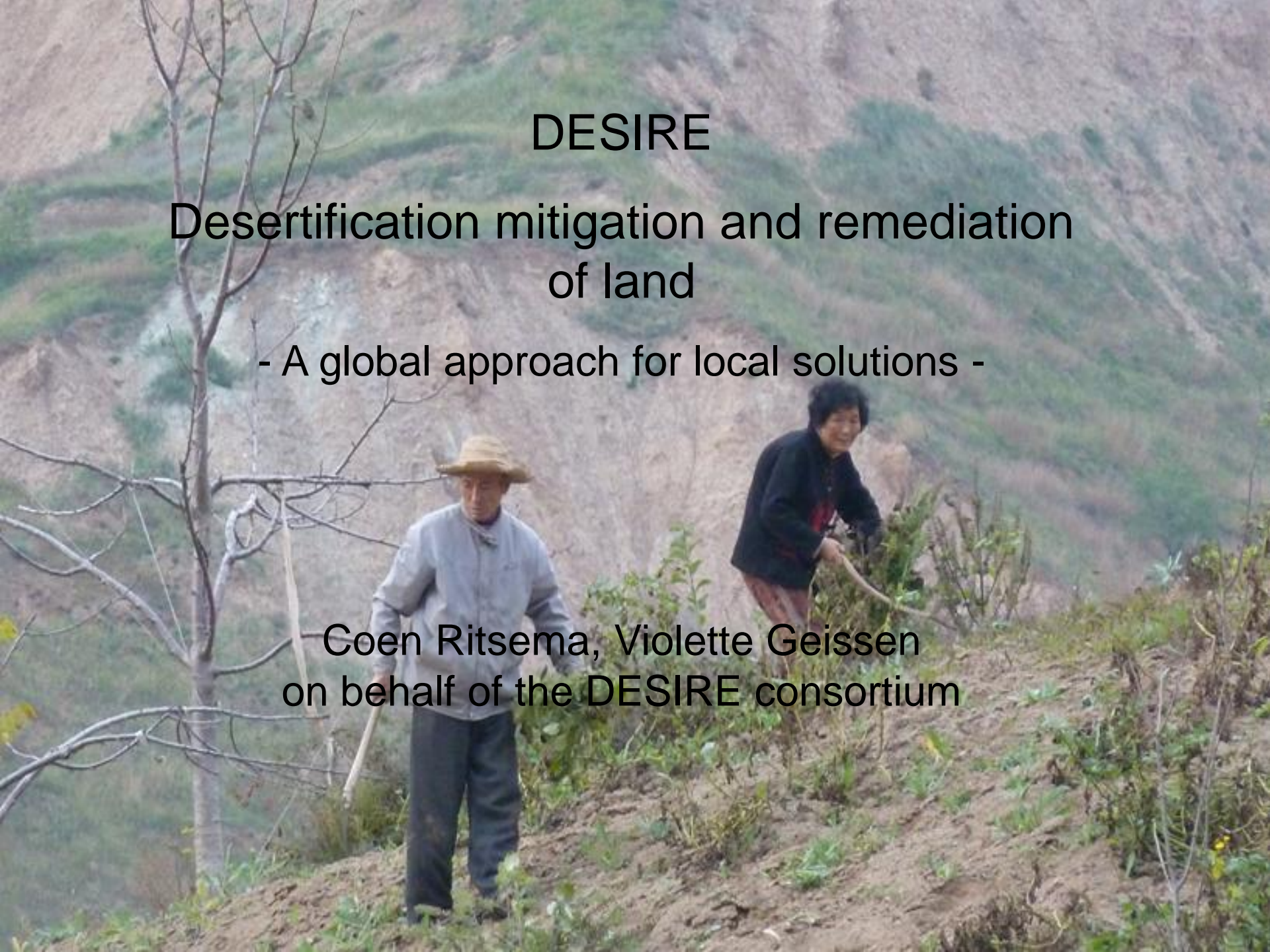


DESIRE

Desertification mitigation and remediation of land

- A global approach for local solutions -

Coen Ritsema, Violette Geissen
on behalf of the DESIRE consortium



DESIRE background

DESIRE is an Integrated Project funded by EU (FP6), and co-funded by 5 national governments

The DESIRE consortium consists of 26 partners from around the world with different

- Backgrounds (universities, research institutes, NGOs, SMEs, governments)
- Expertises (earth science, geography, ecology, hydrology, soil science, land use planning, eco-engineering, economy, policy, and communication sciences)
- Facilities (GIS, RS, experimental farms, laboratories, simulation models, knowledge and database platforms)
- Approaches (technical, social, political, economic, participatory)

Scientific contributions - DESIRE objectives

Main aims are:

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



Scientific contributions - DESIRE objectives

Basically DESIRE intends to achieve

- Scientific innovation (> 30 PhD students)
- Impact and outreach at different levels

Scientific contributions - 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

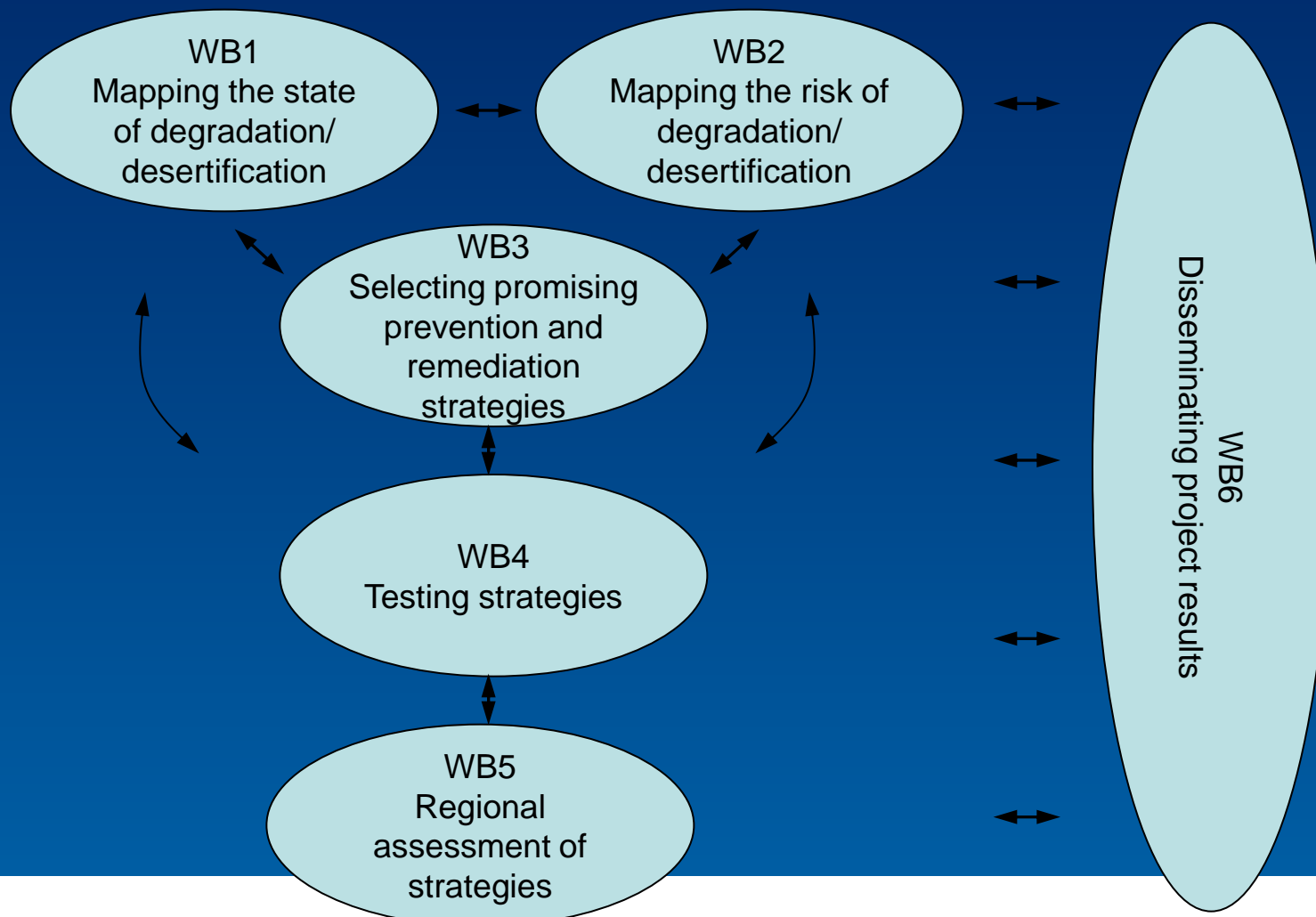
DESIRE



EU meeting of Coordinators
Urban, Soil, Desertification and
Degradation 22-23 Oct 2012

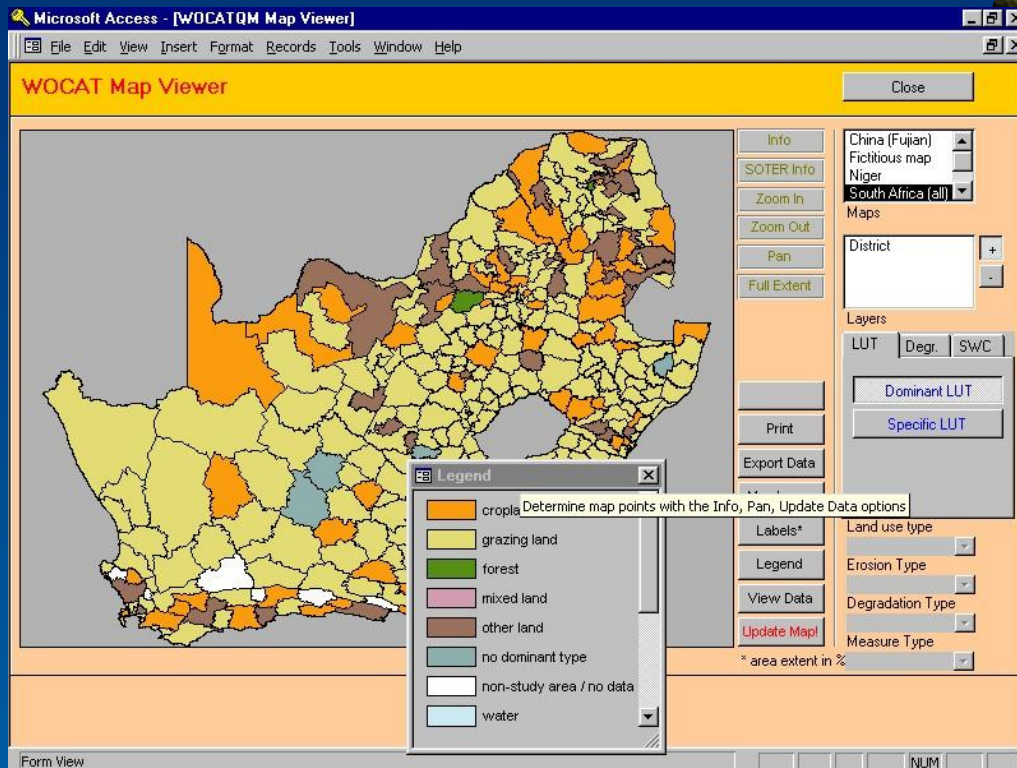
Scientific contributions - DESIRE approach

DESIRE is built among six Working Blocks



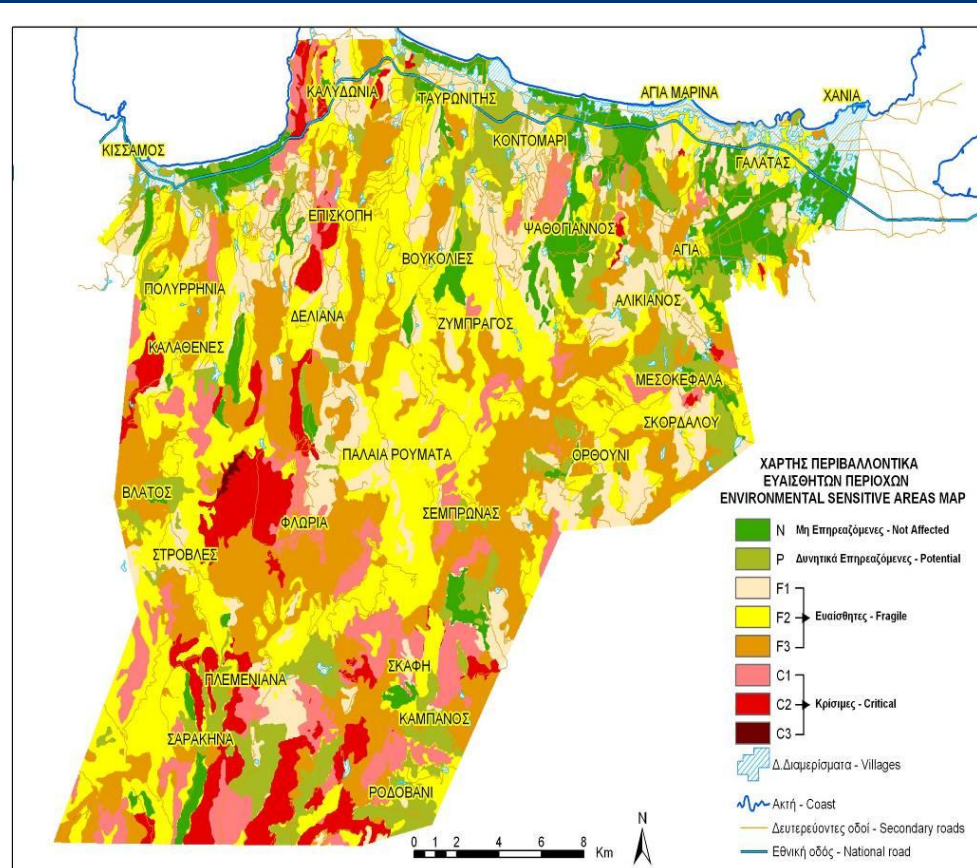
Scientific contributions - DESIRE WB1

Scientific innovation of WB1 consists of mapping all study sites regarding the state of degradation / desertification using an updated and improved LADA-WOCAT mapping procedure



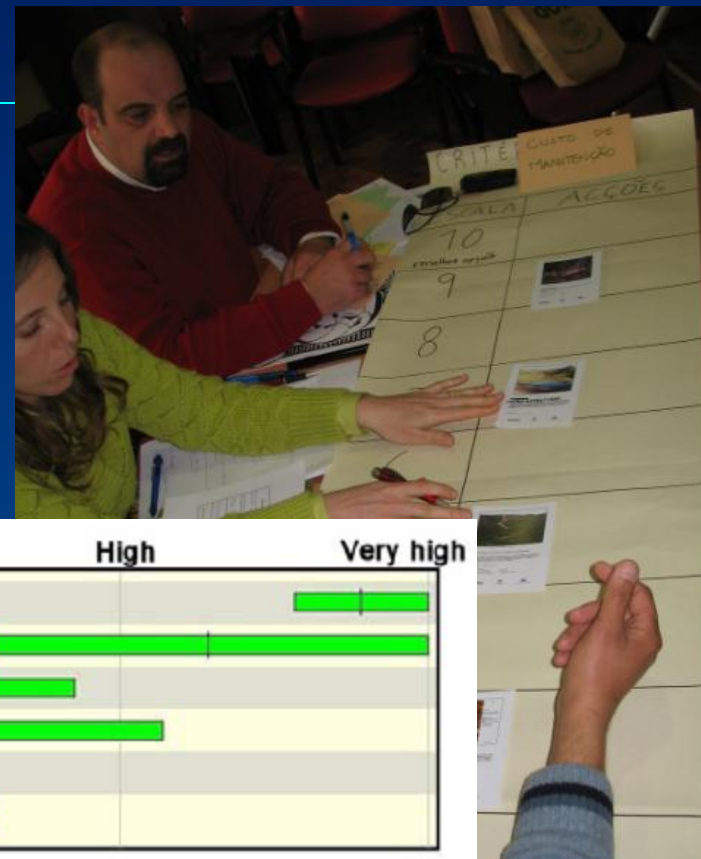
Scientific contributions - DESIRE WB2

Scientific innovation of WB2 relates to the development of an extended indicator-based analysis tool providing maps of desertification risk for each study site



Scientific contributions - DESIRE WB3

Scientific innovation of WB3 relates to 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



(Source: Gudrun Schwilch)

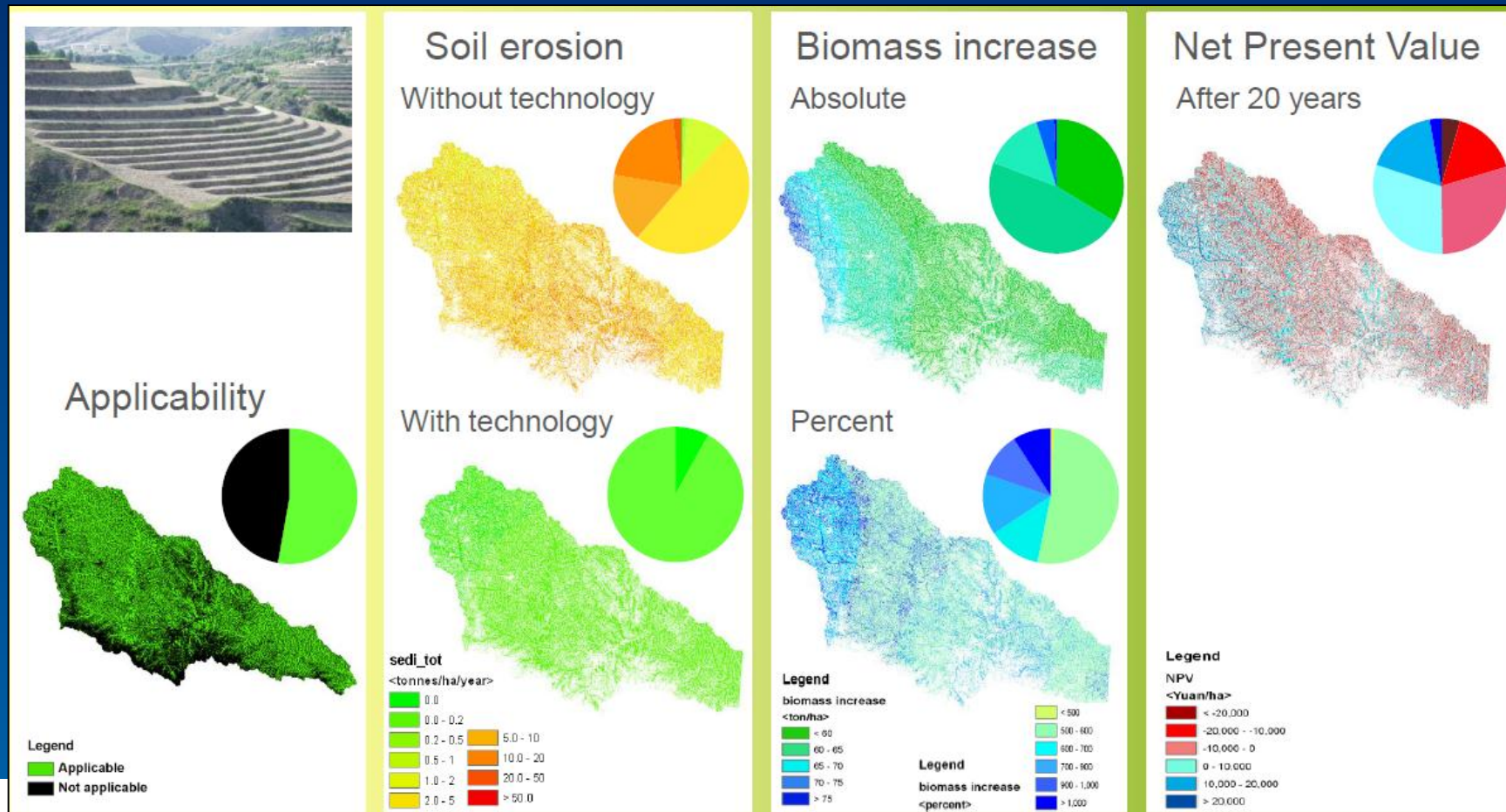
Scientific contributions - DESIRE WB4

Scientific innovation of WB4 relates 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



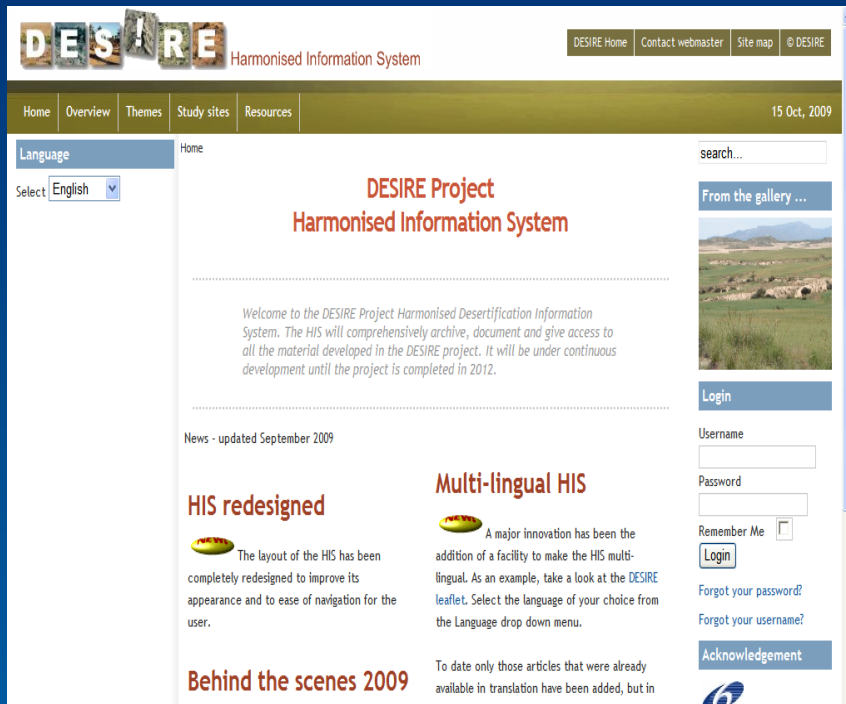
Scientific contributions - DESIRE WB5

Scientific innovation of WB5 links to coupling 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



Scientific contributions – DESIRE WB6

Scientific innovation of WB6 relates to disseminate 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 end-users



The screenshot shows the homepage of the DESIRE Harmonised Information System. The header features the DESIRE logo and navigation links: Home, Overview, Themes, Study sites, Resources, and a date stamp of 15 Oct, 2009. A language selection dropdown is set to English. The main content area includes a welcome message, a news update from September 2009, and two featured articles: 'HIS redesigned' and 'Multi-lingual HIS'. The 'HIS redesigned' article mentions a complete redesign for better navigation. The 'Multi-lingual HIS' article highlights a major innovation in making the system multi-lingual. A search bar and a 'From the gallery' section with a landscape image are also visible.

Home ► Key messages

Key messages overview

This part of the Harmonised Information System contains all the key messages that have been concluded from the DESIRE research programme and study sites. The messages have been designed to be of interest at a number of spatial and organisational levels. Some of these messages have been circulated as news items, - as press releases, newsletters, podcasts and webcasts; and others are in booklets, , factsheetleaflets, policy briefs, or presentations.



»DESIRE video clip

A video clip showing examples of the problems of desertification in various areas around the world and some of the local solutions that the DESIRE project has developed to alleviate them.



»Global level

White papers, briefs and other documents containing research results from DESIRE on the causes, consequences and management of desertification and land degradation that are part of the European Union's commitment to support the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.



»National level

Policy briefs demonstrating that research results from DESIRE are particularly relevant to the efforts, planning and policies of countries in which the study sites are located to combat, mitigate and ameliorate the effects of desertification and land degradation.



»Local stakeholder level

Factsheets and storylines illustrating that throughout DESIRE, the collaboration between scientists and local people has yielded an exchange of information that includes evaluations of different approaches and techniques to prevent or control land degradation.

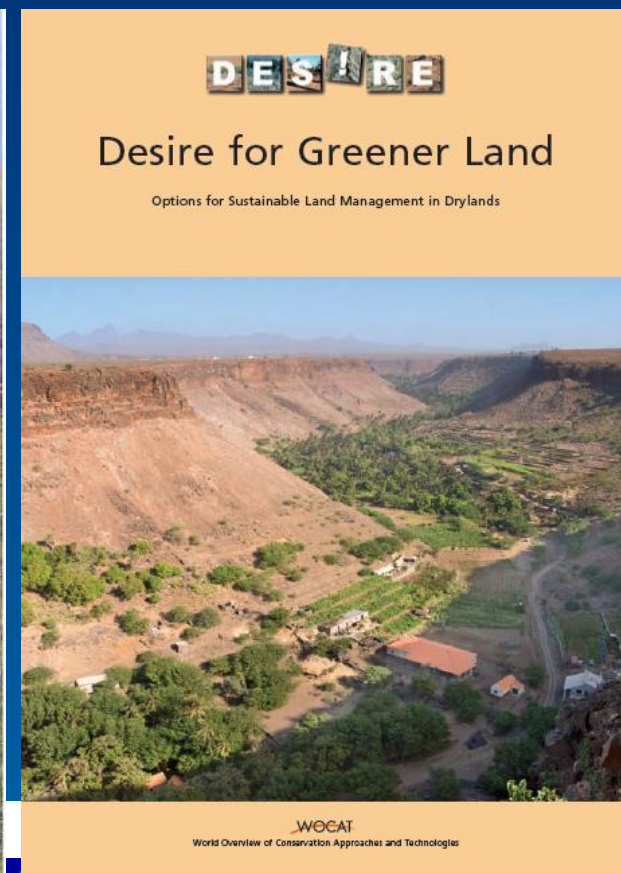
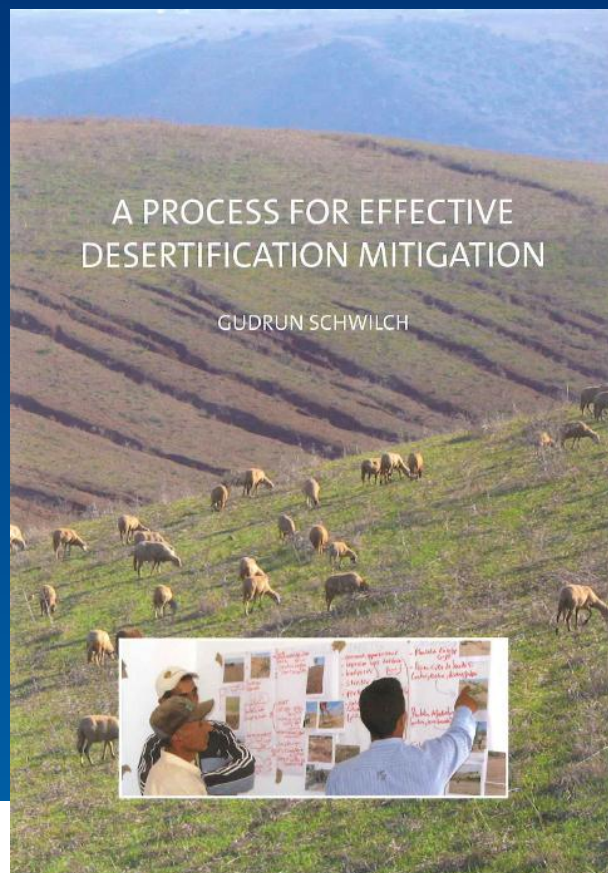
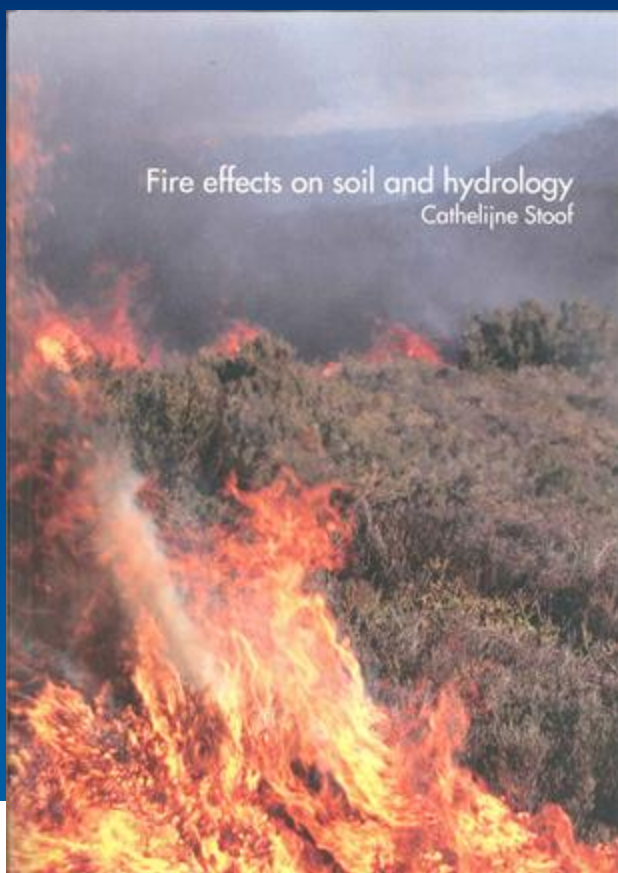


»Booklets and fact sheets

A series of booklets (info-briefs) and shorter fact sheets demonstrating how DESIRE research is helping to mitigate different aspects of the problems of desertification and land degradation. Written in non-scientific language, the booklets are of interest to a wide range of stakeholder audiences, from policy makers to school children.

Scientific contributions - DESIRE output

Scientific results presented in around 30 PhD studies, 3 DESIRE Special issues in international scientific journals, numerous other papers, and an overarching book presenting the DESIRE methodology and options for SLM in drylands



Scientific contributions - DESIRE output

Besides scientific output, DESIRE envisions to achieve other impact and outreach also

- Local/regional : Wide knowledge about DESIRE and its results in study sites and beyond, a.o. through series of stakeholder meetings
- National : Advise UNCCD national focal points how to adapt/improve NAPs according to stakeholder needs
- : Initiating proposals with national focal points, governments, and private investors for wide-scale implementation (GEF, IFAD, UNEP, etc.)



EU meeting of Coordinators
Urban, Soil, Desertification and
Degradation 22-23 Oct 2012

Scientific contributions - DESIRE output

Envisioned impact and outreach

- International : Promote the LADA-WOCAT-DESIRE methodology at the UNCCD level as a tool to contribute to achieving aims of the 10-year Strategic Plan
- General public : Disseminate results to other dryland areas around the world, a.o. by preparing books, videos, leaflets, instruction tools etc.



The way forward

If we really like to make a change on the ground it would be good to

- Start working on facilitating large scale demonstration and implementation of measures across the DESIRE study sites



- Apply the DESIRE methodology in other affected areas around the world also, and
- Use the DESIRE approach to derive solutions for other soil threats too, as mentioned in the EU Soil Thematic Strategy

An aerial photograph of a rugged, mountainous landscape. The terrain is characterized by dark, rocky peaks and ridges, with some areas showing lighter, possibly snow-covered or sandy patches. A small, rectangular settlement or farmstead is visible in a valley, surrounded by green fields. The coastline is visible on the right side, with a small bay or inlet. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

Thank you for your attention