

E-2: Area affected by erosion

Glossary, abbreviations, legends and units of measurement

Glossary:

Agricultural area:	This category is the sum of areas under (a) arable land; (b) permanent crops; and (c) permanent meadows and pastures.
Arable land:	Arable land is the land under temporary agricultural crops (multiple-cropped areas are counted only once), temporary meadows for mowing or pasture, land under market and kitchen gardens and land temporarily fallow (less than five years). The abandoned land resulting from shifting cultivation is not included in this category. Data for "Arable land" are not meant to indicate the amount of land that is potentially cultivable.
Erosion:	Erosion is the process by which soil is removed from the Earth's surface by exogenous processes such as wind or water flow, and then transported and deposited in other locations. Water and wind erosion is measured as net loss of soil (in tons per hectare or km ² per year).
Permanent crops:	Crops are divided into temporary and permanent crops. Permanent crops are sown or planted once, and then occupy the land for some years and need not be replanted after each annual harvest, such as cocoa, coffee and rubber. This category includes flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees and vines, but excludes trees grown for wood or timber.
Permanent meadows and pastures:	Permanent meadows and pastures is the land used permanently (five years or more) to grow herbaceous forage crops, either cultivated or growing wild (wild prairie or grazing land).
Water erosion:	Washout or runoff of soil or rocks caused by water flows.
Wind erosion:	Destruction and removal of soil or rocks caused by wind.

Abbreviations:

EEA:	European Environment Agency
ECE:	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EU:	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOSTAT:	Statistics Division of the FAO
GLASOD:	Global Assessment of Human-induced Soil Degradation
RUSLE:	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
SOER:	State of the Environment Report
SOTER:	Soils and Terrain Digital Databases
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNSD:	United Nations Statistics Division

Legends:

Erosion – Classification (the same for both water and wind erosion):

- No affect (tolerable): Net loss lower than 6 tons/hectare/year
- Light affect: Net loss 6.0 – 10.9 tons/hectare/year
- Moderate affect: Net loss 11.0 – 21.9 tons/hectare/year
- Strong affect: Net loss 22.0 – 32.9 tons/hectare/year
- Extreme affect: Net loss higher than 33 tons/hectare/year

Units of measurement:

ha:	hectare
km ² :	square kilometre
t:	ton