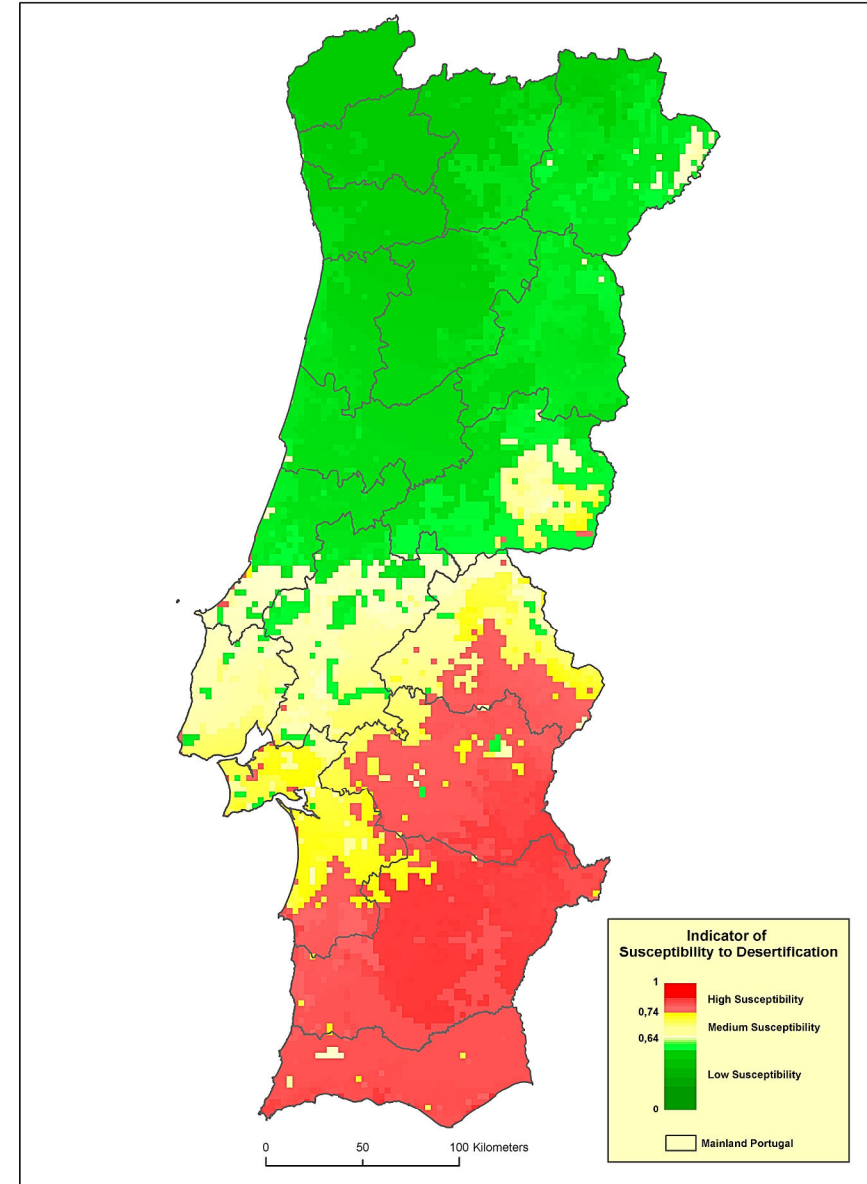


DesertWatch Extension' Land Cover product at the Regional Scale takes into consideration the requirements provided by the final users of the project, the nomenclature developed in the scope of LADA (Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands) project, and is based on a reclassification of the GlobCover product provided by the European Space Agency.



DesertWatch's Indicator of Susceptibility to Desertification (ISD) was developed taking into consideration the field data access limitations in most of the developing countries that are facing desertification problems, and thus it is fully supported on Earth Observation data available worldwide and free of charge.

ISD takes into account the main state variables and proximate causes of desertification related to vegetation and soil degradation, land cover changes and climate. It characterizes the dynamic of the main biophysical factors with EO derived data, providing a historical analysis of the temporal variability of climate (mainly the extreme of precipitation regimes) and its influence/impact in the soil and vegetation status of relevant land cover classes, allowing understanding the critical areas that are being/will be subject to desertification processes.

These products were produced by making use of GlobCover 2005 and MERIS bimonthly composites provided by the European Space Agency.