

17 June 2014 World Day to Combat Desertification

Land belongs to the future - let's climate proof it

17 Phupjane 2014 Letsatsi le lefatshe le ho loana le komello
Naha ke bokamoso ha re e sireletseng maemong a lehodimo

17 Seetebosigo 2014 Letsatsi la lefatshe la twantsho ya komelelo
Naga ke ya bokamoso - a re e sireletseng kgathanoing le diphetogo tsa tlaelamete

17 Fulwi 2014 Duvha ja jifhasi jau tsireledza uri shango ji sa shanduke sogu
Mavu ndi vhumatshelo hashu - kha ri a tsireledze kha tshanduko ya kilima

17 Yesilimela 2014 Yimini yokunqamla ukumbakra kwehlabathi Umhlaba lingonso,
masiwulondolozo

Celebrating 20 years of Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and the effects of Drought: Land belongs to the future, let's climate proof it.

This year symbolises 20 years of democracy in South Africa and 20 years of sound environmental management and protection. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Free State Provincial Departments will be joining the global community on 17 June 2014 to observe World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD).

The goal of the 2014 World Day to Combat Desertification is to create awareness about the ecosystem-based adaptation, whereby building up resilience is particularly of importance in the drylands. This year's slogan is **Land belongs to the future, let's climate proof it** which advocates for action to promote preparedness for negative impacts of climate change and sustaining natural resources and ecosystems. The slogan highlights the benefits of mainstreaming sustainable land management policies and practices into our collective response to climate change.

Desertification refers to land degradation in the drylands. It is a loss in soil productivity and the thinning out of the vegetative cover. This process occurs as a result of human activities and climatic variations such as prolonged droughts and floods. Among the reasons for desertification caused by humans are over cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation, and poor irrigation practices.



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