



MEDCOASTLAND THEMATIC NETWORK

**Experience from the EU-funded
MEDCOASTLAND Thematic Network
in enhancing dissemination of
information in the Mediterranean
region**

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CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy

**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MEDITERRANEAN
AGRONOMIC STUDIES (CIHEAM)**

MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF BARI, ITALY



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Main activities of CIHEAM

- **Training**
- **Research**
- **Cooperation**
- **Rural Development**
- **Publications/Dissemination**

Main scientific areas of MAI-B

- **Land and Water Resources Management**
- **Integrated Pest Management**
- **Mediterranean Organic Agriculture**
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the countries with Mediterranean Climate**



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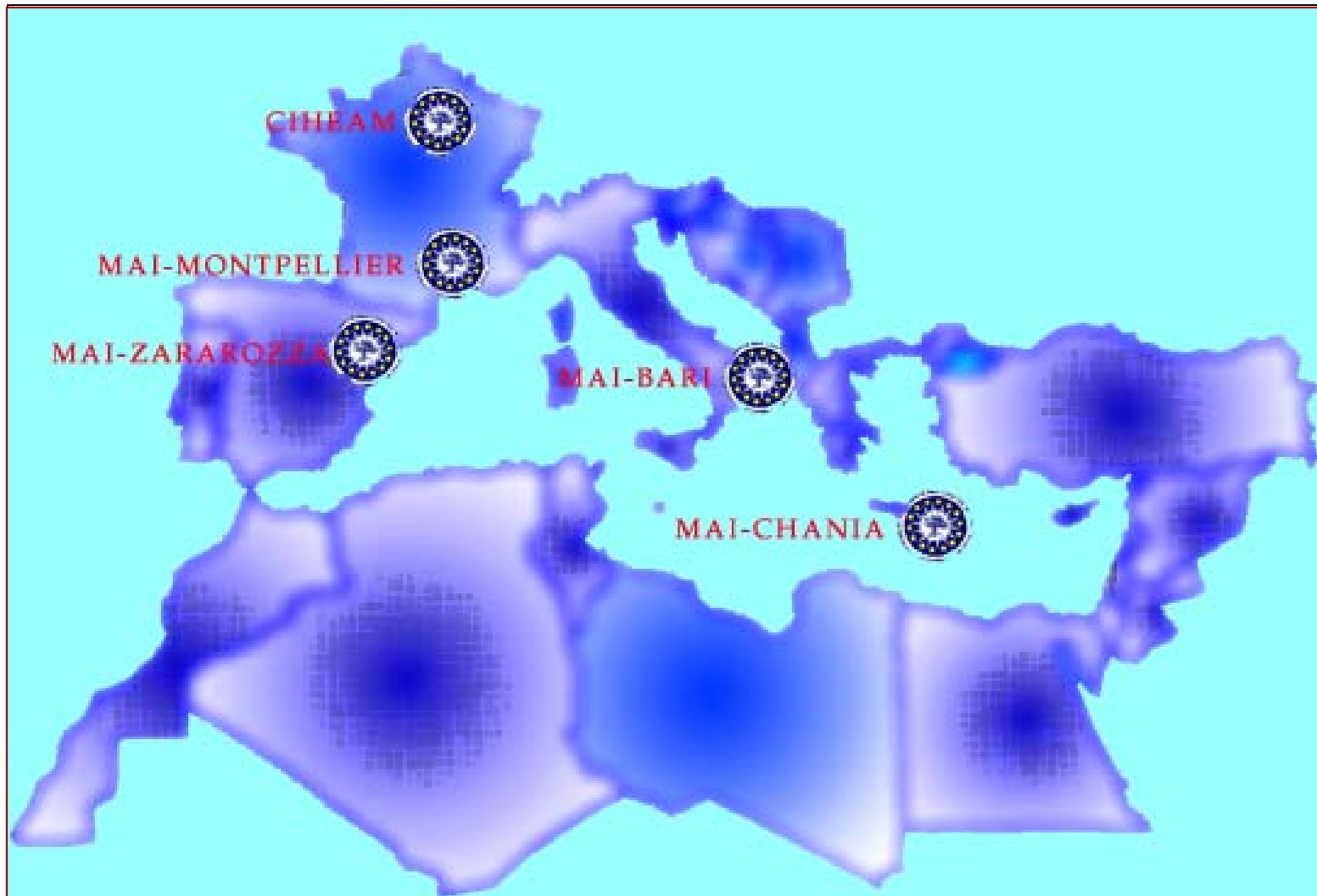




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CIHEAM and its Institutes (www.ciheam.org)





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The background of MEDCOASTLAND

- Long term experience of CIHEAM in the Mediterranean region (more than 40 years) established through the multi layer contacts with students, researchers, and governments of the region;
- International Meeting for the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Network on Soil Information (December 1999), Memorandum of Understanding signed by 10 countries, publication OPTION Méditerranéennes No. 34;
- INRA/ESB/CIHEAM workshops (Lebanon, January 2001, Morocco July 2001);
- 7th International Meeting on Soils with Mediterranean Type of Climate, held in Bari, Italy in September 2001 and publication of Selected Papers of the 7th IMSMTC; (OPTION Méditerranéennes No. 50)
- **EC publication of the “Instruction Guide for the elaboration of the Soil Geographical Database of Eurasia and Mediterranean Countries at 1:1 million scale, version 4.0, EUR 20422 (December 2002);**
- **MEDCOASTLAND is a logical follow up of these activities.**

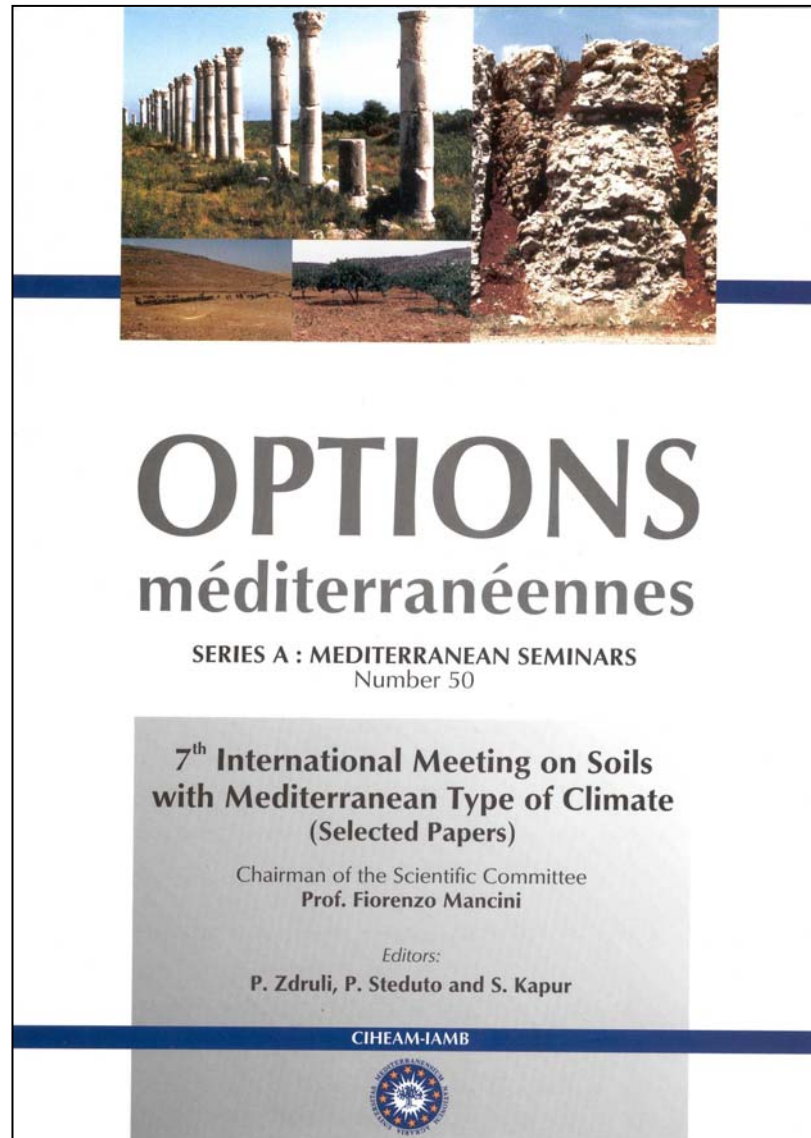
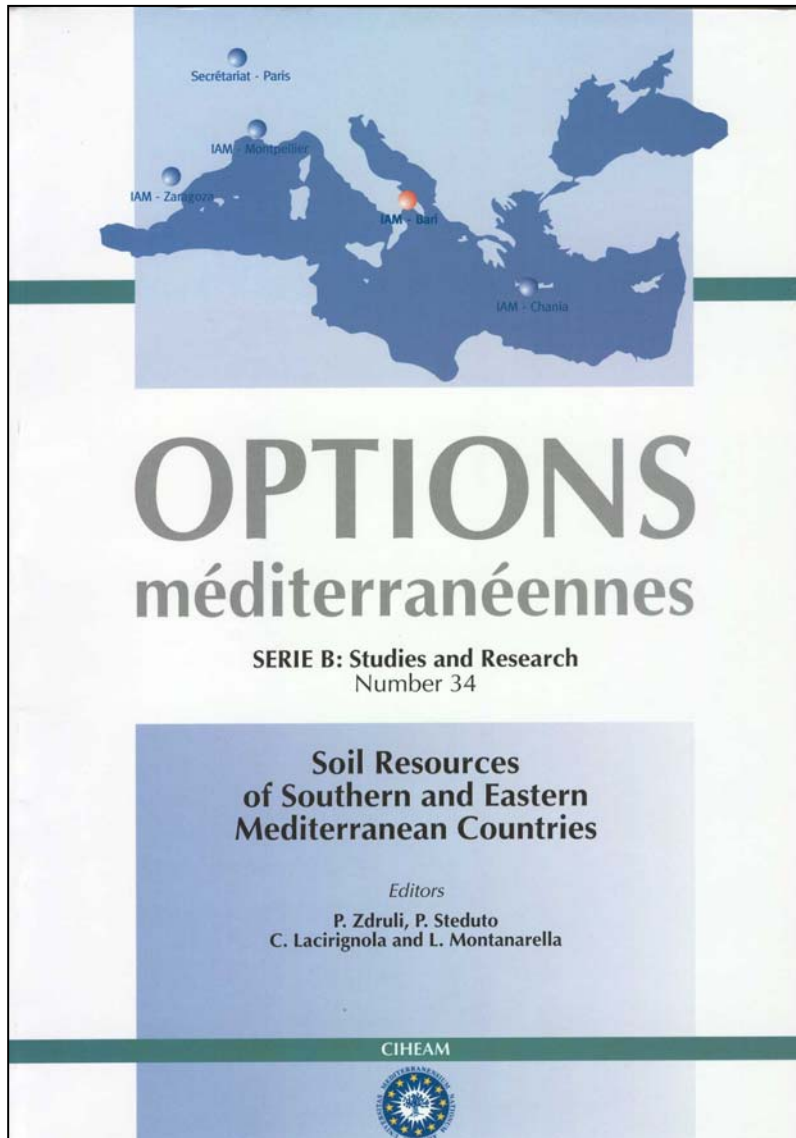
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Major **Land** Resource Stresses and **Soil** Threats in the Mediterranean region derive from

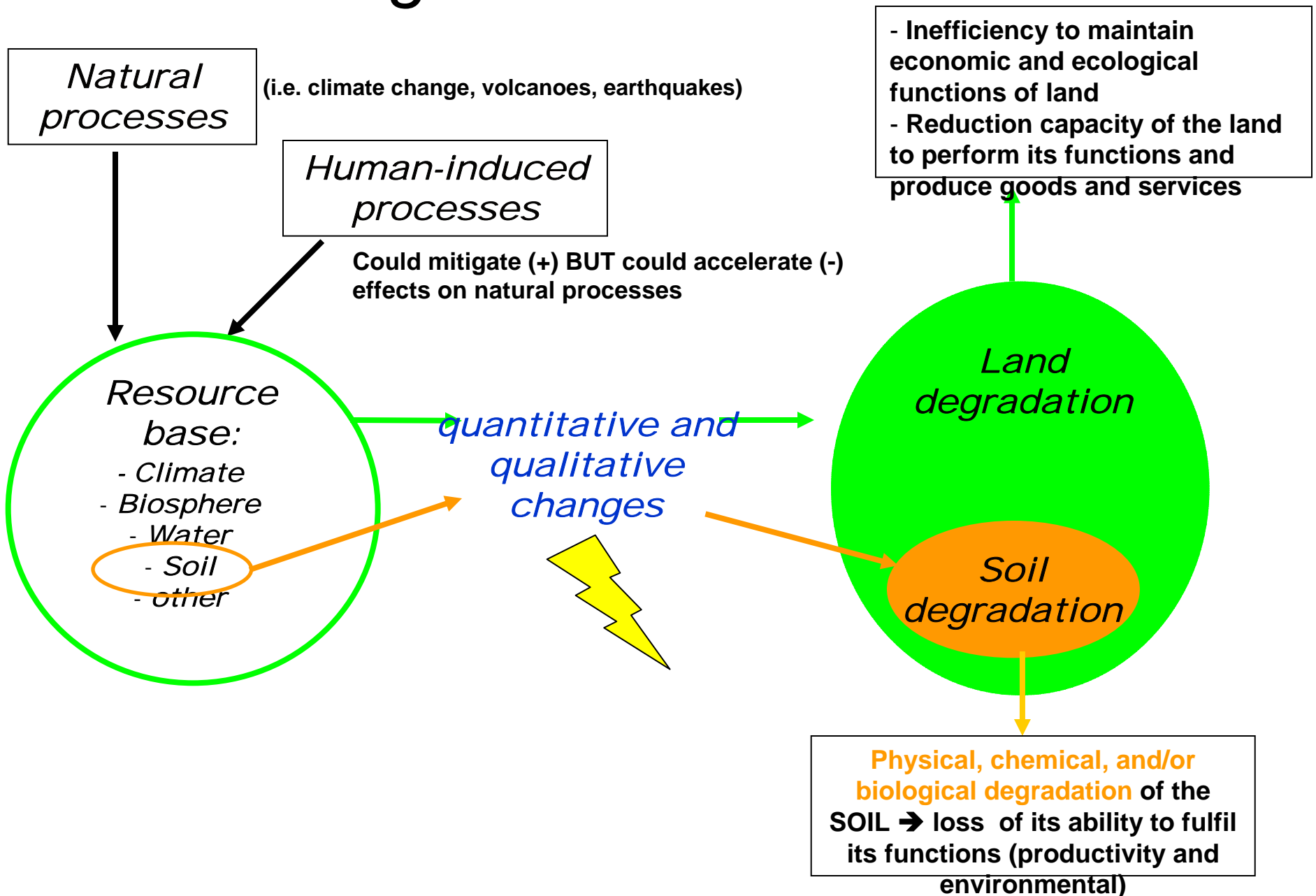
Natural conditions

- Water and wind soil erosion;
- Desertification and drought risks;
- Salinisation;
- Scarcity of fertile land and water resources;
- Low content of organic matter;
- Large extend of shallow, stony, and desert areas;

Accelerated by Human induced factors

- **Urbanisation, soil sealing, soil compaction and crusting;**
- **Soil chemical pollution and physical deterioration;**
- **Overgrazing, deforestation, forest fires, and degradation of vegetation cover;**
- **High population pressure per land unit especially in the coastal zone;**

Land/soil degradation





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Hot Spots

Soil Erosion



Gully erosion



Susceptibility to water & wind erosion



Rill erosion



GOOD CONDITION VS = 2
Wind erosion is not a concern; only small dust plumes emanate from the cultivator on windy days. Most wind-eroded material is contained within the paddock. Water erosion is not a concern as there is only a little rill and sheet erosion. Topsoil depths in footslope areas are <15 cm deeper than on crests



MODERATE CONDITION VS = 1
Wind erosion is of moderate concern where significant dust plumes can emanate from the cultivator on windy days. A considerable amount of material is blown off the paddock but is contained within the farm. Water erosion is of moderate concern with a significant amount of rilling and sheet erosion. Topsoil depths in footslope areas are 15–30 cm greater than on crests, and sediment input into drains/streams may be significant



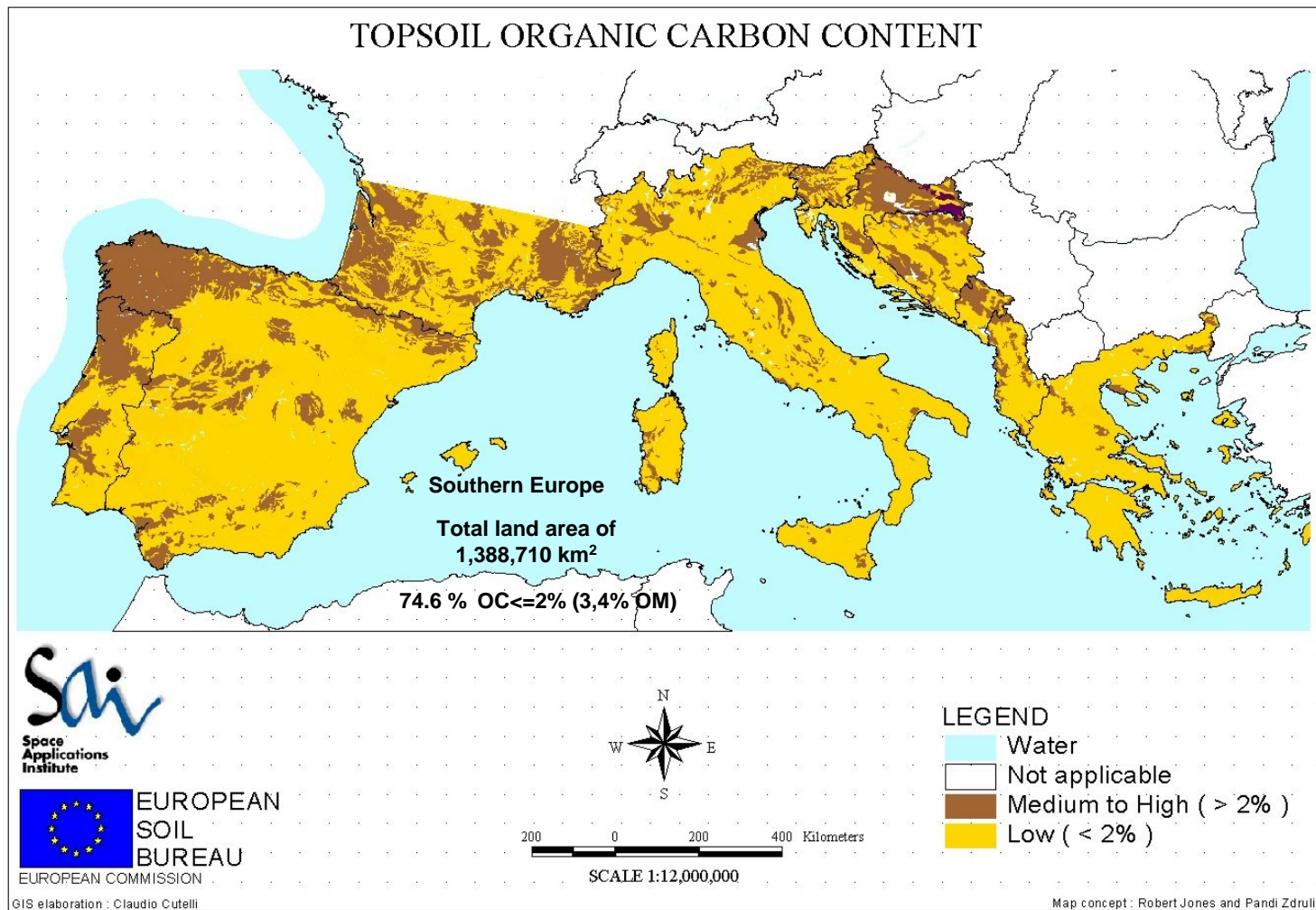
POOR CONDITION VS = 0
Wind erosion is a major concern. Large dust clouds can occur when cultivating on windy days. A substantial amount of topsoil can be lost from the paddock and deposited elsewhere in the district. Water erosion is a major concern, with severe rilling and sheet erosion occurring. Topsoils in footslope areas are more than 30 cm deeper than on the crests, and sediment input into drains/streams may be high

Soil Erosion accelerates flooding



Salinity





Organic Carbon content in topsoils (0-30 cm) of Southern Europe

Soil sealing and urbanisation

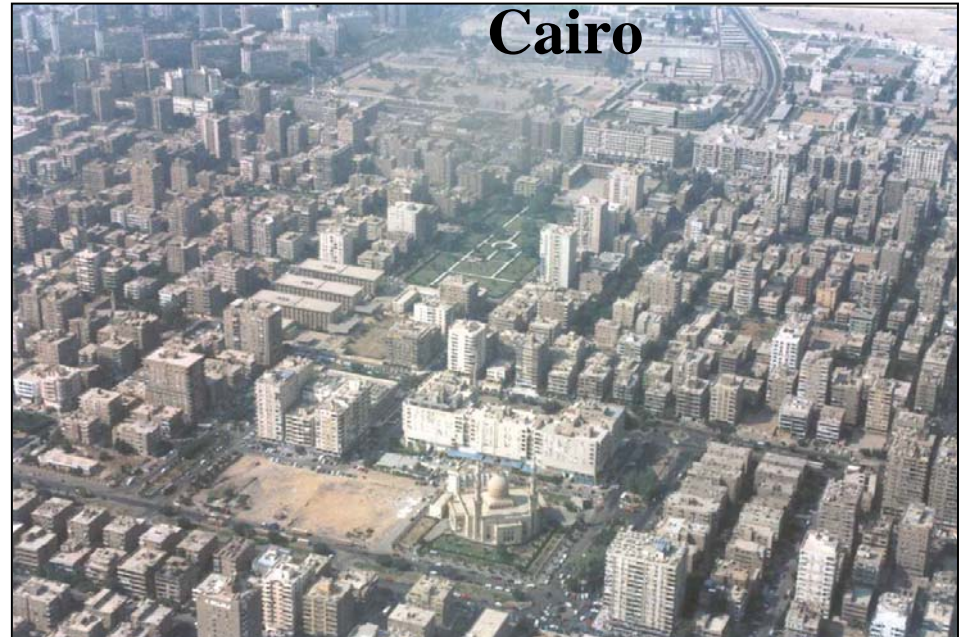
Barcelona coastal conglomerates



Maltese coasts



Cairo





MEDCOASTLAND PROJECT 2002-2006



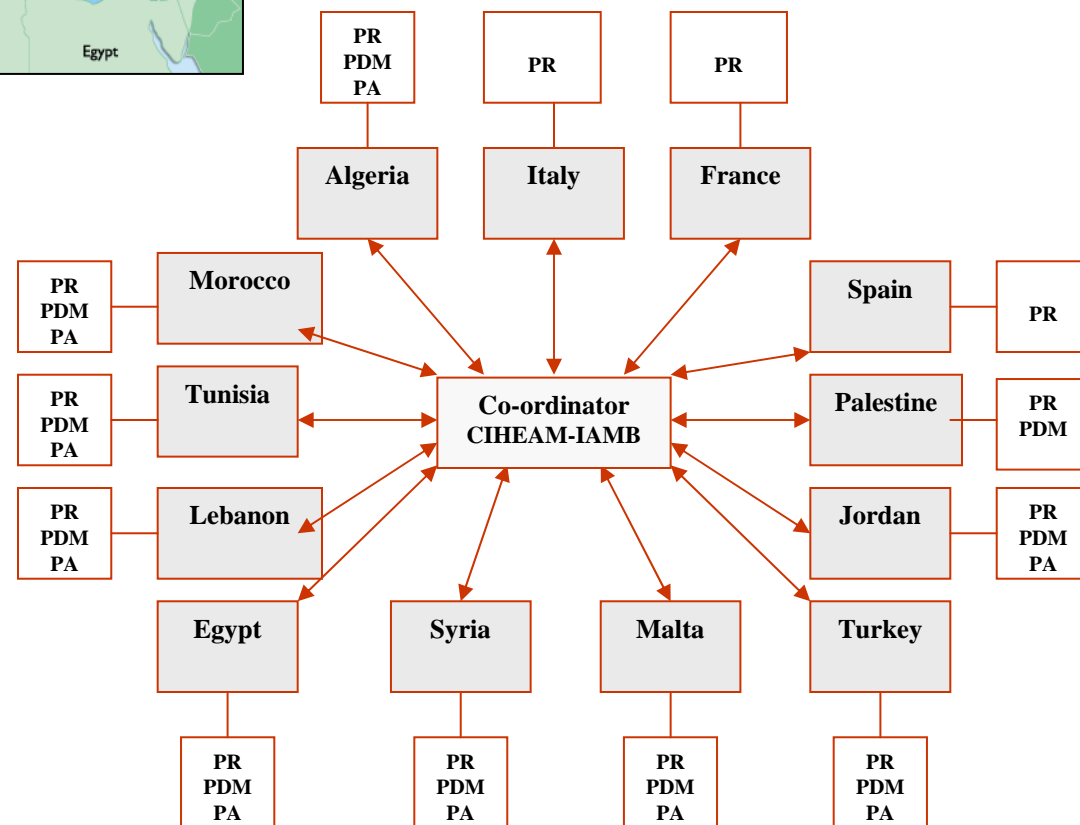
Participants of the Kick-Off Meeting held in Bari in October 2002



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2002-2006

ICA3-CT-2002-10002



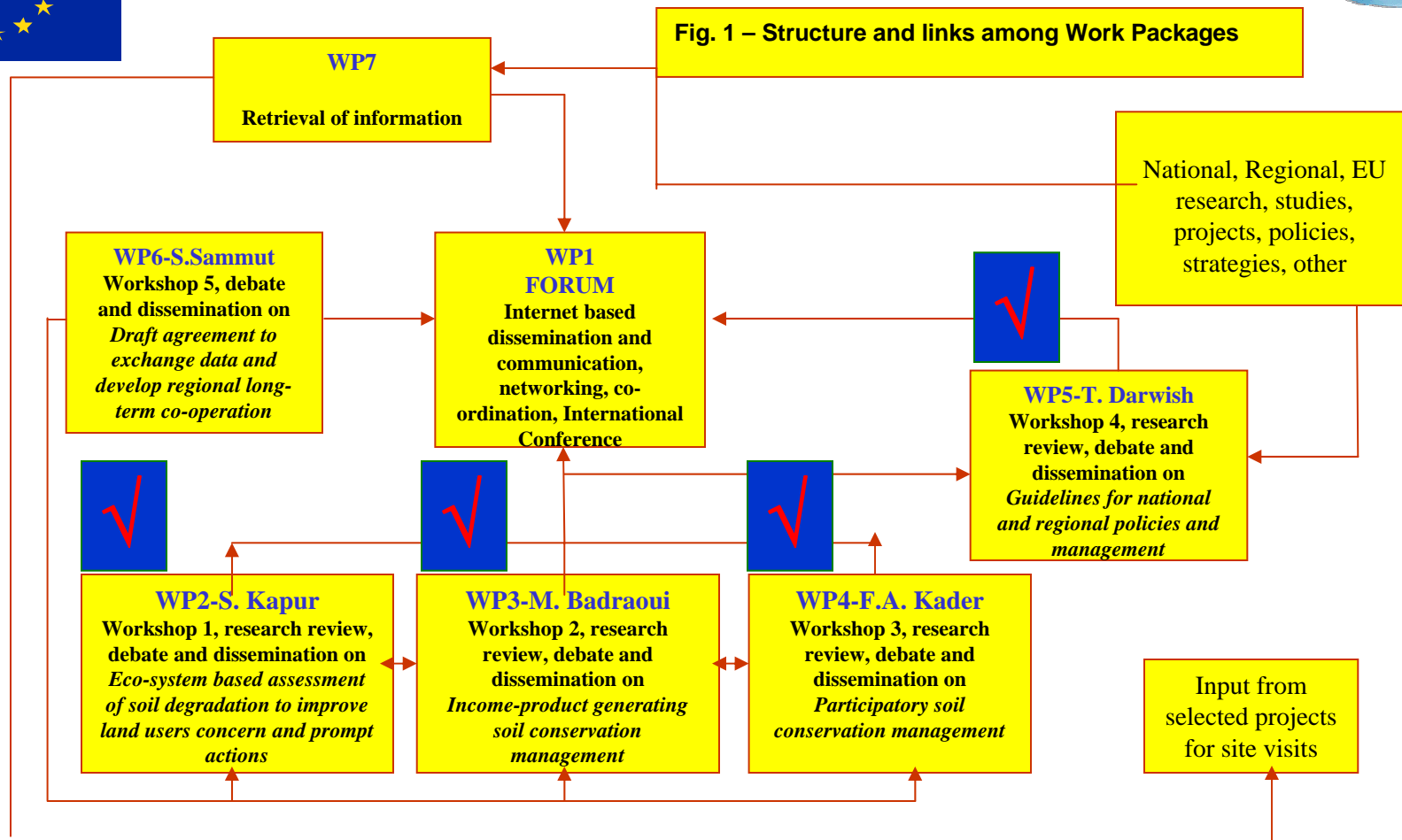
Network structure. PR = Researcher, PDM = Decision Maker, PA = Association of land / soil users



MEDCOASTLAND APPROACH



Fig. 1 – Structure and links among Work Packages





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MAJOR GOAL

Mediterranean coordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean region with special emphases on coastal areas

To achieve this goal we SHOULD:

- **Establish a Mediterranean-wide permanent communication structure between researchers, decision makers, land users (farmers' association) and non-profit organisations involved with combating land degradation;**
- **Provide and disseminate knowledge from previous research and practical experience and allow access to easy-to use information;**
- **Provide a framework to assist regional planning and EU-funding in Mediterranean areas**



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Partner No	Institution	Country	Contact person		
P1	CHIEAM – IAMB	ITALY	G.T. Liuzzi/Zdruli		
P2	Institut National Agronomique	ALGERIA	Daoud Youcef		
P3	Alexandria University	EGYPT	Fawzi Abdel-Kader		
P4	Ministry of Agriculture	JORDAN	Baker Al-Qudah		
P5	National Council for Scientific Research	LEBANON	Talal Darwish		
P6	Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment	MALTA	Sonya Sammut		
P7	Ministere de l'Agriculture, Direction des Sols	TUNISIA	Hedi Hamrouni		
P8	Ministry of Agriculture	PALESTINE	Kasim Abdo		
P9	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform	SYRIA	Ibrahim Waad		



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Partner No	Institution	Country	Contact person		
P10	Institut Agronomique et Veterinarie Hassan II, Soil Science Department	MOROCCO	Mohamed Badraoui		
P11	Faculty of Agriculture University of Çukurova	TURKEY	Selim Kapur		
P12	Ministere de l'Agriculture	ALGERIA	Ramdane Lahouati		
P13	The National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences	EGYPT	Abd Alla Gad		
P14	University of Jordan	JORDAN	Butros Hattar		
P15	Ministry of Environment	LEBANON	Khalil Zein		
P16	University of Malta	MALTA	George Attard		
P17	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisia	TUNISIA	Hedi Daghari		
P18	Land Research Center	PALESTINE	Basim Dudeen		



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Partner No	Institution	Country	Contact person		
P19	University of Tishreen	SYRIA	Leila Habib		
P20	Ministere de l'Agriculture du developpement Rural et Eaux et Foret	MOROCCO	Ljoud Lahcen		
P21	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	TURKEY	Murat Ozden		
P22	Groupement de Mise en Valeur Salmatre	ALGERIA	Anouar Berrached		
P23	HALAZEN Development Association, Matrouh	EGYPT	Ibrahim Daoud		
P24	The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control & Badia Development	JORDAN	Yasin Al Zu'bi and Ra'ed Al Tabini		
P25	Agricultural Cooperative Association	LEBANON	Safi Raad		



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Partner No	Institution	Country	Contact person		
P26	Farmers central Co-operative Society	MALTA	Clement Azzopardi		
P27	Parcelle El Oueslati	TUNISIA	Faouzi El Oueslati		
P28	The General Union of Peasants	SYRIA	Moufak Al-Shaar		
P29	Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknes	MOROCCO	Rachid Bouabid		
P30	Association TAMOUNT des anciens eleves de l'ecole de Tazouta	MOROCCO	Said Kamel		
P31	Adana Farmers Association	TURKEY	Cumali Dogru		
P32	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique INRA	FRANCE	Christine Le Bas		
P33	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas	SPAIN	Inma Alados Concepcìon Lòpez		
P34	Università di Sassari	ITALY	Claudio Zucca		



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Partner No	Institution	Country	Contact person	
P35	European Commission – General Directorate JRC-IES-ESB	ITALY	Luca Montanarella	
P236	ACSAD League of Arab States	SYRIA	Abdul Rahim Loulou	
GRAND TOTAL	Information retrieval files downloaded in the project's web page			2,250



Situation at end of 3rd year of the project

Work Package 1

Internet based communication, dissemination and share of information - FORUM

- Knowledge database was open to external users;
- For the period January 2003-August 2005 more than 12,600 visitors have surfed MEDCOASTLAND web page;
- Six Newsletter were prepared and distributed;
- Two CD Rom and 1 video were collected;
- Activation of the Internet FORUM on land degradation;
- Links to existing electronic newsgroups and discussion groups (i.e. FAO' sponsored LADA)

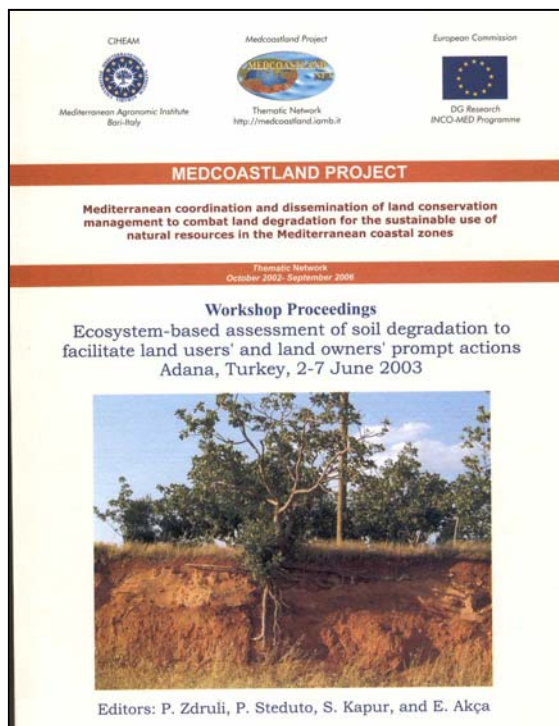


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Achievements at the end of 3rd year of the project

Work package 2 – ECO-system based assistance to land users and land owners

Responsible partner P11 (Univ. Çukurova, Turkey, S. Kapur)



- Printing Proceedings
- Identification of common indicators to assess land degradation on the basis of available data and knowledge at local, national and regional scale;
- Formulation of an eco-system based assistance methodology to prompt co-ordinated actions by land users, decision makers and researchers involved in land management.
- Information retrieval of 1,622 files



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Participants of the 1st Workshop held in Adana, June 2003




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Achievements at the end of 3rd year of the project


Work package 3 – Income-Product generating soil conservation
Responsible partner P10 (IAV Hassan II, Morocco, M. Badraoui)



European Commission
DG Research
INCO-MED Programme



Medcoastland Project
Thematic Network
<http://medcoastland.iamb.it>



C.I.H.E.A.M.
CIHEAM
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute
Bari-Italy

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Mediterranean coordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean coastal zones

Thematic Network
October 2002- September 2006**Workshop theme:**
Determining an income-product generating approach for soil conservation management
(Marrakech, Morocco, 12-16 February 2004)**WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**
Editors
Pandi Zdruli and Giulina Trisorio Liuzzi

- Printing proceedings
- Formulation of a conceptual scheme to assess Income Generating Activities (IGA)
- **Determining an income-product generating approach** for soil conservation management in relation to economic and production aspects generated by the sustainable land management practices
- The workshop in Marrakech defined IGA as: “**Activities / interventions / actions aiming at supporting land conservation measures (projects) by improving the income of the farmers**”. The effectiveness of IGA however depends on agriculture reform, subsidies, and conservation measures.
- Information retrieval of 517 files



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Participants of the 2nd workshop held in Marrakech, Morocco 12-16 February 2004



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Achievements at the end of 3rd year of the project

Work package 4 – Participatory soil conservation management

Responsible partner P3 (Alexandria University, F.A. Kader)

- **Printing proceedings**
- **Information retrieval of 148 files**

Major conclusions

- **Formulate participatory schemes suitable to assist in combating land degradation**
- **Explore the links between Participatory Irrigation Management and Participatory Land Management**
- **Establish public and private partnerships in land management**
- **Draw conclusions from indigenous knowledge in land management**
- **Neither top-down nor bottom-up approach alone could bring to sustainability, as they are complementary to each other**





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Participants of the 3rd workshop held in Alexandria, Egypt 9-13 November 2004

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Achievements at the end of 3rd year of the project

Work package 5 – Guidelines for national and regional policies for sustainable land management

Responsible partner P5 (National Council for Scientific Research, Dr. T. Darwish)



- Print proceedings within December 2005;
- Continue working with information retrieval (160 collected);
- Assist in policy development and its implementation to enhance sustainable land management throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Develop economically sustainable measures that match with environmental quality;
- Policies and guidelines need to be adapted continuously and especially to be adjusted to local conditions.



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Participants of the 4th workshop held in Bari, Italy 6-11 September 2005

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Achievements at the end of 3rd year of the project

Work package 6 – Draft Agreement on data share and development of continued Regional co-operation

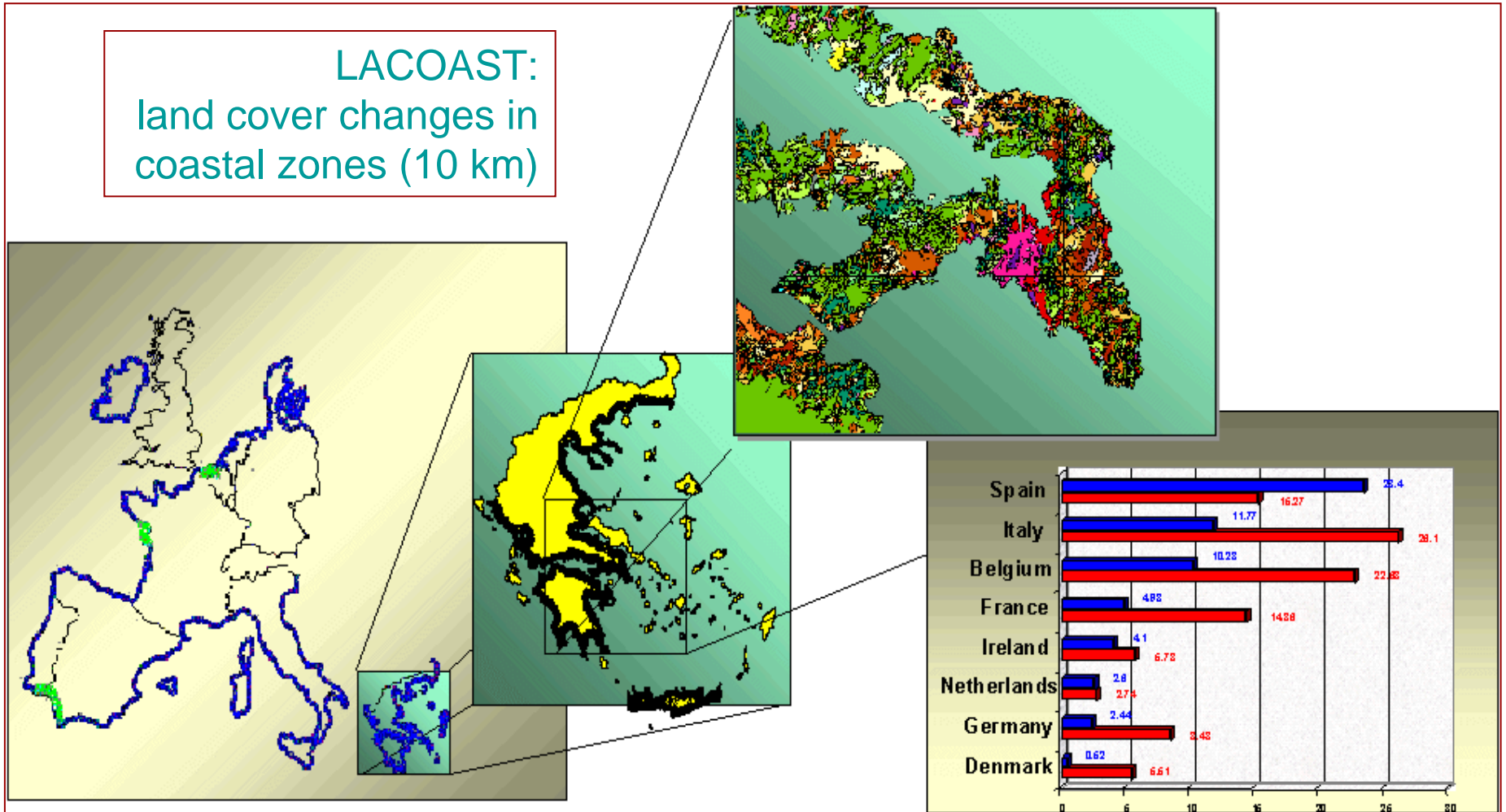
Responsible partner P6 (Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Dr. Sonya Sammut)

What's next

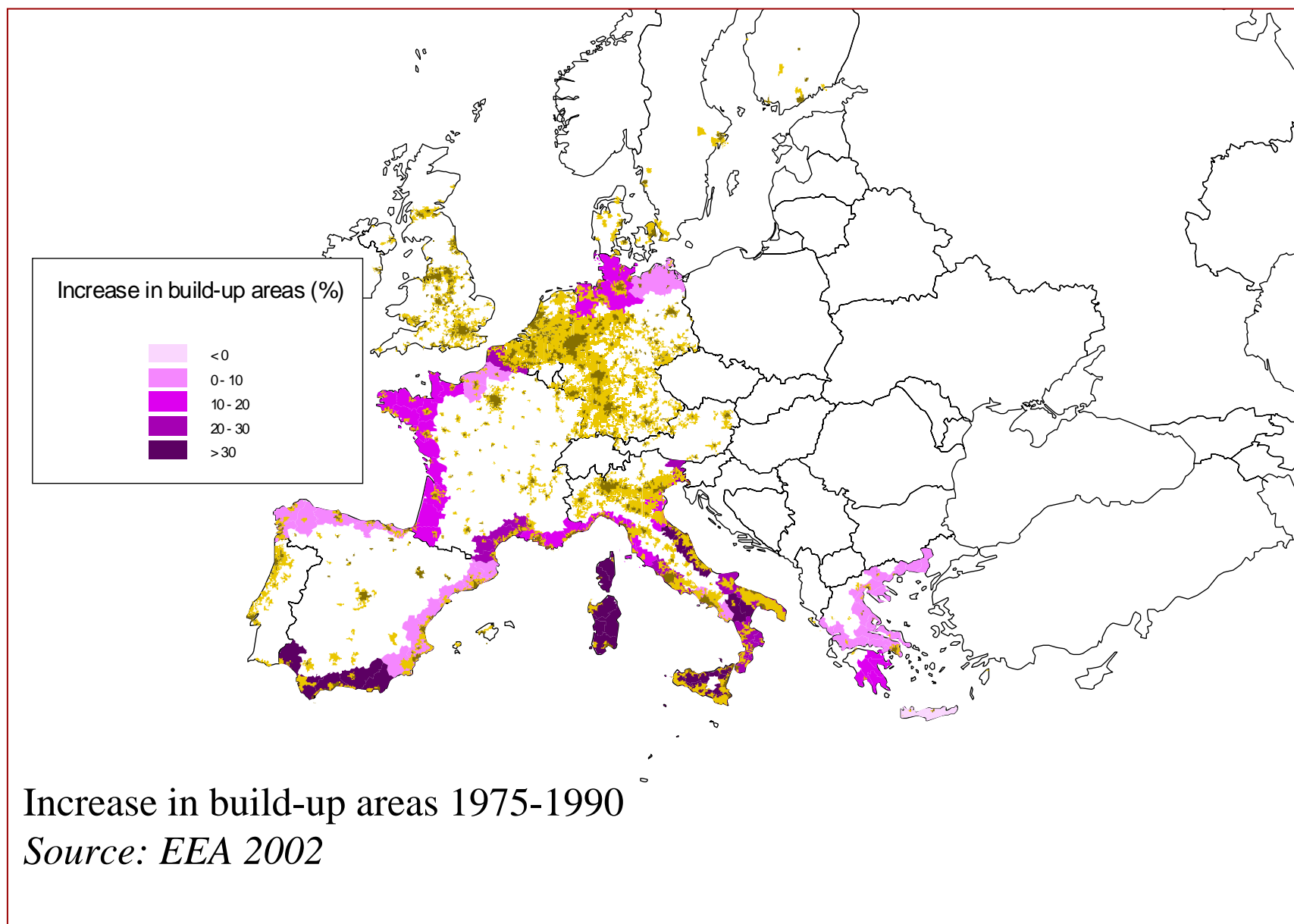
- Malta workshop: tentative meeting time 13-17 January 2006;
- Drafting a Memoranda of Understanding that will assure:
 - a) trans-national co-operation on land degradation assessment and soil conservation management in the Mediterranean;
 - b) harmonise methodologies for data collection and analysis; and to better utilise potential available funds to combat land degradation;
 - c) identify needs and topics to be targeted by future research;
 - d) agreement on data sharing and knowledge dissemination.
- The draft will be discussed and approved in Malta workshop;
- Memoranda of Understanding will be signed by project partners and their high level representatives during the International Conference to be held in(Beirut???? June 2006)

EU-Funded LACOAST PROJECT

LACOAST:
land cover changes in
coastal zones (10 km)



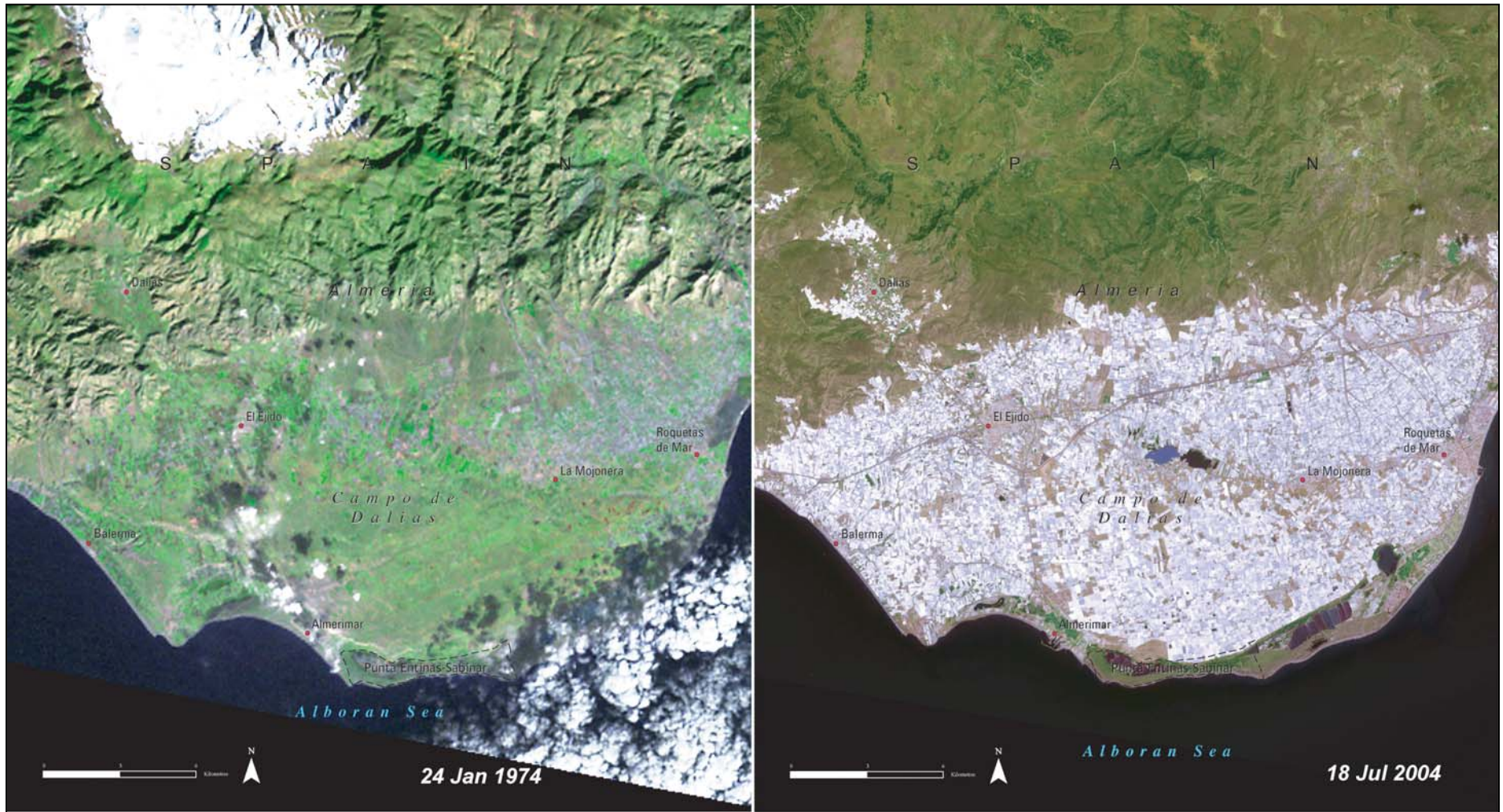
EU-Funded LACOAST PROJECT



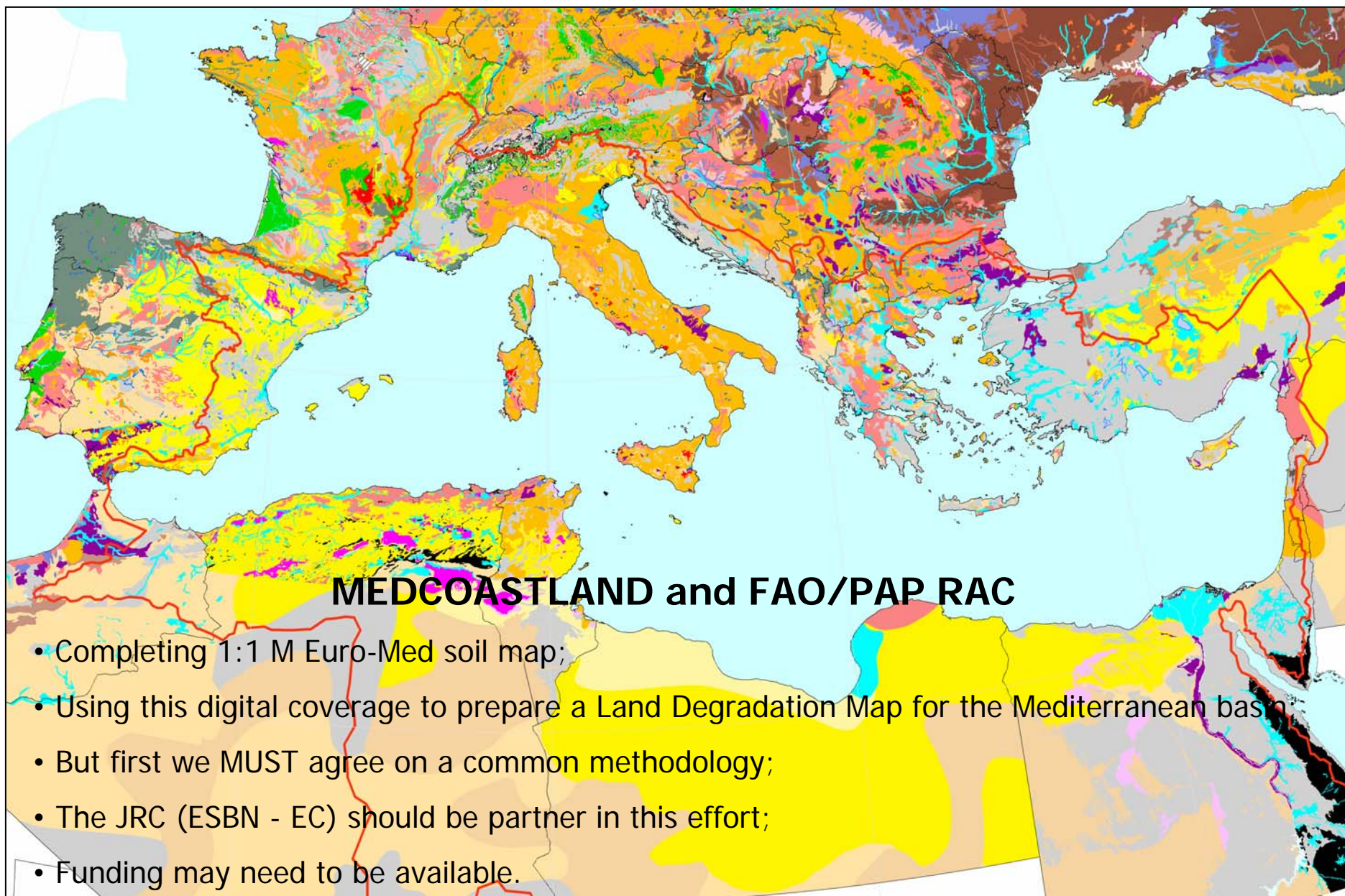
Europe by night



UNEP: Atlas of our changing environment 2005



The Euro-Mediterranean Soil Geographical Database at 1:1,000,000 scale





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Concluding Remarks

- MEDCOASTLAND has been successful thanks to active involvement of the majority of the partners and the role played by the Coordinator;
- HOWEVER in many Mediterranean countries the link between qualified professionals/scientists/ decision or policy makers and local communities is often weak or even missing;
- **Dissemination** on knowledge is a MUST and we'll continue doing this including the distribution of the important conclusions of this event;
- Our findings show that the natural ecosystem, including agriculture and forestry is strongly linked with **socio-economic conditions** and with the needs of the local people; Land abandonment brings more problems and should not be seen as a remedy;
- Combating land degradation is a **long struggle** and to prevail the support of all the stakeholders is needed.



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Bright Spots



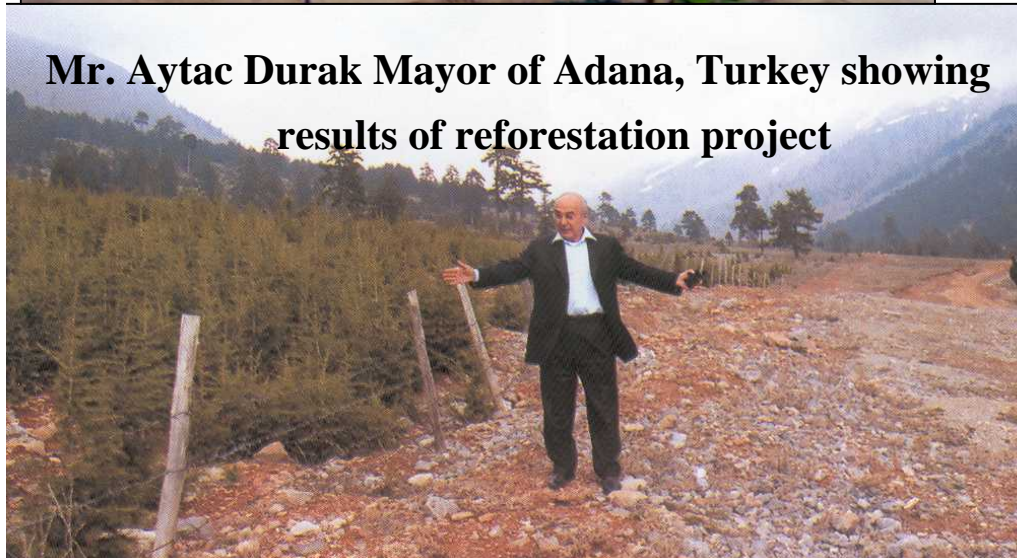
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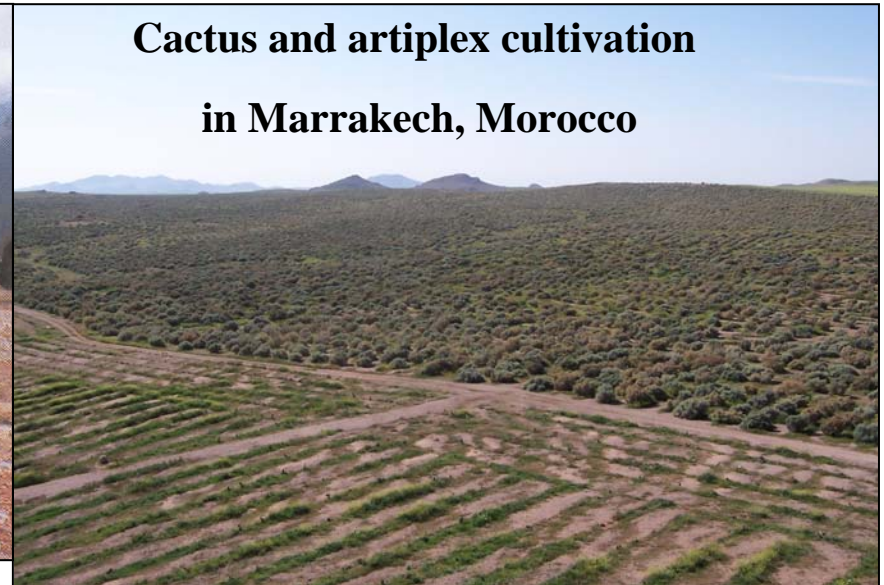
West Noubaria Rural Development Project, Egypt



Mr. Aytac Durak Mayor of Adana, Turkey showing results of reforestation project



Cactus and artiplex cultivation in Marrakech, Morocco





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CONTACT INFORMATION:

MEDCOASTLAND

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Dirk Pottier *EC Scientific Officer*

Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi *Coordinator*

Pandi Zdruli *Project Manager*

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Thank You

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