



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



**12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 16:30-17:30**

**Policies and land: Can good policies facilitate the achievement of  
Land Degradation Neutrality Goals?**

**Future Policy Award 2017 winners: Ethiopia (Tigray), Brazil, Niger and 4 per 1000  
Initiative present their cases**

*Moderator:*

Ms. Boping Chen, China Director, World Future Council, China

*Introduction to the Future Policy Award 2017: The World's Best Policies to Combat Desertification*

Ms. Alexandra Wandel, Vice Chair and Director, World Future Council, Germany

*Restoring land on a massive scale: Ethiopia's Tigray Region*

Dr Atinkut Mezgeb, Head of Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau, Tigray Regional State Council, Ethiopia

*Empowering millions of the region's poorest people: Brazil*

Ms. Valquíria Alves Smith Lima, Vice President of AP1MC and Executive Coordinator of ASA for the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais, ASA Brasil (interpreted by Mrs. Fernanda Cruz de Oliveira Falcão, ASA Senior Communications Advisor (ASACom), Brazil)

*Combating desertification with the world's first integrated law: China (video)*

*Revolutionizing thinking on how to mitigate climate change: The 4 per 1000 Initiative*

Mr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, 4 per 1000 Initiative, France

*Reducing hunger, restoring degraded land: Niger*

H.E. Ali Bety, Minister and High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative, Niger

*Empowering indigenous peoples & creating the largest contiguous area of protected arid land in the world: Australia (video)*

*Caring for rangelands and enshrining the holistic indigenous concept Hima into law: Jordan (video)*

*Questions and Answers*



## **Combating Desertification:**

### **The Winning Policies of the Future Policy Award 2017**

#### **GOLD**

Ethiopia, Tigray Region: *Conservation-Based Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI, 1994), supported by Mass Mobilization Campaigns (1991) and the Youth Responsive Land Policy (2008)*

The Tigray region's interpretation of Ethiopia's development strategy focusses on food self-sufficiency and economic growth by conserving land and promoting sustainable agriculture. Thanks to a unique combination of collective action, voluntary labour and the involvement of youth, the people of Tigray are restoring land on a massive scale.

#### **SILVER**

Brazil: *Cistern Programme (2003, enshrined into law in 2013)*

This programme is a participative, bottom-up way to provide water for consumption and for growing food and keeping livestock in Brazil's drought-prone Semi-arid region using simple rainwater collection technology. It empowers millions of the region's poorest people to be in control of their own needs, to generate income and enhance their food security, and learn to not just survive but thrive on their land in the Semi-arid.

China: *Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Desertification (2002)*

This is the world's first integrated law dedicated to combating desertification. It provides a framework for China's National Action Programme and a host of projects aimed at rehabilitating land at risk. Over the last 15 years, China has reversed the trend of desertification. It is no coincidence that the country lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty during the same period.

#### **VISION AWARD**

International: *The 4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate (2015)*

This awareness raising, high-level political initiative communicates a new concept for mitigating climate change through the annual increase in soil organic carbon by 0.4 per cent in the top 30-40 cm of the agricultural soils. It encourages a paradigm shift in agricultural practice.

#### **BRONZE AWARDS**

Australia: *Indigenous Protected Areas Programme (1997) and Working on Country - Indigenous Rangers Programme (2007)*

Indigenous Rangers are at the forefront of turning around environmental degradation right across Australia. 75 Indigenous Protected Areas, covering over 67 million hectares, now make up more than 44 per cent of the National Reserve System and have created largest contiguous area of protected arid land in the world.

Jordan: *Updated Rangeland Strategy for Jordan (2013/2014)*

Bedouin people in Jordan have governed their rangelands through their own land tenure systems and grazing rights known as "Hima" for millennia. The Rangeland Strategy embraces this traditional, holistic concept, which effectively integrates natural resources, community life, ethics, animal welfare and more.

Niger: *3N Initiative 'Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens' – Strategy for food security, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural development (2011-2015, 2016-2021)*

This is a large-scale, cross-sectoral initiative that is enhancing the sustainable agricultural development and socio-economic resilience of farmers and herders. The policy was developed in an inclusive and participatory process. Since 2011, Niger has reduced the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 50 per cent.

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