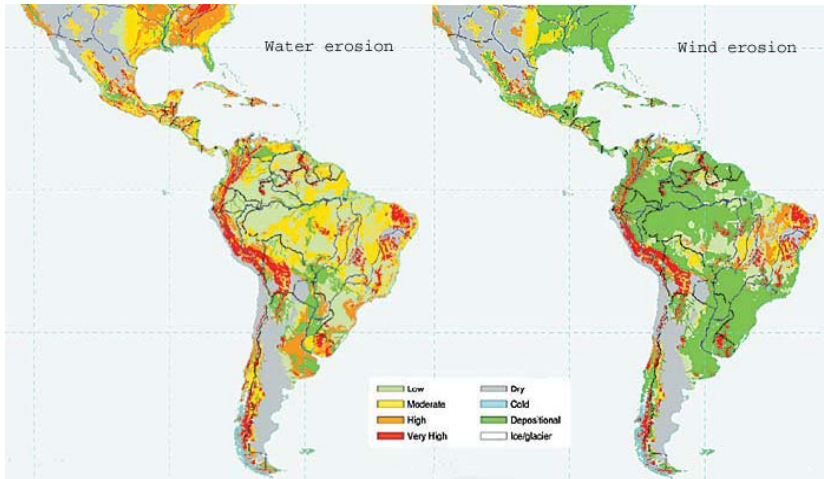




Fact Sheet Desertification

Latin America & Caribbean



Vulnerability to water and wind erosion (US Dept. of Agriculture 2001)

Area classified as drylands: UNDP/UNSO 1997

total:	538 M ha (26.5%)
arid:	103 M ha (5%)
semi-arid:	285 M ha (14%)
dry sub-humid:	150 M ha (7.5%)

Degraded drylands in Latin America and Caribbean: (Zika & Erb 2009)

Region	Degraded area (million km ²)	Percent of dryland area
Latin America & Caribbean	1.207	28.8

Degraded crop land in the drylands of Latin America and Caribbean: (Zika & Erb 2009)

Region	Degraded area (million km ²)	Percent of crop land area
Latin America & Caribbean	0.141	28

Degraded grazing in the drylands of Latin America and Caribbean: (Zika & Erb 2009)

Region	Degraded area (million km ²)	Percent of grazing area
Latin America & Caribbean	0.840	24

Status of desertification in agriculturally used drylands: (Dregne 1991)

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

People living in drylands in Latin America and Caribbean:

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

Area of drylands affected by human-induced soil degradation: UNEP/GLASOD 1997

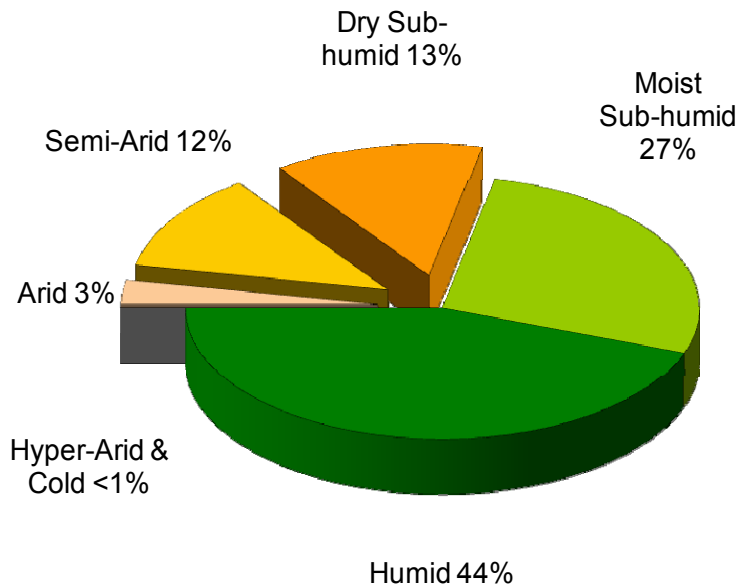
79 million ha ≈ 4.5% of total Latin American land area ≈ 15% of all susceptible drylands



Fact Sheet Desertification

Latin America & Caribbean

Population per aridity zone in Latin America: (UNDP/UNSO 1997)



Type of human-induced soil degradation: (UNEP/GLASOD 1997)

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



Economic costs of desertification: *AGDP= Agricultural Gross Domestic Product, NDP = Net Domestic Product

Selected region/ country	Gross annual income loss (US\$ million)
South America	2,691 (direct costs) <i>Dregne 1991</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Due to desertification: 975 Due to desertification & drought: 4,800 <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> 3,500 (5-6% of NDP*) <i>Berry et al. 2003</i>

Cumulative loss of productivity as a result of global soil degradation (not limited to drylands) (*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.