Overview: Land degradation in the Arab region

Fidele Byiringiro
Sustainable Development Policies Division
Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia
A Dry Region

Source: ESCWA; 2007: Land Degradation Assessment and Prevention, ESCWA, Beirut, Lebanon
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Water & Land Rising Scarcity

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Land Degradation

Source: ESCWA based on FAOSTAT (2008)
Vegetation Degradation 1999-2012

Land Degradation: vicious vs virtuous

Downward spiral leading to desertification

- Political and economic instability
- Overgrazing and expansion of cropped areas
  - Reduced vegetation cover
  - Increased soil erosion
- Climatological factors
  - Climate change
  - Drought
- Reduced biological productivity
  - Poverty, emigration, and reduced human well-being

Human factors

- Demographic
- Economic
- Socio-political
- Science and technology

Approach to avoid desertification

- Political stability and economic prosperity
- Improved crop and livestock production
  - Improved crop and livestock production
  - Soil, water, range conservation and improved technology
- Improved human well-being
  - Increased biological productivity
  - Reduced soil erosion
  - Low salinization risk

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
Land Degradation: vicious vs virtuous

Good Practices:
- Sustainable Land Management
- Eco-agriculture
- Conservation agriculture
- Organic agriculture
- Precision agriculture

Bad Practices:
- Intensive agriculture
- Monoculture
- Vegetation removal
- Marginal land
- Excessive chemicals
- Bad crop choice
- Water mining

Land Degradation Neutrality
THANK YOU!

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