



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA



FROM OBSERVATION TO ACTION

*Innovations, Challenges and
Opportunities for Monitoring Land
Degradation and Desertification*



UNCCD
COP17
ULAANBAATAR 2024



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

FINANCE DAY



August 24, 2026



13:00-14:30 (UTC+7)



Blue Zone, MET - 01



How can better data lead to better action against land degradation and desertification?

This side event will explore how **Earth observation** and **innovative environmental monitoring systems** can help countries detect change, assess risks and guide more effective restoration efforts.

By connecting cutting-edge technologies with **field-based experience** and **local knowledge**, the discussion will highlight how monitoring can move beyond measurement to become a powerful tool for decision-making, resilience-building and climate action — turning information into targeted interventions for healthier soils, stronger ecosystems and more sustainable communities.

INTRO

- **Vannia Gava**, Vice Minister of the Environment and Energy Security, Italy
- Keynote speech – **Barron Joseph Orr**, UNCCD Chief Scientist

PANEL

- *The Italian Integrated environmental monitoring platform* – **Laura D'Aprile**, Head of Department for Sustainable Development, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security
- *Monitoring Land Assets from Space: a focus on the Sahel* – **Petra Bonometti**, Head of Climate and Resilience, Western and Central Africa Regional Office - World Food Programme (WFP)
- *Soil restoration and climate resilience: the achievements of 40 years of Italian cooperation in Niger* - **Marco Riccardo Rusconi**, Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- *Integrating Local Knowledge into Land Degradation Monitoring: Lessons from LOGMe Project in the Sahel* – **Mamadou Ouattara**, LOGMe Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- *MONALISA project: a framework for assessing and monitoring desertification risk across Europe* – **Anna Luise**, Italy Science and technology correspondent to UNCCD and **Daniela Smiraglia**, Department for the Geological Survey of Italy (ISPRA)