



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / SEPTEMBER 2025

Restoration Returns Grants

Civil society holds the keys to land restoration

From deserts to farms, forests to grasslands,
local action is scaling global solutions.



Last Chance to Apply: Restoration Return Grants

Don't miss your opportunity to secure funding from the G20 Global Land Initiative (GLI) to support community-led projects that tackle land degradation. These grants support community-led projects that leverage local knowledge and innovation to combat desertification, aiming to contribute to the restoration of over 1 billion hectares by 2030. The second round of funding for 2025 expands both the number of beneficiaries and the available funding, building on the success of the first round. Apply by 20 September 2025 [here!](#)

Stories

GCAP 2025 Closes in Bonn

The annual Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians (G-CAP) wrapped up in Bonn after five days of panels, workshops, and field visits with 32 parliamentarians from 32 countries. UNCCD Executive Secretary Yasmine Fouad addressed the cohort, reminding them that up to 40% of the world's land is already degraded. Highlights [here](#).



The Power of Stories in Land Restoration

Indigenous communities have restored land for generations, sustaining biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience through practices now globally recognized. With 2026 declared the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, collaboration and storytelling can help safeguard ecosystems and intergenerational knowledge. Explore further [here](#).

Turning Waste into Gold: Mmakwena Moesi's YECO Journey

Mmakwena Moesi, co-founder of Viva Organica, is transforming farming by turning organic waste into nutrient-rich compost that restores soil and boosts yields. Through YECO 2024, she gained the mentorship and global network to scale her green vision. Read more [here](#)!





From Sargassum to Opportunity: Andrés Bisonó León's YECO Journey

Andrés Bisonó León, founder of SOS Carbon, is turning the Caribbean's sargassum seaweed crisis into an opportunity by transforming the algae into agricultural products that boost harvests and protect coastlines. Through YECO 2024, he gained the platform and network to scale his vision of a sustainable blue economy for the region. See details [here](#).

YECO 2025: An Invitation for Those Who Believe in the Power of Restoration

Fernando, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, turned his passion for nature into a business that uses technology for ecological restoration, showing that restoring land also restores communities and hope. Through YECO, his journey proves how young people can transform ideas into impact and build a more resilient future. Watch Fernando's full journey [here](#).



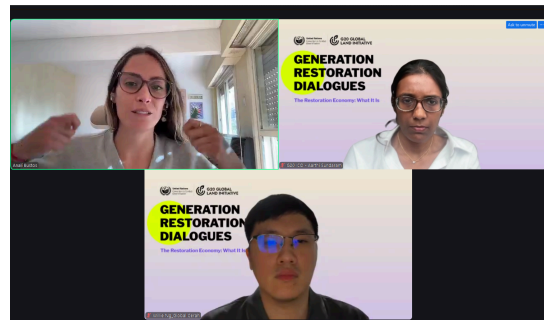


One Year of “Trigger Change!”: Growing a Global Community for Sustainable Agriculture

G20 Global Land Initiative’s Trigger Change! course has reached over 1,200 downloads in its first year, transforming land restoration education across universities worldwide. With hundreds of educators trained and an active global community of practice, the program is embedding sustainable agriculture into curricula where it’s needed most. Full story [here](#).

Generation Restoration Dialogue: The Developing Nations’ Efforts

This session highlights the Global South’s innovative technologies tackling land restoration challenges. Watch the recording [here](#).



YECO 2025: Empowering Youth to Transform Agriculture and Restore Land

Maryanne Gichanga, CEO and Co-Founder of AgriTech Analytics, is using AI and satellite technology to help smallholder farmers in Kenya fight soil degradation, pests, and diseases while restoring their land. Learn more about her impact [here](#).

Publications

Global Drought Outlook: Trends, Impacts and Policies to Adapt to a Drier World

Droughts are becoming more frequent, prolonged and severe with climate change, threatening water security and placing growing pressure on people, ecosystems and economies. From reduced crop yields and strained power supply and river trade to degraded landscapes and disrupted livelihoods, the impacts of droughts are on the rise and so are their costs. The OECD's Global Drought Outlook assesses how countries can strengthen drought management to adapt to a changing climate. It provides new insights into the rising human, environmental, and economic impacts of droughts and offers practical policy solutions to minimise losses, build long-term resilience, and support adaptation to a drier future. Read more [here](#).

GAR 2025 Hazards: Droughts

Droughts are becoming more frequent, severe, and prolonged worldwide due to climate change, land degradation, and unsustainable water use, with Africa and Asia facing the heaviest impacts. They threaten human health, food security, economic stability, and ecosystems, disproportionately affecting children, marginalized groups, and urban populations. Key risk drivers include overuse of groundwater, weak water governance, and insufficient investment in preparedness. The report emphasizes shifting from reactive responses to proactive drought risk management, strengthening early warning systems, investing in nature-based solutions, and improving international cooperation. Find the drought section [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

Contribute to research: Do you work with protective forests?

The University of Freiburg is gathering quick inputs on how forests are governed and managed to reduce risks like floods, landslides, rockfall and avalanche. If you are a forester, land manager or researcher please share your country's experience via this 30 - 60 minute survey (you can and pause return). Fill the survey [here](#).

Meet the Interns:



Sandra Sameh

Intern

Sandra Sameh is an passionate environmental and sustainable urban development researcher. Holding a BSc. With first class honours in Environmental Architecture and Urbanism from the University of East London and a Bachelor's of Architecture Engineering from Ain Shams University, Egypt. Using state-of-the-art AI analytics and GIS data modeling, she is currently pursuing her Master's in Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Cities, and working as a Teaching Assistant at The British University in Egypt. Read more [here](#).

Vacancies

[CRIC23 Procedural Assistant – GBLA Unit](#) | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
(Deadline: 18 September 2025)

Events



From Innovation to Restoration: Building Kenya's Youth-Led Restoration Economy

Dates: 22 September 2025

Location: Online

Register [here!](#)



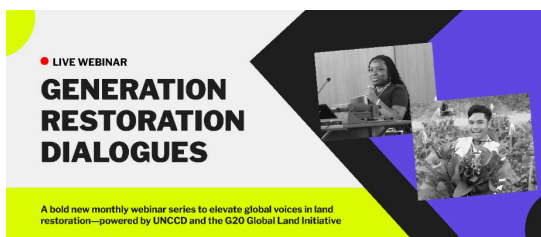
International Symposium on the Emerging Restoration Industry

Application Deadline: 30 September 2025

Dates: 30 November - 1 December 2025

Location: Panama City, Panama

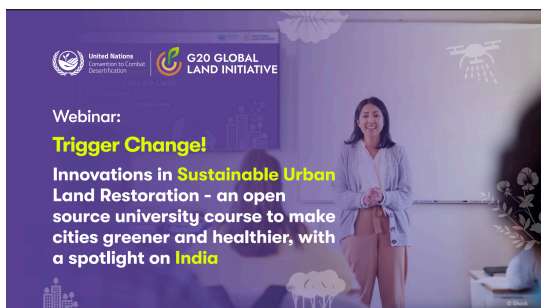
Register [here!](#)



Webinar: Learning in Land Restoration

Date: 1 October 2025

Register [here!](#)



Webinar: Trigger Change - Sustainable Urban Land Restoration with an Indian Focus

Date: 9 October 2025

Location: Online

Register [here!](#)



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United Nations
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United for land

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