

Session 6: Statistics of Land Degradation

Reena Shah

United Nations Statistics Division

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DEFINITION

Land degradation: reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain-fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest, or woodlands resulting from natural processes, land uses or other human activities and habitation pattern such as land contamination, soil erosion and the destruction of vegetation cover.



DEFINITIONS

- **Soil erosion**: Wind and water erosion (sheet, rill and gully) of soil can be measured as net loss and applied to one of four categories: light; moderate; strong; and extreme. Alternatively, erosion can be measured visually or derived on the basis of reduced productivity.
- **Salinization**: The net increase in salt concentration in the top soil leading to declining productivity or biodiversity. Salinization can be a result of the clearing of native vegetation, the overuse of irrigation, or the evaporation of saline groundwater.
- **Desertification**: The process of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors including climatic variations (e.g. drought) as well as direct and indirect human activities (e.g. overgrazing, intensive agricultural cultivation).

TABLE L 2

AREA AFFECTED BY SOIL EROSION

| Priority | Category | Unit | 1980* | 1990* | 2000* | 2002* |
|----------|--|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Light erosion (1) | km ² | | | | |
| | Moderate erosion (2) | km ² | | | | |
| | Strong erosion (3) | km ² | | | | |
| | Extreme erosion (4) | km ² | | | | |
| ! | Total area affected by soil erosion (5) = (1)+(2)+(3)+(4) | km ² | | | | |
| | <i>of which:</i> Agricultural land | km ² | | | | |
| | Forest and other wooded land | km ² | | | | |
| | Dry open land with special vegetation cover | km ² | | | | |
| | Open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover | km ² | | | | |



5 -TOTAL AREA AFFECTED BY SOIL EROSION

$$(5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4)$$

Sum over all four categories

- ➡ 1 ~ Light erosion
- ➡ 2 ~ Moderate erosion
- ➡ 3 ~ Strong erosion
- ➡ 4 ~ Extreme erosion

OF WHICH:

L-1 (1) Agricultural land

L-1 (6) Forest and other wooded land

L-1 (11) Dry open land with special vegetation cover

L-1 (12) Open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover



TABLE L 3 (1) TOTAL AREA AFFECTED BY SALINIZATION

$$(1) = (2) + (3) + (4) + (5)$$

Sum over all four categories

- ➡ 2 ~ Agricultural land
- ➡ 3 ~ Forest and other wooded land
- ➡ 4 ~ Dry open land with special vegetation cover
- ➡ 5 ~ Open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover

| Priority | Category | Unit | 1980* | 1990* | 2000* | 2002* |
|----------|--|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ! | Total area affected (1) = (2)+(3)+(4)+(5) | km ² | | | | |
| | Agricultural land (2) | km ² | | | | |
| | Forest and other wooded land (3) | km ² | | | | |
| | Dry open land with special vegetation cover (4) | km ² | | | | |
| | Open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover (5) | km ² | | | | |



TABLE L 4 (1) TOTAL AREA AFFECTED BY DESERTIFICATION

$$(1) = (2) + (3) + (4)$$

Sum over all three categories.

➡ 2 ~ Dry sub-humid areas

➡ 3 ~ Semi-arid areas

➡ 4 ~ Arid areas

| Category | Unit | 1980* | 1990* | 2000* | 2002* |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total area affected (1) = (2) + (3) + (4) | km ² | | | | |
| Dry sub-humid areas (2) | km ² | | | | |
| Semi-arid areas (3) | km ² | | | | |
| Arid areas (4) | km ² | | | | |