

Official Launch of the WOCAT Multi-Donor Basket Fund for SLM

Date: December 12, 2024, 13:15 – 14:15

Location: UNCCD COP16, MET-04

Host: WOCAT Consortium in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat

The launch of the **WOCAT Multi-Donor Basket Fund (MDBF)** at UNCCD COP16 marks a significant milestone in WOCAT's global efforts to combat land degradation and promote **Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to reach land degradation neutrality (LDN)**. WOCAT, as a globally recognized leader in knowledge management and capacity development for SLM, has empowered communities, civil society, governments, research and other institutions across continents for over two decades. Through its local to global action and outreach, WOCAT has created a unique platform for knowledge sharing and learning, fostering innovation, and building capacity to address land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss at all levels. As the **UNCCD-designated database for SLM best practice reporting**, WOCAT plays a pivotal role in supporting UNCCD Parties and stakeholders in documenting, sharing, and scaling up SLM practices. This designation underscores WOCAT's unique expertise in bridging science, policy, and practice to enable evidence-based, participatory approaches that deliver impactful and sustainable solutions worldwide.

The MDBF represents a bold step forward in WOCAT's mission to scale up proven SLM practices and achieve LDN. Hosted by the UNCCD Secretariat, the Basket Fund is designed as a collaborative financial mechanism that pools resources from diverse donors to accelerate the adoption and implementation of innovative land management solutions on a global scale.

Aligned with the goals of the UNCCD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the MDBF addresses critical gaps in knowledge, and capacity, with a special focus on regions most affected by land degradation and desertification. It underscores WOCAT's commitment to fostering global partnerships, enhancing cross-border knowledge sharing, and empowering local communities to restore and sustainably manage their lands for the benefit of current and future generations.

This high-level event will officially launch the MDBF in collaboration with the UNCCD Secretariat, donors and the WOCAT network, with a particular emphasis on the establishment of WOCAT regional representations, so-called WOCAT Regional Clusters, which will be a cornerstone of the Basket Fund. It will also spotlight WOCAT's global efforts in supporting SLM, from Africa to Asia, Latin America, and beyond.

WOCAT Consortium Partners:



Objectives of the Event

1. **Official Launch of the MDBF:** Introduce the WOCAT MDBF, its purpose, structure, and mechanisms for funding SLM activities globally.
2. **Showcase Regional Needs:** Highlight perspectives from key regional stakeholders where MDBF funding will have the greatest impact, focusing on WOCAT Regional Clusters.
3. **Donor Perspectives:** Provide insights from primary donor countries (Switzerland and Germany) on their motivation for contributing to the MDBF and its expected outcomes.
4. **Engagement with Potential Donors:** Foster dialogue with other countries and institutions interested in supporting the MDBF and learning about its governance and operational framework.

Agenda

Moderator: Enrico Bonaiuti, WOCAT Executive Team, ICARDA

1. Opening Remarks (10 minutes):

- **UNCCD Representative**
- **H.E. Deputy Minister for Environment - Dr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha:** Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2. Introduction to the MDBF (10 minutes):

- **Dr. Tatenda Lemann:** WOCAT Executive Team, CDE, University of Bern

3. Donor Insights (10 minutes):

- **H.E. Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen:** Ambassador of Switzerland to Saudi Arabia
- **H.E. Michael Kindsgrab:** Ambassador of Germany to Saudi Arabia

4. Regional Perspectives (15 minutes):

Regional challenges and how MDBF funding addresses critical needs for SLM and achieving LDN

- **Bob Kalanzi:** AUDA-NEPAD
- **Dr. Claudio Zucca:** University of Sassari
- **Representative from Ecuador**

5. Exchange Round (10 minutes):

- Reactions and discussion on the MDBF's role in fostering partnerships and securing funding to advance SLM and LDN

6. Closing Remarks (5 minutes):

- **UNCCD Secretariat:** Summarizing key takeaways, outlining next steps, and closing the event.

WOCAT Consortium Partners:



Target Audience

- UNCCD Country Delegates
- Ambassadors and representatives of donor countries (e.g. Switzerland, Germany)
- Regional stakeholders from all world regions
- Potential donor countries and funding institutions
- Media and civil society organizations

Expected Outcomes

1. Official announcement and endorsement of the MDBF by key stakeholders.
2. Increased awareness among potential donors about the MDBF and its strategic role in combating land degradation.
3. Strengthened partnerships between regions and donor countries to address land management challenges.
4. Commitment from additional donors to support MDBF initiatives and regional SLM activities.

For further information, please contact:
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More information on WOCAT Basket Fund:
<https://wocat.net/en/about-wocat/multi-donor-trust-fund-for-slm/>



WOCAT Consortium Partners:

