



## **Dialogue between Science & Civil Society: a link to strengthen?**

Perspectives from an NGO working on cooperation and policy development for sustainable land use in dryland areas

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**Special Issue "The Global Jatropha Hype—Drivers and Consequences of the Boom and Bust of a Wonder Crop"**

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A special issue of *Sustainability* (ISSN 2071-1050).

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **closed (28 February 2014)**

**Special Issue Editors**

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**Interests:** sustainable livelihoods; land policies and the impact of privatization, tourism and international migration

**Special Issue Information**

Dear Colleagues,

This special issue aims to collect case studies regarding the global Jatropha hype, which analyze in detail the boost and bust of this wonder crop in the context of different countries and under different business models. We will focus, in particular, on who created the hype (including the role of the media); the success of Jatropha producers in acquiring land (and how they managed to win against competing land claims); the characteristics of the investors and what they did to do to promote their ideas and investment plans); as well as the consequences for local groups, national economies, and the environment.

To the extent that Jatropha production has indeed 'boosted' (and is now occupying considerable areas of land) there are basic questions that require scrutiny: what business models are used and what are current patterns of benefit sharing? In cases where investors have moved away from Jatropha, what were the reasons for this bust, and how was this framed? What happened to the land, and what kind of transformations have taken place instead (such inquiries have to account for the perspectives of local actors as well)? Looking at the Jatropha hype (or hypes regarding other wonder crops that, in the end, did not materialize), what can we learn? What enabled Jatropha to become so hyped? What narrative was behind the hype? What remains after the hype has gone, and how can new fads of the same ilk be prevented?





A global initiative to combat desertification

A publication from the *DESIRE* project - funded by the European Union's 6th Framework Program 'Global Change and Ecosystems'

January 2012

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Recommendations  
from the DESIRE  
project

## DESIRE: lessons learned on science-NGO collaboration in research projects

It is often said that scientists work in an ivory tower, not able to share their research with the rest of the (non-scientific) world. This is especially so with the natural sciences, whose research topics are technical, specific and difficult to understand. However, in order to convince those who determine land use and design agricultural policies the latest cutting-edge research on these topics is needed; if only to support the 35% of the world population living in drylands facing the problems of land degradation, hunger and poverty.













## Decision 23/COP.11

### **Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought**

*Taking note of document ICCD/COP(11)/21 containing the report by the Intersessional Working Group on the Mid-term Evaluation of The Strategy,*

*Considering the recommendations made by the AGSA toward an integrated scenario for the provision of scientific advice to the UNCCD,*

1. *Decides to establish a Science-Policy Interface to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought;*
2. *Also decides that the Science-Policy Interface will function up to the end of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, at which time it will be reviewed;*
3. *Further decides that the mandate of the Science-Policy Interface is to: (i) establish the approach to deliver each task assigned to it by the Committee on Science and Technology; (ii) analyse, synthesize and translate relevant scientific findings and*





## Decision 23/COP.11

### **Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought**

conferences and assessing their results;

4. *Decides* that the membership of the Science-Policy Interface should comprise: (1) members of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology; (2) five scientists, one nominated by each Regional Implementation Annex regions; (3) ten scientists selected by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology through an open call taking into account regional and disciplinary balance; and (4) **three observers: one from a civil society organization, one from an international organization and one from a relevant United Nations organization;**

5. *Also decides* that the Science-Policy Interface will be co-chaired by the Chair of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and a scientist chosen by the





UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

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### Science and Policy Interface Holds Its Inaugural Meeting

27/06/14 - The first meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) took place at the UNCCD headquarters in Bonn, Germany, on 24-26 June. The SPI agreed on its work programme up to COP 12....

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### 20 Years of Progress

Watch videos showing some of the achievements in soil management, agriculture, forestry, water management and others made possible by the existence of the convention.

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### 3rd UNCCD scientific conference: call for abstracts

The UNCCD 3rd scientific conference will be held from 9 to 12 March 2015 in Mexico. The call for abstracts is now open until 15 September 2014.

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### 2014 reporting exercise - new reporting deadline

At its meeting on 23 June, the CRIC Bureau decided to extend the reporting deadline to 31 July 2014. The Bureau urged Parties and other reporting entities to meet the new deadline. For full detailed information on the current reporting exercise, visit...

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### UNCCD Knowledge Products



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### Land Degradation Neutrality

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# 1) For Policy makers



- Hear all sides of the story and engage with scientists, CSOs and people in drylands.
- Invite local communities to participate in land use planning, adaptation projects and natural resources management
- Earmark funds to participatory knowledge development on sustainable land use and adaptation.
- Bring down the silos between ministries. Develop a cross-sectoral approach. Take a sustainable land use perspective in others decision-making areas, such as infrastructure, investment, climate policies and energy. In other words, assure that policies are coherent.



## 2) For Donors, both public and private



- Issue grants for cooperation between CSOs and scientists, in order to better understand the positive effects of sustainable land use on the adaptation agenda.
- Engage with CSOs working on sustainable land use and adaptation projects with people in drylands.
- Include civil society from the beginning in applied research projects by insisting on CSO involvement in the call for and development of ideas.



### 3) Scientists



- Go talk with people living in drylands.
- Be aware that your research can and will be used for specific political purposes.
- Engage with CSOs and hear how your research might be interpreted by other parties



## 4) CSOs



- Engage with scientists and policy makers
- Introduce realities from local communities to scientists' models, databases and test tubes
- Increase the capabilities of local communities and CSOs to engage in scientific debates and in policy processes related to sustainable land use, adaptation and natural resources management







**Merci pour votre attention**

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