

# Desertification and Security: Perspectives for the Mediterranean Region



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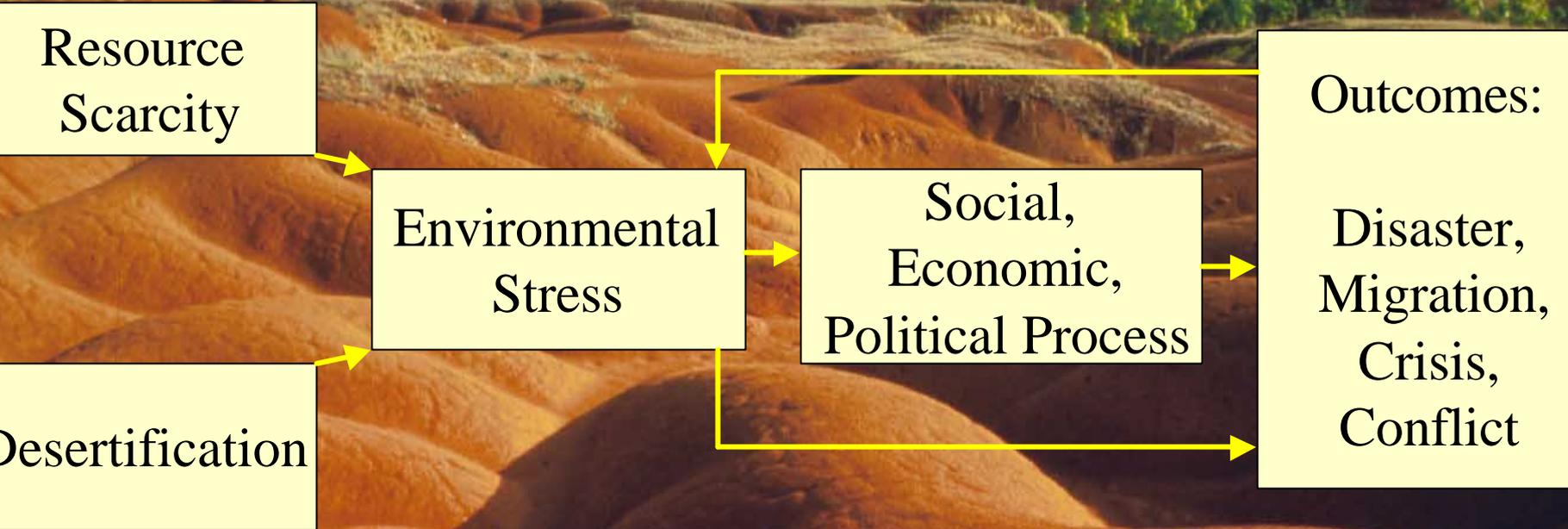
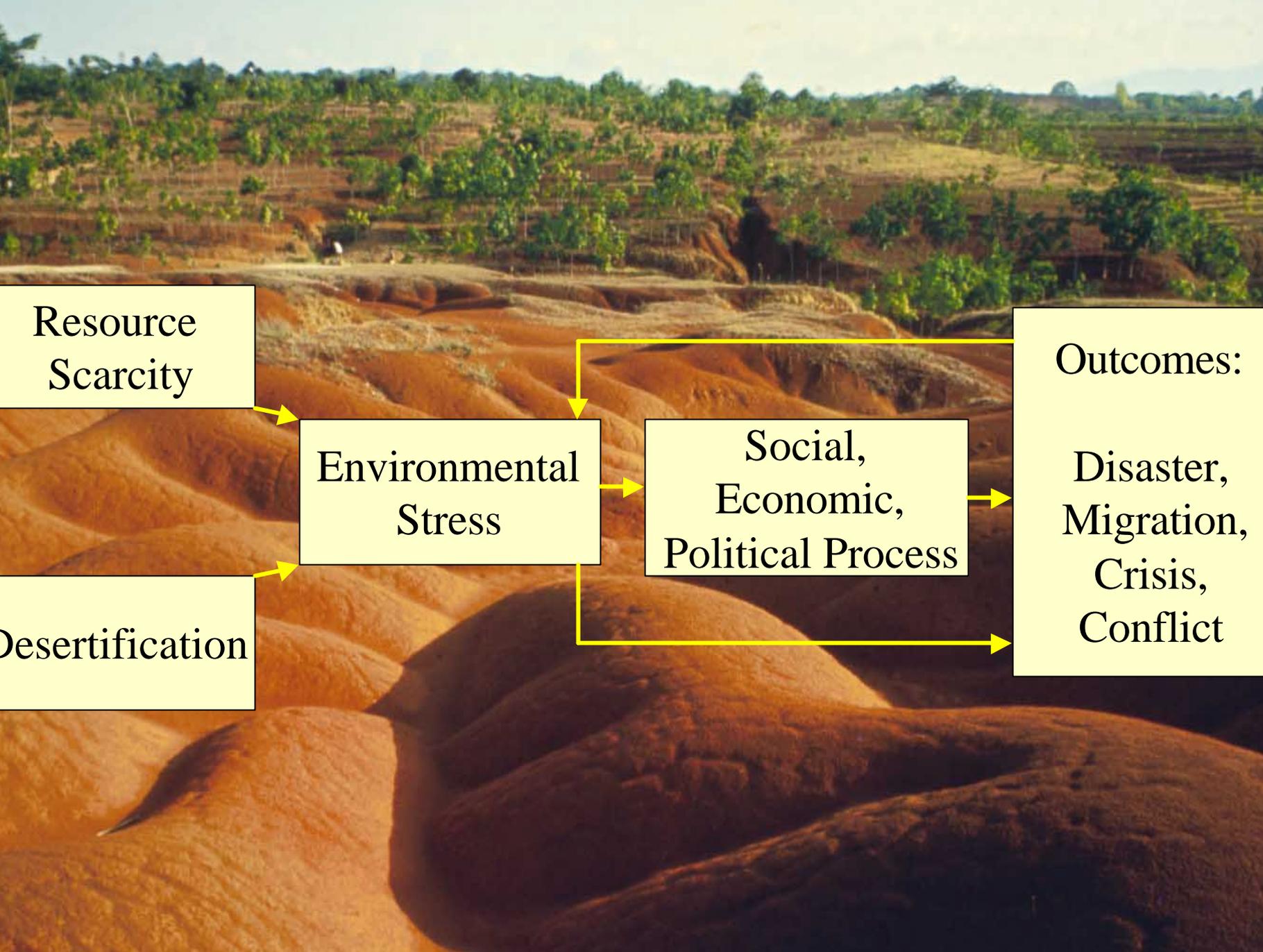


## Global Issue

Affects 40 million km<sup>2</sup> or approximately  
one-third of the Earth's surface

Affects 1 billion people in over 100 countries

Results in annual lost income equal to \$42 billion



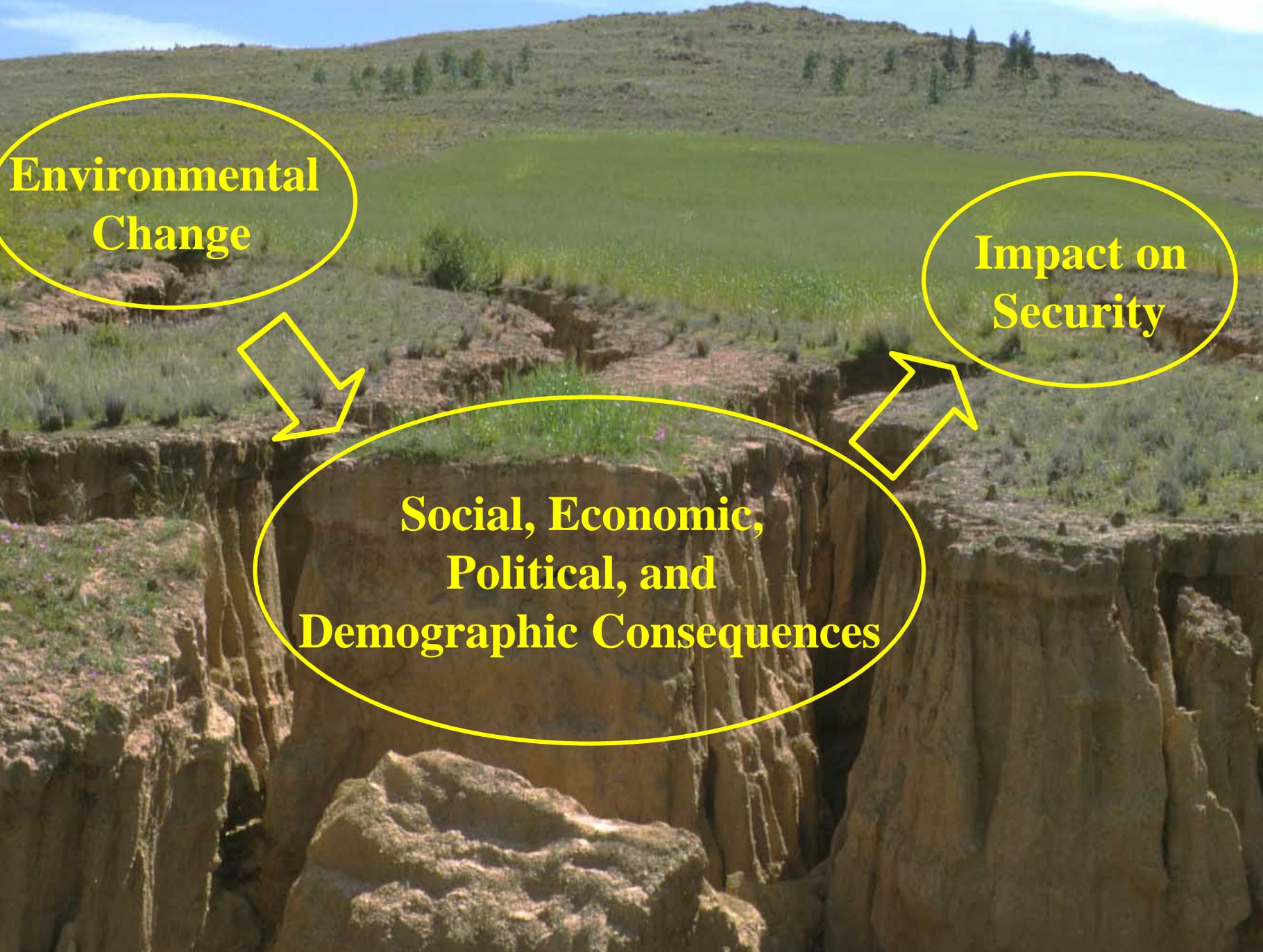
Resource  
Scarcity

Environmental  
Stress

Social,  
Economic,  
Political Process

Outcomes:  
  
Disaster,  
Migration,  
Crisis,  
Conflict

Desertification



**Environmental  
Change**

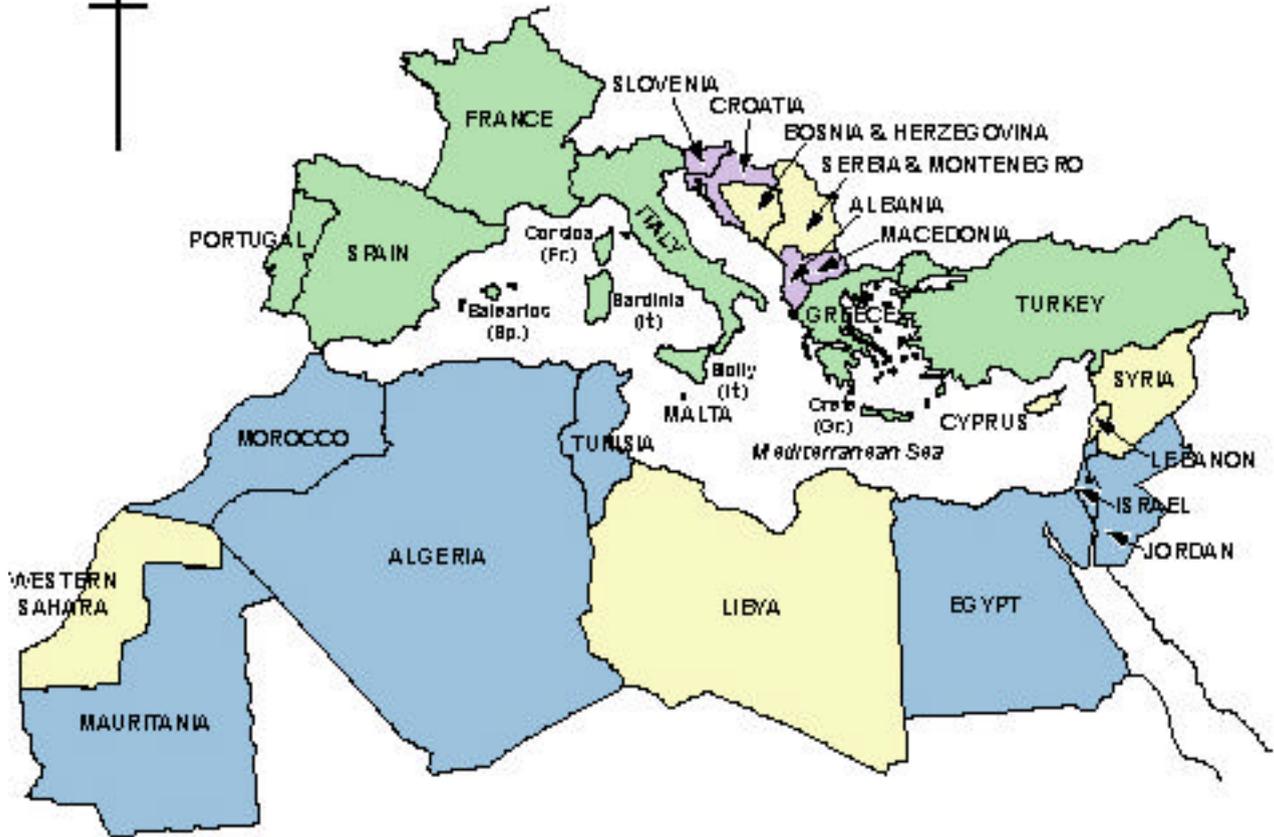
**Impact on  
Security**

**Social, Economic,  
Political, and  
Demographic Consequences**

**How is environmental degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid lands (i.e. desertification) in the Mediterranean Region related to human security?**

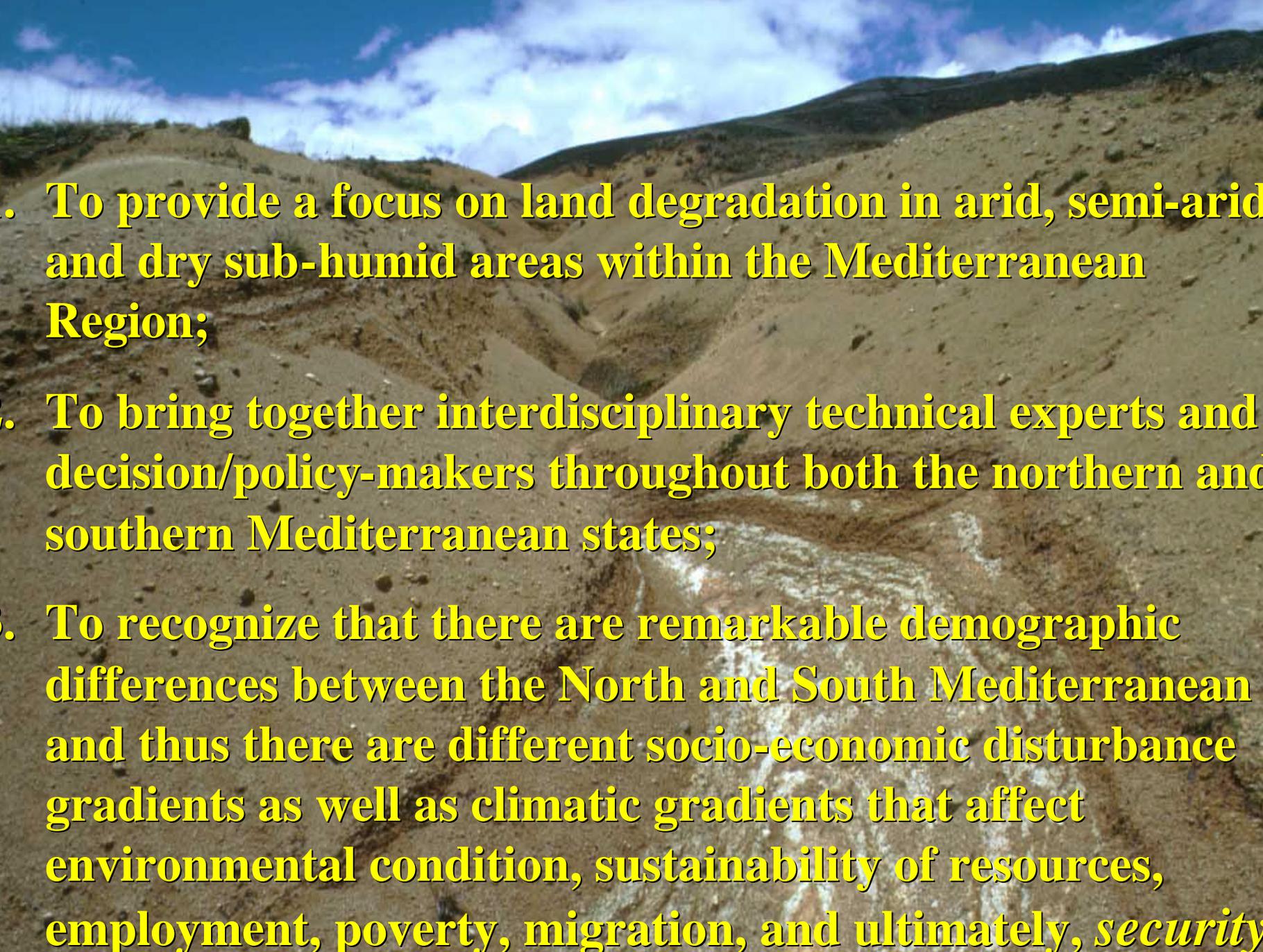
The background of the slide is a photograph showing a close-up of parched, brown soil. The ground is heavily cracked into irregular, polygonal shapes. Several thin, green blades of grass are scattered across the surface, some growing out of the cracks. The overall scene conveys a sense of extreme dryness and land degradation.

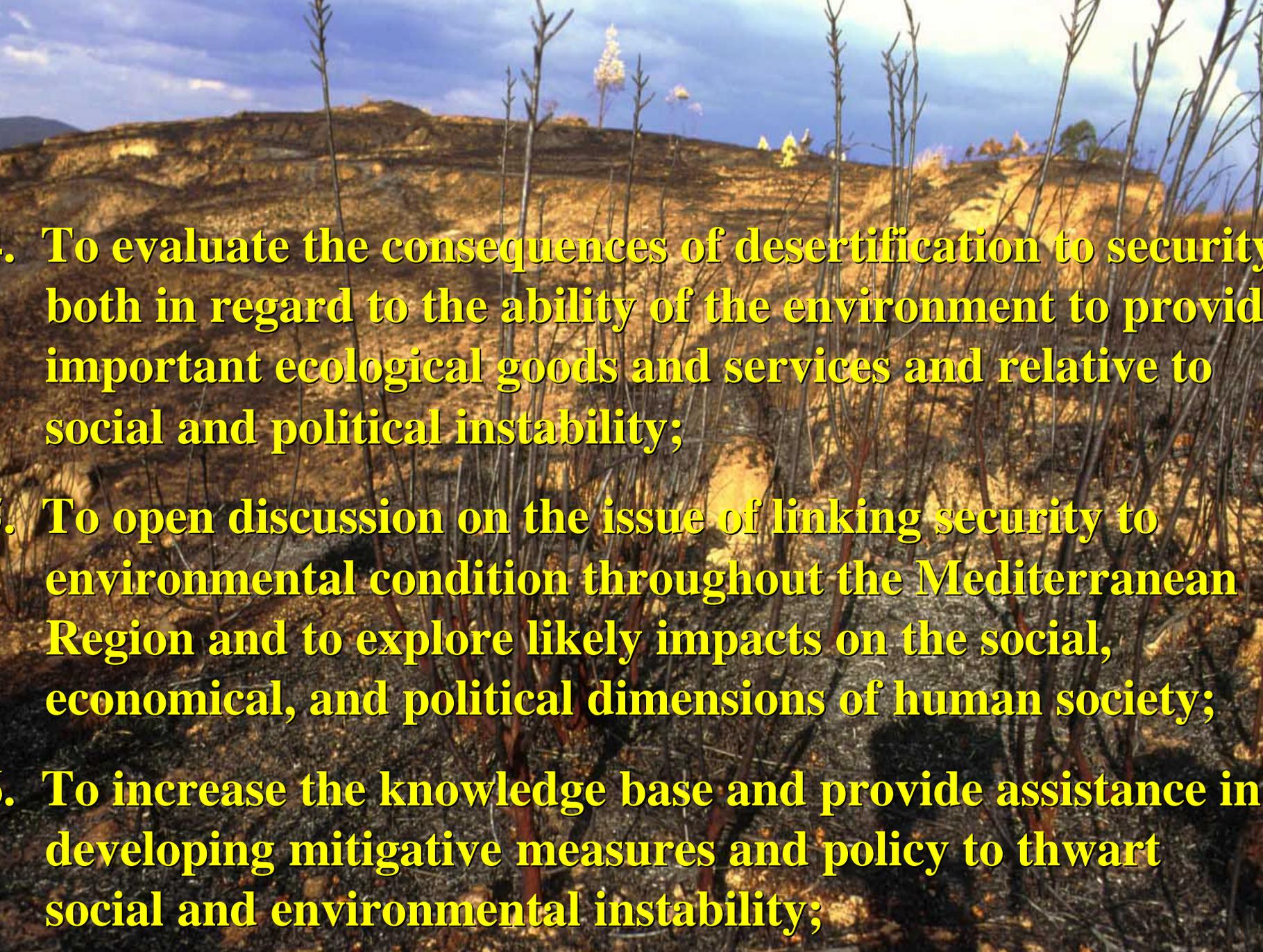




-  NATO Members
-  NATO Partners
-  Mediterranean Dialogue
-  Others

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- An aerial photograph of a desert landscape showing severe soil erosion. The terrain is characterized by deep, winding gullies and a network of smaller channels that have carved into the light-colored, sandy soil. Sparse, dry vegetation is scattered across the eroded slopes. In the background, a range of low mountains or hills is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene illustrates the impact of desertification and soil erosion on the land.
- **Population growth**
  - **Climatic change**
  - **Water scarcity**
  - **Decline in food production**
  - **Progressive desertification and subsequent soil erosion**
  - **Increased urbanization**

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- . To provide a focus on land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas within the Mediterranean Region;
  - . To bring together interdisciplinary technical experts and decision/policy-makers throughout both the northern and southern Mediterranean states;
  - . To recognize that there are remarkable demographic differences between the North and South Mediterranean and thus there are different socio-economic disturbance gradients as well as climatic gradients that affect environmental condition, sustainability of resources, employment, poverty, migration, and ultimately, *security*

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- . To evaluate the consequences of desertification to security both in regard to the ability of the environment to provide important ecological goods and services and relative to social and political instability;**
- . To open discussion on the issue of linking security to environmental condition throughout the Mediterranean Region and to explore likely impacts on the social, economical, and political dimensions of human society;**
- . To increase the knowledge base and provide assistance in developing mitigative measures and policy to thwart social and environmental instability;**

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7. To encourage interdisciplinary research especially in regard to integrating social and natural science;
8. To promote better mutual understanding and friendly relations across the region.



NATO

OTAN



CIDE Centro de Investigaciones  
Sobre Desertificación



CIUTAT DE  
LES ARTS  
I DE LES  
CIÈNCIES  
València

GENERALITAT  
VALENCIANA





Photo credits to 1) Mr Amin Mashali, Land and Plant Nutrient Management Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; 2) Esther Bochet , Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificacion (Valencia, Spain); and 3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Visible Earth Advanced Search .