



# #UNited4Land OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

DESERTIFICATION AND  
DROUGHT DAY · 17 JUNE 2024



## Global Observance – Desertification and Drought Day 2024

**17 June 2024, 2:30 – 5:00 pm**

**Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany  
(Bundeskunsthalle), Bonn, Germany**

*Desertification and Drought Day 2024, “United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.”, will spotlight the future of sustainable land stewardship. The theme is a global call to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCCD – the sole legally binding treaty to manage and restore the world’s land for the sustainability of humanity and the planet. The event will celebrate past achievements and set the course for the future in the run-up to UNCCD COP16, which is scheduled for December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.*

*Desertification and Drought Day will be a pivotal moment for raising global awareness and mobilising all parts of society in support of sustainable land stewardship. It will spotlight initiatives for securing healthy land for current and future generations. The event will bring together high-level representatives from government, international organisations, civil society, the private sector and academia alongside youth representatives and other key stakeholders and prominent figures.*

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### OPENING

2:30 pm

#### Music performance

**Ricky Kej - “Land Anthem”**

#### Welcoming speeches

- **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, President of the Federal Republic of Germany (video message)
- **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General (video message)
- **Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- **Katja Dörner**, Mayor, City of Bonn
- **Ibrahim Thiaw**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

#### Announcement of UNCCD’s Land Heroes 2024

#### Music performance

**Inna Modja with Ricky Kej - “Her Land”**

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30 YEARS OF UNCCD: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES ON OUR LEGACY

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3:00 pm

**The Past: Looking back on 30 years of UNCCD**

- **Luc Gnacadja**, UNCCD Executive Secretary 2007-2013
- **Tarja Halonen**, Former President of Finland & UNCCD Land Ambassador
- **Pamela Chasek**, Co-founder & Executive Editor, Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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3:30 pm

**The Present: Act now for a sustainable future for the next generations – learning from experiences and best practices**

**Panel discussion:**

- **Alain-Richard Donwahi**, UNCCD COP15 President, Côte d'Ivoire
- **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, Chair, 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- **Nicole Harari**, Centre for Development and Environment & WOCAT Executive Team member
- **JulietGrace Luwedde**, Global Focal Point, UNCCD Youth Caucus

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4:00 pm

**The Future: How to foster intergenerational equity and strengthen the land agenda**

**Future Outlook**

- **Professor Dr Johan Rockström**, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (live video)

**Youth Voices towards UNCCD COP16**

*Youth representatives pitch their messages on transforming land use for a sustainable future, as developed on 16 June 2024 during the workshop "United for Land – Youth Voices towards UNCCD COP16"*

**"The hot seat" – short reactions to youth pitches by topic experts:**

- **Bettina Iseli**, Chief Program Officer, Welthungerhilfe
- **Solange Bandiaky-Badji**, Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative
- **John Colmey**, Director, Global Landscapes Forum
- **Prof Dr Anna-Katharina Hornidge**, Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability
- **Jair Urriola Quiróz**, Executive Secretary, Central American Commission for Environment and Development

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CLOSING

4:45 pm

**Closing remarks**

- **Kehkashan Basu**, UNCCD Land Hero
- **Ibrahim Thiaw**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD
- **Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, BMZ

**Music performance**

**Baaba Maal**

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5:00 pm

**Reception:** networking with snacks and drinks

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**Moderator:** Katie Gallus

