



National Action Programme to Combat Desertification

Department of Land Conservation and Combat Desertification of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Digital Newsletter

Publication N.º 13

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Department of Land
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451 San Martín St. , 4.º floor
Office 434 (1004)
Autonomous City of Buenos
Aires
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Tel. (5411) 4348-8567/73
Fax (5411) 4348-8265

UNPD Project
ARG/06/008
"Building Strategic Financial
Partnerships to Consolidate
The National Action
Programme to Combat
Desertification in Argentina"

Leading Article

Second UNCCD International Photography Contest. Deadline 17/07/09.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in cooperation with the Argentine National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, is launching its Second International Photo Contest.

The purpose of this contest is to raise awareness in society in general for the issues of land degradation and desertification, as well as of their social consequences.

The jury, which is made up of prominent personalities, will select the three best photos that, conceptually and artistically, depict either the efforts of inhabitants conserving land or water in drylands and the relationship between affected people and ecosystems in these areas.

This year, the theme for the World Day to Combat Desertification —which will be celebrated next 17 June — is "Conserving land and water = securing our common future". Thus, this theme has been chosen to raise awareness in society about the global interdependence of the world's natural resources, such as land, water or the weather as a whole.

For most of the last century and, since the end of the Cold War especially, the world has been undergoing a paradigm change. Therefore, the notion of security has expanded beyond the idea of protection that sovereign nations should promote in relation to hostile acts. Security is now an encompassing notion of assuring people freedom and that it also recognizes sustainable development as part of this process.

Desertification, land degradations and drought threaten human security by depriving people of their forms of life by taking away food, access to water, the means for doing business, and even their homes. Failing policies and climate change are putting more pressure on the soil. When secure water and food supplies cannot be guaranteed, inhabitants usually migrate to areas where they believe they can find them. The most recent estimates put the number of the environmentally displaced between 17 and 24 million people all over the world. It is projected that, for the period leading up to the year 2050, 200 million inhabitants will have to migrate due to environmental reasons.

The imminent loss of fertile lands —as predicted by

AGENDA

May 4-15: New York, EEUU
17th Session of the UN Commission
on Sustainable Development.

5 May, 8 p.m.

The four-episode TV programme called "New Tools" ("Nuev@s Herramient@s") will be broadcasted on the *Canal Encuentro* (the educational channel of the Argentine Ministry of Education). The chapters show the activities carried out in the Training and Computer Access Centres within the framework of their communities. These centres are located in Mendoza, Tucumán, Formosa and Córdoba provinces. Episode reruns are broadcasted on Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2 p.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and Sundays, 5 p.m.

For more information please go to:
www.programamipc.gov.ar

7 and 8 May: Buenos Aires
Meeting of Coordinators of LADA
Project Pilot Sites.

As part of the Environmental Agenda towards the 200th Anniversary, the National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development invites all Argentine Civil Society Organizations to participate in the Community Environmental Initiative. The main purpose of this Initiative is to support those projects that improve communities' environmental conditions. To this extent, the Government will give funds to 64 projects and will invite corporations that are committed to Corporate Social Responsibility to join this entrepreneurship by giving additional contributions, which will allow a second call.

Projects should be framed in environmental issues, such as sustainable production and consumption, land-use planning and environment quality. All of them should be addressed from a participating approach that represents different sectors and areas: youth, unions, gender, senior citizens, student organizations, social movements, university, science and technology, health, etc.
Submission deadline is **20 May at 3**



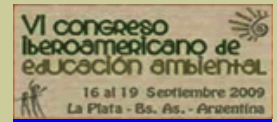
many scientists— and global warming, as well as the effects these phenomena entail, such as drought and floods, lead the masses' world migration, but they also destabilize whole societies and indirectly cause conflicts related to a shortage in resources. Unprivileged people are the most affected by this scenario, as the environment they live in is the most vulnerable and, therefore, their families and communities are at permanent risk.

Each human being's life style contributes to the pressure affecting land and the atmosphere. The continuous land degradation and desertification due to overexploitation and unsustainable cultures, as well as the waste of natural resources, such as water and fossil fuels, play a crucial role in this issue. Through this photo contest, it is pretended to awake commitment feelings in society so as everyone, from each one's place, take more care of the planet.

p.m.

More information to iac_proyectos@ambiente.gov.ar or phone at (011) 4348 8661.

28 May: Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, Buenos Aires
13th National Advisory Committee of the National Action Programme against Desertification.



The First International Photo Contest took place in 2005. For more information please go to: www.unccd.int/publicinfo/photo/awards/awards.php

The jury

El jurado internacional elegirá al ganador de acuerdo con la temática de la UNCCD. El eje central es la promoción de la gestión sostenible de la tierra como la clave para asegurar el futuro. El jurado estará compuesto por las siguientes personalidades:

The international jury will select the first-prize winner in relation to the UNCCD theme. The focus is the promotion of land sustainable management as the key to secure future.

The jury will be made up of the following personalities:

Mrs. Maïga Sina Damba: Mali's Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family.

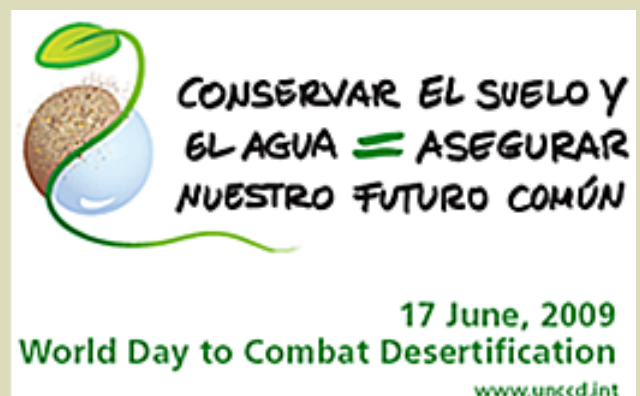
Mr. Michael Martin: Environmental Photographer.

Mr. Nicolas Hulot: Environmental expert, Founder and President of the Foundation Nicolas Hulot.

Mr. Jürgen Nakott: *Editor-in-charge of Life Sciences with* "National Geographic Deutschland".

Mr. Luc Gnacadja: Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Mr. Florian Von Der Fecht: Argentine photographer specialist in landscapes and nature.



Prizes

The prizes for the winners of the International Photo Contest will be the following:

First Prize, 1,500 Euros; Second Prize, 1000 Euros; Third Prize, 500 Euros. Besides, the best photo taken in the Argentine Republic will receive a prize of 500 Euros.

Moreover, the first-prize winner will be invited to participate in the award ceremony during the COP 9 that will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 22 September and 2 October 2009.

The first-prize winner's travel and stay expenses will be covered by the event organizers.

Official Rules

- 1) Entrants should preferably send their photographs by e-mail, in JPEG format, at 72 dpi 800x600 pixels, landscape or portrait and in colour. Short-listed photos will need to be resent on disc, the picture in 300 dpi at A3 paper size. In case of not having access to this technology, picture negatives should be sent by e-mail and they will be sent back once scanned by UNCCD.
- 2) Each entrant can submit a maximum of three photos.
- 3) UNCCD is not liable for any late, lost or damaged entries.
- 4) Entrants must own full copyright to pictures submitted, which must be able to certify, if requested.
- 5) Entrants reserve the right over the pictures submitted in the International Photo Contest, but UNCCD retains the unlimited right to use submitted photographs to non-profit public information purposes at no cost. In this case, the photographers will be credited in connection.
- 6) Photographs submitted to the International Photo Contest are not returnable and become the property of UNCCD.
- 7) Decisions taken by the jury are final and irrevocable.
- 8) The Winners of the International Photo Contest will be announced on **17 August 2009** and they will be notified by e-mail. The first-prize winner will be invited to participate in the award ceremony.
- 9) UNCCD staff and their immediate family members and those of the institutions financing this project are not eligible to participate.
- 10) All additional travel expenses incurred shall be borne by the winners.
- 11) Submission deadline is **17 July 2009**.

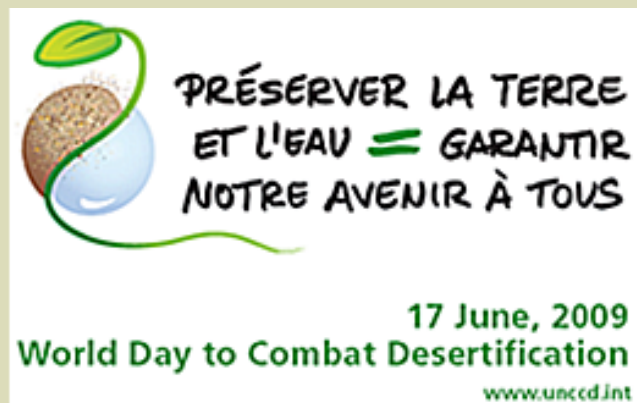
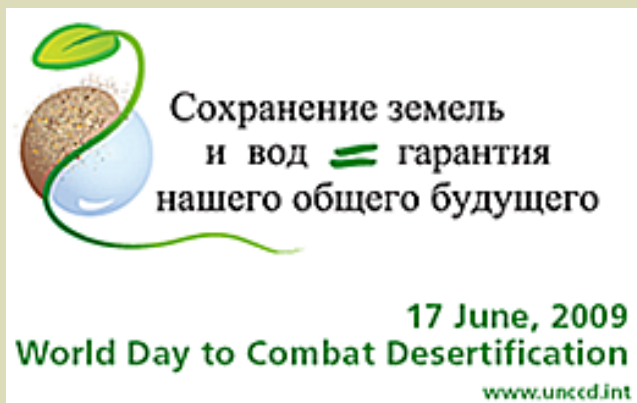


Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate each of the entrants' photographs on the basis of a 1-10 scale, with 10 being the highest score, and considering the relationship between pictures with the proposed theme. Consequently, prizes will be awarded to the photos that most accurately describe the relationship between people and the ecosystems affected by desertification or the efforts of people preserving soil and water from a higher level of destruction. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- .-Conceptual
- .-Artistic
- .-Technical Excellence

In the event that two or more photos obtain the same result, those pictures with the highest score will be preferred, according to the order of the categories from 1 to 3.



Participation

Please complete the participation form available in the Web site www.unccd.int/publicinfo/photocontest/menu.php, state you accept the rules and procedures of the UNCCD Photo Contest, and return electronically. Provide the following information in the body of your e-mail:

- .-Name of entrant
- .-Citizenship
- .-Country where photo was taken
- .-Phone number
- .-E-mail

Please send photos separately to: photo@unccd.int.

For more information please go to the Website:

www.unccd.int
www.ambiente.gov.ar/?idarticulo=6862

Third Water Contest

The Foundation for Wildlife and Coca-Cola Argentina, with the support of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, are launching the Third Water Contest.

This Contest is intended for all social corporations which have their principal place of business in the Argentine Republic and carry out activities or projects on a regular basis in Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, La Rioja, Catamarca, Formosa, Chaco, Santiago del Estero and Mendoza provinces. Furthermore, they should have experience in the development of project works in alliance and water-related initiatives. The total amount assigned for this Contest is \$300,000.

Seventeen projects were submitted in the Second Contest. After being evaluated by a group of experts, two of the works were awarded and will be financed by Coca-Cola Argentina.

In the \$200,000 category, the winner was the project called "Water: Life Source and Promoter", submitted by the Tepeyac Non-profit Civic Association. This project deals with sustainable consumption and with the access to water in the Morillo area, in Salta province. Two of the project purposes are to provide water for self-consumption activities and to improve the quality of water by optimizing its collection, treatment and conservation. About 197 families (975 people) from Morillo will be benefited by this project.

The "Andean Wetlands of the Perico River" project, initiated by the Jujuy Model Forest Association, was selected as the winner in the \$100,000 category. The theme dealt with is the management, conservation and restoration of natural wetlands. The overall objective of this winning project is to undertake environmental and paleoenvironmental studies that allow to identify the origin, the physical and biological characteristics, and the level of anthropic impact of the high wetlands in San Antonio area, in Jujuy province and the threats they suffer. Thanks to this project, 57 families from San Antonio shall be directly benefited.

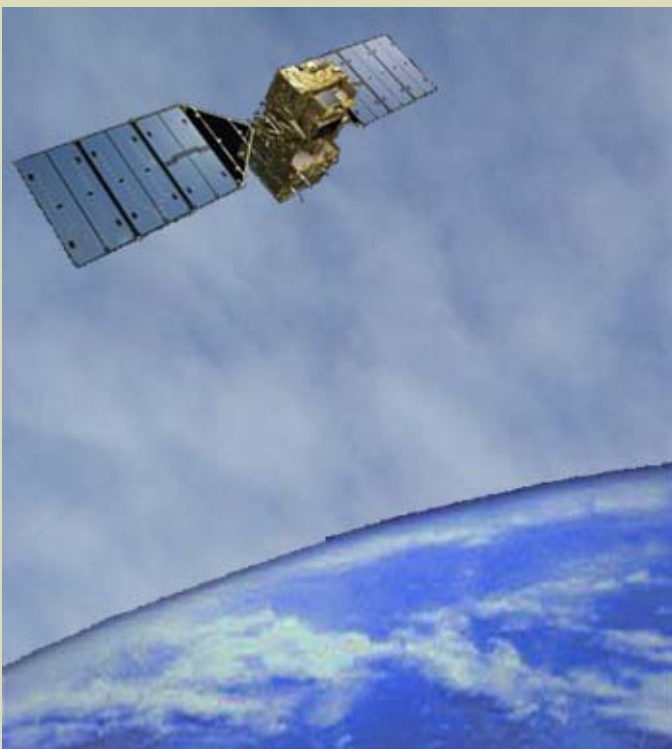
To submit a project in this new contest, please send the material by e-mail to concurso@vidasilvestre.org.ar or by mail to Defensa 251 6.º K (1065), Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. Contest deadline is 31 July 2009 at 6 p.m.

For further information, please go to www.cocacola.com.ar/agua.

Note

Pictures of desertification

Not only the pictures taken by a camera show the desertification problem. The tele-perception through satellite-taken pictures is a resource that allows us to know, among other things, how the desertification problem grows and which the most affected lands are.



Far behind in time it is aerial photography, which was used, among other purposes, to obtain information during the First World War. Photointerpretation, a true source of information in the cartography field, grew together with technological discoveries. Around the 50's, satellites made it possible to give a step forward in the history of capturing world's images. Isolated areas and the Earth's remotest places cannot longer hide from the sharpened eyes of tele-perception.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a Tele-perception Centre that, through its many regional and national field programmes, and its ARTEMIS programme (Africa Real Time Environmental Monitoring Information System), enables to bring together information and make assessments, at regular intervals, of livestock, weather parameters, land occupation, etc. Freddy Nachtergaele, FAO expert, states: "Satellite images allow us to observe desertification processes. One of the first signs of desertification may be how a forest changes into a pastureland". The obtained data is crossed with other banks of information —such as agricultural and agrometeorological statistics information— in order to take stock of crops, to plan harvests, etc. Both the maps and the bank of geographical information created by the Tele-perception Centre are used by technical services to elaborate and control development projects.

Tele-perception covers the science and the technology fields, and, thus, it can be used for multiple applications. Moreover, together with qualified people's work, it can be helpful in land and water management in order to stop desertification progress, among other issues that

affect environment.

“FAO considers that the information needs at local and national level are, at the same time, the most important and necessary. FAO supports the strengthening and the creation of national Centres of study and observation of land resources, such as tele-perception and ecological surveillance centers. These centres can constantly monitor the information related to rainfalls and land degradation and, at the same time, transmit the information through cartography and databases, by using both tele-perception technologies and geographical information systems”.

Analysis and comments related to Chapter 12 of Programme 211.

Source: FAO

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