



# THE FORGOTTEN BILLION

## MDG ACHIEVEMENT IN THE DRYLANDS



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### Authors

Nick Middleton, Lindsay Stringer, Andrew Goudie and David Thomas

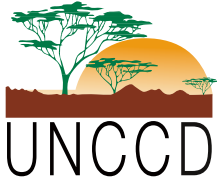
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Resilient nations.*

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## United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Reversing and preventing desertification, alongside mitigating the effects of drought, are crucial to reducing poverty and improving environmental sustainability in drylands. Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment, development and the promotion of healthy soils. Its dual focuses on environmental and developmental concerns place it in a unique position to facilitate progress towards MDG achievement. The Convention's 194 signatory countries, or Parties, work to alleviate poverty in the drylands, maintain and restore the land's productivity, and mitigate the effects of drought.

Partnership lies at the heart of the UNCCD, casting resource users and their communities as central to the solution. This approach recognizes the interdependence of drylands and other world systems. The UNCCD Secretariat is the designated focal point for the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020).

[www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the United Nation's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 177 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

UNDP Drylands Development Centre is a unique global thematic centre that provides technical expertise, practical policy advice and programme support for poverty reduction and development in the drylands of the world. The Centre's work bridges between global policy issues and on-the-ground activities, and helps governments to establish and institutionalize the link between grassroots development activities and pro-poor policy reform. The main areas of focus are mainstreaming of drylands issues into national development frameworks; land governance; making markets work for the poor; decentralized governance of natural resources; and drought risk management.

[www.undp.org/drylands](http://www.undp.org/drylands)



## Acronyms

BRIC countries	Brazil, Russia, India and China
GDP	Gross domestic product
LLDC	Landlocked developing country
MA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
SLM	Sustainable land management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme





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