

## **International Network of Drylands Limnology (INLD)**

The SIL Working Group Limnology of Drylands was discussed for the first time during the I Symposium of Brazilian Semiarid Limnology, held in Areia (Paraíba state, Brazil) in 2016, by the initiative of a group of Brazilian limnologists who have been surveying freshwater semi-arid ecosystems in the last few decades. The aim of this proposal is to encourage cooperation among multidisciplinary researchers interested in investigating environmental issues in aquatic ecosystems of world's drylands.

Drylands cover about 41% of Earth's land surface and more than two billion people inhabit them, more than 90% of whom are living in developing countries (Millennium Ecosystem, 2005). Drylands are characterized by highly variable annual rainfall, negative water balance (i.e. more evaporation than precipitation), heterogeneous spatial distribution of water, and multiple-use, which make such regions extremely vulnerable to climate change scenarios.

Since the Convention on Wetlands, signed in 1971 in Ramsar (Iran), the conservation and sustainable use of temporary waters has been attracting attention by means of national actions and international cooperation. Environmental changes, driven either by natural or anthropogenic disturbances, have been threatening the biodiversity of innumerable intermittent and ephemeral aquatic systems around the world such as swamps, rock pools, wetland ponds, lakes, reservoirs, streams, rivers, saltwater ponds, estuaries, and shallow coastal waters in drylands.

Temporary waters have considerable significance to ecology, are among the most endangered due to their small size and shallowness (Collinson et al. 1995). These habitats represent convenient systems to study ecological concepts, particularly because they are amenable to manipulation experiments, and their abundance allow easy replication. Further, they contain many species important to global biodiversity (Williams, 2006).

We look forward to building a strong relationship among the fellows interested in the INLD. Those willing to take part of the working group activities are welcome to contact the chair Luciana Gomes Barbosa ([lgomesbarbosa@gmail.com](mailto:lgomesbarbosa@gmail.com)).

### **References**

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- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) *Ecosystems & Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Williams DD (2006) *The Biology of Temporary Waters*. New York: Oxford University Press Inc. 337 pp.

### **Dryland Limnology Working Group (INLD)**

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