



## NEWSLETTER G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE / April 2026



### Youth Ecopreneurs From Argentina and Uganda Win UN Global Pitch Contest at ChangeNOW

Argentina's Satellites on Fire and Uganda's Helton Traders won the UN Youth Ecopreneur Awards at the ChangeNOW conference in Paris, recognising innovative youth-led startups advancing sustainability and land-focused solutions globally. The winners were selected from eight finalists who advanced through the Youth Ecopreneur Programme, an intensive journey designed to support and scale sustainable businesses. Explore full story [here](#).

---

## Stories



### Saudi Arabia's Phenomenal Success of Restoring a Million Hectares of Desert Landscapes

This is an inspiring story of large-scale ecosystem recovery in arid regions while contributing to global restoration targets [here](#).

## **UNCCD Executive Secretary Dr. Fouad Welcomes Saudi Aabia's Achievements**

This powerful address commemorates Saudi Arabia's accomplishments with a message of global hope. Read full [here](#) and watch full [here](#).



## **Celebrating re.green: Restoring the Glory of Our Forests**

re.green awarded the first-ever Amazon Reforestation Concession for its remarkable socio-scientific restoration approach. Full story [here](#).

## **Land Talks Podcast**

This series features diverse voices - from Cristal Ange, James Amponsah, Mark Sultan Gersava, Senator Beatrice Ogolla and Ana Di Pangracio - all sharing unique insights on land restoration. Explore podcasts [here](#).



## **A Record Turn-Up to Learn About Forest Futures**

Global audiences joined our "Forest Futures" dialogue, reflecting growing global momentum to protect forests and restore land. Explore full story [here](#). Also join our next sessions [here](#).

---

# **Publications**

## **A New Framework to Minimise Costs and Maximise the Benefits of Biodiversity in Land Restoration**

Researchers have developed a spatial framework to optimise ecological restoration by combining land-use history, species distribution and costs. Applied in Kansas grasslands, it identifies priority restoration sites that maximise biodiversity benefits while minimising economic costs, supporting more strategic conservation decisions under limited funding. Read full study [here](#).

## **Global Agrifood Implications of the 2026 Conflicts in the Middle**

### **East**

Escalating conflict in Iran and the Middle East threatens land-based food systems by disrupting energy and fertiliser supplies. Rising input costs risk lower crop yields and food instability, especially in import-dependent regions. This highlights the urgent need for resilient agriculture, sustainable soil management and stronger local production systems. Read more [here](#).

## **Abu Dhabi Roundtable Freshwater Report**

Freshwater ecosystems support immense biodiversity, food security and climate resilience but remain severely underfunded despite their global importance. A roundtable at the IUCN World Conservation Congress examined funding barriers and explored solutions to strengthen investment and conservation outcomes for these critical ecosystems. Find out more [here](#).

---

## **Meet the Interns:**



### **Enya Nair**

#### **Intern**

Enya Nair is an Environmental Sustainability Science student at Cardiff University. Her academic interests focus on sustainable development, land degradation and environmental resilience. She has conducted primary data collection in Morocco for research examining the feasibility of implementing No-Till farming in semi-arid, rural agricultural systems. With experience in environmental research, data analysis and scientific writing, she is committed to contributing to sustainability-focused initiatives and evidence-based approaches to environmental challenges. Read more about her [here](#).

---

# Vacancies

Non-State Actors and Communications - Consultant | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Application period: 10 April, 2026 - 17 April, 2026)

Revision of GLI Strategic Plan - Consultant | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Application period: 07 April, 2026 - 28 April, 2026)

Research Associate - Consultant | Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Application period: 07 April, 2026 - 21 April, 2026)

---

## Events



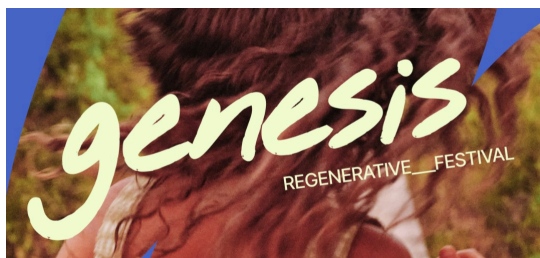
### Environmental Markets Conference - 2026

Dates: 27 - 30 April, 2026  
Venue: Tennessee, USA  
Register: [here](#)



### International Conference on Zero Waste Cities and Sustainable Transitions

Dates: 29 - 30 April, 2026  
Venue: Istanbul, Türkiye  
Register: [here](#)



### Ten Lives: Genesis - Regenerative Festival

Dates: 30 April - 03 May, 2026  
Venue: Pinhel, Portugal  
Register: [here](#)



## **UNCCD COP17 Business4Land Interest Proposals: Mining Sector & Restoration Industry**

Submission By: 01 May, 2026  
Submission Form : [here](#)  
Dates: 17 - 28 August, 2026  
Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



## **European Geosciences Union General assembly - 2026**

Dates: 03 - 08 May, 2026  
Venue: Vienna, Austria & Online  
Register: [here](#)



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Global Climate Change & Biodiversity Congress**

Dates: 04 - 05 May, 2026  
Venue: Paris, France  
Register: [here](#)



## **Make a Difference Week - 2026**

Dates: 30 May - 07 June, 2026  
Host an Event: [here](#)  
Volunteer at an Event: [here](#)



## **Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians: UNCCD COP17 - Call for Applications**

Dates: 17 - 28 August, 2026  
Apply: [here](#)



Copyright © 2026 G20 Land Initiative, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

**G20 Land Initiative**

UNITED NATIONS Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD Secretariat  
P.O. Box 260129  
Bonn D-53153  
Germany



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

United for land

You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)