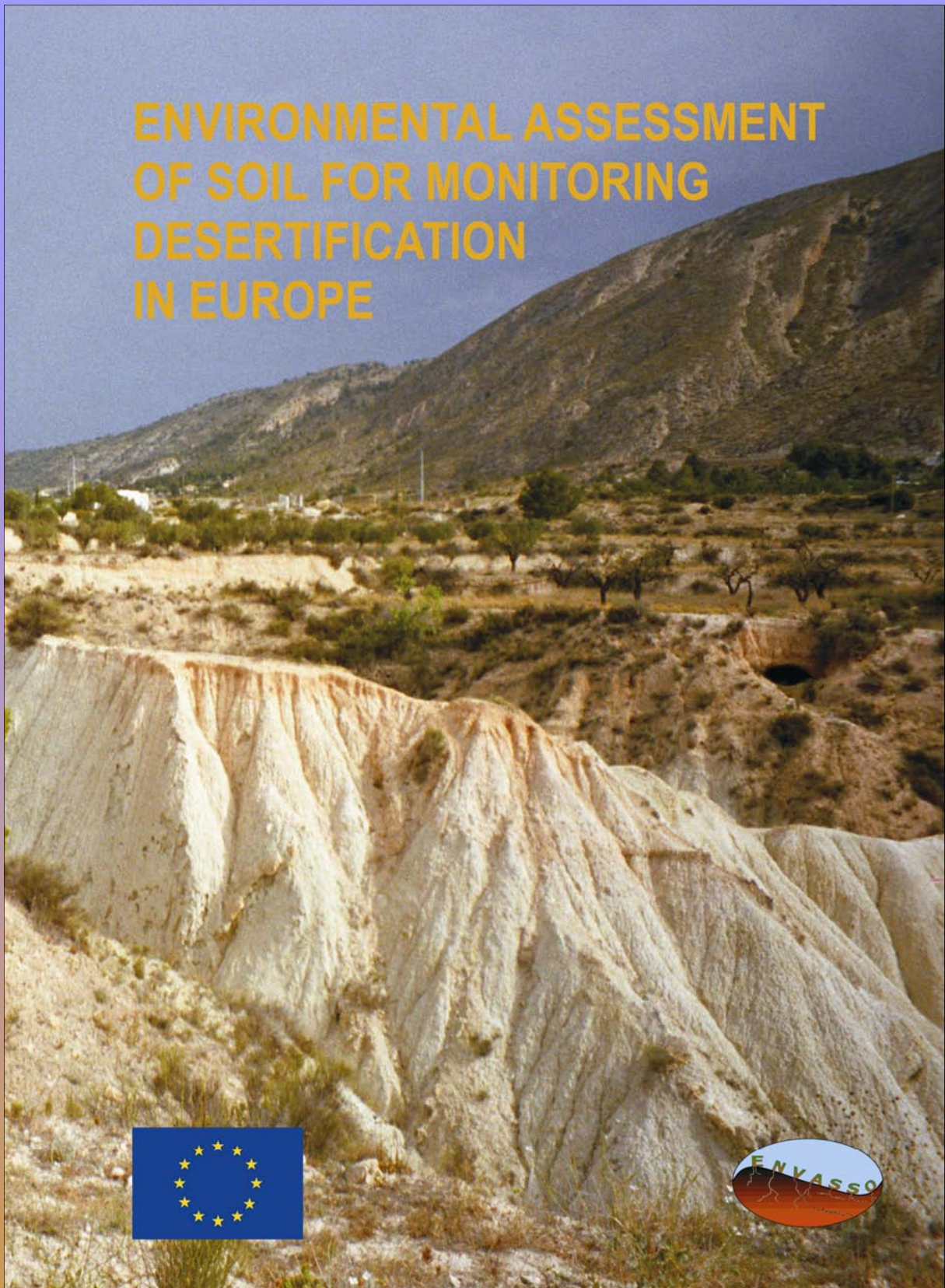


# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF SOIL FOR MONITORING DESERTIFICATION IN EUROPE



Prepared for the Eighth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Madrid September 2007.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF SOIL FOR MONITORING DESERTIFICATION IN EUROPE

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This report presents some early results from the ENVASSO Project  
**ENV**ironmental **AS**essment of **S**oil for **MO**nitoring (ENVASSO)  
funded under the European Commission's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme  
of Research

The aim of ENVASSO is to design and test a single, integrated, operational and EU-wide set of measurable criteria and indicators for monitoring soil in Europe. There are relatively few soil monitoring systems in Europe that cover large areas (Bullock *et al.*, 2005), and many of these are strictly only inventory systems at present because they have yet to be re-sampled. Progress towards harmonisation of these systems at the European level has been hindered by several factors, particularly data incompatibility resulting from different sampling and testing procedures (Van-Camp *et al.*, 2004e). By funding the ENVASSO Project, the European Commission has recognised the need for better soil information than currently exists for implementing a soil protection policy (European Commission, 2002, 2006). ENVASSO indicators are applicable across Europe as a whole and elsewhere, but this report focuses on a sub-set, termed Soil-Linked Desertification Indicators (SLDI)s, that have been selected for monitoring the state of soil, and the pressures on it, in the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones of Europe.

The ENVASSO Project comprises a consortium of 37 partner organisations from 25 countries.  
The project coordinator is Prof Mark Kibblewhite of Cranfield University

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