

Report of the COP 11 side event 'Sustainable Land Management - An International Research Programm of the German Fedarl Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)'

The opportunity of CBD COP 11 was used by the GLUES partner Institute for Biodiversity to perform a side event that presented the funding measure 'Sustainable Land Management' of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research and its 12 regional projects. Scientists of the regional project SuMaRiO (**Sustainable Management of River Oases** along the Tarim River) presented their work packages and first results.

As SuMaRiO is performed in China special invitations in Chinese language were handed to the Chinese delegation who then was well represented in the audience of the event.

Dr. Christian Rumbaur and Dr. Niels Thevs concentrated their presentations on the linkage of the SuMaRiO work packages to the Aichi 2020-targets of the Strategic Plan of the CBD and to the aims of the Chinese National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). It is quite obvious that the whole projects supports Aichi target 7 (to have all land use sustainable until 2020). But the project components fighting increasing soil salinity additionally help to implement target 14 (to maintain essential ecosystem services like soil and water quality). The Decision Support System (DSS) which is developed in the project will help local and regional decision makers to implement target 3 (eliminating incentives harmful to biodiversity) and target 4 (to implement plans for sustainable production).

The lively discussion after the presentations revealed a great interest of the Chinese participants in the project results and the comparability to other arid regions in China. More details of the functioning of the DSS were also requested by the audience.

The representative of the secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Ms. **Wagaki Mwangi**, who was also present was so impressed by the presentation that she spontaneously offered a time slot in her agenda of the Land Day 6 under the heading 'Land Degradation Neutrality - A response to the Aichi Targets' to take place also at COP 11. Of course we responded to that offer by shortly presenting the funding programme again in that context, especially as the Land Day 6 was a high ranking event, opened by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Luc Gnacadja, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Braulio Diaz, the Indian Minister for the Environment, H.E. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan and Julia Marton-Lefèvre, general directress of IUCN.

Additionally, the UNCCD representative urged us to take part in the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference to be held in February 2013 in Fortaleza, Brazil. In the meantime, abstracts of three regional projects and of GLUES were handed in for that conference and were accepted for oral presentations or poster contributions.

For the land day 6 compare:

<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/Land-Day/Land%20day%206/Pages/default.aspx>

Dr. Cornelia Paulsch
Institut for Biodiversity – Network e.V. (ibn)
Drei-Kronen-Gasse 2
D – 93047 Regensburg
Email: cornelia.paulsch@biodiv.de
Tel.: ++49-941/2977760
www.biodiv.de