



## Invitation

### **International Workshop Challenges in Desertification Research and Answers from Europe - Launching the European DesertNet**

To be held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006

in Bonn, Germany

- 1. Circular -

Hamburg, 11. May 2006

Dear members of the European DesertNet,

the development of the European Scientific Network to Combat Desertification (European DesertNet) is well under way. On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, the Declaration of the European DesertNet was opened for signature. So far, scientists from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and thus scientists from 13 European countries, have signed the declaration.

The next step is to consolidate this newly emerged scientific network and to introduce it to the global scientific community, the political decision-makers, the UN bodies, the non-governmental agencies and to civil society. We therefore regard the *International Year of Deserts and Desertification* (IYDD 2006) as an important timeframe in which to define our structure and aims and to present them to our future partners at the national, European and international level.

The workshop will enable us to get to know one another and also to discuss in detail a clear structure for our European network and to formulate our aims and activities at the European level. In these processes, it is very important that as many of the members of the European DesertNet as possible participate in the workshop so that many perspectives and ideas can be considered for the definition of the network structure.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bonn, Germany.

Kind regards,

*Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Prof. Dr. Marc Bied Charreton, Prof. Dr. Murielle Eyletters, Prof. Dr. Donald Gabriels, Dr. Christopher Martius, Prof. Dr. Willem Van Cotthem*

## PROGRAMME

<b>First Day (16th October 2006)</b>	
<b>Morning</b>	Travel and Registration (until 12:00)
<b>Afternoon</b>	<p>Welcome Address and Scope of Meeting (DN Germany, CFRD France, Belgian Group of Desertification Experts)</p> <p>Welcome Address (German BMZ)</p> <p>One Keynote Speaker on Desertification “<i>Research for Combating Desertification and Securing Human Development, a pressing problem – Challenges for and Demands from Science in Europe</i>”</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p><u>Plenary Discussion</u> on scope and format of European DesertNet (E-DN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short introduction of the participants</li> <li>- The origin and evolution of E-DN. The milestones of E-DN to date.</li> <li>- Discussion on the common goals of E-DN, based on the Declaration of E-DN.</li> <li>- Discussion on the future structure of E-DN</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarification of the aims of E-DN (to be discussed on the basis of the Declaration of the E-DN). These discussions will serve as starting point for discussing the organizational structure of E-DN)</li> </ol> <p>Evening: Dinner</p>
<b>Second Day (17th October 2006)</b>	
<b>Morning</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Identification of other European members (recruiting procedures, international and national)</li> <li>3. Discussion on past and present European research activities, programmes and projects on desertification as the basis for the identification of future activities of the E-DN (overlaps and gaps). Discussions will include all aspects of desertification (e.g. soil, water, vegetation, livestock, economics, social sciences....) to create the basis for the structure of E-DN (if necessary, <i>ad hoc</i> working groups will be created).</li> <li>4. <u>Plenary</u>: Results of CRIC 5 (2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October in Buenos Aires, Argentina) will be discussed at this stage in more detail.</li> <li>5. How can European interdisciplinary research cooperation be achieved and maintained in E-DN (steering committee: representatives of natural sciences, economics, social sciences)?</li> </ol>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Discussion of the structure of E-DN (cont'd.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial aspects (national and EC contributions)</li> <li>- Membership: who will be the national representative in the E-DN Board; who is allowed to vote (individuals or research institutions). Voting procedures for the defined organizational body of E-DN.</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Election/Selection (e.g. of Chairpersons and national representatives in the Board of E-DN Board, secretariat)</li> <li>8. Discussing links between E-DN and other stakeholders? (e.g. UN Agencies, NGOs, politics, EC)</li> <li>9. E-DN Activities</li> </ol>

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	- Next meeting (when and where?)
	Farewell Address Departure

**Contributors to the structuring of the first programme and participants at the first E-DN conference:**

- Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster (University of Hamburg, Germany);
- Prof. Dr. Marc Bied Charreton (CSFD, France);
- Dr. Charles L. Bielders, Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium;
- Prof. Dr. Pavol Bielek, Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic;
- Prof. Dr. Willem Van Cotthem (University of Ghent, Belgium);
- Dr. Richard Escadafal, CSFD Toulouse, France;
- Mr. Pablo Garcia Estringana (Departamento de Investigacion Agraria, Madrid, Spain);
- Prof. Stefano Grego (Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy);
- Prof. Dr. Hans Hurni (University of Bern, Switzerland);
- Dr. Alexandre Ickowicz (CIRAD, Département Emt., Montpellier, France);
- Maria Jose Marques Perez, Instituto Madrileño de Investigación en Desarrollo Rural, Agrario y Alimentario (IMIDRA), Comunidad de Madrid, Spain;
- Dr. Christopher Martius (University of Bonn, Germany);
- Prof. Dr. Carlos San Juan (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain);
- Prof. Dr. Michael Runge (University of Goettingen, Germany);
- Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund (Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg, Germany)
- Ms Paula Silva (Humaneasy, Portugal);

**Venue:**

Bonn, Germany (exact location to be announced). For our preparations, kindly send the attached registration form to the secretariat of Desert\*Net Germany at the latest by **30<sup>th</sup> May 2006**.

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**Registration form for the European DesertNet**

Kindly send the completed registration form to the secretariat of Desert\*Net Germany no later than

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2006** via fax or via post

Fax: +49-(0)40-42816 539

Secretariat Desert\*Net Germany  
For the attention of Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster  
Biozentrum Klein Flottbek & Botanischer Garten  
Ohnhorststrasse 18  
22609 Hamburg  
GERMANY

( ) I will attend the workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006 in Bonn, Germany

( ) I will attend the evening dinner on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**Name (and title):**

**Profession:**

**Affiliation:**

**Full mailing address:**

**Telephone / Fax:**

**E-mail:**

Place, Date

Signature