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**Appendix 2.** Examples of variables potentially suitable for assessing the severity of environmental degradation under Criterion C. From (1).

Degradation process	Example variables
Desertification of rangelands	Proportional cover of bare ground, soil density, soil compaction indices, remote sensing landcover indices (2, 3).
Eutrophication of soils, freshwater streams or lakes	Levels of dissolved or soil nitrogen, phosphorus, cations, oxygen, turbidity, bioassay (4).
De-humidification of cloud forests Deforestation by acid rain	Cloud cover, cloud altitude (5). Rain water chemistry (6).
Homogenization of microhabitats	Diversity of micro-terrain features, spatial variance in inundation depth and duration (7).
Changed water regime or hydroperiod	Field-based monitoring of stream flow volume, or piezometric water table depth; remote sensing of spatial extent of surface water, frequency and depth of inundation (8).
Salinization of soils or wetlands	Field monitoring of salinity of soils or groundwater, remote sensing of ground surface albedo (9).
Sedimentation of streams, coral reefs	Sediment accumulation rates, sediment load of streams, discharge, turbidity of water column, frequency and intensity of sediment plume spectral signatures (10).
Structural simplification of benthic marine ecosystems (e.g. by bottom trawling)	Microrelief, abundance of benthic debris, trawling frequency and spatial pattern (11).
Sea level rise	Acoustic monitoring of sea level, extent of tidal inundation (12).
Retreat of ice masses	Remote sensing of sea ice extent (13).

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