



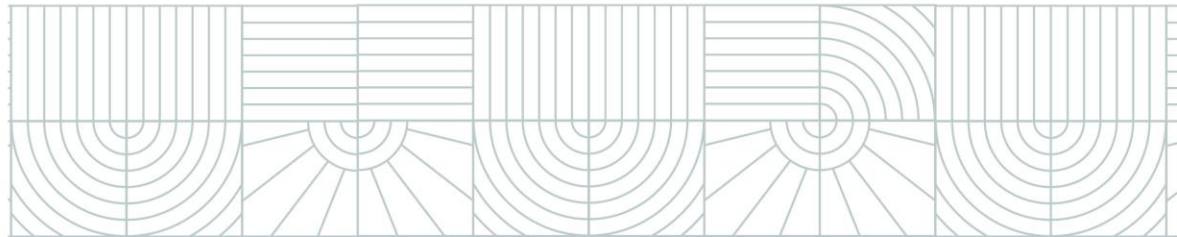
Our Land. Our Future.

2-13 December 2024
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



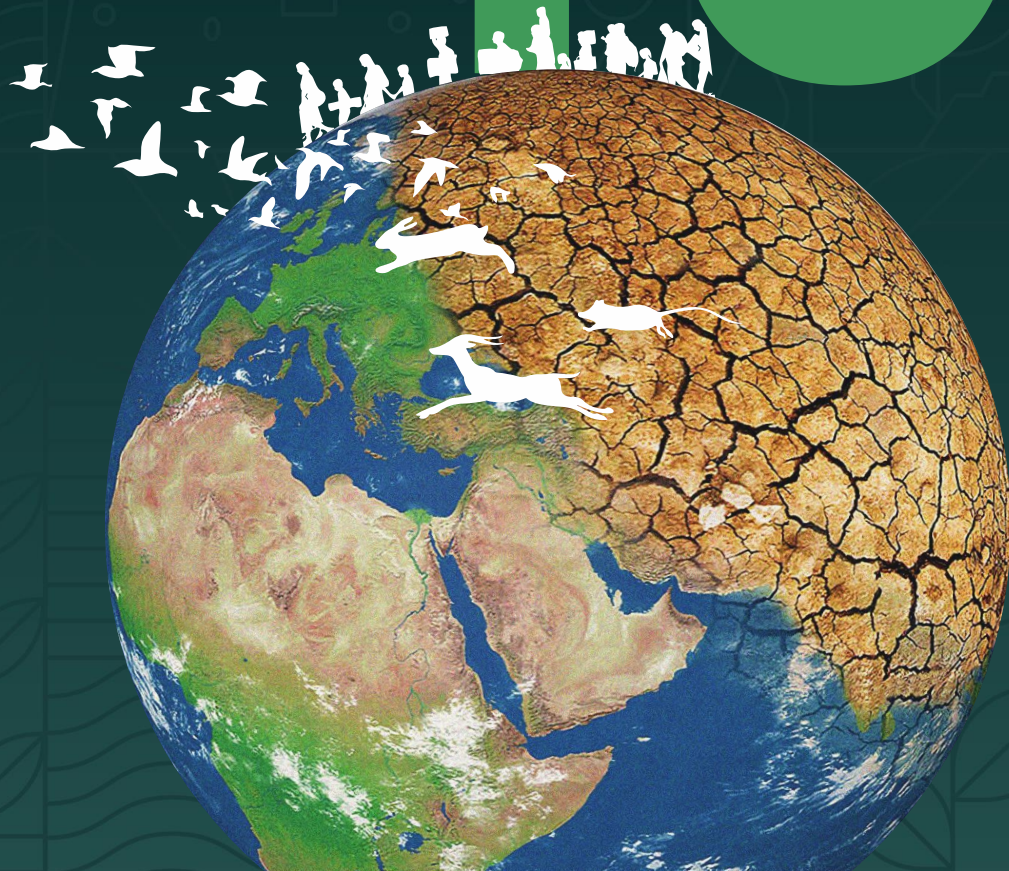
**“We depend on land
for our survival.
Yet, we treat it like dirt.”**

– United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres



**Land degradation
affects up to**

40%



**of the Earth's surface
globally with dire
consequences for our
climate, biodiversity
and livelihoods.**

Every second, an equivalent of four football fields of healthy land becomes degraded, adding up to

1000

million
hectares
every year



Two billion tons of sand and dust,
equal in weight to:

350

Great Pyramids of Giza enter the
atmosphere every year; over 25%
of them are due to human activities.

Droughts are becoming more frequent and intense, increasing by...

290%

since 2000.



If current trends continue we need to restore

1.5

billion hectares by 2030 to reach land degradation neutrality goals.



**One billion
people under
the age of**

25

**... live in regions directly
dependent on land and natural
resources for jobs and
livelihoods.**





United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

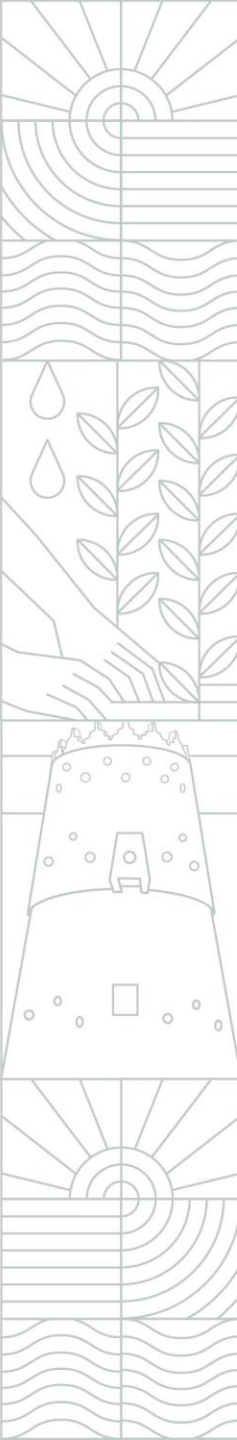
**UNCCD is the global
vision and voice for land**

What is COP16?

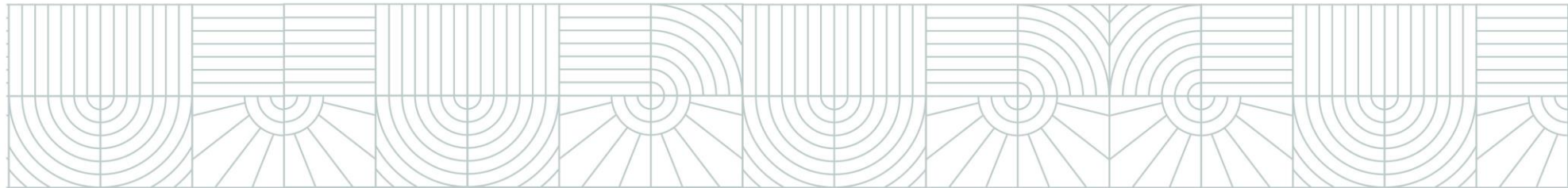
COP16: A Moonshot Moment for Land

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand."

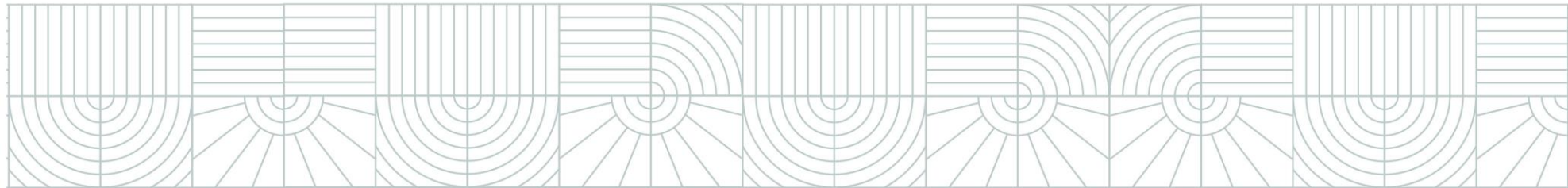
On 14 February 1990, the Voyager 1 spacecraft saw Earth from nearly four billion miles away, capturing a view of our planet later described by scientist Carl Sagan as a "Pale Blue Dot." Photo: NASA



- The Conference of the Parties (COP), UNCCD's main decision-making body, comprises its 197 Parties and steers the Convention's response to global and national needs.
- COP16 is a landmark event to raise global ambition and accelerate action on **land and drought resilience** through a people-centered approach.



- An opportunity to reset current trajectory of land degradation and shape a world where land sustains **future generations**
- The first major UN conference hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The first time a UNCCD COP is held in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region



A photograph of two young children playing under a waterfall in a lush, mossy forest. The child in the foreground is smiling broadly, with water cascading over their head and shoulders. The child in the background is also smiling and clapping their hands. The scene is vibrant and captures a moment of joy and connection with nature.

Action Agenda

Action Agenda for COP16:

1 Championing the global land and drought resilience agenda for **People, Planet, and Prosperity**

2 Bridging high ambition with **accelerated action:**



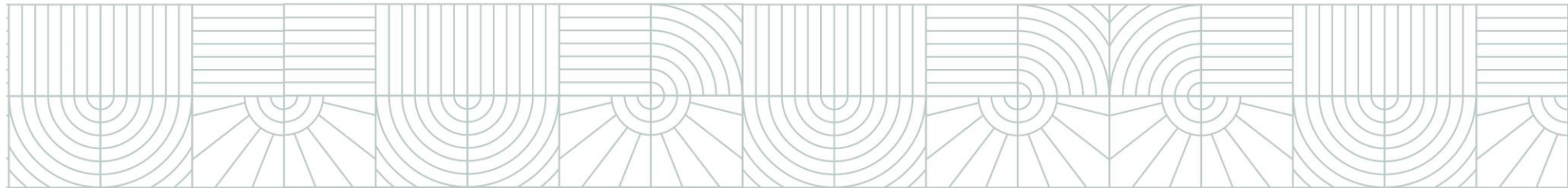
People



Land



Resilience



Action Agenda Pillars



Expected Outcomes

Land

Negotiation Process:

- COP Decision or Political Declaration on:
 - Agri-food systems
 - Long-term target on land

Action Agenda:

- Scaling up initiatives to restore 1.5 billion hectares by 2030
- Scaling up Business for Land
- Restoration Industry



Drought Resilience

Negotiation Process:

- COP Decision or Political Declaration on:
 - Global new regime for drought resilience

Action Agenda:

- Global Drought Resilience Partnership
- SDS Global Platform
- International Drought Resilience Observatory



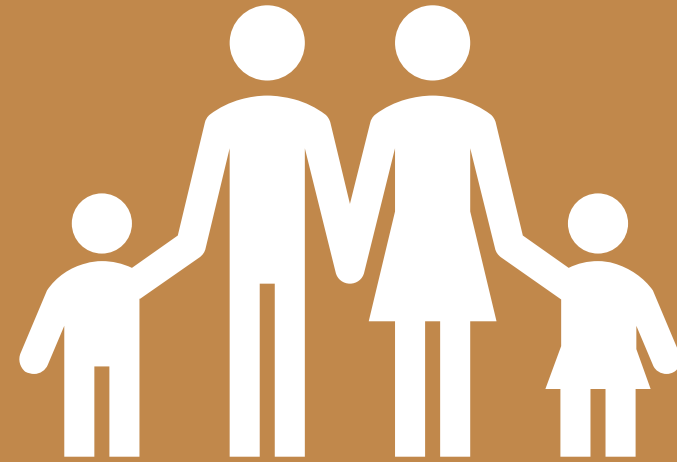
People

Negotiation Process:

- COP Decision or Political Declaration on:
 - Land Tenure
 - Land Use Planning

Action Agenda:

- Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) Implementation
- “Landpreneurs” Programme



Local Governments:

- Mayors for Land Initiative

Land Tenure:

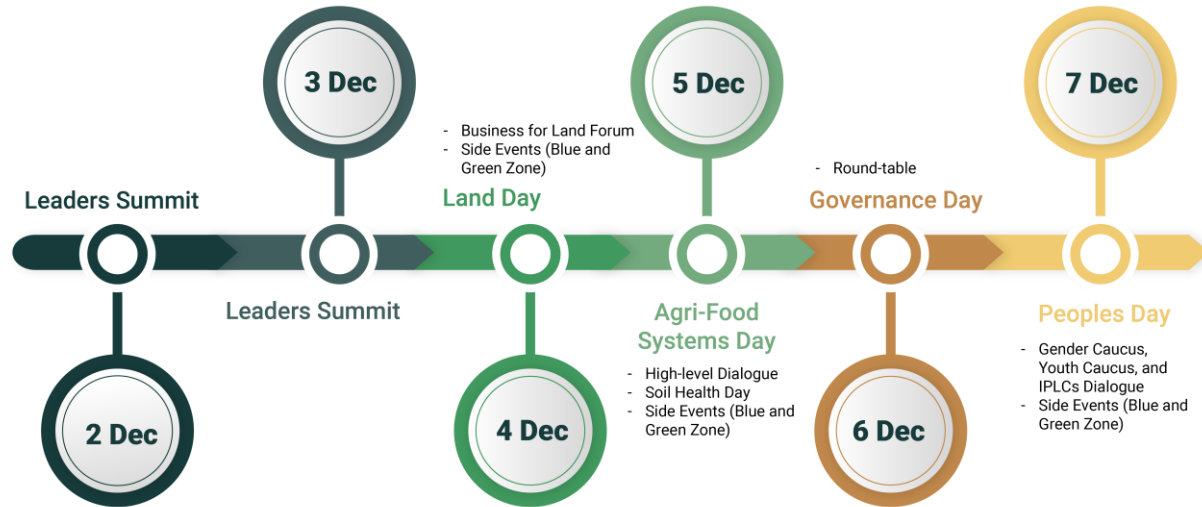
- Her Land Her Rights Programme
- Global Land Tenure Initiative (IPLCs)



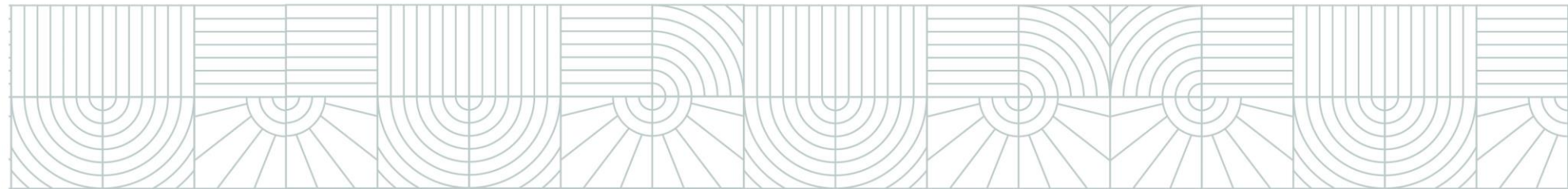
COP16 at a Glance

Draft Programme

Week 1



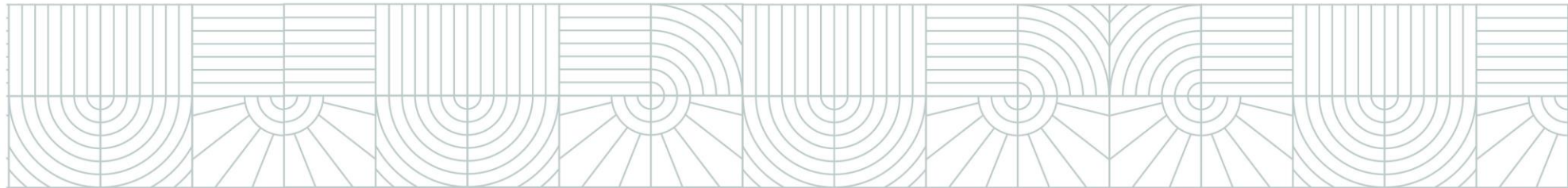
Week 2



Participation

COP16 aims for the largest and **most inclusive** attendance to date:

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Scientists & Academia
- UN & International Partners
- Investors & Funders
- Civil Society
- Youth
- Local Authorities
- Communities impacted by desertification, land degradation and drought
- Media

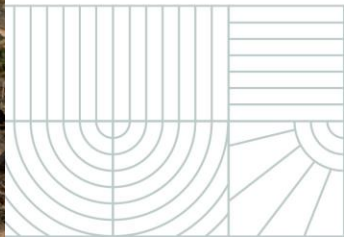
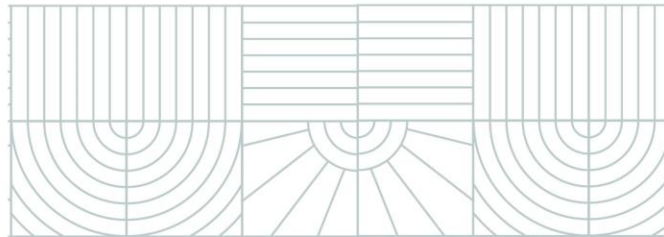


Elevating Impact



- **UN System collaboration:**
Partnering with UN entities to elevate land and drought issues
- **Showcasing impact:** Pavilion presence and side events in Blue and Green Zones
- **Communications support:**
Leveraging partner resources for amplifying messaging at COP16

Photo: Seersa Abaza / IWMI, Flickr





United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNCCD
COP16
Riyadh | 2024