

The study sites

In Portugal, forest fires are one of the major factors of land degradation processes. Affecting large areas every year, they also have serious human, socio-economic and psychological impacts. Under the DESIRE project two Portuguese study sites were selected – Mação e Góis. Both study sites are located in Central Portugal and are frequently affected by forest fires.

The main aims of the first stakeholder workshop were: to develop a mutual learning process between local and external stakeholders around land degradation and conservation processes; to identify the already applied and the potential strategies to mitigate the desertification processes; and to select the best technologies and approaches to be documented in WOCAT database.



Rainfall about 1200 mm, mostly during the winter;
Soils very shallow and stony / Lithosols;
Slope about 20°;
Dense shrubland and forestry, with small ruminants;
4499 inhabitants / 17,1 inhab/km2 (2006);
15% of the population works on primary sector;
Ageing index of 288 / negative growth rate;
Some experience in prescribe fire.

Rainfall between 600 and 1000 mm per year;
Soils very shallow and stony / Humic cambisols;
Step slopes (> 20°);
Forestry of *Pinus pinaster* and *Eucalyptus globulus* and shrubland;
7419 inhabitants / 18,5 inhab/km2 (2006);
16% of the population works on primary sector;
Ageing index of 379 / negative growth rate.

The stakeholders

Local

Municipalities Technical Offices



Forest Associations
Municipal Civil Protection Agencies
Farmers

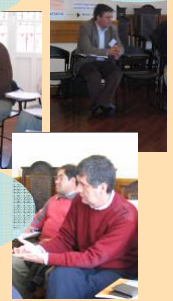
External

R&D Entities



Regional Forest Services

Regional Agricultural Services



Water and Biomass Cycles Analysis

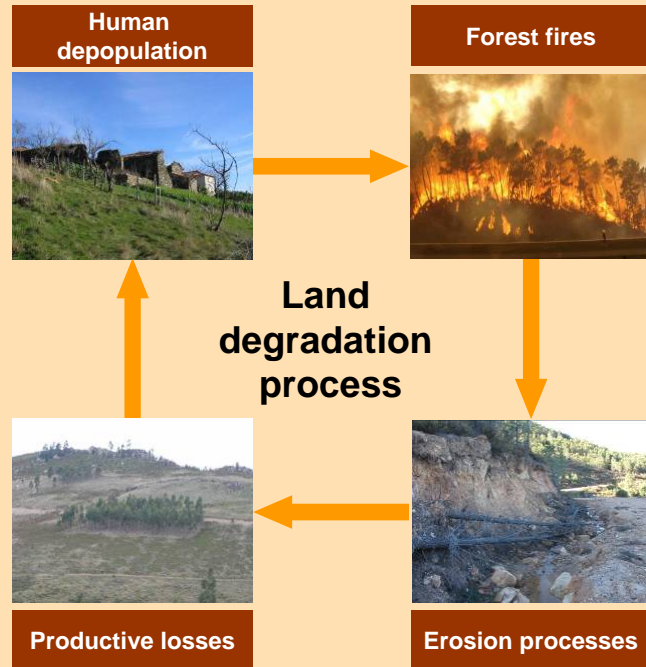


Field observation **Discussion**

Results presentation **Selection**

External factors

- Globalization and market policies;
- Agricultural and environmental policies, not only at the Communitarian (EU) level but also at the national and local level;
- Low perception and knowledge about the local problems shown by technicians and policy makers;
- Inadequate laws and lack of their implementation and control;
- Changes on the social, economical and policy conjuncture;
- Human depopulation.



Indicators...

- ... of land degradation**
Lack of vegetation; low vegetation regeneration; stony terrains; lack of water; several erosion forms; soils burned; some vegetation associations; decrease and ageing of the population; low public participation; lack of investment.
- ... of land conservation**
Good practices (contour planting; terraces; water points; walls; forest fires combat and prevention infrastructures); tracks; cleaned terrains; existence of leisure areas; municipalities approach to these problems; conscientious and receptive population.

Picture gallery **Leisure**

Group work **Technologies**