Degradation types	Subcategories	
W: Soil erosion by water	Wt	Loss of topsoil/ surface erosion: even removal of top soil, sheet and interrill erosion
	Wg	Gully erosion/ gullying
	Wm	Mass movements/ landslides
	Wr	Riverbank erosion
	Wc	Coastal erosion
	Wo	Offsite degradation effects: deposition of sediments, downstream flooding, siltation of reservoirs and waterways, and pollution of water bodies with eroded sediments
E: Soil erosion by wind	Et	Loss of topsoil: uniform displacement
	Ed	Deflation and deposition: uneven removal of soil material
	Eo	Offsite degradation effects: covering of the terrain with windborne sand particles from distant sources ("overblowing")
C: Chemical soil deterioration	Cn	Fertility decline and reduced soil organic matter content (not caused by erosion): e.g. leaching, soil fertility mining, nutrient oxidation and volatilization (N)
	Ca	Acidification: lowering of the soil pH
	Cp	Soil pollution: contamination of the soil with toxic materials
	Cs	Salinization/ alkalinization: a net increase of the salt content of the (top) soil leading to a productivity decline
P: Physical soil deterioration	Pc	Compaction: deterioration of soil structure by trampling or the weight and/ or frequent use of machinery
	Pk	Slaking and crusting: clogging of pores with fine soil material and development of a thin impervious layer at the soil surface obstructing the infiltration of rainwater
	Pi	Soil sealing: covering of the ground by an impermeable material (e.g. construction, mining, roads, etc.)
	Pw	Waterlogging: effects of human-induced water saturation of soils (excluding paddy fields)
	Ps	Subsidence of organic soils, settling of soil
	Pu	Loss of bio-productive function due to other activities
B: Biological degradation	Bc	Reduction of vegetation cover: increase of bare/ unprotected soil
	Bh	Loss of habitats: decreasing vegetation diversity (fallow land, mixed systems, field borders), increased fragmentation of habitats
	Bq	Quantity/ biomass decline: reduced vegetative production for different land use
	Bf	Detrimental effects of fires (includes low/ high severity of fires): on forest (e.g. slash and burn), bushland, grazing land, and cropland (burning of residues)
	Bs	Quality and species composition/ diversity decline: loss of natural species, land races, palatable perennial grasses; spreading of invasive, salt-tolerant, unpalatable, species/ weeds
	Bl	Loss of soil life: decline of soil macro-organisms and micro-organisms in quantity and quality
	Bp	Increase of pests/ diseases, loss of predators: reduction of biological control
H: Water degradation	Ha	Aridification: decrease of average soil moisture content
	Hs	Change in quantity of surface water: change of the flow regime (flood, peak flow, low flow, drying up of rivers and lakes)
	Hg	Change in groundwater/ aquifer level: lowering of groundwater table due to over-exploitation or reduced recharge of groundwater; or increase of groundwater table resulting in waterlogging and/ or salinization
	Hp	Decline of surface water quality: increased sediments and pollutants in fresh water bodies due to point pollution and land-based pollution
	Hq	Decline of groundwater quality: due to pollutants infiltrating into the aquifers
	Hw	Reduction of the buffering capacity of wetland areas to cope with flooding and pollution