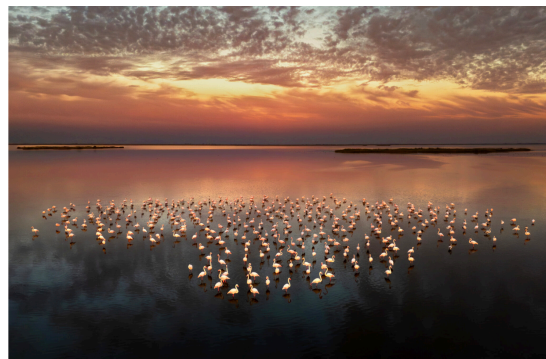


Generation Restoration Dialogue: Climate Change and Land Restoration

The August edition of the webinar brought together experts and youth leaders to explore how resilient climate and sustainable land management can be achieved through both modern science and indigenous knowledge. Watch the live recording [here](#).

Whispers From the Marsh, How to Save Wetlands

Wetlands cover just 6 percent of the earth's surface but sustain a multi trillion dollar economy. Their loss endangers ecosystems and economic stability, making restoration urgent.



Publications

Health Impacts of Land Degradation and Drought

Land degradation and drought are silently eroding human health. Each year, an Egypt-sized swath of fertile land is lost, fuelling malnutrition, respiratory disease and the spread of infections from cholera to Ebola. Drylands, already 40 per cent of Earth, see rising child

stunting, dust-borne illness and mental-health crises as crops fail and water disappears. The brief urges governments to treat land as a health asset, embed 'One Health' thinking in agriculture, finance and planning, empower communities and restore ecosystems before climate extremes push societies beyond their limits. Protect soil, it concludes, to protect people and secure healthier futures globally. Find the report [here](#).

Bending the curve of land degradation to achieve global environmental goals

Global food systems are a major driver of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss. A new UNCCD brief warns that without urgent reform, land degradation will undermine food security, health and livelihoods worldwide. It calls for restoring half of all degraded land, slashing food waste by 75 percent, and shifting diets toward more sustainable proteins such as seafood and seaweed. These measures could free up or restore land equivalent to Africa's size, cut greenhouse gas emissions by 13 gigatons annually, and deliver major climate, biodiversity, and health benefits. Transforming food systems, it concludes, is essential to avert a worsening land crisis. Find the report [here](#).

Meet the Interns:



Katharina Stiegler

Intern

Katharina Stiegler is a solution-focused Bachelor Student of Geography at the University of Heidelberg, dedicated to advancing sustainable relationships between humans and the environment. Her academic focus spans Environmental Geopolitics, Climate Change and Land Conservation, deepened through her exchange year at University of Geneva and hands-on work experience at the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Rhön, where she contributed to the Man and the Biosphere programme. Read more [here](#).

Events

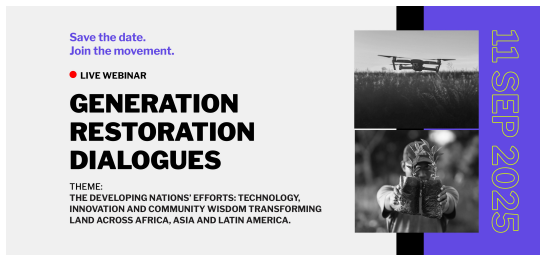


The 10th Kubuqi International Desert Forum

Date: 8 - 9 September 2025

Location: Ordos, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China

For more information, click [here](#).



Webinar: The Developing Nations' Efforts

Date: 11 September 2025

In this edition, experts from Latin America, Africa and Malaysia present innovations and insights fueling a new era of sustainable land restoration in the Global South.

Register [here!](#)



Science, Policy and Practice for the Sustainable Management of Salt - Affected Soils

Date: 11 - 13 September 2025

Location: Both in-person and remote; In-person at Dunhuang city, China

For more information, click [here](#).



International Symposium on the Emerging Restoration Industry

Date: 30 Nov 2025 - 01 Dec 2025

Apply by September 30 2025

Register [here!](#)



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United Nations

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United for land

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