

Press Release

The UNCCD Secretariat and Fundación Agreste have been working closely for many years in their common efforts to support the efficacious implementation of the Convention particularly in the Latin America and Caribbean region. This cooperation and collaboration allows the UNCCD to inter alia have a greater meaningful impact in its work with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and in reaching stakeholders at the grassroots level, thus reinforcing the Convention's bottom-up approach as regards its implementation. At the same time the collaboration helps to enhance the work of Fundación Agreste at the regional level, and its participation in the UNCCD process at the international level.

This collaboration is now being taken a significant step further particularly in the field of capacity building, with the Secretariat and Fundación Agreste joining forces to offer in Spanish, all online courses developed and being developed in-house by the Secretariat to all of Hispanophone Latin America and the Caribbean, and indeed the wider Spanish speaking world. These courses once translated from the original English into Spanish, will be offered directly on Fundación Agreste's Campus Multimedia Agreste (CMA) with links provided on the UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM). Developed by the CBM, these courses are focused on all aspects of the UNCCD process and have proven to be very popular, but more importantly, useful to everyone interested in the UNCCD process including the National Focal Points.

This collaboration apart from removing the language barrier for Hispanophones as regards participation in these courses, allows for both the CBM and the CMA to extend their reach and increase and improve their content. It provides an opportunity for both organizations to make a greater contribution to capacity building at local and community levels. The partnership has been welcome by Ms Monique Barbut and Ms. Griselda M. Duarte (photo), UNCCD Executive Secretary and President of Fundación Agreste respectively. It is foreseen that this form of collaboration may serve as an example to be followed in the future in the translation of these courses and many of the other tremendous opportunities accessible via the CBM into the other official languages of the United Nations.

The first course will be opened to participants on Friday July 3 and, as part of Activities to mark World Day to Combat Desertification which is celebrated on June 17 every year, the pre-registrations will be opened on June 16. The public is advised to stay tune to the CBM (at www.unccd.int/marketplace), and to the CMA (at <http://agreste.org/educativo/cursos/>) over the next few days for more information as regards the launching of the courses, and guidelines for participation.

