

## Project results and dissemination to stakeholders

- ▶ development of a Harmonised Information System (HIS) that will be the centre for comprehensively archiving, documenting and giving access to all the material collected, organized, and developed in DESIRE,
- ▶ dissemination of all information within the project, so that all partners can access the information,
- ▶ the HIS will be made internet based in a number of languages,
- ▶ construction of decision support tools to suggest "best management practices" as determined by research and testing in the study sites,
- ▶ preparation of guidance and training packages to enable facilitators to bridge the information gap between scientists and stakeholders in the partner countries,
- ▶ dissemination of the DESIRE products to the international community, in an international DESIRE conference and through special sessions at other conferences.

*A global  
research  
initiative to  
mitigate  
desertification  
and remediate  
degraded land.*

## Project partnership

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Alterra, <i>Netherlands</i>   | 10 Eskisehir Osmangazi University, <i>Turkey</i>            | 21 ITC, <i>Netherlands</i>             |
| 2 Catholic University of Leuven, <i>Belgium</i>                               | 11 University of Mohamed V, Chair UNESCO-GN, <i>Morocco</i> | 22 IRD, <i>France</i>                  |
| 3 University of Leeds, <i>United Kingdom</i>                                  | 12 Institut des Regions Arides, <i>Tunisia</i>              | 23 Cornell University, <i>USA</i>      |
| 4 University of Wales Swansea, <i>United Kingdom</i>                          | 13 Institut for Soil and Water Conservation, <i>China</i>   | 24 Deakin University, <i>Australia</i> |
| 5 Centre for Development and Environment, University Bern, <i>Switzerland</i> | 14 Wageningen University, <i>Netherlands</i>                | 25 MEDES, <i>Italy</i>                 |
| 6 Estacion Experimental de Zonas Aridas, <i>Spain</i>                         | 15 Democritus University of Thrace, <i>Greece</i>           | 26 MSUEE, <i>Russia</i>                |
| 7 University of Aveiro, <i>Portugal</i>                                       | 16 Both ENDS, <i>Netherlands</i>                            | 27 INIA, <i>Chili</i>                  |
| 8 CNR Research Institute for Hydrogeological Protection, <i>Italy</i>         | 17 ISRIC, <i>Netherlands</i>                                | 28 INIDA, <i>Cape Verde</i>            |
| 9 Agricultural University of Athens, <i>Greece</i>                            | 18 Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra, <i>Portugal</i>      |  |
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A global initiative to combat desertification



A global initiative to combat desertification



## Introduction

*Twenty-eight  
partner institutions  
from across the  
world, consisting of  
research institutes,  
universities, NGOs,  
and SME's, started  
a large integrated  
research project on  
February 1st 2007,  
entitled DESIRE.*

*The project  
budget is over  
€ 9 million, and the  
project duration  
5 years.*

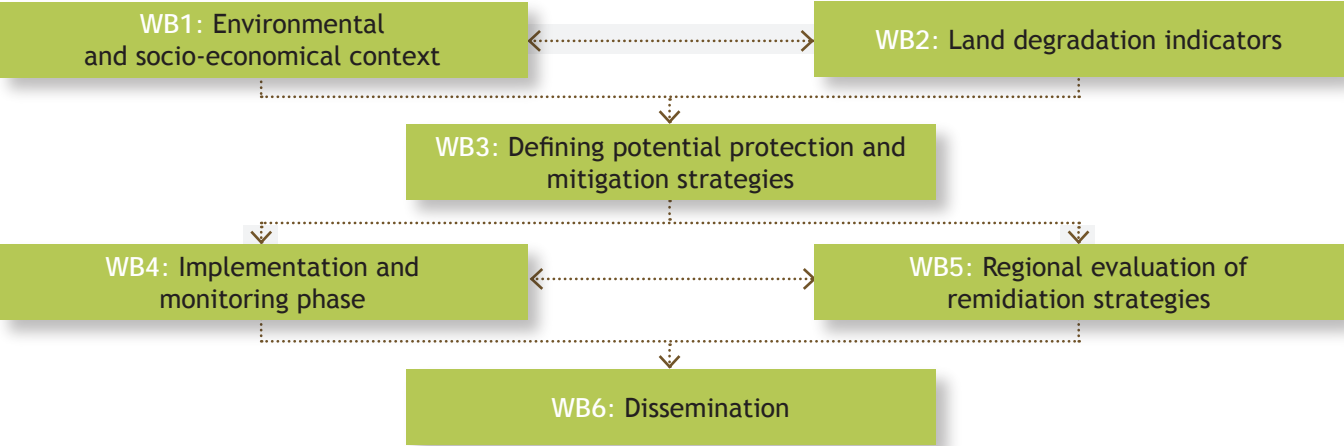
*The DESIRE project aims to establish promising alternative land use and management conservation strategies in sixteen degradation and desertification hotspots around the world, based on a close collaboration of scientists with local stakeholder groups. This integrative participatory approach ensures the acceptability and feasibility of conservation techniques, as well as a sound scientific basis for the effectiveness at various scales. DESIRE employs a bottom up approach.*

- ▶ degradation and desertification hotspots and stakeholder groups have been identified in all countries surrounding the Mediterranean, and in 6 external nations facing similar environmental problems,
- ▶ desertification indicator sets will be defined in a participatory approach and a harmonized information system will be constructed to organize socio-economic and geo-information data,
- ▶ new and existing conservation strategies will be defined with the stakeholder communities;
- ▶ these strategies will be implemented in the field, and monitored and modeled to quantify their effectiveness at various scales,
- ▶ the results will be extrapolated using indicator sets, geo-information data, and integrated modeling systems combining socio-economic and environmental aspects, and
- ▶ finally the results will be translated to a series of practical guidelines for good agricultural practices and environmental management, which will be disseminated to practitioners, agricultural extensionists, governmental authorities, policy makers, NGOs, land users, land owners, and local communities.



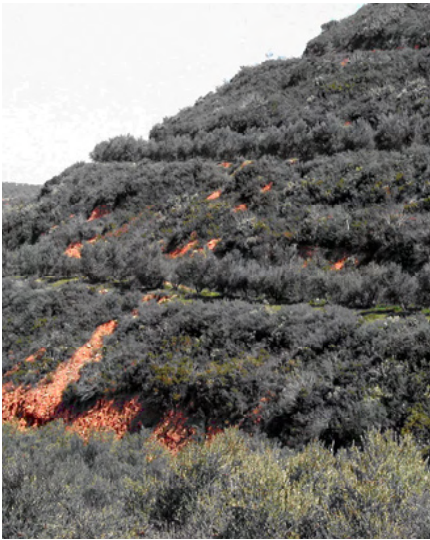


*In order to achieve the goals mentioned in the introduction, the DESIRE IP has been divided into a logical series of interrelated Working Blocks (see figure below), each with specific goals, tasks and deliverables.*



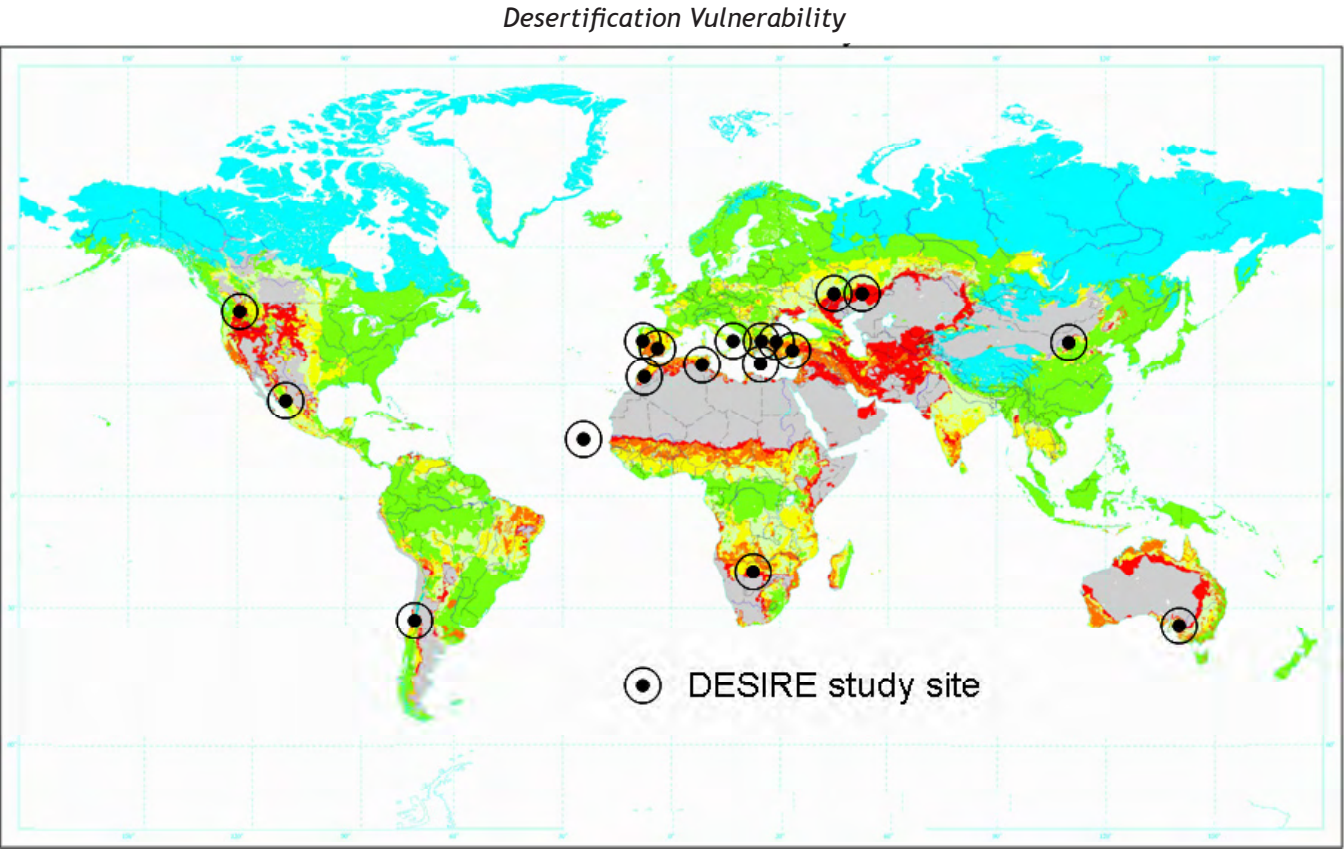
**WB1** inventories the 18 hotspot target areas and organizes both spatial environmental data and socio-economic data of stakeholder groups. **WB2** uses this information and available results from other EU projects to define and evaluate sets of desertification indicators. These indicators are tested for their efficiency in the monitoring phase in **WB4** and used to organize the monitoring results into a framework. **WB3** uses the information of **WBs 1 and 2** to develop a series of conservation and remediation strategies in close cooperation with the stakeholders. These

strategies are implemented in each of the hotspot areas in **WB4** and their efficiency is measured and modeled over the course of several years. The goal of **WB5** is to up-scale the results of **WB4** and model them on a larger scale, forecasting regional effects of combating desertification both in environmental and socio-economical terms. **WB6** finally runs parallel to the other workblocks in that it designs a harmonized data information system to which all **WBs** contribute data, and organizes the dissemination of the results.



## A Global Initiative

The DESIRE project encompasses a set of 18 study sites around the globe (see Figure below) that are affected by one or more desertification related problems. These areas have a different socio-economic context in the form of land use and management, and a different physical context in the form of climate and landscape. This gives DESIRE a truly global “laboratory” to apply both tested conservation and remediation measures, and find new and innovative approaches to combat desertification. One of the main challenges will be to merge the results into a methodological framework and harmonized database information system. This calls for a well structured approach.



Hotspot area	Main Problem/ Desertification process
Guadalentin Basin, Murcia, <i>Spain</i>	Drought, soil erosion by water
Mação, <i>Portugal</i>	Forest fires
Rendina Basin, Basilicata, <i>Italy</i>	Soil erosion by water
Crete, <i>Greece</i>	Soil erosion by water, overgrazing, water stress
Nestos Basin, Maggana, <i>Greece</i>	Salinisation
Konya Karapinar Plain, <i>Turkey</i>	Soil erosion by wind
Eskisehir Plain, <i>Turkey</i>	Soil erosion by water
Mamora/Sehoul, <i>Morocco</i>	Increasing pressure due to urbanization nearby
Zeuss-Koutine, <i>Tunisia</i>	Competition for scarce water resources
Djanybek, <i>Russia</i>	Poor vegetation growth
Novij, Saratov, <i>Russia</i>	Salinisation
Loess Plateau, <i>China</i>	Soil erosion by water and wind
Boteti Area, <i>Botswana</i>	Overgrazing and decreased flooding
Cointzio catchment, <i>Mexico</i>	Soil erosion by water
Walnut Gulch Watershed, <i>USA</i>	Vegetation change, flash floods
Glenelg Hopkins region, <i>Australia</i>	Salinisation, and sporadically bush fires
Secano Interior, <i>Chili</i>	Soil erosion by water, extensive gullyng
Santiago Island, <i>Cape Verde</i>	Soil erosion, drought, flash floods