

COST Action ES1104

Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification: Setting up a Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub

## **International Conference**

# **Arid Lands and Drylands Restoration Stories: Chapters for Success**

28 – 29 April 2015

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

### **Tuesday 28 April**

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Welcome

*Professor Dimitrios Koveos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece – Dean of the School of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment)*

*Professor Christos Vlachos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece – Head of the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment)*

*Benz Kotzen (University of Greenwich, UK – Chair of COST Action ES1104)*

09:30-10:00 Management and restoration of degraded drylands

*Donald Gabriëls (University of Ghent, Belgium)*

10:00-10:20 Desertification modelling in Turkey

*Yasemen Aslı Yilmazgil (Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey)*

10:20-10:40 Understanding land degradation

*Rares Halbac (Politehnic University of Timisoara, Romania)*

10:40-11:00 Threats to sustainability of soil functions in Central and Southeast Europe

*Hikmet Gunal (Gaziomanpasa University, Turkey)*

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:00 Back to the land: Theory and assessment of land degradation in southern Europe

*Luca Salvati (Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura, Italy)*

12:00-12:20 How soil structure and stability of biological soil crusts influence dune stabilization

*Vincent Felde (Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany)*

12:20-13:00 Soil indicators to implement restoration of ecosystem services in drylands

*Edoardo Costantini (Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura, Italy)*

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:30 Impact of precipitation legacies on ecosystem functioning

*Oswaldo Sala (Arizona State University, USA)*

14:30-14:50 Ecological restoration of drylands – practice, outcomes and future perspectives

*Alice Nunes (University of Lisbon, Portugal)*

14:50-15:10 Ecosystem goods and services as affected by shrub encroachment

*Eleni Abraham (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) & Apostolos Kyriazopoulos (Democritus University of Thrace, Greece)*

- 15:10-15:30 Changes in concepts and tools in dryland ecological restoration: A review  
*Alejandro Valdecantos (Fundación Centro de Estudios Ambientales del Mediterráneo, Spain)*  
& *Teresa Mexia (University of Lisbon, Portugal)*
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00-16:30 Opportunities for shifts towards sustainable land management: lessons from southern Africa  
*Andy Dougill (University of Leeds, UK)*
- 16:30-16:50 The role of land management in preventing catastrophic shifts of dryland ecosystems  
*Matteo Jucker Riva (University of Bern, Switzerland)*
- 16:50-17:10 Sustainable water harvesting practices for dryland restoration  
*Mehreteab Tesfai (Bioforsk, Norway)*
- 17:10-17:30 Sustainable land management practices for dryland restoration: An overview with a special focus on arable land  
*Gudrun Schwilch (University of Bern, Switzerland)*
- 17:30-18:00 Discussion

### **Wednesday 29 April**

- 09:00-09:20 May we apply the concept of 'genetic erosion' to soils?  
*Carmelo Dazzi (University of Palermo, Italy)*
- 09:20-09:40 Assessing the effects of land-use and surface processes in soil organic carbon pools  
*Ilan Stavi (Dead Sea and Arava Science Center, Israel)*
- 09:40-10:00 The exotic equals pollution: The dilemma of planting non-native versus native plant species in drylands  
*Benz Kotzen (University of Greenwich, UK)*
- 10:00-10:20 Relevance of provenance for selecting plant material for restoration  
*Ruediger Prasse (Gottlieb Wilhelm Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)*
- 10:20-10:40 Rehabilitation of the wadi Kharruba in the region of Marsa Matrouh in Western Egyptian desert  
*Pandi Zdruli (CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy)*
- 10:40-11:00 Discussion
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30-11:50 Restoration of severely degraded rangelands  
*Thorunn Petursdottir (Soil Conservation Service, Iceland)*
- 11:50-12:10 Assessment of post forest fire reclamation in Algarve, Portugal  
*Thomas Panagopoulos (University of the Algarve, Portugal)*
- 12:10-12:30 Dryland forest restoration  
*Eshetu Yirdaw (University of Helsinki, Finland)*
- 12:30-12:50 Introduction to the problematic of urban soils restoration  
*Jose Luis Rubio (Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación, Spain)*
- 12:50-13:00 Discussion