Supplementary Materials

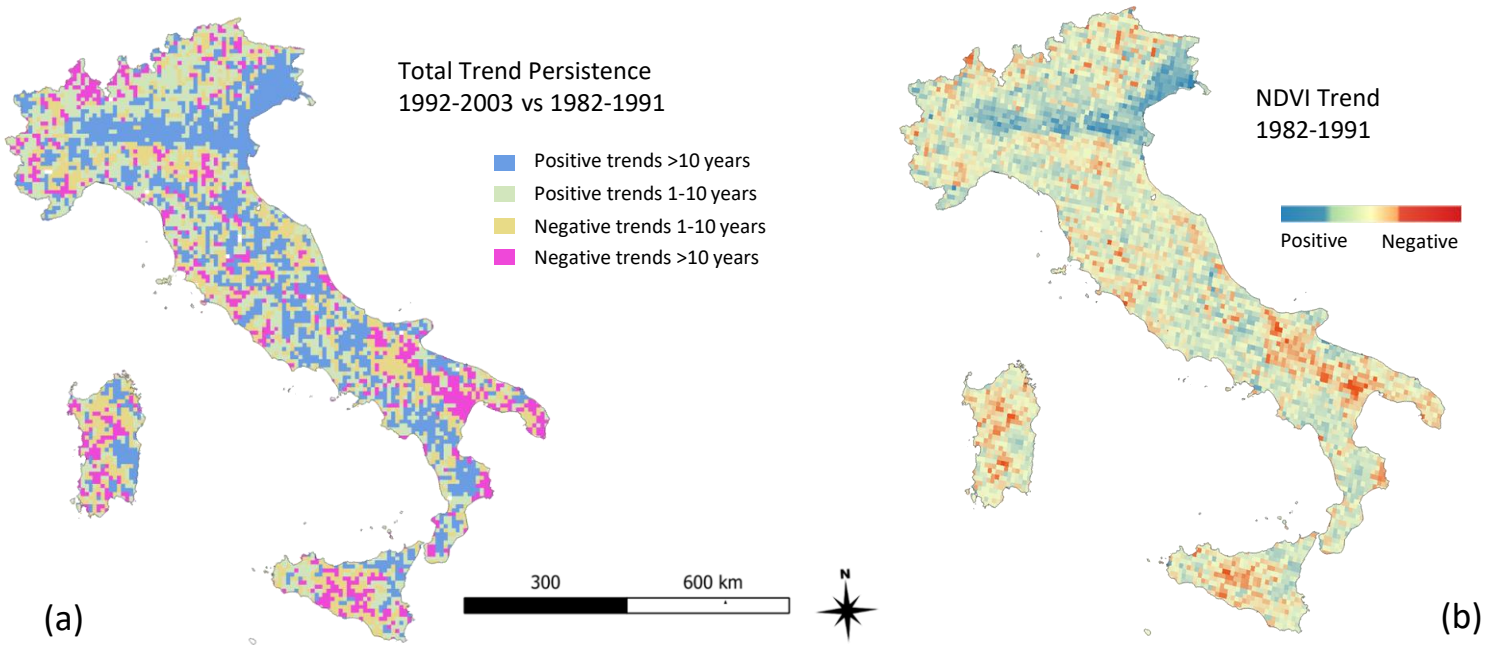

Figure S1. (a) Total persistence map of NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) trends for the period 1992-2003 obtained from 8 km GIMMS satellite dataset. The persistence index is expressed in number of years starting from 1992 for which the trend sign of the reference period 1982–1991 is preserved. (b) NDVI Trends of the reference period. (Figure readjusted from Simoniello et al (2008)). Areas of negative persistent trends (magenta) show patterns similar to the intercept-to-slope ratio derived from local regression results (1990-2010).

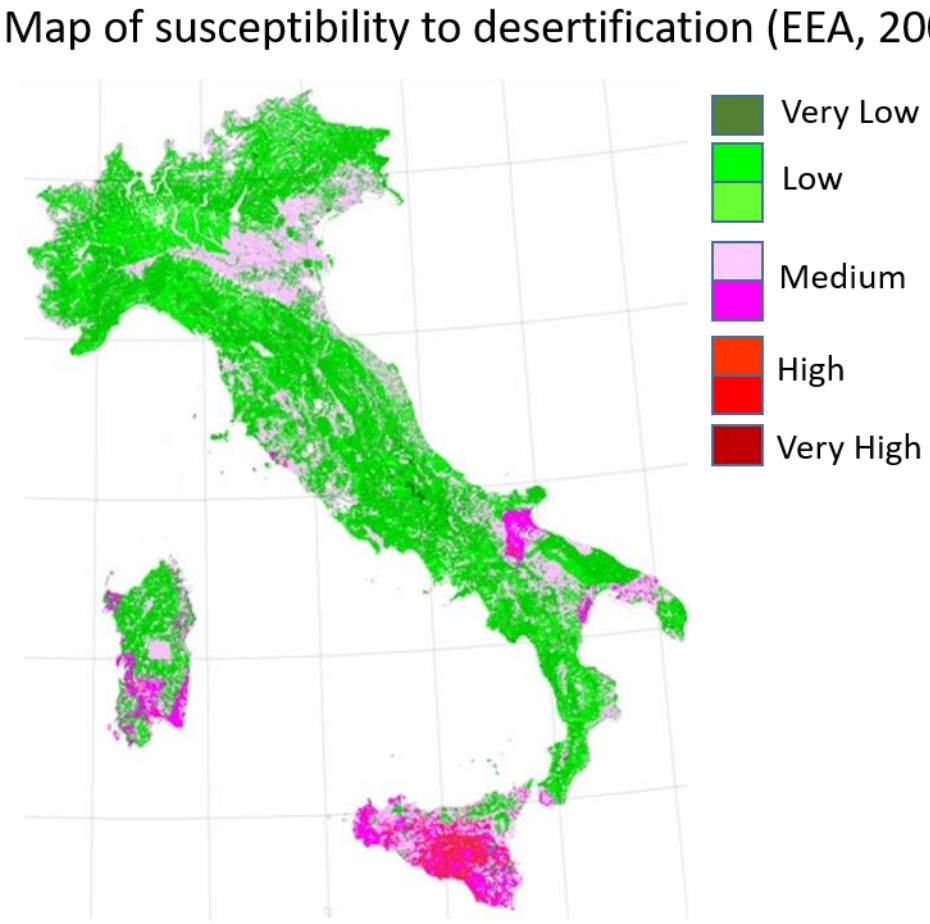

Figure S2. () Map of susceptibility to desertification obtained from the ESA procedure (Figure readjusted from https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/shared_folder/projects/DIS4ME/using_dis4me/dismed.htm, last accessed on 25 August 2022). The most vulnerable areas show patterns similar to the intercept-to-slope ratio derived from local regression results (1960-1990).