



Republic of Turkey
Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion



DECLARATION

OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

ANKARA - TURKEY, 13 - 18 JUNE 2012





Training program on “The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Combating Desertification” has been organized between 13-18 June 2012 in Ankara Turkey. 30 Civil Society Organizations representatives from 20 countries particularly from Middle East, the Balkans, and Africa and 13 representatives from 11 CSOs from Turkey attended the program.

Presentations have been made by local and foreign representatives during the training. Informations have been given about the role of CSOs in combating desertification, projects made by CSOs and their experiences, works that have been done and works that are in planning phase about capacity development awareness raising and training programs, and recent projects of CSOs.

A field trip has been realized by all CSOs representatives to Konya Province in 16-17 June 2012. Informations have been given about the works that have been realized related with combating desertification and land degradation .

A declaration has prepared with the cooperation of all CSO representatives who attended workshop. Mentioned declaration has been read both in Turkish and English during the celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification that was celebrated in Ankara in 18 June 2012.



DECLARATION

OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION ANKARA-TURKEY, JUNE 13-18, 2012

We highly appreciate the Turkish government's efforts for the fight against land degradation in the framework of the National Mobilization Programme for Afforestation and Erosion Control. Turkey has become one of the leading countries on the soil conservation and afforestation activities.

Participation of the civil society organizations (CSOs) that have gathered in Ankara and Konya for the meeting on the role of the CSO in combating desertification would like to thank the Turkish Government, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), UNCCD Secretariat and authorities responsible for the coordination of this training course and meeting for their effort and support.

Desertification, as shown in the Convention to Combat Desertification and in Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, is one of the World's most serious environmental problems, threatening the Earth's fertility and the food security of its population.

Desertification is spreading due to climatic causes and human activities, both of those performed in a single area and those performed all over the World (climate change). Some measures can only be taken at a global level, but others have to be taken at the regional, national or local level. Combating desertification and mitigating the effects of droughts require an integrated approach in which the geographical, physical, biological, socio-economic and ethno-cultural aspects are taken into consideration. Desertification is an increasingly severe problem all over the World that has to be fought with concrete and feasible recommendations, adapted to the environmental, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological and political peculiarities of each country.



▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

We, the undersigned representatives of CSOs, agreed on this declaration as follows;

1 We would like to draw your attention to the concept of “**zero-net land degradation**” and the importance of pursuing an approach to off-set the land lost by desertification and erosion and also believe that the time is ripe to agree on a Sustainable Development Goal at **Rio+20** on “**Zero Net Land Degradation**” to secure the continuing availability of productive land for present and future generations.

2 We urge governments, international organizations, CSOs, the **UNCCD** to agree on a legal instrument for “**zero net land degradation**”.



▶▶▶▶

3 We call upon an intergovernmental panel for combating desertification, similar to the pattern followed by the UNFCCC and the UNCBD, to provide the World with a clearer scientific view on the current state of knowledge in land degradation and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.

4 We stress on the fact that desertification knows no boundaries and effects all countries across the Globe whether directly or indirectly. Given the importance of cross border cooperation, CSO Networking, information and experience sharing in combating desertification, international CSO networks should be provided with financial and political support.



▶▶▶▶

5 We urge international and national donor agencies as well as governments of developed countries to carry on actions for combating desertification before it is too late for future generations and to help to increase the level and diversity of available financial and technical resources and also improve the efficiency of its distribution, especially in developing and least developed countries.

6 We strongly support the integration of measures to combat desertification into our respective national development priorities, processes and frameworks such as MDGs, national development plans, country strategy papers and poverty reduction strategy papers and trade related frameworks.



▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

7 Civil Society Organizations play an effective role in the process of combating desertification by creating public awareness and identifying, documenting and validating existing local knowledge and traditions and underline the importance of rural capacity building and the involvement of this local know-how in sustainable land management processes.

8 In the process of combating desertification, CSOs share the responsibility of dissemination of the knowledge and experience gained from activities and implementations.



▶▶▶▶

9 **CSOs** active participation should be foreseen in organizing and implementing national programs for combating desertification and related plans and projects. Inclusion of more CSO representatives in Combating Desertification National Coordination Committee should be ensured, related CSOs should be informed about the developments and their contribution should be increased.

10 **Integrated** (multi-sector) approach, effective participation at all levels, cooperation of states, CSOs, and science should be promoted in implementation of policies for combating desertification.



Turkish Institutions

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA)

	COUNTRY		NAME
1	TURKEY	Deputy Minister of MFWA	Dr. Nurettin AKMAN
2	TURKEY	ÇEM General Manager (General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion)(ÇEM)	Hanifi AVCI
3	TURKEY	Assistant General Manager	Yılmaz ALTAŞ
4	TURKEY	Assistant General Manager	İsmail BELEN
5	TURKEY	Assistant General Manager	Mustafa GÖZÜKARA
6	TURKEY	Academics-Adviser in ÇEM	Prof.Dr. Orhan DOĞAN
7	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Özlem YAVUZ
8	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Serdar YEGÜL
9	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Emine AYDINOĞLU
10	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Okan ÇANÇİN
11	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Hakan KÖRBALTA
12	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Mediha HALİLOĞLU
13	TURKEY	Assistant Expert	M. Abdullah YURTOĞLU
14	TURKEY	Assistant Expert	Emre ÇOMAKLI
15	TURKEY	Assistant Expert	Sevilay ÖZÇELİK
16	TURKEY	Forest Engineer	İbrahim YAMAÇ
17	TURKEY	Forest Engineer	Leyla TUĞYAN
18	TURKEY	Forest Engineer	Ahmet KÜÇÜKDÖNGÜL
19	TURKEY	Forest Engineer	Yunus Barış ODABAŞI
20	TURKEY	Agricultural Engineer	İnci TOPRAK AKIN
21	TURKEY	Office Assistant	Metin KAYA
22	TURKEY	Computer Officer	Selda ÜNAL
23	TURKEY	General Manager-General Directorate of Forestry (OGM)	Mustafa KURTULMUŞLU
24	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Havva KAPTAN
25	TURKEY	Branch Manager	Abdurrahman KÖK
26	TURKEY	Branch Manager-General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks	Zerrin KARAASLAN

	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION / ADDRESS	NAME
1	TURKEY	President- Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency -TİKA	Dr. Serdar ÇAM
2	TURKEY	Expert	Sibel GÜNEĞİ
3	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Melih Seyfettin GÜNGÖR
4	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Timuçin ÜNLÜ
5	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Tuna COPPENS
6	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Sabiha ASLAN
7	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Salih AYDIN
8	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	İnci Tekeli
9	TURKEY	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	Oktay OKUR
12	TURKEY	Food and Agriculture Organisation	Ekrem YAZICI

Foreign Civil Society Organizations

	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION / ADDRESS	NAME
1	ALBANIA	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)	Bledi HOXHA
2	ALBANIA	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)	Mirjan TOPI
3	AZERBAIJAN	Ecological Society "Ruzgar"	Eldar Ağasalamoğlu GURBANOV
4	AZERBAIJAN	Ecological Society "Ruzgar"	Mehman NABIYEV
5	BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA	KJP "SARAJEVO ŠUME" D.O.O. SARAJEVO	AIDA OZEGOVIC
6	BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA	JP "ŠUME TK" DD KLADANJ	SEID CORBIC
7	BURUNDI	Proprete Environnement et Sante (PES)	Jean Donatien NSHIMIRIMANA
8	CAMEROON	Rural Women Environmental Protection Association (RWEPA)	Rose Ateng JAJIMBAH
9	CONGO	ONG Forum International pour l'Exploitation Forestiere (FIEF)	Ernest Manganda ILOWEKA
10	CONGO	ONG Forum International pour l'Exploitation Forestiere (FIEF)	Georges Kaponsola ILUNGA
11	GEORGIA	ECOVISION – The Union for Sustainable Development	NINO SULKHANISHVILI
12	KYRGYZSTAN	CAMP Alattoo Public Foundation	Azamat Turganbekovich ISAKOV
13	KYRGYZSTAN	Egemenlik Kamu Vakfi/Derneği	Temirlan SARLYKBEKUULU
14	MALI	Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement (AFAD)	Sina DAMBA MAIGA
15	MALI	Oeuvre Malienne pour le Développement des Zones Arides (OMADEZA) Malian's Arids Lands Development Organization	Ibrahima SEMEGA
16	MAURITIUS	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATION	Deepti Beeharry PANRAY
17	MOLDOVA	ECOTOX	Lucia BILETCHI
18	MONGOLIA	Mongolian Hydrometeorological Society	Dagdandorj ODONTSETSEG
19	MONGOLIA	Development and Environment Center	Tsokhio ADIYASUREN
20	MOZAMBIQUE	Aro Moçambique (ex Aro Juvenil)	Policarpo Filomeno TAMELE
21	NIGER	ONG Plate forme des jeunes du Sahel(PFJS) Niamey, Niger	Moussa HALILOU
22	NIGER	Jeunesse - Environnement - Democratie - Developpement (JEDD)	Mariama Elhadji Saidou SOULEY
23	PAKISTAN	Society of Animal, Veterinary and Environmental Scientists (SAVES)	Abdul RAZIQ
24	SENEGAL	ENDA	Faye Ndeye FATOU
25	SENEGAL	ENDA	Aby DRAME
26	TAJIKISTAN	Tajik Academy of Agriculture Sciences	Hukmatullo AHMADOV
27	TAJIKISTAN	Agency for support of Process Nau	Jamshed KAYUMOV
28	TANZANIA	Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET)	John Stan CHIKOMO
29	TOGO	NGO Les Compagnons Ruraux	Yawo Kouma Jules ADJIMA
30	UNCCD	UNCCD	Marcos MONTOIRO

Turkish Civil Society Organizations

	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION / ADDRESS	NAME
1	TURKEY	Turkey's Nature Protection Association	Kemal Burak BEYAZ
2	TURKEY	Chamber of Forest Engineers	Mevlüt DÜZGÜN
3	TURKEY	The Foresters' Association of Turkey	Hüseyin ÇETİN
4	TURKEY	Agricultural Research Service	Halil İbrahim EKREN
5	TURKEY	Soil Science Society of Turkey	Prof. Dr. Ayten NAMLI
6	TURKEY	Turkey Union of Chambers of Agriculture	Mehmet Fethi GÜVEN
7	TURKEY	Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion for Reforestation and Protection of Natural Habitats	Duygu KUTLUAY
8	TURKEY	Nature Conservation centre	Uğur ZEYDANLI
9	TURKEY		Deniz ÖZÜT
10	TURKEY	Konya Şeker San. ve Tic. A.Ş.	Tamer DEĞER
11	TURKEY		Muammer ÖZMEN
12	TURKEY	Gök Kubbe Association	Volkan KILIÇ
13	TURKEY	Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations	H. İbrahim UZUN

“Governments should introduce sustainable land-use into their policies, make it their priority and set up national targets to halt land degradation.
Businesses should invest in practices that increase efficiency in land-use. Scientists, media and civil society should help us spread the word that this goal is crucial.
Together, we can make this paradigm shift.”

**From the message of Mr. Luc Gnacadja,
Executive Secretary of UNCCD,
on World Day to Combat Desertification,
17 June 2012**

