The Cascade project and its approach involving of stakeholders

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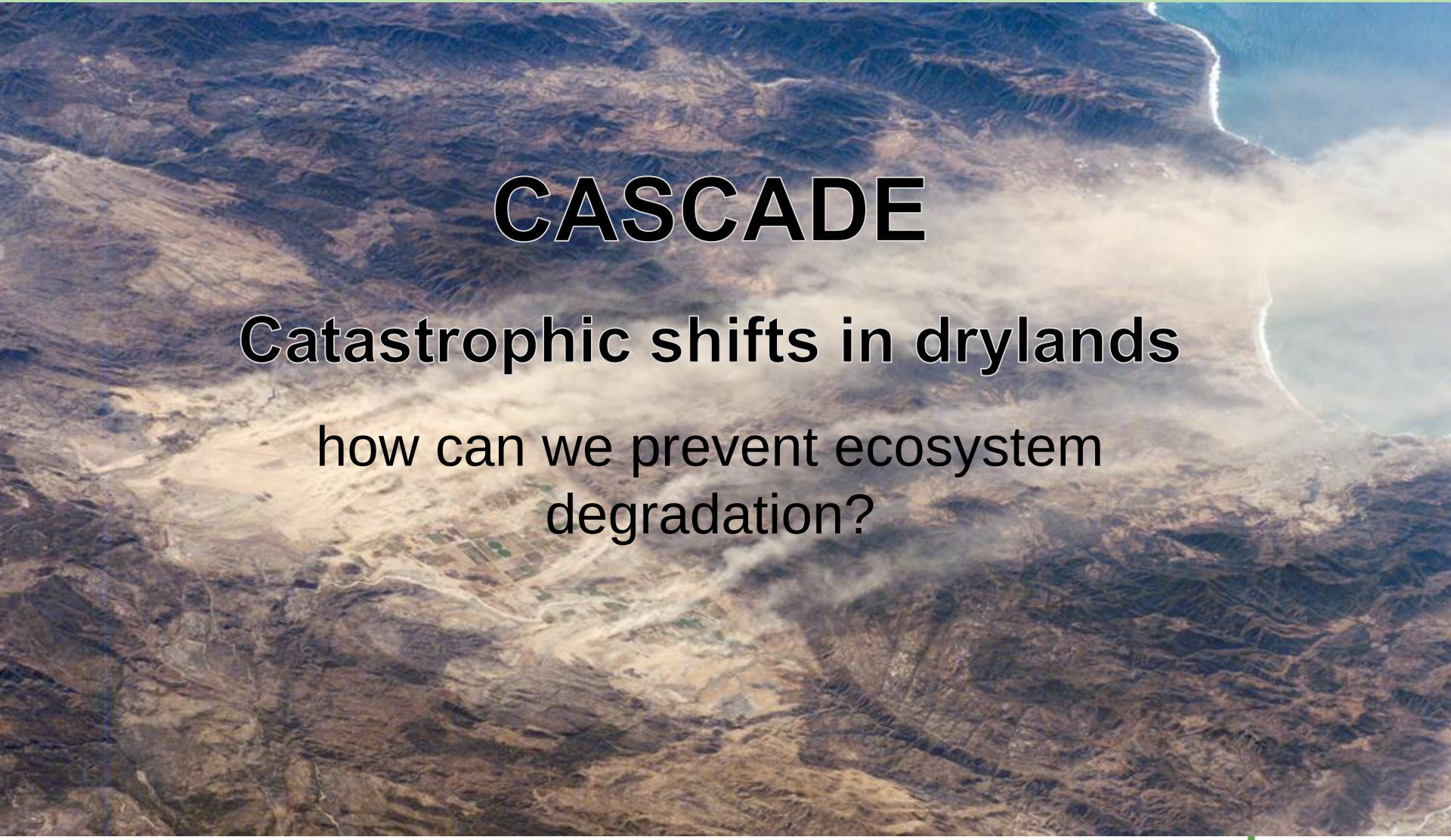


CASCADE

Catastrophic shifts in drylands

how can we prevent ecosystem degradation?

Partner	Country	Responsibilities	WP leader	Study site
Alterra	NL	Coordinating, field microplot experiments	WP1	
Technical University of Crete	Gr	Historical change in dryland ecosystems and their drivers	WP2	Yes
Universita degli studi della Basilicata	I	Management techniques, recommendations, ecosystem changes on landscape level		Yes
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	F	Modelling	WP6	
Universidad de Alicante	E	Field mesocosm experiments	WP4	Yes
University of Aveiro	P	Ecosystem changes on landscape level		Yes
Fondazione per lo sviluppo sostenible del Mediterraneo	I	Communication strategies, dissemination	WP9	

Partner	Country	Responsibilities	WP leader	Study site
University of Leeds	UK	Scenario analysis, policy recommendations	WP8	
Universität Bern	Ch	Management techniques, recommendations	WP7	
Universiteit Utrecht	NL	Modelling		
Joint Research Centre	I	Data management		
Cyprus University of Technology	Cy	Study site		Yes
Wageningen University	NL	Field microplot experiments	WP3	
Fundacion Centro de Estudios Ambientales del Mediterraneo	E	Ecosystem changes on landscape level	WP5	Yes

Research questions of Cascade

- Why do ecosystem catastrophic shifts occur?
- Why are some ecosystems more resilient than others?
- What can be done to prevent catastrophic shifts?
- Can degraded ecosystems be restored to a former state?

Catastrophic shifts in drylands: how can we prevent ecosystem degradation?

Objectives

- Better understanding of sudden shifts in drylands that may lead to major losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- Improve our understanding of the biogeochemical mechanisms underlying sudden and catastrophic shifts, and of the key biotic and abiotic factors influencing these processes.

- Develop ways to predict the proximity of the CASCADE's dryland ecosystems to thresholds in such a way that these predictions can be used by policymakers and land users for more sustainable management of drylands worldwide.

Total EU contribution: € 5 889 999

Study sites, institutions and drivers for catastrophic shifts

UAVR, Portugal
Driver: wildfires

CEAM, Spain
Driver: wildfires

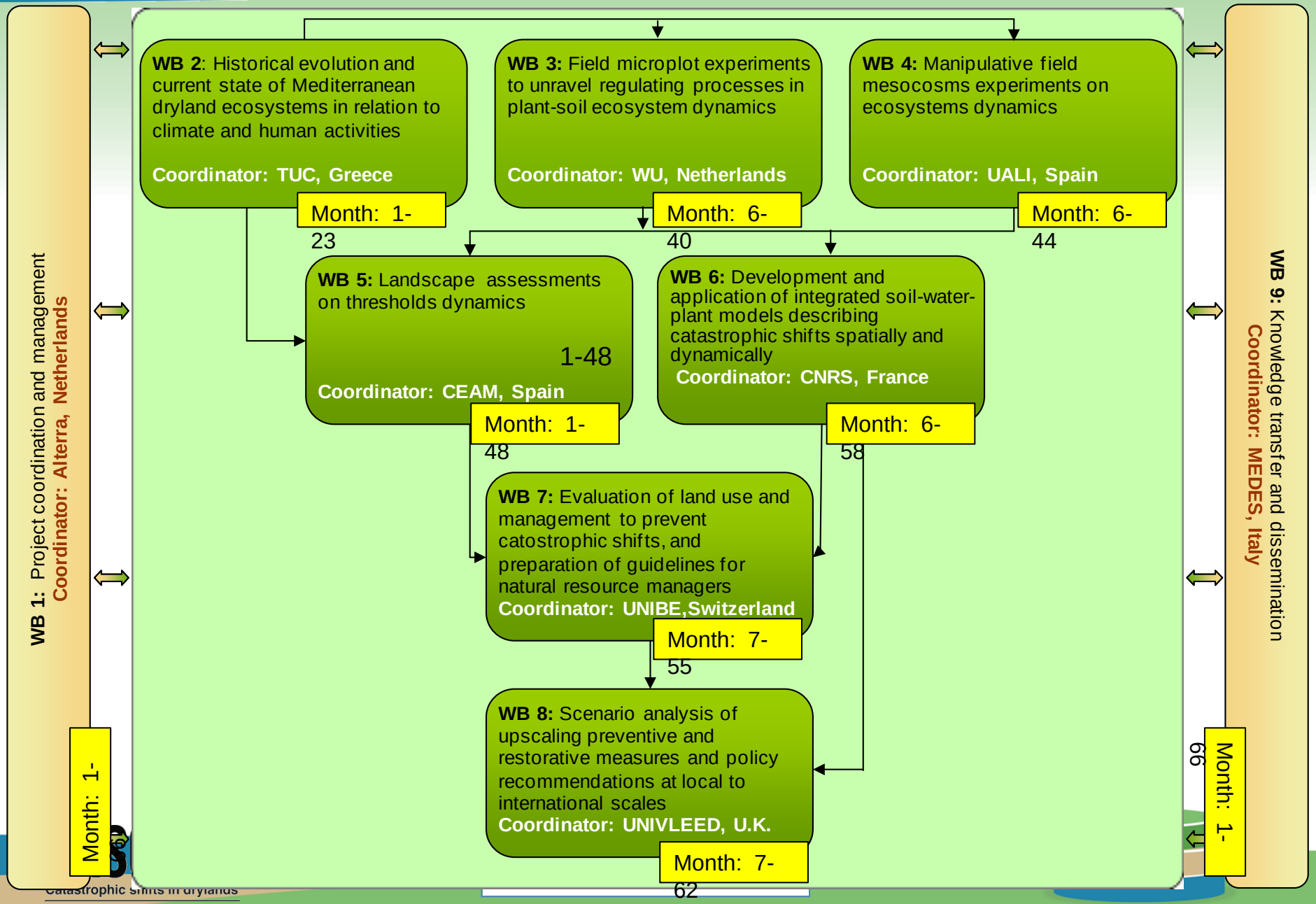
UA, Spain
Driver: overgrazing

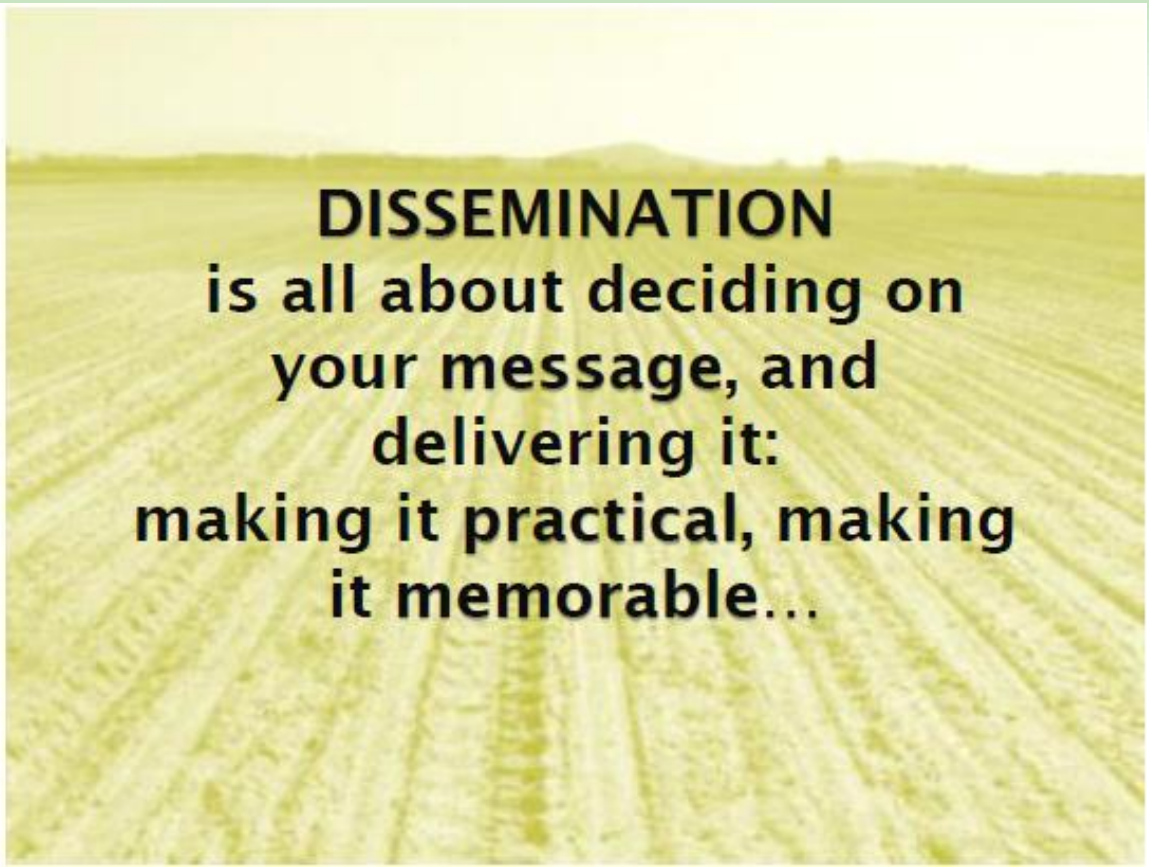
Unibas, Italy
Driver: overgrazing

TUC, Greece
Driver: overgrazing

CUT, Cyprus
Driver: overgrazing

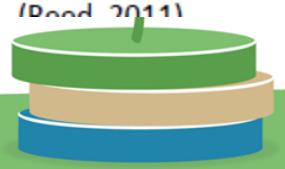
CASCADE the red line




DISSEMINATION
is all about deciding on
your message, and
delivering it:
making it practical, making
it memorable...

CASCADIS – the CASCADE Information System is the project's major dissemination product

http://www.cascade-project.eu/index.php/project-information/work-packages/8-project-specific/16-cascadis

Target audience	Modes of communication
Public	○ Press releases and associated media work ○ Website news items and other content ○ Twitter ○ Online video (project website and YouTube) ○ Project audio/video podcast
Stakeholders in theme activities (including policy communities relevant to themes)	Same as for public plus: ○ Regular newsletters ○ DVDs of high quality video material for those without internet access ○ Leaflets/manuals etc. based on project outputs ○ Presentations ○ Popular articles for specialist publications/magazines ○ One-to-one meetings with key stakeholders to disseminate outputs and listen to ongoing needs/priorities ○ Policy briefs relating to each theme
Research community	Same as for public plus: ○ Journal papers ○ Conference presentations and seminars
Wider policy community (not theme-specific)	Same as for public plus: ○ One-to-one meetings with key policy advisors to disseminate outputs and listen to ongoing needs/priorities ○ Policy briefs about overall project activities ○ Parliamentary briefings based on project policy briefs

(Reed, 2011)