

Community resilience and land degradation: evidence from the EU LEDDRA Project

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The notion of ‘community resilience’ is assuming ever greater importance at a time of accelerating climate change and globalization that is affecting even the remotest corners of the globe. This paper will present preliminary findings from the EU-funded LEDDRA Project which investigates the interlinkages between community resilience and land degradation in case study communities in Spain, Morocco, Italy, Greece and China. The paper will start by discussing issues linked to conceptualizing community resilience, drawing on the burgeoning multi-disciplinary literature on resilience (e.g. Adger, 2000; Folke, 2006; Davidson, 2010). Methodological issues centered on how to assess resilience at local community level will then be discussed with a focus on indicator selection, representativeness, and subjectivity. The paper concludes with insights into preliminary findings from the LEDDRA project and a discussion of lessons for policy-makers on how to make local communities more resilient in the face of land degradation and other issues which threaten community survival.