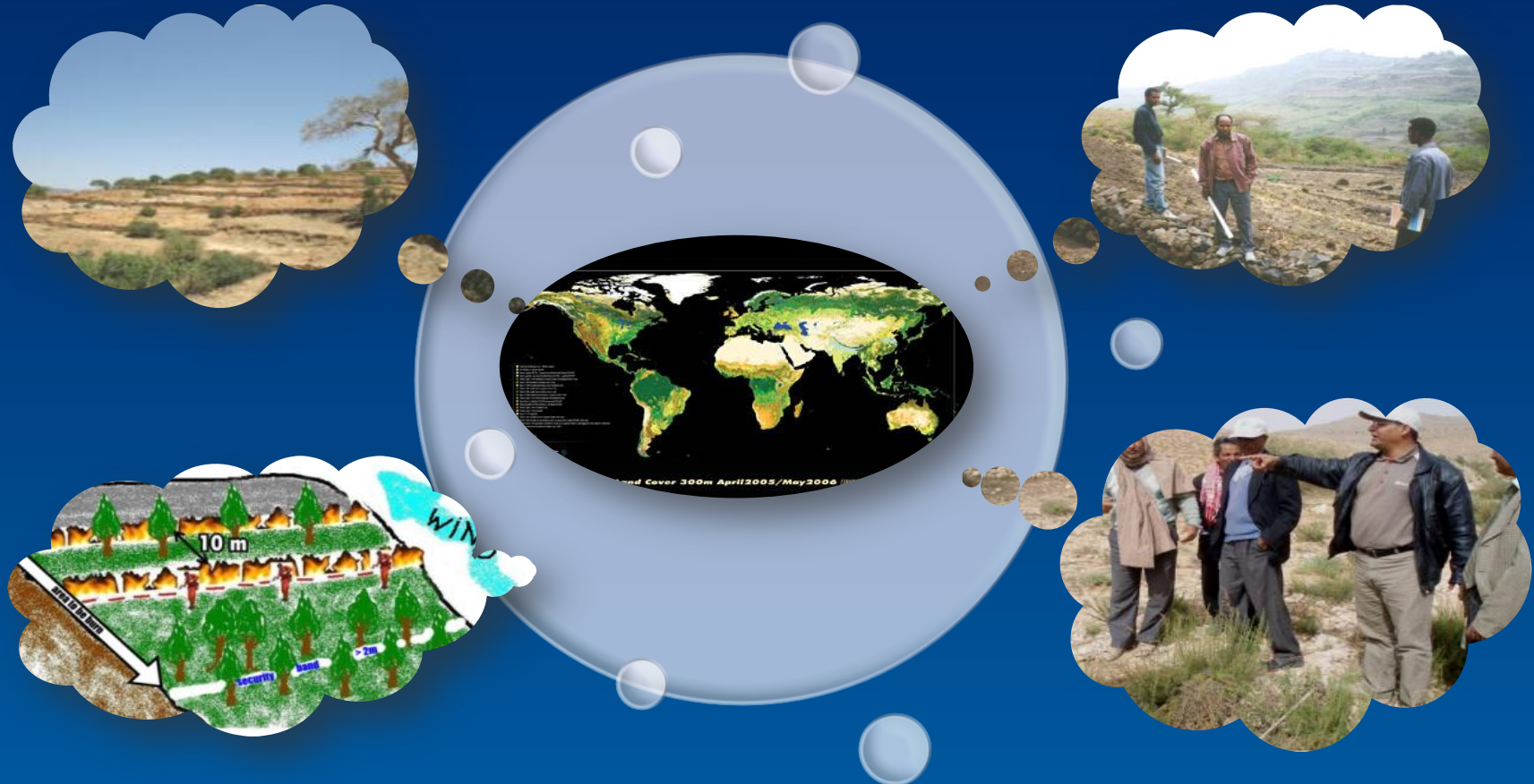# The DESIRE Project:
Desertification Mitigation and Remediation of Land - a global approach for local solutions

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On behalf of the DESIRE consortium

DESIRE background

DESIRE is an Integrated Project funded by EU (FP6), executed between 2007-2012 (Contract no. 037046)

The DESIRE consortium consisted of 26 partners from around the world with different backgrounds, expertise and study sites

Total project budget was > 9 million Euro, of which around 7 million from the EU and the remainder part from different national governments

DESIRE objectives

Main aims were:

1. To develop and test promising land use and management strategies to prevent and remediate desertification and land degradation in 18 hotspot areas around the world in close cooperation with local stakeholders, and

2. To disseminate results to different fora, amongst others using a web-based harmonized information system

DESIRE approach

Different sites, different problems

Soil erosion by water

Soil erosion by wind

Salinisation

Vegetation degradation
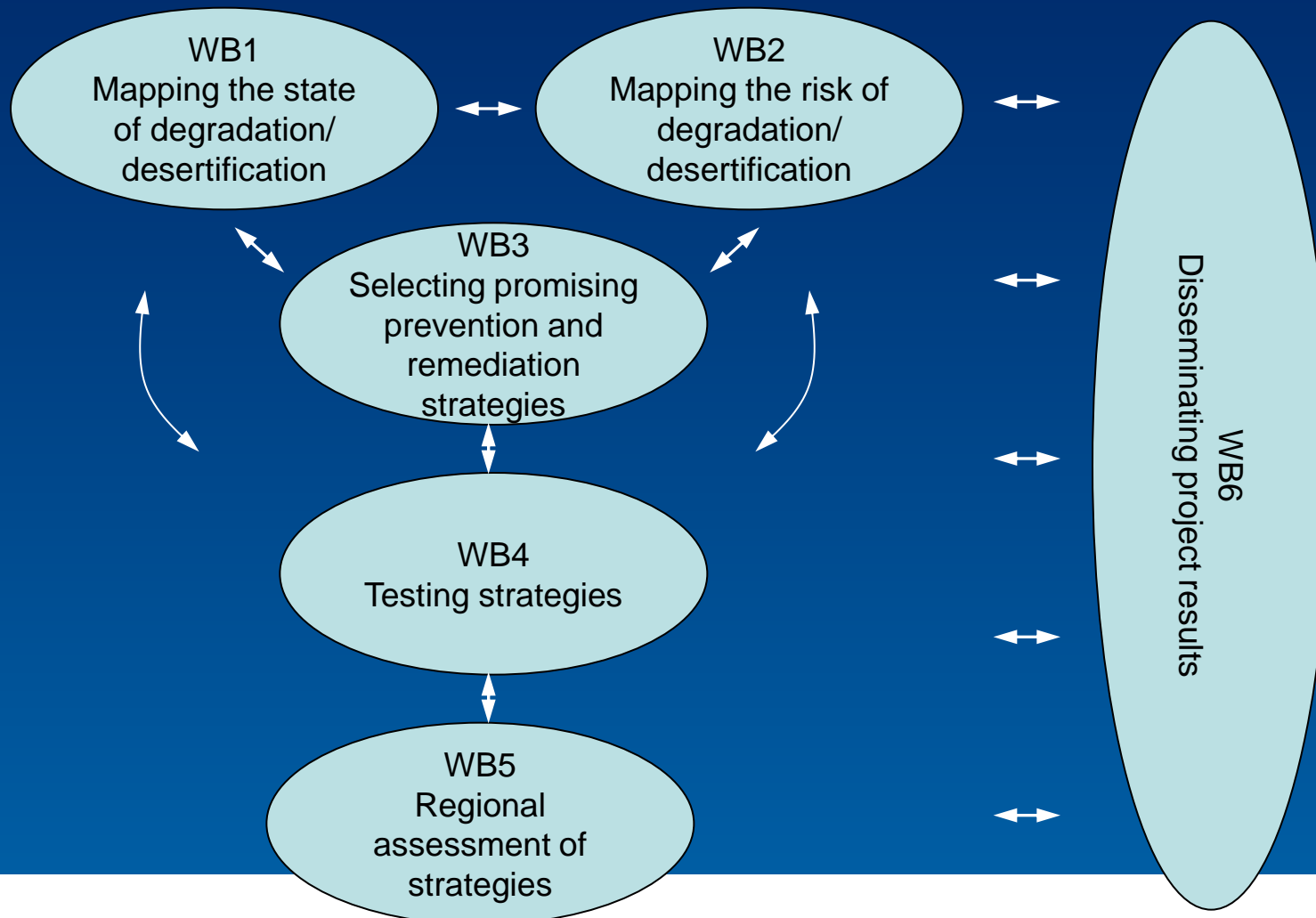
Competition for water

Forest fire

Drought

Flash floods

DESIRE approach

DESIRE was built among six Working Blocks

WB1
Mapping the state of degradation/ desertification

WB2
Mapping the risk of degradation/ desertification

WB3
Selecting promising prevention and remediation strategies

WB4
Testing strategies

WB5
Regional assessment of strategies

WB6
Disseminating project results

DESIRE WB1

WB1 consisted of mapping all study sites regarding the state of degradation / desertification and conservation using an updated and improved LADA-WOCAT mapping procedure
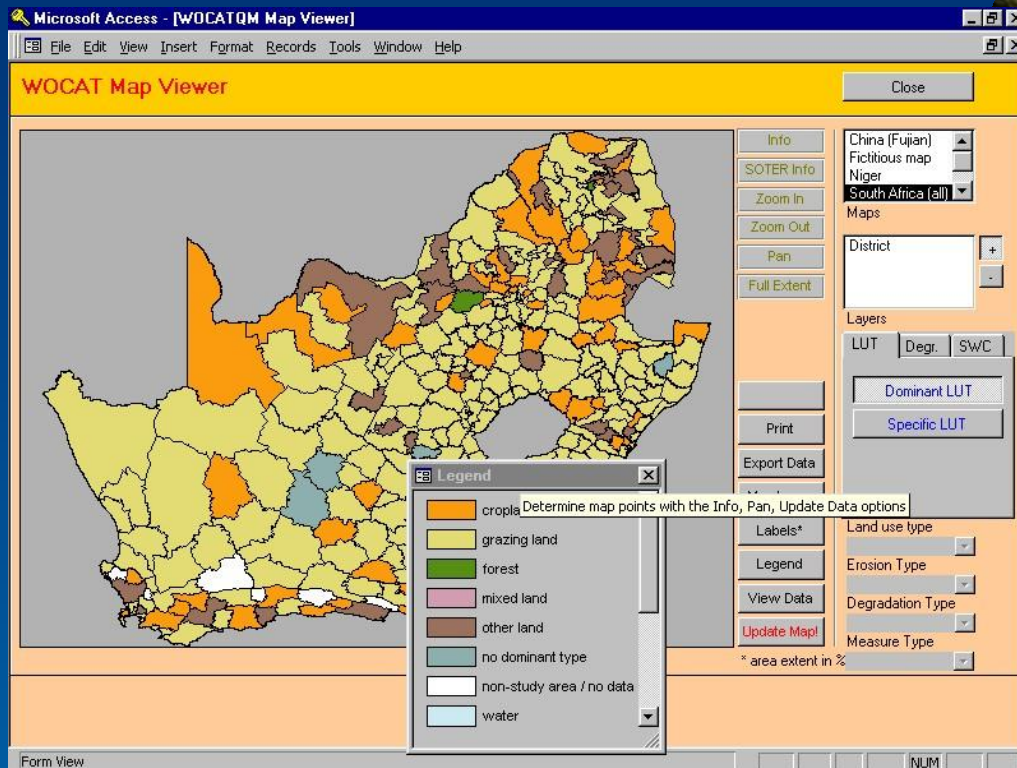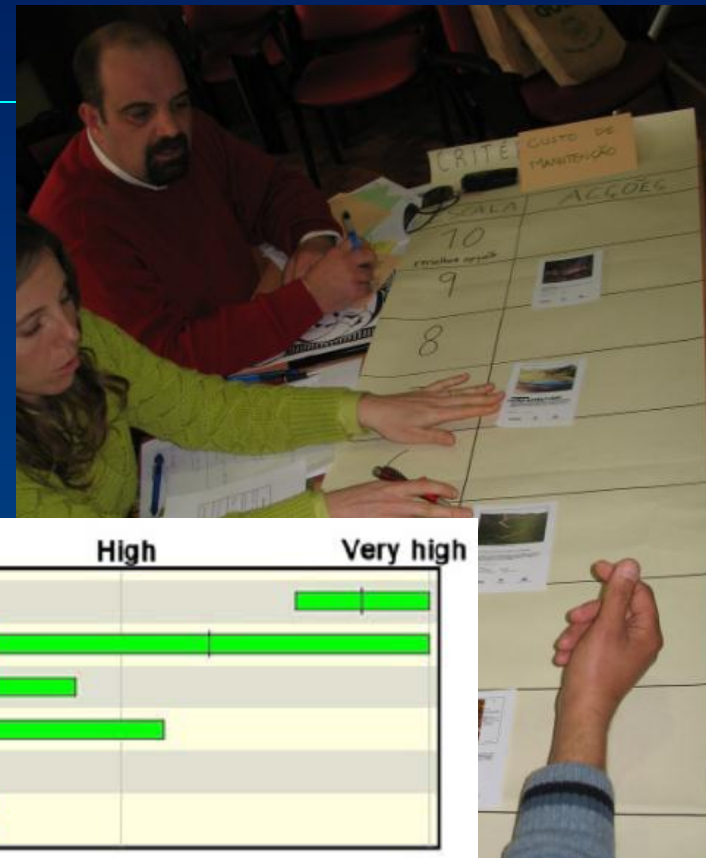
DESIRE WB2

WB2 related to the development of an extended indicator-based analysis tool providing maps of desertification risk for each study site
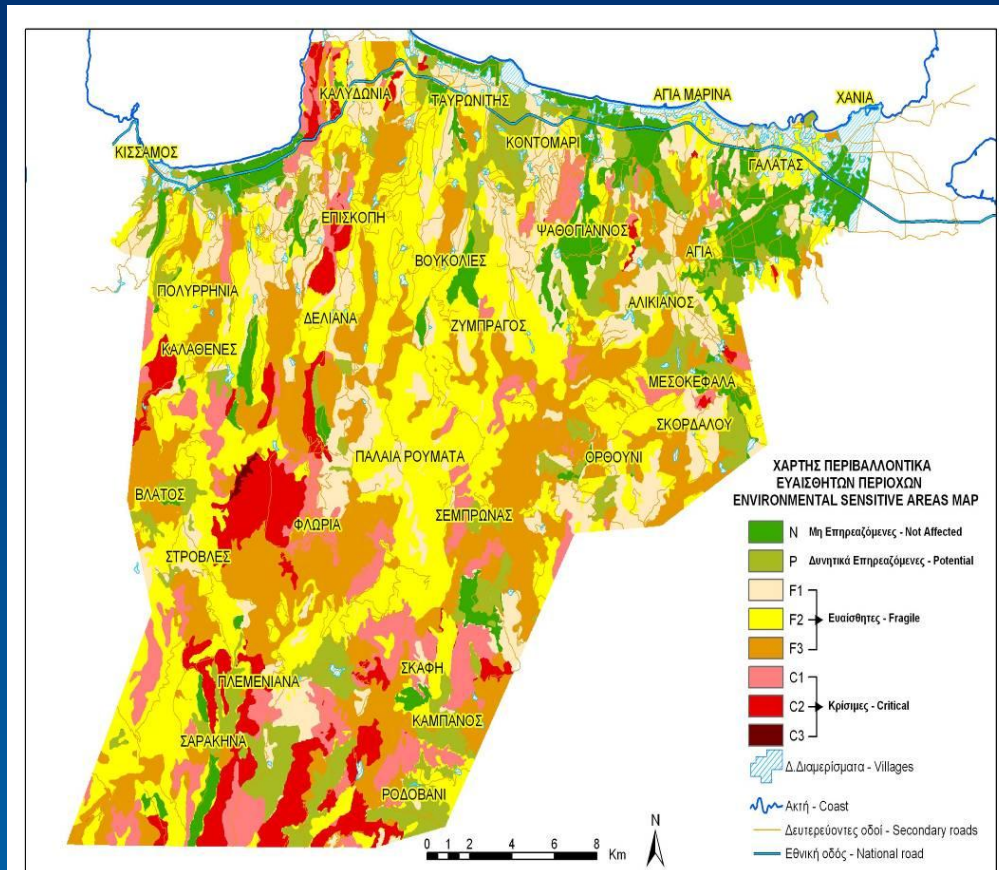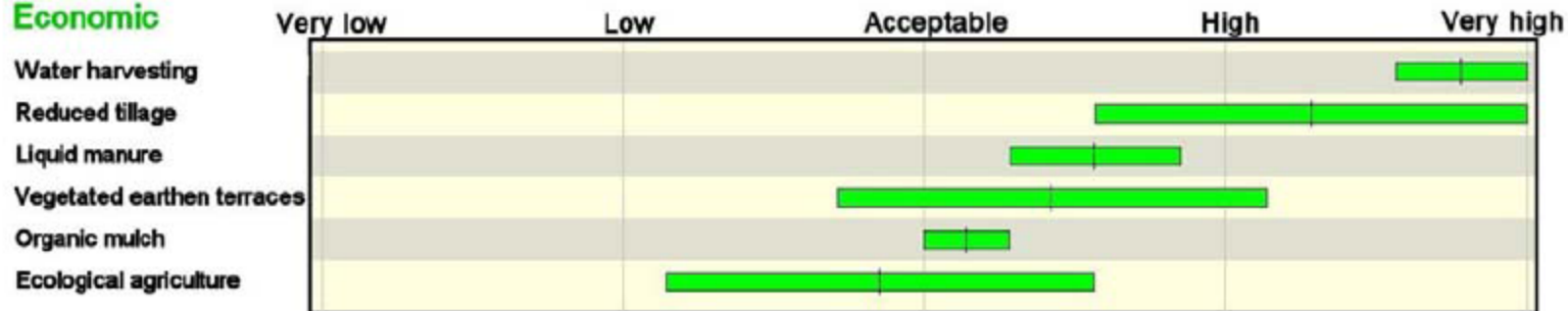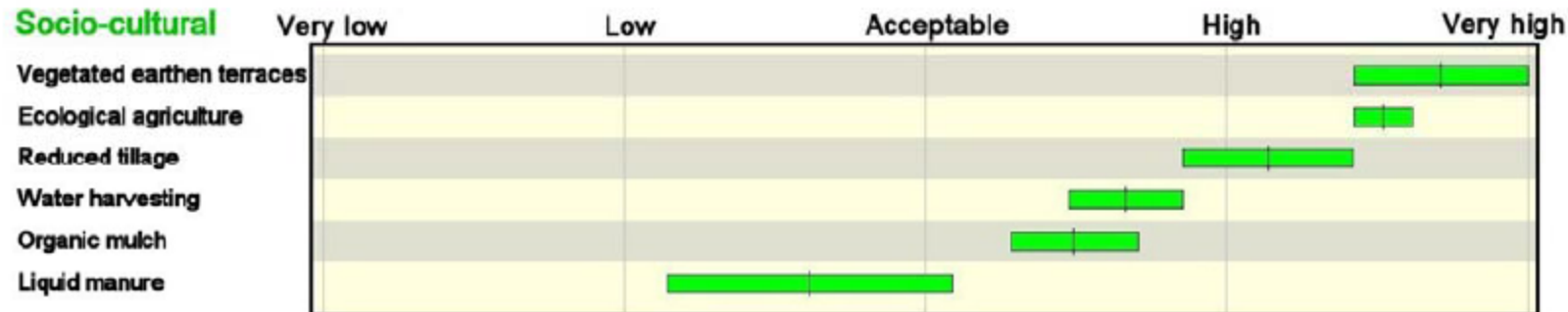
DESIRE WB3

WB3 dealt with the development and application of a participatory planning process to identify, document and prioritize soil and water conservation strategies with stakeholders using the WOCAT methodology

Economic

	Very low	Low	Acceptable	High	Very high
Water harvesting					
Reduced tillage					
Liquid manure					
Vegetated earthen terraces					
Organic mulch					
Ecological agriculture					

Socio-cultural

	Very low	Low	Acceptable	High	Very high
Vegetated earthen terraces					
Ecological agriculture					
Reduced tillage					
Water harvesting					
Organic mulch					
Liquid manure					

(Source: Gudrun Schwilch)

DESIRE WB4

WB4 related to execution of field trials to test and evaluate the biophysical and socio-economic effects of prevention and remediation measures selected by the stakeholders in the study sites
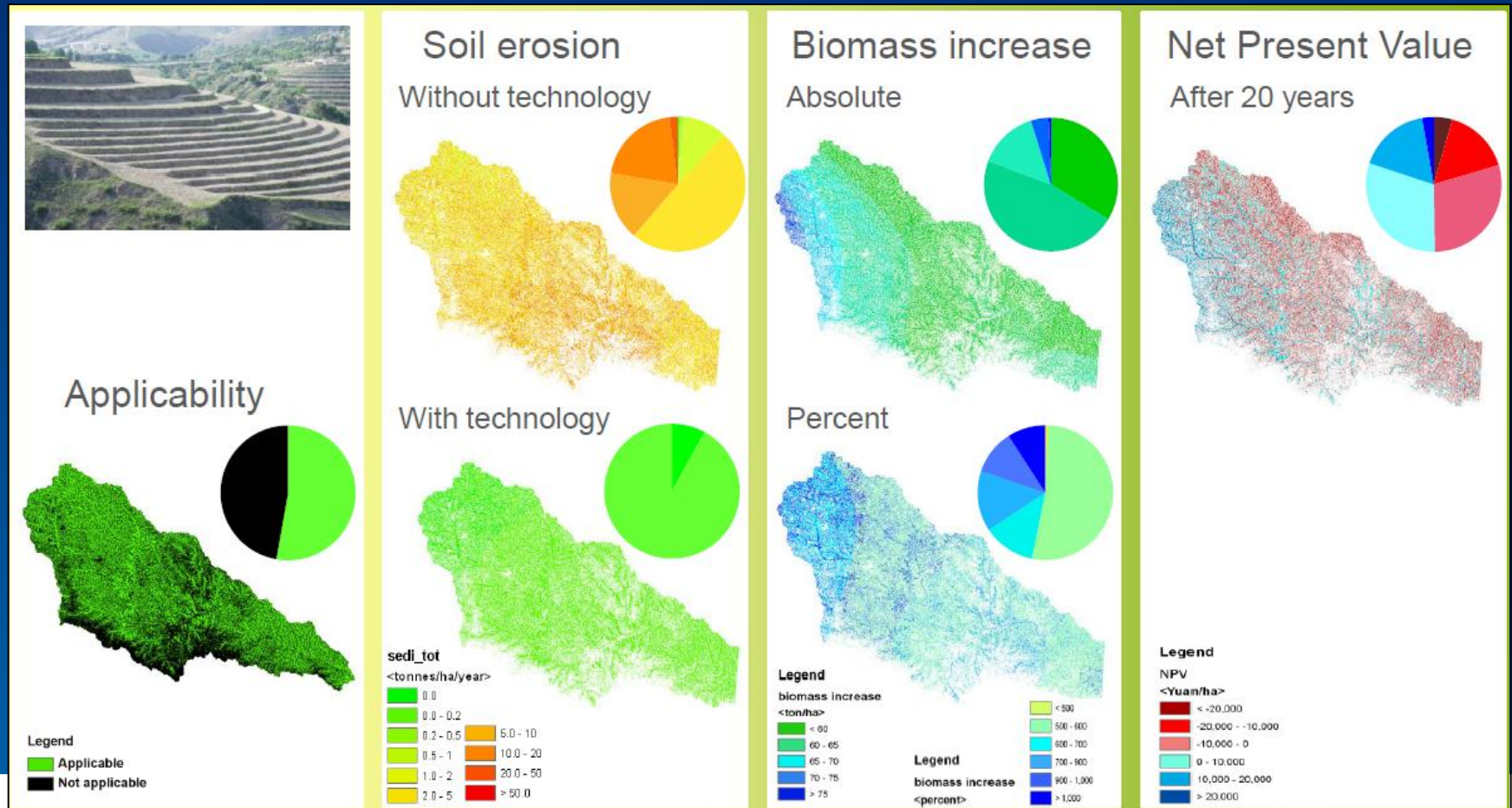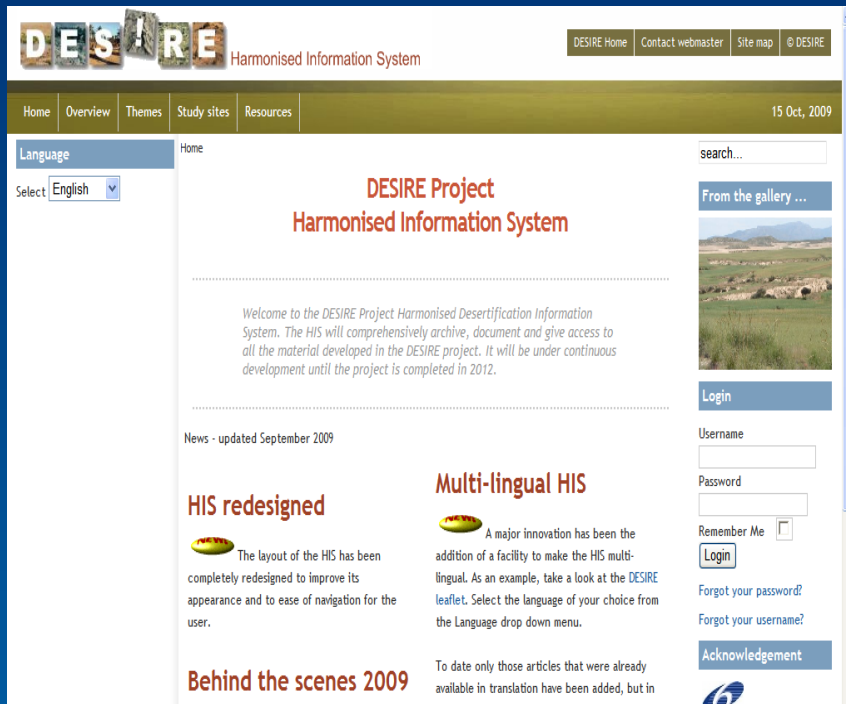

April 2009

April 2011

DESIRE WB5

WB5 aimed to couple a multi-scale biophysical model with a robust economic module to evaluate the efficacy of prevention and remediation measures on the wider spatial scale, including related costs/benefits for land users
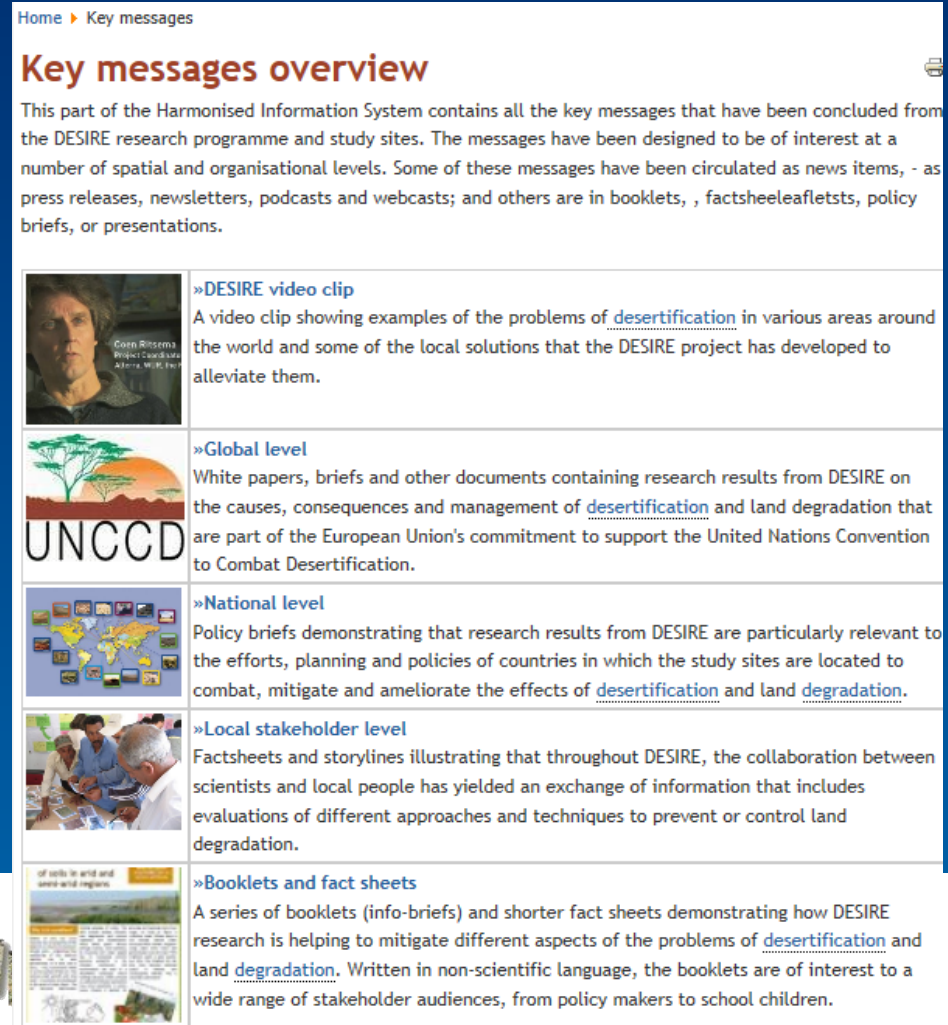
DESIRE WB6

WB6 disseminated project results using a state-of-the-art web-based harmonized information system providing information at different levels of complexity for a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from land users to the international policy arena

DESIRE WB6

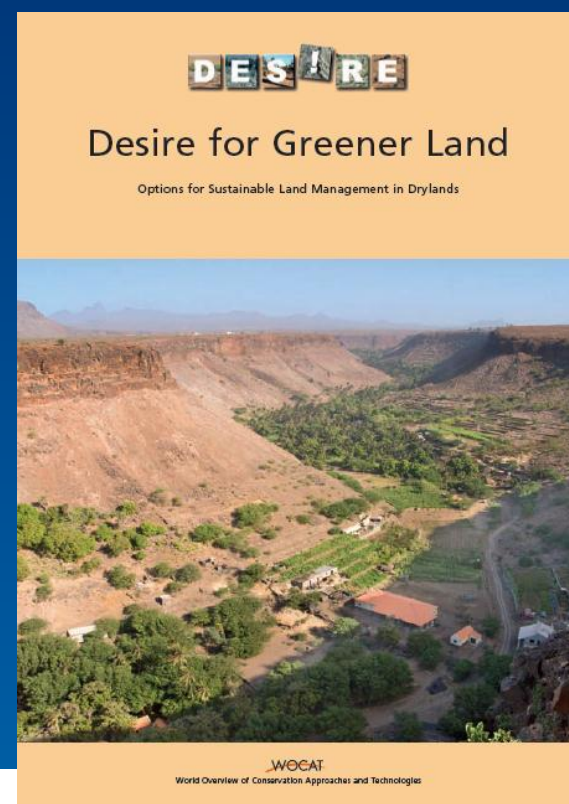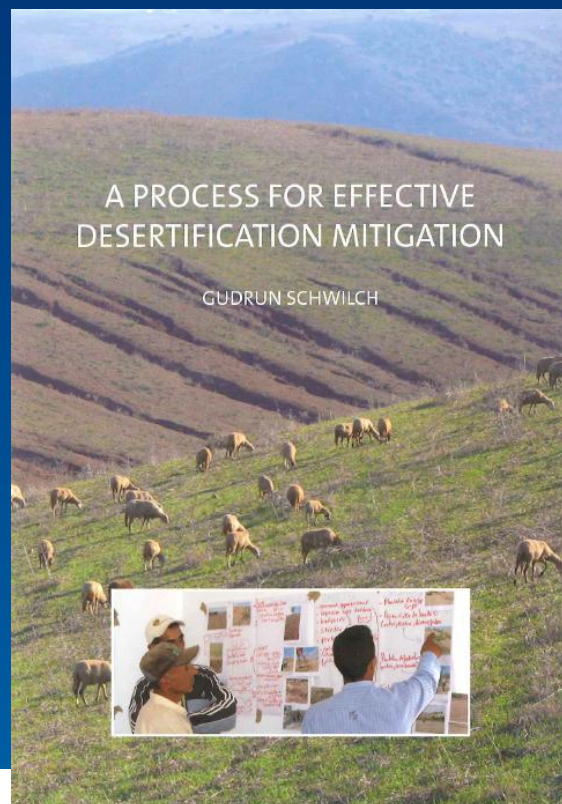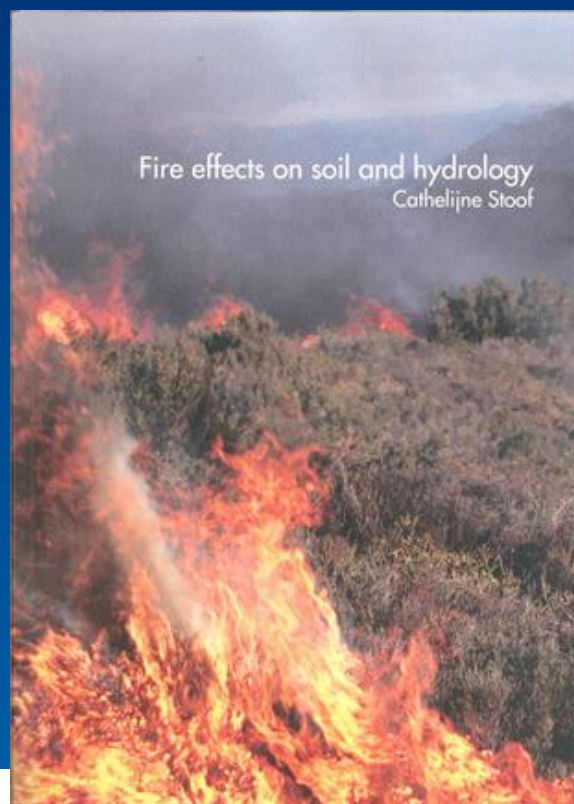At present, the DESIRE website has been visited by more than 3.6 million users out of 161 countries!

Current map shows the visitors between March-May 2013

distance in which individuals are clustered
Dot sizes: ● = 1,000+ ● = 100 - 999 ● = 10 - 99 · = 1 - 9 visits

DESIRE output

Scientific results will be presented in around 30 PhD studies, 3 DESIRE special issues in international scientific journals, numerous other papers, an updated WOCAT database, and an overarching book presenting the DESIRE methodology and options for sustainable land management in drylands

Fire effects on soil and hydrology
Cathelijne Stoof

A PROCESS FOR EFFECTIVE DESERTIFICATION MITIGATION

GUDRUN SCHWILCH

DESIRE

Desire for Greener Land

Options for Sustainable Land Management in Drylands

WOCAT
World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

The way forward

The DESIRE methodology can also be applied for combating other soil threats like those mentioned in the EU Soil Thematic Strategy. For that purpose, a new project initiative called RECARE has been submitted to the EC by a consortium of 28 partner institutions, which was favorably evaluated recently.

RECARE aims to prevent and remediate degradation of soils in Europe by designing and applying targeted land management strategies in close collaboration with stakeholders in 17 case study sites, including providing policy recommendations at the end

● Case studies (Cyprus also included, but not shown)
● Countries involved in the project
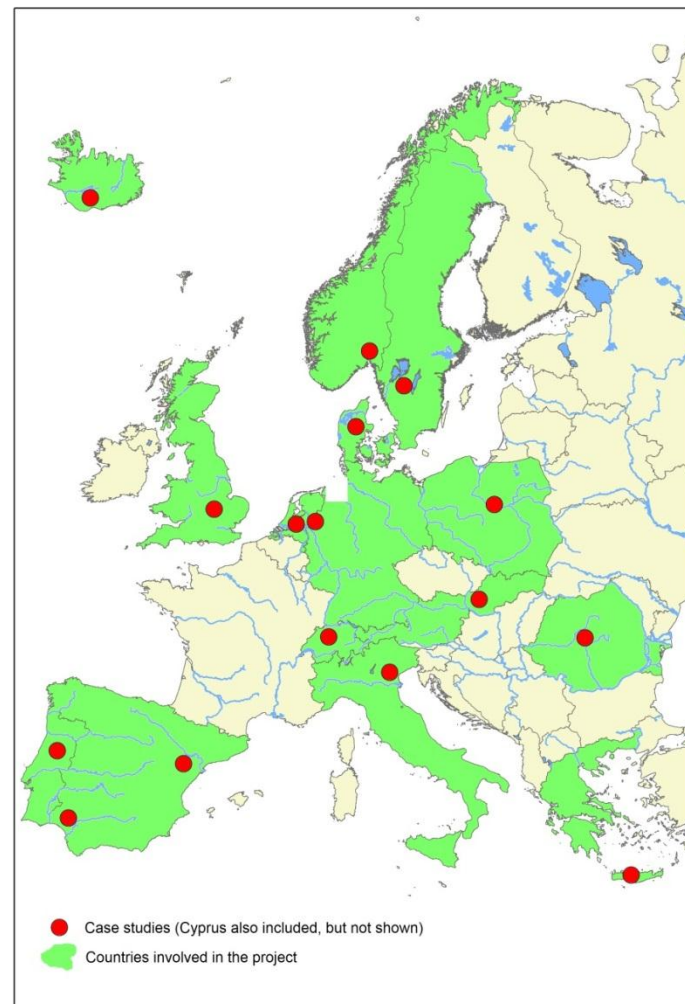
The way forward

RECARE's conceptual framework for assessing, preventing and remediating soil degradation in Europe is structured along the DPSIR approach
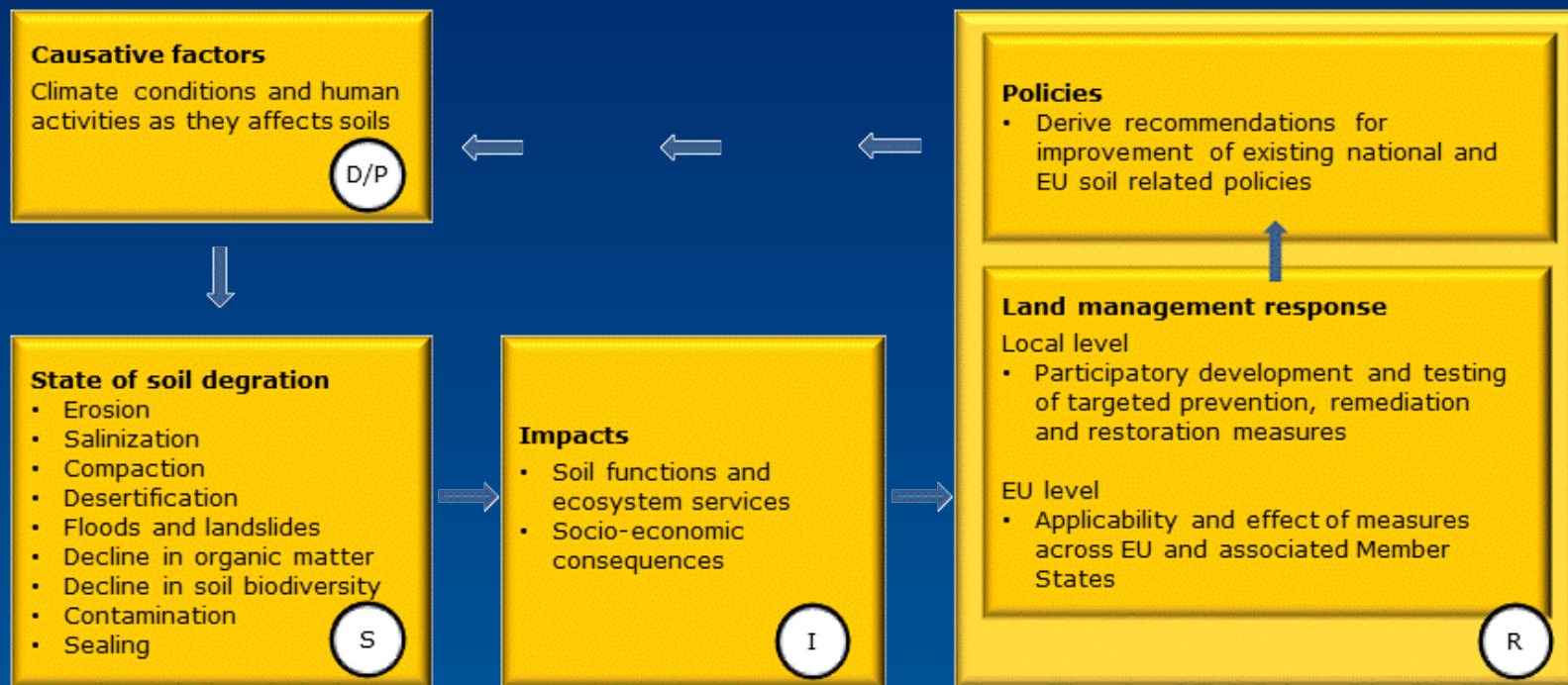
RECARE aims at improving the understanding of soil system functioning in relation to land use and management, and to achieve impact with regard to preserving the environment and benefiting the people

Thank you for your attention!

For more information, visit:
www.desire-his.eu
www.desire-project.eu