



DESERTLINKS

COMBATING DESERTIFICATION IN MEDITERRANEAN EUROPE LINKING SCIENCE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

CONTRACT EVK2-CT-2001-00109

**DELIVERABLE 1.1c(i)
Framework for defining and characterising desertification indicators
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Framework for defining and characterising Desertification indicators

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According to UNCCD, all organizations in possession of relevant knowledge, from the scientific to knowledge at all levels, should undertake to organise their experience systematically in order to come up with simple indicators so that they may be used by a wide range of users and be clearly and unequivocally interpreted.

To this end the following methodological chart is being proposed to act as a guide and encouragement to the process. The proposed chart indicates and describes all the information necessary to qualifying an indicator as such.

In fact, information available in literature related to indicators is generally not sufficiently comprehensive to be used to fill in the chart, in some cases it is not even sufficient to determine with certainty the position of the indicator with respect to the five general criteria proposed in annex 2.

DESERTLINKS should represent an innovative approach also in this context.

| 1. Definition | |
|---|--|
| Name | Name (or acronym) of indicator |
| Brief definition | Brief definition of the indicator in relation to its purpose in the particular context in which it will be used. |
| Unit of measure | Unit of measure appropriate to quantifying the value and variations of the proposed indicator. |
| Other definitions sometimes used. | Indicate, other names or definitions used for the same indicator if they exist. |
| 2. Position within the logical framework DPSIR | |
| Type of indicator | Indicate to which category the indicator belongs within the logical framework (DPSIR, - <i>Driving forces, Pressures, State, Impacts, Responses</i>). Give the reasons for placing the indicator in one of the categories of the logical framework and indicate what other indicators should be placed in this category or in others, to complete the description of the system. For example, if an indicator of state is proposed for a process of soil salinisation, indicate, if possible, any other likely indicators of state applicable to this particular problem, and related pressure, response, etc. indicators, also providing information on the persons / organizations best able to define them thoroughly. |
| 3. Target and political pertinence | |
| Objective / target of the indicator | Summary description of the main objective it is sought to achieve by using the indicator. |
| Importance with respect to sustainable development | Indicate if, how and at what scale the indicator could contribute to the elaboration of sustainable development strategies, to understanding and monitoring trends and the efficiency of sustainable development policies. |
| International Conventions and agreements | Indicate other international agreements and conventions for which the use and design of the particular indicator can provide a significant contribution. |
| Secondary objectives of the indicator | Describe possible objectives other than the main ones mentioned above, to which the indicator could contribute. |

(Continues)

| 4. Methodological description and basic definitions | |
|---|--|
| Definitions and basic concepts | Broad definition with reference to the nature of the indicator and its importance and effectiveness in relation to the objectives and to the state of the art of knowledge in the specific context (why this indicator and not another to reach the same assigned target). |
| Benchmarks | Indication of the values/ranges of values; their meaning in relation to the purpose and to the specific context of application; how they have been defined. |
| Methods of measurement | Description of the methodology to be followed to measure, calculate and exploit the indicator. |
| Limits of the indicator | Describe the possible reasons for and conditions under which the indicator could not fulfil its purpose (for example, indicate at what spatial scale the indicator provides adequate information and explain why it cannot apply to a different scale). Clearly define the context and conditions of applicability and the constraints to be considered in relation to the exportability. |
| Linkages with other indicators | Indicate, if relevant, the relationship between the indicator in question and other indicators (for example, within a same methodology, model or forecasting system) so as to better clarify both the context in which the indicator proves the most useful, and the ultimate target of the indicator itself |
| 5. Evaluation of data needs and availability | |
| Data required to calculate the indicator | Give a detailed indication of the characteristics of data required to measure, calculate and elaborate the indicator. |
| Data sources | Indicate the sources from which data can be gathered. |
| Availability of data from national and international sources | Indicate whether the required data is easily available or not and specify if obtaining it is reasonably cost effective. |
| 6. Institutions that have participated in developing the indicator | |
| Main institutions responsible | |
| Other contributing organizations | |
| 7. Additional information | |
| Bibliography | |
| Other references | Internet addresses and other useful references |
| Contacts | Name and address of the organization that elaborated the indicator: person to contact. |