

DesertNet International



DesertNet International Newsletter n. 3/2012

This quarterly electronic newsletter is intended to inform the scientific community about dryland-relevant research matters. The **deadline** for receipt of material for the next issue is **15.02.2013**. Please send your contributions (1000 characters max, including spaces) to czanolla@uniss.it

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1. Information relevant to DesertNet members

Message from Giuseppe Enne about DNI Visibility

Dear Members of DesertNet International,

among the main objectives of my mandate is to increase the visibility of DesertNet International at the global level because I believe that this is one of the mechanisms to implement participation from all different geographical contexts and therefore increase DNI capacity to tackle major global environmental problems and further reinforce the scientific role of DNI.

I firmly believe that the visibility of our Association largely depends also on the commitment of each of you. To attain this objective, I would like to invite you to contribute to increase DNI visibility by mentioning your DNI affiliation, besides your institutional address, in your future articles/publications whenever this is possible. By way of example:

Prof. Giuseppe Enne

NRD - Nucleo Ricerca Desertificazione, Università degli Studi di Sassari

Member of DesertNet International (DNI) - www.desertnet-international.org

This way, any reader can be stimulated to acquire additional information on DNI and visit our web site.

In case you mention DesertNet International in your publication, I also invite you to send copy of your publication to the DNI Bureau Coordinator (czanolla@uniss.it), because it can be useful for the scientific activity of DNI as well as, eventually, for the scientific activity of the UNCCD secretariat. Similarly, you could also disseminate information on DNI at relevant national and international events that you will attend.

Thank you for your kind collaboration and very kind regards

Giuseppe Enne, Chair of DNI

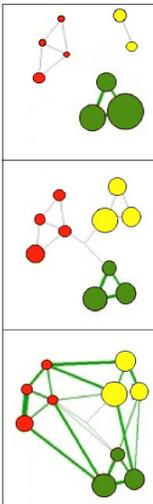
Relocation of the DNI's website on a new server

Thanks to the support of Thomas Hillmann, IT specialist from the University of Hamburg, the DNI website has been relocated and the new DNI web site address is www.desertnet-international.org (instead of "www.european-desertnet.eu").

Similarly, the new e-mail address of the office is now office@desertnet-international.org. If "www.european-desertnet.eu" or subpages are entered a corresponding message appears that there is a new server. You will be automatically redirected in 10 seconds.

Information contributed by: Thomas Hillman, University of Hamburg, DNI member

DNI Task Force on Land and Soil - Invitation to participate in a bibliometric analysis on land/soil for environmental management



Despite the large amount of scientific knowledge produced by research on land and on soils, recent polls carried out independently by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and by DesertNet International, highlighted that results of basic research are not sufficiently used and that there is a strong need for better information transfer about land and about soils for environmental management. This gap jeopardizes the efficiency of programmes to combat land degradation, particularly in drylands, where livelihoods are very dependent from the natural resources.

We invite DNI members to participate in this analysis to better grasp the “landscape” of research on Land and Soils issues using bibliometric methods and data mining of publications. You can participate in the supporting bibliometric study on the connections between researchers, governmental and non-governmental institutions and land users. We will address the diversity and strength of these connections trying to map the structure of this area of science.

The results are planned to be presented at the next European Geosciences Union congress in April 2013 and published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Please contact Richard Escadafal (richard.escadafal@ird.fr) or Maria Jose Marques (mariajose.marques@uam.es).

Information contributed by: Maria Jose Marques Perez, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain

UNCCD's ad hoc working group to “further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues”

Decision 20/COP.9 requested the CST to plan both long-term and short-term measures to enable the UNCCD to provide scientific support in pursuit of operational objective 3 of The Strategy. By the same decision it was decided to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the

provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD.

The ad hoc working group had its constitutional meeting in Bonn/Germany on 30th and 31st July 2012 and is now analysing various options, which are to be presented to UNCCD COP11 in 2013. Members of DNI are actively involved in the ad hoc working group.

Information contributed by: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, DNI Advisory Board

2. Researchers Updates

Oblique Earth Observation



The photographs from Crew Earth Observations (CEO) document human impacts on Earth. The International Space Station (ISS) crewmembers take photographs that support research in a wide variety of Earth Science sub-disciplines. Crewmembers take these photographs as time is available and during their leisure time.

The images are used as educational and research tools, as well as historical records of global environmental change, special geological and weather events, and the growth and change of human-made features.

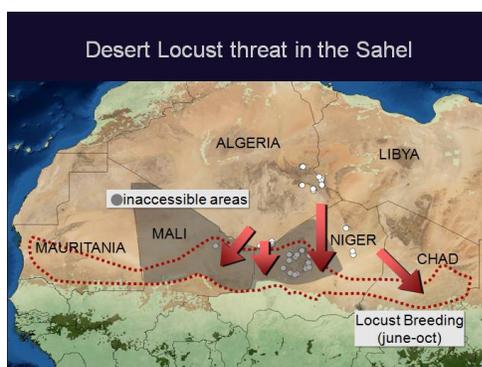
More information at:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/CEO.html

Fig.: This photograph of Northern deserts of Wadi As-Sirhan Basin in Saudi Arabia was acquired in February 2012 from astronauts on the ISS. It presents green fields of fruits, vegetables, and wheat irrigated by water pumped from underground aquifers.

Information contributed by: Maria José Marques Pérez, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, DNI Treasurer

2012: Short and long term damages from locust swarm in Sahel



(1987-88).

Fig: 2012 Desert locust threat in Sahel – © FAO

Sources: Survey by FAO: <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>

Mesplé-Somps S. (2012): Invasions de criquets : des dégâts à long terme. , *Sciences au Sud, le journal de l'IRD*, 66 (Sept- Oct. 2012), 12



Information contributed by: Gerard Begni, CNES ; DNI/AB ; CSFD, France, DNI Advisory Board

CASCADE Project

CASCADE is assessing current biophysical conditions in healthy, partly-degraded and strongly degraded selected plant-soil systems at study sites in Portugal, Spain (2), Italy, Greece and Cyprus.

Then it will determine the effects of imposed drought on plant-soil ecosystem functioning, including facilitation and competition between plants, and how these processes affect plant resource use, survival and growth. Four sites are examining overgrazing and its effects, and the remaining 2 look at the effects of

wildfires changing forest to shrub. CASCADE partners responsible for the study sites met in Italy recently to refine ideas for the planned experiments.

The number and location of plots have been agreed, plus common guidelines for all measurements and sampling procedures for the plants and soils. CASCADE research will be featured in a workshop at the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference in Brazil in February 2013. For more information about CASCADE research visit: <http://www.cascade-project.eu/>

Information contributed by: Nichola Geeson, CASCADE dissemination

Sept. 9, 2012: SPOT-6 successfully launched.

On Sept. 9, the SPOT-6 satellite built and operated by ASTRIUM was successfully launched by a PSLV Indian rocket. Together with PLEIADES satellites, SPOT 6 and SPOT 7 will form a constellation of Earth-observation satellites with highly responsive sensors designed to increase acquisition capacity and simplify data access. SPOT 6 and SPOT 7 will assure continuity of high-resolution, wide-area data through to 2024. The SPOT satellites history began in 1986. So, a 25 year archive is now available – an unique tool for desertification studies and monitoring.

Just as in previous SPOT series satellites, the imaging swath is 60 km but flexibility and resolution have been greatly improved. SPOT-6 offers the following spectral products:

Fig: Desert in the Dubai region observed by SPOT-6 – © ASTRIUM.

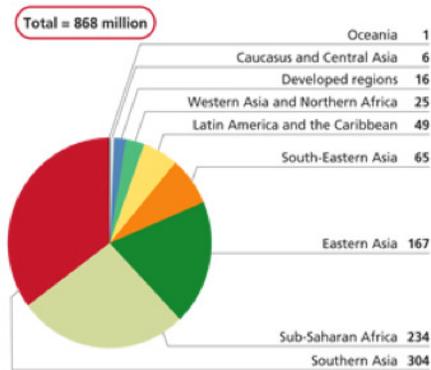
- Bundle: panchromatic (1.5 m) and multispectral (6 m) bands, delivered separately
- Pan-sharpened: merged 1.5-m colour image with 3 or 4 bands

SPOT 7 should join the constellation in January 2014. SPOT 6 and SPOT 7 products will be available on line through a seamless and intuitive map interface on the Geostore web portal as soon as commercial operations get underway in 2013.

Sources: <http://www.astrium-geo.com/fr/870-spot-6-7>

Information contributed by: Gerard Begni, CNES ; DNI/AB ; CSFD, France, DNI Advisory Board

New figures of hunger across the globe



Recent past estimates were wrong, hunger has actually dropped. Using a new method, the FAO recalculated its hunger figures and estimated the number of undernourished people worldwide at nearly 870 million. The UN international groups estimate that hunger rate in the developing countries could fall to 12.5% in three years. Hunger rates have fallen the most in Asia and Caribbean but is again increasing in much of Africa and Middle East.

Source: Los Angeles Times, October 2012

More information at: <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

Undernourishment in 2010-2012 by region (millions). Source FAO

Information contributed by: Maria Jose Marques Perez, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, DNI Treasurer

Dromedaries changes into camels: hydrological regimes of Sahelian rivers.



Flooding in Niamey, Niger, 2010 – © WN

According to *Descroix et al.*, significant changes are occurring in the hydrological regime of the Sahelian rivers. For instance, no specific event could explain the dramatic 2010 floods of Niger in Niamey.

Niger is by far the longest Sahelian stream. Its regime is changing from a quasi-single hydrograph to a clear bimodal one. The local flood occurring during the rainy season tends to be the more pronounced one. This change appears linked to an increase of bare soils and crusts in its main and many tributary watersheds as a consequence of strong human pressure in semi-arid regions. Managers have to be aware of these interactions between land use under anthropic pressure and rivers hydrographic regime, both for day-to-day water management and for extreme events mitigation.

Sources: Descroix et al (2012) : Changes in Sahelian Rivers hydrograph; the case of recent floods of the Niger River in the Niamey region, *Global and Planetary Change*, 98-99 (2012), 18-30

Descroix, L. (2012): Activités humaines et inondations au Niger, *Sciences au Sud, le journal de l'IRD*, 66 (Sept- Oct. 2012), 12

Information contributed by: Gerard Begni, CNES ; DNI/AB ; CSFD, France, DNI Advisory Board

Land Day 6. Land-degradation neutrality



*Mr. Luc Gnacadja. UNCCD
Executive Secretary at the Land
Day 6, on 15th. October 2012*

This forum took place on October 2012 as a response to the 2020 Aichi Targets, one of them is to restore 15% of degraded land to achieve sustainable management of land under agriculture and forests. Several keynote relevant speakers presented their visions about the links between desertification, biodiversity and climate change and the opportunity to use sustainable land management to contribute to human coexistence with nature. The detailed report and power point presentations will be posted soon at: <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/Land-Day/Land%20day%206/Pages/Land-Day-6-report.aspx>

Information contributed by: DNI Bureau

3. Important upcoming events

List of links to next meetings regarding desertification, water conservation and land degradation.

2012		
12-15 Nov	4th International Conference on Dryland, Deserts and Desertification http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/desertification/Pages/default.aspx	Sede Boqer, Israel
15-16 Nov	Feeding the World, Africa http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/feeding-world-africa?utm_source=Diary%2Blisting&utm_medium=listing&utm_campaign=DL	Johannesburg, South Africa
22-24 Nov	Global Envir. Change and Human Security: The Need for a New vision for Science, Policy and Leadership (Climate Change as an Opportunity) http://www.nrcs-center.org/scientific-events/gecs-2012/	Marrakech, Morocco
3-5 Dec	2012 International Development Conference http://idc2012.org.nz	Auckland, New Zealand
11-13 Dec	4th International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation and Drainage: Management, Technologies and Policies http://www.wessex.ac.uk/12-conferences/sustainable-irrigation-2012.html	Adelaide, Australia
2013		
4-7 Feb	UNCCD 2nd. Scientific Conference. Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas http://2sc.unccd.int/home/	Fortaleza, Brazil
4-7 Feb	VI Simposio Nacional. Control de Degradación y Restauración de Suelos http://www.condegres.com/	Almeria, Spain
7-9 Feb	International Conference On Contemporary Debates In Public Policy And Management http://www.iimcal.ac.in/international-conference-contemporary-debates-public-policy-and-management-7-9-february-2013	Kolkata, India
24-25 Feb	5 th Intl. Conference on Water Resources and Sustainable Development http://ciredd.ensh.dz/	Algiers, Algeria
25-26 Feb	Green Growth. Transforming economies for competitiveness and resilience? http://www.chathamhouse.org/GreenGrowth2013?campaign=confalerts	London, UK
9-11 Mar	PSPC 2013- Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Conference 2013 http://www.tomorrowpeople.org/poverty-social-protection-conference.html	Bangkok, Thailand
7-12 April	European Geosciences Union, General Assembly http://www.egu2013.eu/	Vienna, Austria
4-7 Jun	Mapping Global Change: Spatial Statistics 2013 http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/	Columbus, Ohio, USA
14-17 Jun	19th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment http://ieaonline.org/?page_id=68	Portland, Oregon, USA
17-18 Jun	5 th Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation www.desertland.eu	Ghent, Belgium
22-25 May	2nd International Scientific Conference RESPAG - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SPATIAL PLANNING AND STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE http://www.respag.org/welcome.php	Belgrade, Serbia
4-6 Sept	Utilization and protection of halophytes and salt-affected landscapes http://members.iif.hu/tot3700/salinityconferencehungary2013.html	Kecskemét, Hungary
29 Sept- 2 Oct	First International Conference on Global Food Security http://www.globalfoodsecurityconference.com/	Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands

Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation - Ghent, Belgium 17-18 June 2013

2013 is celebrating the 5th anniversary of the UNESCO Chair on Eremology, the 25th year of ESSC (European Society for Soil Conservation) and the 10th year of existence of CAZALAC, the Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Latin America and Caribbean, located in Chile. The **Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation 2013** will act as a platform and a catwalk for showing actions and projects undertaken in recent years for combating desertification, land degradation and drought in different climatic zones and at different scales.

Among the objectives of the conference is taking stock of not only the current scientific knowledge but also of the current strategies of management of drylands and of drought affected areas, and this at a national, regional and community level.

For further information, please visit www.desertland.eu and/or contact donald.gabriels@UGent.be

Your intention to participate (eventually with title of presentation) can already be send to: info@desertland.eu

Information contributed by: Prof Donald Gabriels, Chairman UNESCO Chair on Eremology, Ghent University, Belgiu, DNI Steering Committee

4. Publications and Special Issues

1. Bruins, H. J. 2012. Ancient desert agriculture in the Negev and climate-zone boundary changes during average, wet and drought years. *Journal of Arid Environments*, 86. DOI 10.1016/j.jaridenv.2012.01.015
2. Chi, C. M., Zhao, C. W., Sun, X. J. & Wang, Z. C. 2012. Reclamation of saline-sodic soil properties and improvement of rice (*Oriza sativa* L.) growth and yield using desulfurized gypsum in the west of Songnen Plain, northeast China. *Geoderma*, 187, 24-30.
3. de Oliveira, G., Araujo, M. B., Rangel, T. F., Alagador, D. & Felizola Diniz-Filho, J. A. 2012. Conserving the Brazilian semiarid (Caatinga) biome under climate change. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 21. DOI 10.1007/s10531-012-0346-7
4. Hooke, J. & Sandercock, P. 2012. Use of vegetation to combat desertification and land degradation: Recommendations and guidelines for spatial strategies in Mediterranean lands. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 107. DOI 0.1016/j.landurbplan.2012.07.007
5. Hosseini, S. M., Sadrafshari, S. & Fayzolahpour, M. 2012. Desertification hazard zoning in Sistan Region, Iran. *Journal of Geographical Sciences*, 22. DOI 10.1007/s11442-012-0970-x
6. Huber-Sannwald, E., Ribeiro Palacios, M., Arredondo Moreno, J. T., Braasch, M., Martinez Pena, R. M., de Alba Verduzco, J. G. & Monzalvo Santos, K. 2012. Navigating challenges and opportunities of land degradation and sustainable livelihood development in dryland social-ecological systems: a case study from Mexico. *Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological sciences*, 367. DOI 10.1098/rstb.2011.0349
7. Iraj Emadodin, Daiju Narita, Hans Rudolf Bork (2012) Soil degradation and agricultural sustainability: an overview from Iran. *Journal of Environment, Development and Sustainability*, October 2012, Volume 14, Issue 5, pp 611-625 DOI: 10.1007/s10668-012-9351-y
8. Kuhn, N. J. & E. K. Armstrong. 2012. Erosion of organic matter from sandy soils: Solving the mass balance. *Catena*, 98, 87-95.
9. Perez-Brandan, C., J. L. Arzeno, J. Huidobro, B. Grumberg, C. Conforto, S. Hilton, G. D. Bending, J. M. Meriles & S. Vargas-Gil. 2012. Long-term effect of tillage systems on soil microbiological, chemical and physical parameters and the incidence of charcoal rot by *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) Goid in soybean. *Crop Protection*, 40, 73-82.
10. Vallejo, V. R., Smanis, A., Chirino, E., Fuentes, D., Valdecantos, A. & Vilagrosa, A. 2012. Perspectives in dryland restoration: approaches for climate change adaptation. *New Forests*, 43. DOI 10.1007/s11056-012-9325-9
11. Yang, L. & Wu, J. 2012. Knowledge-driven institutional change: An empirical study on combating desertification in northern china from 1949 to 2004. *Journal of environmental management*, 110. DOI 10.1086/667232

Conserving Dryland Biodiversity (2012)

By Jonathan Davies, Lene Poulsen, Björn Schulte-Herbrüggen, Kathy Mackinnon, Nigel Crawhall, William D. Henwood, Nigel Dudley, Jessica Smith and Masumi Gudka. DNI members participated in the development of this report.

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/ecosystem_management/about_work_global_prog_ecos_dry

Conservation Payments under Uncertainty when Nonuse Benefits have Market Value (Working Paper) (2012)

By Stefanie Engel, Charles Palmer, Luca Taschini and Simon Urech. The Working Paper can be found here:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1973449

A new publication by the Royal Society Publishing

Royal Society Publishing has just published *Impacts of global environmental change on drylands: from ecosystem structure and functioning to poverty alleviation*, compiled and edited by Fernando T. Maestre and Roberto Salguero-Gómez. See – <http://bit.ly/HHrv7v> for further details or you can go straight to the issue contents at <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/367/1606.toc> The issue (and all Royal Society content) is currently freely available to access online until 29th November 2012. For more information you can you can contact debbie.vaughan@royalsociety.org

Information contributed by Felicity Davie, Tou-can Marketing, UK

Proceedings of the 2011 CSFD-IAMM Research Seminar

The proceedings of the 2011 CSFD-IAMM Research Seminar on Evaluations of actions, policies, projects to fight desertification are now online*: <http://www.revue-secheresse.fr/>. This special issue of the Journal 'Secheresse' is a selection of papers in French and in English, edited by Dr Mélanie Réquier-Desjardins and Dr Antoine Cornet (IAMM and CSFD, France).

It is meant as a contribution to the issues to be discussed in the next UNCCD scientific conference in Fortaleza (Brazil, February 2013) where the main findings of this seminar will be presented and discussed in a dedicated session. Among the authors you will recognize distinguished members of DNI!

**It can also be ordered as a printed version.*

Information contributed by Richard Escadafal, DNI General Secretary and CSFD chair, www.csf-desertification.org

5. Other Information

Call for papers

The *King Saud University Journal of Science* encourages high quality submissions to this journal by international scholars working in a variety of scientific disciplines focusing on current trends and challenges in land conservation. This open access peer reviewed journal is hosted by Elsevier and under review of Thomson Reuters (http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/722784/description#description). Kindly contact Dr. Rizwan Irshad. Assistant Editor KSAJS. Email: rirshad@KSU.EDU.SA

Information contributed by: Maria Jose Marques Perez Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, DNI Treasurer

Call for Short Term Scientific Missions



A number of grants are available to fund or part-fund Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) for Early Stage Researchers (ESRs, i.e. PhD + maximum 8 years) to visit collaborating institutions. The goals of the research visits must be related to the goals of the Action which focuses on arid lands restoration and the combat of desertification. The scope of the visits is for ESRs to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory and/or to collaborate with researchers who are undertaking studies not available in their home institutions.

Who can apply? postgraduate student or postdoctoral fellow and institutions of a COST Country which has accepted the Memorandum of Understanding of the Action and is actively participating in the COST Action or from a 'Near-Neighbour' approved institution. Criteria

- 1) Research subject must be relevant to COST Action ES1104.
- 2) Applicant and host must be from two different member countries.
- 3) STSM funding is a contribution towards travel and subsistence costs, and cannot be used as a salary.
- 4) Duration of research visit: from 5 working days to 3 months (6 months for Early Stage Researchers).
- 5) Maximum funding: €2500 or €3500 for long stays above 3 months for ESRs. More than €2000 will be granted only in exceptional cases.
- 6) Early Career Researchers have priority.

The application process

- 1) Liaise with the Institute you wish to visit.
- 2) Liaise with STSM Coordinator and/or Chair about the proposed study.
- 3) See the Desert Restoration Hub website for more information and details on how to apply.

For more information, please visit: <http://desertrestorationhub.com/about/stsms>.

Information contributed by: Maria Jose Marques Perez, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, DNI Treasurer

Growth and Sustainability in a highly dynamic city - Exploring the urban development in South Chennai - 24th February - 10th March 2013



DNI member Christopher Martius, currently a Visiting Professor at the Indo-German Center for Sustainability (IGCS), Chennai, India, is organizing the IGCS's Winter School 2013.

The School will explore the potential and risks of urban development. Participants will be introduced to interdisciplinary research on biophysical, economic and social drivers and constraints of urban sustainability. The program combines a series of key lectures with hands-on field research in work groups.

Chennai is a bustling metropolis with about 9 million inhabitants in Southern India. Rapidly growing urban populations, a burgeoning car and services industry and uncoordinated urban expansion place a heavy burden on the environmental services provided by natural resources and on which the city depends.

The course is open to Master and Ph.D. Students in academic fields related to sustainable and urban development. Interested individuals must apply for admission by e-mail to school@igcs-chennai.org until 30th November 2012. More detail about how to apply is to be found in the Winter School flyer, downloadable under <http://www.igcs.chennai.org>

Information contributed by Christopher Martius, Univ. of Bonn, Germany, DNI Advisory Board

World Wide Views on Biodiversity

In September 2012, 3000 Citizens from 25 countries took part in a global event titled “World Wide Views on Biodiversity”. The aim of the project was to perceive the view of ordinary citizens and make these available to the policymaking, thus supporting the development dialogue between these two stakeholders. The results from the meetings were presented at COP11 in India in October 2012, and can be viewed at:

<http://biodiversity.wvviews.org/the-results>

Information contributed by: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, DNI Advisory Board

EGU General Assembly 2013



Several sessions on desertification and land degradation are going to be held at the next EGU General Assembly 2013, from 7 to 12 April 2013 in Vienna, Austria:

SSS0. 3 - Soils in Africa: challenges and opportunities

SSS0. 7 - Digital soil mapping: novel approaches and sensing techniques to the prediction of key soil properties

SSS0. 8 - Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Soil Systems: Monitoring, Modeling and Characterization of soil water contents and soil properties

SSS9. 2 - Studying soils and/or land: Approaches for sustainable management of the environment

SSS9. 3 - Successful Governmental policies and actions for a better soil management

SSS9. 5 - Co-evolution of soil and vegetation and the impact of human interventions on hydro-geomorphological systems

SSS9.11 - Soil erosion and desertification processes in Mediterranean areas

SSS10.2 - Soil and irrigation sustainability practices

SSS10.3 - Sustainable productivity of soils: a question of balance

More information at: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2013/sessionprogramme/SSS>

Other programmes: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/egu2013/sessionprogramme>

GeoCinema



Short clips and longer films related to geosciences can be submitted to the programme of the upcoming European Geosciences Union congress (April 2013- Vienna, Austria).

Multiple submissions from the same person are welcome. Audio or subtitles of all films must be in English. The deadline for submission of this form is 14 December 2012.

More information at: <http://www.egu.eu/geocinema/>

Information contributed by: Maria Jose Marques Perez, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, DNI Treasurer

---- Editorial Board ----

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