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DESERT-ADAPT PROJECT LIFE
16 CCA/IT/000011



Project number
LIFE16 CCA/IT/000011



DESERT-ADAPT LIFE project has received funding from the LIFE programme of the European Union



LIFE DESERT-ADAPT
Preparing desertification areas
for increased climate change



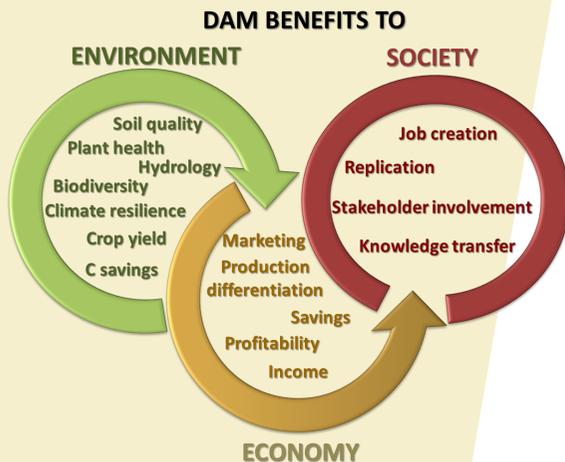
PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Land degradation and erosion are among the most urgent environmental, economic and social problems in Southern Mediterranean EU countries. They are caused by the combination of inappropriate land management and climate extremes and are expected to worsen in the next future as a consequence of Climate Change, leading to massive desertification in many areas of Southern Spain, Portugal, Italy. Loss of land fertility and productivity is closely linked to economic impoverishment and social crisis.



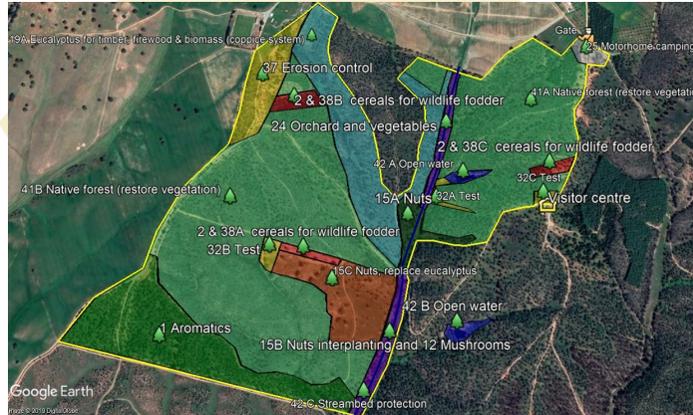
GOAL

The project aims to test an integrated model of land management defined Desertification Adaptation Model (DAM) on 1000 hectares in 10 sites in three countries, Italy, Spain and Portugal, in fragile areas under degradation and desertification risk. The final goal is to demonstrate that sustainable land management based on adaptation strategies can significantly improve not only ecosystem services but as consequence also economic and social gains.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIONS

The project team of experts will help the 10 landowners to define the most beneficial DAM plan for their site characteristics and their vision. The final outcome should be a mosaic where no piece of land is abandoned or left without appropriate economic, environmental and social functions.



DAM PILLARS

Economic adaptation: the most appropriate areas of a land property are assigned to resilient agro-productions, which means to diversify (at least 8 different income sources), to adapt (using mainly local species suitable to climate extremes), to sustain and restore (apply suitable measures to avoid land degradation), avoid intensive agriculture.

Environmental adaptation: the land use plan must always be a mosaic where crops are alternated to natural areas where biodiversity is restored and nurtured to provide key ecosystem services for the whole area. The mosaic, in combination with sustainable agriculture practices, aims at increasing the soil matter, protect from erosion, increase biodiversity and sequester carbon.

Social adaptation: the DAM project should be inclusive for the local population so to raise awareness on the value of land, provide a feeling of collective efficacy and common responsibility.



EXPECTED IMPACTS

OVER FIVE YEARS EACH DAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FIELD BY EACH LANDOWNER AND PROGRESSES MONITORED TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY OF THE APPROACH AGAINST THE INITIALLY MEASURED BASELINE SCENARIOS

- **DAM tested on 1000 hectares** of EU land under desertification risk.
- **Safeguarded and improved ecological services**, biodiversity, soil quality, plant cover, reduced erosion.
- **Climate Change mitigation**, a net carbon removal of 1 ton CO₂-e per hectare with increased plant cover.
- **Improved socioeconomic benefits**, with at least 8 viable income sources selected; increase farmer income per hectare, increased employment possibilities and an overall IRR improvement.
- **Combined project action to brand partners products** and ecoservices with a label of “sustainable land management” in areas under land desertification risk.
- **10 project partners trained as promoters**, each successful in knowledge transfer to 10 more farmers.