

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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Draft concept note

Virtual forum on Commemoration of the World desertification & Drought Day, 17th - 18th June 2021

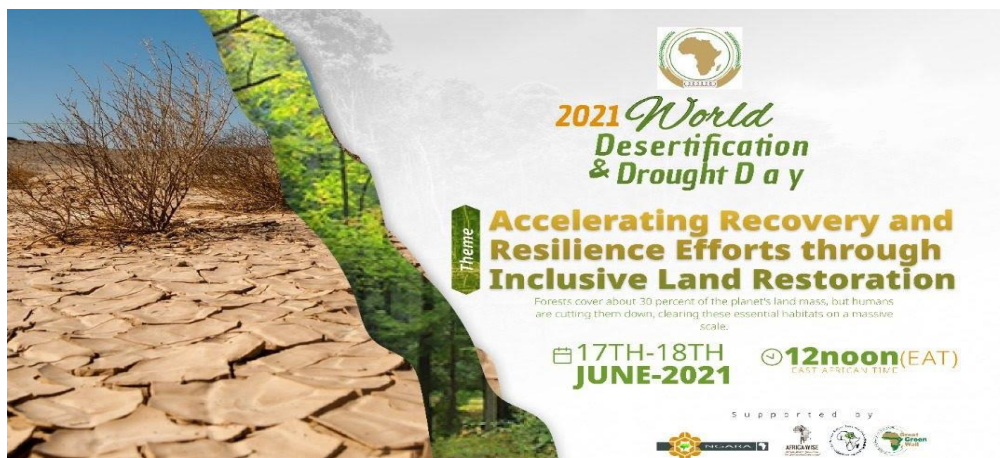
Theme 'Restoration, Land, Recovery,

Desertification
& Drought Day 17 JUNE
2021



Restoration. Land. Recovery.

We build back better with healthy land



1. Introduction

To commemorate the World desertification & Drought Day, the Africa Union Commission and Partners will be organising a two day virtual forum on Commemoration of, 17th & 18th June 2021 to showcase activities, projects and programmes undertaken to combat desertification, drought.

2. Background

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought and this has since been commemorated annually.

The theme for this year is Restoration. Land. Recovery, and focuses on turning degraded land into healthy land. Restoring degraded lands brings economic resilience, creates jobs, raises incomes and increases food security. Furthermore, it contributes towards restoration of biodiversity. The theme also entails locking out atmospheric carbon that accounts for the warming the Earth. It can also lessen the impacts of climate change as it underpins a post COVID-19 green recovery.

To mark this day, the Africa Union Commission, in collaboration with Partners are organising a virtual forum on the 17th and 18th June 2021. The general objective of the forum is to bring together key implementing Partners involved in land restoration and combating desertification in order to raise awareness on their activities as well as to promote the domestication of the African Union's Sustainable Forest Management Framework (AUSFMF), which was adopted by the AU summit in 2020.

The theme for this virtual forum is “Accelerating Recovery and Resilience Efforts through Inclusive Land Restoration”

The theme aligns with the efforts undertaken in the field to combat desertification and drought and also to build back better from the impacts of COVID 19 Pandemics through land restoration.

The expected result is to sensitize participants on the challenges of land degradation, desertification, drought, and also the diverse activities undertaken to combat desertification and drought in the Dry lands of Africa.

Key Partners to be invited include representatives of the Great Green Wall initiative in AU Member states, Regional Economic Communities, the UNCCD Regional office, FAO Regional office, the international Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall, Africa WISE, CIVIC UK, AU SAFGRAD, Trees for the Future, SEPA Zambia, One Billion Trees for Africa, JAKSALLY youth Group Ghana, YODO Cameroon, and many other Civil Society Organisations.

Methodology: Virtual meeting through zoom platforms with synchronized interpretation, facilitated by a Consultant.

Registration on the zoom

link <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvcOrrTwvHNUxE9JBSSnelRSnJwz-v7g7>

