

The Truth on Fighting Sand and Dust!

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The International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms will be commemorating its 3rd anniversary on July 12th 2025. Moreover, with 330,000 lives around the world affected by sand and dust storms, many wonder what can be done?

Sand and dust storms are a type of natural phenomena that occur when powerful winds pick up sand and dust from dry soil, carrying

particles tremendous distances. Even though they are a part of our planet's natural bio-chemical cycles, sand and dust storms are also partially caused by human drivers e.g. climate change as well as water usage and unsustainable land management. Don't believe it? Look at the statistics:

"At least 25 per cent of global dust emissions originate from human activities, and in some areas, desert dust has doubled in the 20th century." - UN

Consequently, Sand and dust storms have become a considerable global concern over the past few decades because of their notable impact on, not only the environment, but health, socio-economic well-being, livelihoods etc. For example, Australia's 'Red Dawn' dust storm in 2009 was reported to have majorly impacted individuals' respiratory function; Over 250 emergency calls from people suffering with breathing difficulties were responded to by NSW ambulance services by mid-day September 23rd. Furthermore, these natural disasters happen to impede on the possible achievement of 11/17 Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. SDG-2 — Goal 2: Zero hunger).

Though sand and dust storms can be caused by human activities, they are also minimised through human actions. The UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) aims to combat sand and dust storms as well as strengthen coordination and cooperation on SDS at various geographical levels. "The mandate of the UN Coalition on Combating SDS, as defined by the participating entities is as follows:

- Promote and coordinate a collaborative UN System response to SDS;
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge, data and best practices among Coalition members to promote effective and coherent actions on SDS across the UN system and beyond;
- Encourage and promote collaboration on initiatives and actions among members of the Coalition, including advocacy and funding initiatives;
- Facilitate dialogue and collaboration amongst affected countries and the UN system in addressing SDS issues collectively;
- Facilitate the capacity-building of Member States, raise their awareness and enhance their preparedness and response to SDS in critical regions." - UN

Join hands with Householders Options To Protect The Environment (HOPE) Inc. and celebrate the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms. Your deserts will thank you!

References:

- United Nations. (12/07/2024). "International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, 12 July" - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-combating-sand-and-dust-storms>
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