

EMG

Environmental
Monitoring Group



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MEDIA ALERT

11 June 2007

Press Conference: United Nations' World Day to Combat Desertification

On Sunday 17th June, people from around the world will mark the United Nations' World Day to Combat Desertification – an event aimed at highlighting the fight against land degradation in the world's driest areas. This year the theme is "DESERTIFICATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE – ONE GLOBAL CHALLENGE", highlighting the links between these two problems and synergies in addressing them together.

Desertification and climate change are key environmental challenges now facing us that are intrinsically linked. Desertification is a significant problem for South Africa, threatening not only our ecological integrity, but the wellbeing of our people. It impacts most severely on the poorest of the poor. Current climate change trends threaten to exacerbate these social and environmental problems, while desertification plays a significant role in increasing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing carbon sinks. Many common solutions, rooted in sound sustainable development practices, are needed to adapt to climate change and address desertification.

The **Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG)** will host a press conference to highlight this event and draw attention to the significance of this problem for South Africa. The event will also be part of the launch of **Drynet**, an international network aimed at strengthening the role of civil society networks in tackling the problem of desertification.

We invite you to join us for the press conference to celebrate this launch event and to learn more about the issues at stake. A press release and a fact sheet on the topic of desertification and climate change will be available on the day. A delicious finger supper and refreshments will be served.

When: Sunday, 17 June 2007, 5 for 5:30pm

Where: Elixir Spa, 87 – 91 Beach Road, Moullie Point, Cape Town

For more information on the event or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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The Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) is a not-for-profit NGO based in Cape Town, which focuses on building democratic, fair and sustainable decision-making processes that relate to the use and management of natural resources.



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Drynet is an international initiative comprising 14 organisations from around the world aimed at strengthening national civil society networks in both knowledge and skills to influence dryland development policies in affected countries.