



Press Invitation

Launch of the Atlas of West African Landscapes

Climate and people have dramatically changed the landscape of West Africa. The last forty years have seen increases in land degradation and deforestation. According to the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought control in the Sahel (CILSS), West African forests have declined since 1975, from about 131,000 sq km to 83,000 sq km.

There are, however, many examples of positive land modification, such as the regeneration of woody cover, the increase of biodiversity on cropland, or the use of soil and water conservation practices to improve cropland productivity. These examples are presented in the new Atlas of West African Landscapes being launched in Ouagadougou on July 11th, 2017.

This atlas describes the changing landscapes of West Africa and illustrates the changes with powerful satellite images. It allows researchers and policy makers to analyze changes in land use and land cover in West Africa and to better understand trends over the past 40 years with the goal of improving decision-making in land management.

To show the importance of this book, CILSS, USAID and USGS organize an official launch on **July 11th, 2017**.

The media are invited to the official launch of this atlas which will take place according a the program which in addition to official speeches will include the screening of a documentary film on Land Degradation:

There will be opportunities for media interviews.

The launch will take place in LAICO Hotel, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

For more information contact:

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