Preface

The Desertification Conference entitled “Toward Better Management of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in the Twenty-First Century” was convened in Dubai, UAE, during 12-16 February 2000, under the auspices of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment. This volume contains a representative selection of 53 of the original 125 oral presentations at the conference, which contributed to the following objectives:

- to enhance our understanding of local, regional, and global short and long-term environmental changes;
- to convey best practices associated with the ecological management of arid areas; and
- to improve our general understanding of desert environments as we are approaching the third millennium.

The papers are distributed among the following themes:

1. Desertification and global climatic change
2. Biodiversity in mangrove and halophyte ecosystems
3. The effect of wind and water on soil erosion and sand creep
4. Land degradation and management in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas
5. Policies and cost/benefits for combating land degradation and desertification
6. Application of remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) to desertification studies
7. Groundwater resources in desert areas

Desertification is land degradation in dry land environments resulting from such factors as climatic variation and human activities. It is the outcome of the interactions between human land-use practices and a dynamic, uncertain environment. If global warming predictions are realized, the environments of desert areas and their margins are likely to be profoundly affected. Global warming may lead to changes in soil moisture availability following changes in both precipitation and evapotranspiration rates caused by the temperature rise itself. The global climate is ever changing, however, global warming does not result in every point on the surface of the earth experiencing an increase in surface temperature. There is a need to study climate on local spatial scales in order to understand its variability in time. This change is an integrated effect of natural climate variability and human-induced changes. Protection and habitat preservation initiatives offer the best solutions for biodiversity conservation in the face of desertification and loss of rangelands to agriculture. Both dryland and wetland reserves have provided effective protection for rare, endangered, and endemic species. Mangroves are one of the dominant features of the shores of tropical countries. Ecologically, they have been considered an important component of coastal ecosystems. Biodiversity and the mangrove ecosystem are closely related to diversity of coastal bio-climatic, geological and sociological conditions; frequency of inundation; circulation pattern; and water quality of coastal areas. Land degradation, desertification, and deforestation are considered to be major environmental problems in many countries of the world. The major causes for desertification were recognized as natural environmental factors and manmade causes. Unsustainable irrigation practices, overgrazing, uncontrolled cultivation, wood-gathering for fuel, salinization, and water logging are cited as the main activities that contribute to the degradation of land area in the region.

The Dubai International Conference on Desertification has focused on an issue that affects most of the world’s population, directly or indirectly. It is of paramount importance in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australia, and America and is closely tied to the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental deterioration.

The Zayed International Prize for the Environment fully sponsored and organized this conference. This Prize is a non-profit organization aiming to promote and encourage outstanding and pioneering environmental achievements in line with the environment and development vision and philosophy of the dedicated environmentalist, H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

Founded by General H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Defense Minister, the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, is more than a prize - it is a foundation which endeavors to promote sustainable development through various environmental initiatives. In addition to
administering the prestigious Prize of one million dollars, this foundation also organizes regional and international conferences and forums on specific environmental issues; publishes a magazine, a book series, and a newsletter; and helps raise environmental awareness through public lectures, training seminars, workshops, and the development of relevant information materials.

The Zayed Prize for the Environment will be awarded to individuals and organizations that have:

- successfully solved a specific environmental problem;
- advanced the cause of the environment toward sustainable development;
- brought to public notice significant environmental issues or mobilized action toward their solution;
- contributed significantly to intellectual, scientific, or theoretical approaches to environmental concerns; and/or
- undertaken activities and initiatives which can serve as a model to others.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 1: DESERTIFICATION AND GLOBAL CLIMATIC CHANGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Into the Third Millennium: The Role of Stakeholder Groups in Reducing Desertification.</td>
<td>David S.G. Thomas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impacts of Global Warming on the Geomorphology of Arid Lands.</td>
<td>Andrew S. Goudie</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desertification, Climate Change and the World’s Dry Lands.</td>
<td>Victor R. Squires</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalagmite Annual Layer Thickness as a Proxy for Enso and Rainfall: Evidence from Drotsky’s Cave, Botswana.</td>
<td>Shaw-Wen Sheen, George A. Brook, Bruce L. Railsback and Jean C. Thill</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of Rain Shadow in the Geologic Record: Repeated Evaporite Accumulation at Extensional and Compressional Plate Margins.</td>
<td>Christopher G. St.C. Kendall, Paul Lake, Dalton H. Weathers III, Venkat Lakshmi, John Althausen and Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical Dating as a Tool for Studying of Dune Reactivation, Accretion Rates and Desertification Over Decadal, Centennial and Millennial Time-scales.</td>
<td>Stephen Stokes, Andrew S. Goudie, Alison Colls and Asma Al-Farraj</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies of Local Climate Change in the United Arab Emirates Using Satellite Data.</td>
<td>Venkat Lakshmi, Christopher G. St.C. Kendall, John Althausen and Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impacts of Global Climatic Change on Reference Crop Evapotranspiration, Irrigation Water Demands, Soil Salinity, and Desertification in Arabian Peninsula.</td>
<td>Walid A. Abderrahman and Ibrahim M. Al-Harazin</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Response of Dry-region Alluvial Fans to Quaternary Climatic Change.</td>
<td>Adrian M. Harvey</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Microclimate Tracked by the Evolving Vegetation Cover of the Holocene Beach Ridges of the United Arab Emirates.</td>
<td>Christopher G.St.C. Kendall, Venkat Lakshmi, John Althausen and Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Quaternary Palaeo-Environmental Changes, Ardakan Kavir (Playa), Central Iran.</td>
<td>Daryoush Mehrshahi, David S.G. Thomas and Sarah O’Hara</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleistocene Lakes in Central Sinai, Egypt.</td>
<td>Werner Smykatz-Kloss, Bernd Roscher and Konard Rogner</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrology and Climate Change (200 to 100 Ka), Death Valley, California, USA.</td>
<td>Ronald J. Spencer, Wenbo Yang, Sheila M. Roberts and H. Roy Krouse</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 2:  BIODIVERSITY, MANGROVES AND OTHER HALOPHYTES AND THEIR CONSERVATION ECOSYSTEMS

John M. Peacock, Ghalib A. Alhadrami, M.E. Ferguson, R. Karnik, Ian R. McCann and Ali Saleh
Desert Forages of the Arabian Peninsula: The Conservation and Utilization of Biodiversity for Sustainable Animal Production in the United Arab Emirates. ................................................................. 141

Ahmed S. Khalil, Urlich Saint-Paul and Eisa Abdellatif
Response of Meiofauna to Mangrove Degradation in a Dry Semi-Desert Coastal Habitat of the Red Sea (Sudan). ........................................................................................................... 149

J.C. Dagar
Biodiversity of Indian Saline Habitats and Management and Utilization of High Salinity Tolerant Plants with Industrial Applications for Rehabilitation of Saline Areas. .................................................. 161

Fatima Al-Ansari and Ali El-Keblawy
An Analysis of Biodiversity of the United Arab Emirates Flora Using Western’s Flora. ....................... 183

Ghalib A. Alhadrami, Abdullah J. Al-Dakheel, Mahmoud K. Khorshid, Saleh A. Al-Sharaby and Mohamed H. Abdel Gawad
Feeding Camels and Sheep Sporobolus Grass Grown in Saline Desert Lands in the United Arab Emirates. 195

Abdullah A. Jaradat
Halophytes for Sustainable Biosaline Farming System in the Middle East. ........................................ 201

Vishnu P. Singh
Biodiversity, Community Pattern and Status of Indian Mangroves. ..................................................... 219

Ali El-Keblawy
Effects of Protection from Grazing on Species Diversity, Abundance and Productivity in Two Regions of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. .............................................................. 233

Muhammad Asif Khan and Nasser A. Al-Homaid
Remote Sensing Study on Mangrove Depletion-Tarut Bay, Saudi Arabia. ........................................ 243

PART 3:  THE EFFECT OF WIND AND WATER ON SOIL EROSION AND SAND CREEP

Hans-Jörg Barth
Late Holocene Sedimentation Processes Along the Arabian Gulf Coast in the Jubail Area, Saudi Arabia. .................................................................................................................................................. 253

Belnap Jayne, Sue Phillips, Mike Duniway and Rich Reynolds
Soil Fertility in Deserts: A Review on the Influence of Biological Soil Crusts and the Effect of Soil Surface Disturbance on Nutrient Inputs and Losses........................................................................ 263

Larry Boersma and J. Baham
Aspects of the Role of Biogeochemical Processes in Soils in the Global Carbon Cycle. ...................... 273

Yann Callot
Relations Between Wind Data and Geomorphology in Aeolian Sand Geodynamics. .......................... 283
Richard Reynolds, Marith Reheis, Pat Chavez, Jr., Todd Hinkley, Richard Tigges, Gary Clow, David MacKinnon, Paul Lamothe, Nicholas Lancaster, Mark Miller, James Yount, Miguel Velasco, Stuart Sides, Deborah Soltesz, Greg Meeker, Robert Fulton, and Jayne Belnap

Dust Emission and Deposition in the Southwestern United States-Integrated Field, Remote Sensing and Modeling Studies to Evaluate Response to Climatic Variability and Land Use. ....................... 291

Robert H. Webb and Kathryn A. Thomas
Recoverability of Severely Disturbed Soils and Vegetation in the Mojave Desert, California, USA. ...... 303

Giles F.S. Wiggs, Sarah L. O’Hara and B.K. Mamedov
Wind Erosion and Dust Deposition in the Aral Sea Region: Possible Consequences of Unsustainable Human Activity. .......................................................... 311

Jasem M. Al-Awadhi, Ali Al-Dousari and Abdullah Al-Enezi
Barchan Dunes in Northern Kuwait. ............................................................... 319

Saleh Al-Muzaini
Environmental Measures to Control Sand Movement in Kuwait. ......................................................... 329

PART 4: LAND DEGRADATION AND MANAGEMENT IN ARID, SEMI-ARID AND DRY SUB-HUMID AREAS

William R. Stanley
Herero, German and Afrikaner in Arid and Semi-arid Eastern Namibia: Comparative Technologies for Water Use and Conservation. ......................................................... 337

Ruth Schofield
Soil Salinity as a Degradation Process in Spain and Tunisia. .................................................................. 347

Migdam E. Abdelgani, A.G. Osman and S.S. Mohamed
Restoring Soil Fertility of Desertified Lands Through Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Sudan. ............. 357

Khaled R. Ben-Mahmoud, Shaban Mansur and A. Al-Gomati
Land Degradation and Desertification in Libya. ..................................................................................... 361

Shabbir A. Shahid, Samira A.S. Omar, Raafat Misak and H. Abo Rizq
Land Resource Stresses and Degradation in the Arid Environment of Kuwait: An Overview. ............ 375

Elnur Abdalla Elsiddig
Management of Dry Land Forest Reserves in Sudan Based on Participatory Approach. ................... 385

Banaras Hussain Niazi and Jelte Rozema
Introduction of Non-conventional Salt Tolerant Crops Under Salt Affected Arable Land in Pakistan. ...... 391

PART 5: POLICIES AND COST/BENEFIT FOR COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION

Fouad Kanbour
The International Convention on Desertification: The Preservation of Indigenous Technologies in Arab Countries of West Asia. ................................................................. 401
Scott Christiansen
Lessons from Rural Development of Relevance to Desertification. .......................................................... 407

Adel El-Beltagy
Sustainable Management of Rangelands and Agricultural Systems of the Drylands: The ICARDA Experience in Combating Desertification. .......................................................... 415

Ahmed A.R. Elagib
Can Science and Technology Help to Initiate Natural Regreening of the Arabian Peninsula? ................ 425

Mahlagha Ghorbanli and A. Motamed
The Desert Environment in Iran. .................................................................................................................. 433

PART 6: APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) TO STUDY DESERTIFICATION

John D. Althausen, Jr., Christopher G. St. C. Kendall, Venkat Lakshmi, Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan and Gregory L. Whittle
Using Satellite Data and GIS in Geomorphological Mapping of Coastal Landscapes in an Arid Environment: Khor Al Bazam, Western Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. ........................................ 443

Zeinelabidin S. Rizk and Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan
Geographical Information System Modeling of Groundwater Potentiality in the Northeastern Part of the United Arab Emirates. ........................................................................................................ 451

Andy Y. Kwarteng, Raafat F. Misak and Mohammed A. Al-Sudairawi
Radarsat Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imagery Observation of Sand Dunes in Kuwait. ...................... 463

Osman Mirghani Mohamed Ali and El Tayeb Osman Adam
Application of Remote Sensing for the Assessment of Environmental Changes in Western Kordofan State (Sudan). ........................................................................................................ 473

Mansouri Taoufik, Boussema M. Rached, Albergel Jean and Chaibi Najeh
Application of Remote Sensing and GIS to Study Erosion in Tunisia. .......................................................... 481

Ibrahim S. Ibrahim, M.M. Ahmed, M.A. Mustafa and Mustafa A. El Hag
Preliminary Study of Sand Erosion in South Khartoum Area, Sudan. ........................................................... 489

PART 7: GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN DESERT AREAS

Mohammed Saqar Al Asam
Groundwater Situation in the United Arab Emirates: An Overview. ............................................................. 497

Mohammed Rasheeduddin, W.A. Abderrahman and John W. Lloyd
Sustainable Development of a Depletable Aquifer: A Case Study. ............................................................. 505

Khaled Hadi and M. Al-Senafy
Suitability of Groundwater for Irrigation in Kuwait. ..................................................................................... 515