

Media Update

16 June 2021

United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT 17 June 2021

Humanity is waging a relentless, self-destructive war on nature.

Biodiversity is declining, greenhouse gas concentrations are rising, and our pollution can be found from the remotest islands to the highest peaks.

We must make peace with nature.

The land can be our greatest ally. But the land is suffering.

Land degradation from climate change and the expansion of agriculture, cities and infrastructure undermines the well-being of 3.2 billion people.

It harms biodiversity and enables the emergence of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19.

Restoring degraded land would remove carbon from the atmosphere.

It would help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change.

And it could generate an extra \$1.4 trillion dollars in agricultural production each year.

The best part is that land restoration is simple, inexpensive and accessible to all.

It is one of the most democratic and pro-poor ways of accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year marks the start of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

On this International Day, let us make healthy land central to all our planning.

[END]

Video Link:

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Audio file mp3,

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