

NOMINATED MEMBERS OF E-DN BOARD

E-DN Steering Committee (alphabetical order):

- Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Univ. of Hamburg, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Marc Bied-Charetton, CSFD, France;
- Prof. Dr. Gérard Begni, MEDIAS-France, France;
- Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Enne, NRD, Univ. of Sassari, Italy;
- Prof. Dr. Murielle Eyletters Free Univ. of Brussels, Belgium;
- Dr. Peter Feindt Univ. of Hamburg, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Joachim Hill, Univ. of Trier, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Norbert Jürgens, Biocentre Klein Flottbek & Botanical Garden, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Carlos San Juan Mesonada, Univ. Carlos III of Madrid, Spain;
- Prof. Dr. Juan Puigdefabregas, CSIC, Spain.

E-DN Advisory Board (alphabetical order):

- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Böhner Univ. of Hamburg, Germany;
- Dr. Heike Culmsee, University of Göttingen, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Donald Gabriels, (Univ. of Ghent, Belgium;
- Dr. Richard Escadafal, IRD - UMR CESBIO, France;
- Prof. Dr. Stefano Grego, Univ. of Tuscia, Italy;
- Dr. Alexandre Ickowicz, CIRAD, France;
- Pietro Laureano, Italy;
- Dr. Maud Loireau, IRD, France;
- Dr. María José Marqués, IMIDRA. Com. Madrid, Spain;
- Dr. Christopher Martius, Univ. of Bonn, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Giovanni Quaranta, Univ. of Basilicata, Italy;
- Dr. José Rubio, CIDE-CSIC, Spain;
- Dr. Maurizio Sciortino, ENEA, Italy.

E-DN MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The European DesertNet was established by an interdisciplinary group of European Scientists to improve scientific research on combating and preventing desertification including in Europe and at a global scale and to support communication with policy makers and with other stakeholders.

The European DesertNet is located in Europe and closely cooperates with the Research Directorate of the European Community and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bonn, Germany.

The initiative is firmly based on the idea of creating a global network of scientists and research institutions who are interested in the topic and who share the vision and the objectives delineated in the Declaration of the European DesertNet.

E-DN Chair:

Prof. Dr. Carlos San Juan Mesonada

Dept. of Economics University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain

E-DN Co-Chair:

Dr. Mariam Akhtar Schuster,

University of Hamburg, Biocentre Klein Flottbeck and Botanical Garden, Germany

European DesertNet

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR GLOBAL DESERTIFICATION RESEARCH

European DesertNet Secretariat

Mariam Akhtar Schuster (Co-Chair)
c/o University of Hamburg
Biocentre Klein Flottbeck and Botanical Garden
Ohnhorststrasse 18
D-22609 Hamburg
Germany

E-Mail: office@european-desertnet.eu
Web site: www.european-desertnet.eu

European DesertNet

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR GLOBAL DESERTIFICATION RESEARCH

DECLARATION FOR A EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR GLOBAL DESERTIFICATION RESEARCH

We, members of European interdisciplinary groups of scientists, active in basic and applied research on land degradation/desertification, directly related to poverty alleviation, intend to coordinate our activities in view of possible collaboration at national and international level. Our major objectives are:

- To **identify and analyse the pressing problems** with regard to drought, land degradation/desertification and poverty;
- To review **the state of the art** of European scientific knowledge and know-how concerning this global problem;
- To identify, through networking, **success stories and best practices** resulting from scientific research, and to create multipliers and accelerators for their implementation;
- To identify gaps and **develop innovative basic research** in these areas;
- To develop **applied research** in view of its use in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, thereby focusing on users' needs, interdisciplinarity and integration;
- To strengthen and support **European research capacities** in order to promote scientific cooperation;
- To structure and facilitate the **communication and transfer** of know-how and technologies within the European DesertNet and towards affected countries;
- To establish and intensify **linkages with research partners** inside and outside Europe;
- To stimulate **application of appropriate research findings** in the drylands through participatory processes, involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs;
- To establish a **mechanism for effective and successful policy advice** and for **public awareness raising**.

For this purpose, the European DesertNet is open to all scientists wanting to join our association and collaborate with us. We support the UN environmental conventions, in particular the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). We intend to strengthen the cooperation with its scientific body, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and are open to collaborate with all other UNCCD panels or groups, in need of scientific input. We are also looking forward to collaboration with international organisations, programmes and agencies in need of scientific information or advice. We are prepared to put our knowledge and understanding to the service of combating desertification and creating sustainable livelihoods in drylands through sound scientific work

Signatories: On the 6th of September 2005, the Declaration of the European DesertNet was opened for signature.

EUROPEAN DESERTNET AIMS

European DesertNet is a network of scientists involved in land degradation/ desertification research and a think tank.

As a network, we

- provide a platform for scientific discussion and exchange of ideas, foster cutting edge science, identify topics and research areas,
- identify and document scientific state of the art of the main topics in desertification assessment, risk evaluation, mitigation and restoration,
- identify and articulate the economic drivers and the socio-economic consequences of desertification,
- integrate scientific findings across disciplines, translate into common language and communicate scientific findings, and
- work in and on affected areas inside and outside Europe.

As a think tank, we communicate with stakeholders and policy-makers. We

- identify minimum consensus on consolidated knowledge,
- evaluate scientific knowledge for stakeholders and policy-makers,
- disseminate knowledge,
- respond to demands for assessment and information needs address knowledge gaps,
- translate knowledge to improve governance,
- and identify issues and priorities for stakeholder and public policies.