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ArcGIS 9

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(ETM⁺, 2002)

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: M_I

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: C_I

: S_I

: E_I

: V_I

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(P) (ET) (AI = P/ET _p)			
(Cl) (EC) (Water table) (SAR)			

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(Animal Unit Month)

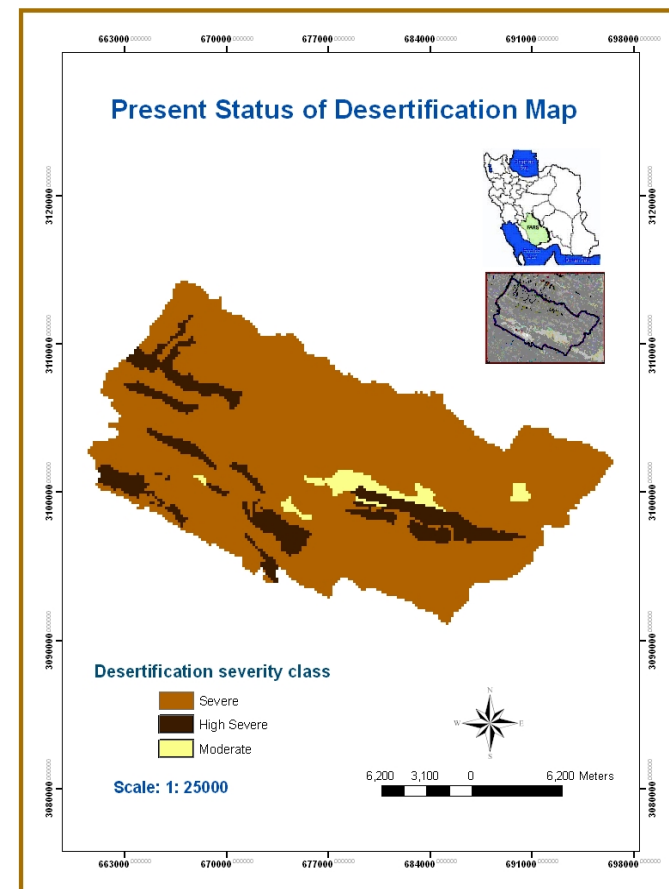
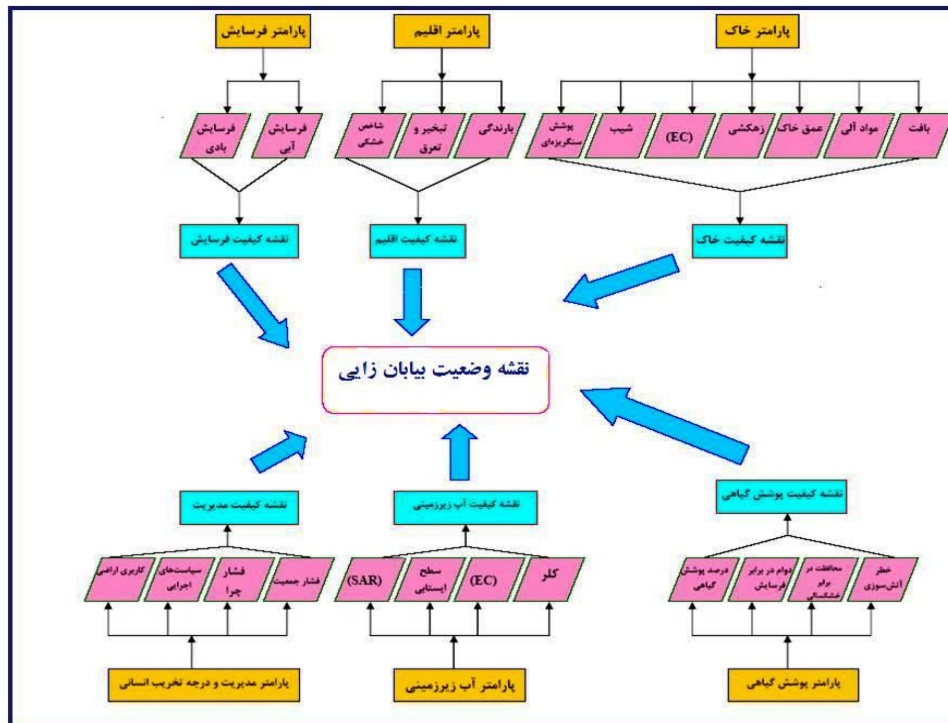
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Application of MEDALUS method to develop a regional model for desertification assessment and mapping

A. Sepehr^{1*}, M. Moayeri², M.R. Ekhtesasi³ and S. Aghajani⁴

¹ Ph.D Student of Geomorphology, University of Isfahan, I.R.Iran

² Assistant Prof, University of Isfahan, I.R.Iran

³ Assistant Prof, University of Yazd, I.R.Iran

⁴ Former M. Sc. Student of Geomorphology, University of Isfahan, I.R.Iran

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Abstract

The present study attempts to assess quantitatively the desertification process to develop a regional model in Fidoyeh- Garmosht plain in Fars province with area of 43000 ha as a case study. In this study, based on the MEDALUS method and according to the characteristics of study area a regional model was developed using GIS. In the first step, all major factors affecting desertification were determined. These main six indicators (layers) included: soil, climate, erosion, plant cover, groundwater and management (for human activities). Then a number of sub-layers for each main layer affecting the quality of main layers were identified. To each sub-layer a number between "1 to 2" according to the MEDALUS method was denoted. These denoted numbers were considered as a weight for each sub-layer. GIS (ArcGIS 9) then was used to analyze data to prepare the main layer status maps using geometric mean for the sub-layers and the main layers. Ultimately, the maps were combined and based on the geometric mean of the main layers, a desertification potential status map was developed. The results indicated that 12% of total study area classified as a very severe class, 81% is classified as a severe class and 7% of area classified as a moderate class of desertification. The results showed that plant cover and groundwater quality are the most important parameters that affecting desertification process in the Fidoyeh – Garmosht plain.

Keywords: Desertification, MEDALUS, GIS, Fidoyeh-Garmosht