

The definition of desertification: its programmatic consequences for UNEP and the international community

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Abstract:

This paper traces the origin of the word 'desertification', discusses its interpretation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and outlines the programmes that have been and are still being established under the leadership of UNEP. Other approaches to arid lands studies and the 'desertification problem' by the scientific community are briefly examined to establish to what extent there is a unanimity of views, both at the scientific and technological levels to guide UNEP's programmes and activities