



## **Potential of the DESIRE approach for putting UNCCD policies into practice**

C.J. Ritsema (1), L. Stringer (2), M. Reed (10), P. Burger (5), M.J.B. van de Werff ten Bosch (6), R. Hessel (1), S. Verzandvoort (1), E. van den Elsen (1), G. Schwilch (4), G. van Lynden (3), H.P. Liniger (4), C. Karavitis (7), V. Jetten (8), and N. Geeson (9)

(1) Alterra, Soil Science Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands (rudi.hessel@wur.nl), (2) Leeds University, (3) ISRIC, (4) CDE, (5) CARL, (6) Both ENDS, (7) AUA, (8) ITC, (9) MEDES, (10) University of Aberdeen

A wealth of knowledge on desertification exists, yet implementation of such knowledge through UNCCD policies has, until now, been only partly successful. Within the DESIRE project, an approach was developed that provides multiple opportunities to put UNCCD policies into practice. First, the DESIRE approach, through its set up, provides a blue-print for structuring projects that aim to combat land degradation and is therefore relevant for UNCCD, but also for other organizations that have desertification in their scope, like e.g. FAO and GEF. Second, the DESIRE approach incorporates the WOCAT\LADA\DESIRE mapping method, as well as the WOCAT questionnaires for Approaches and Technologies. These methods provide a suitable way for partner countries to report to the UNCCD. Third, the results of DESIRE have been compared to National Action Plans of the UNCCD parties, and provide knowledge that can be used to adapt these plans. Finally, the DESIRE project has shown that stakeholder involvement, at local to national level, is crucial in all stages of developing and executing plans to combat land degradation and desertification; stakeholder involvement therefore forms the basis for plans to be actually implemented.