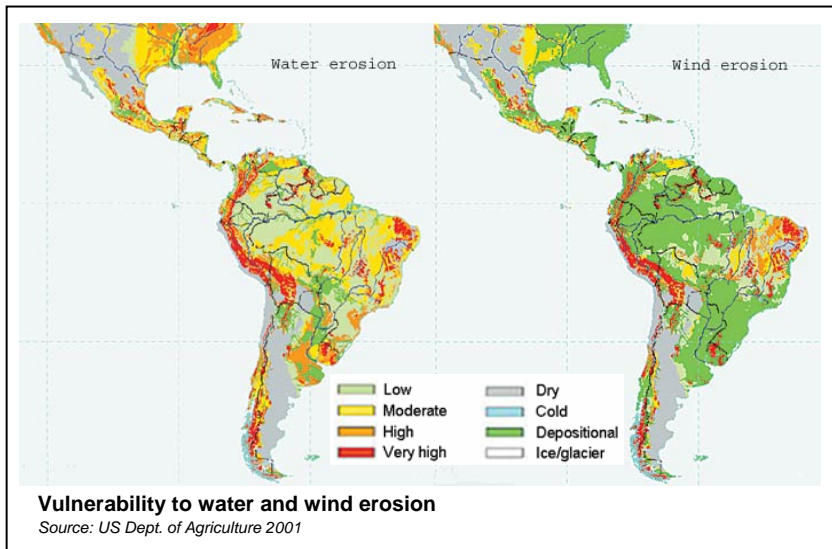




## Fact Sheet Desertification

### Latin America/Caribbean



#### Area affected by desertification:

*Dregne 1991*

306 million ha  $\approx$  17% of total Latin American land area  $\approx$  72% of all used drylands

#### Area of drylands affected by human-induced soil degradation:

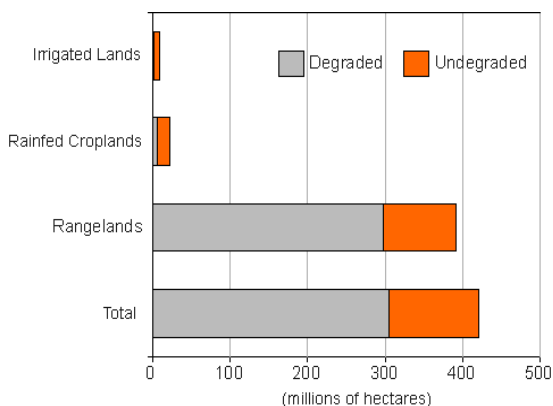
*UNEP/GLASOD 1997*

79 million ha  $\approx$  4.5% of total Latin American land area  $\approx$  15% of all susceptible drylands

#### Status of desertification in agriculturally used drylands:

type of land use in drylands	total (million ha)	degraded (million ha)	degraded (%)
irrigated lands	8	1.4	17
rainfed croplands	21	6.6	31
rangeland	391	298	76

Source: Dregne 1991



#### Type of human-induced soil degradation:

type of soil degradation	degraded (million ha)	percentage of degraded drylands
water erosion	35	44
wind erosion	27	34
chemical deterioration	17	21.5
physical degradation	0.4	0.5

Source: UNEP/GLASOD 1997



CCD Projekt

## Fact Sheet Desertification

### Latin America/Caribbean



#### Area classified as drylands:

UNDP/UNSO 1997 total: 538 million ha (26.5%)  
 arid: 103 million ha (5%)  
 semi-arid: 285 million ha (14%)  
 dry sub-humid: 150 million ha (7.5%)

#### People living in drylands:

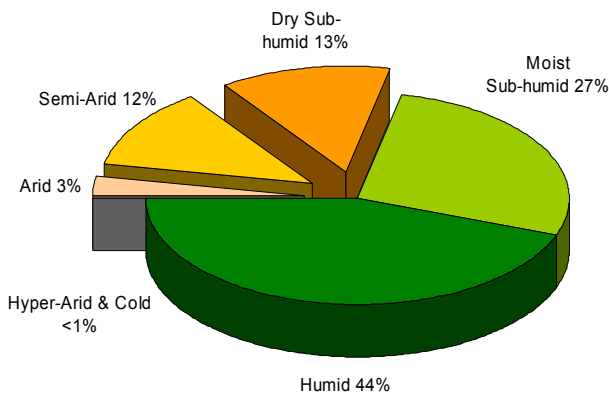
UNDP/UNSO 1997 South America:  
 87 million ≈ 30% of total population  
 Central America & the Caribbean:  
 32 million ≈ 27% of total population

#### Economic costs of desertification:

Selected region/ country	Gross annual income loss (US\$ million)
South America	2691 (direct costs) <i>Dregne 1991</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Due to desertification: 975 Due to desertification & drought: 4800 <i>FGEB 1994</i>
Costa Rica	5-13.3 % of annual value-added in agriculture <i>Solorzano et al. 1991</i>
Mexico	3-13% of AGDP* <i>McIntire 1994</i> 3500 (5-6% of NDP*) <i>Berry et al. 2003</i>

\*AGDP= Agricultural Gross Domestic Product, NDP = Net Domestic Product

#### Population per aridity zone in Latin America:



Source: UNDP/UNSO 1997

#### Cumulative loss of productivity as a result of soil degradation (*Oldeman 1998*)

	Cropland (%)	Pasture land (%)	Crops and pastures (%)
Central America	36.8	3.3	8.7 – 14.5
South America	13.9	2.2	4.1 – 6.7

**Note:** Reliability, validity and accuracy of the presented data are subject to debate. Objective of this data compilation is to provide a brief overview of the most significant facts on the magnitude and dimension of desertification-related problems. For more detailed information see the referenced literature.