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of the United Nations



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CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT



The new Knowledge Exchange Forum

Jonas Chastonay, CDE-WOCAT



E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Introduction to Dgroups

Getting to know the platform

What is Dgroups?

- *Dgroups is a web-based platform and global public good that allows for the creation of online communities. It has over 700 communities, 290,000 registered users who exchange over 400,000 email messages daily. Dgroups operates as a partnership and foundation, with various levels of organizational partners who provide annual funding. Its vision is “to enable everyone to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice.” – Dgroups Foundation*
- Dgroups as
 - a partnership (FAO, SDC, UNCDF, UK Aid, ...) & foundation
 - a global public good
 - **a web-based platform**

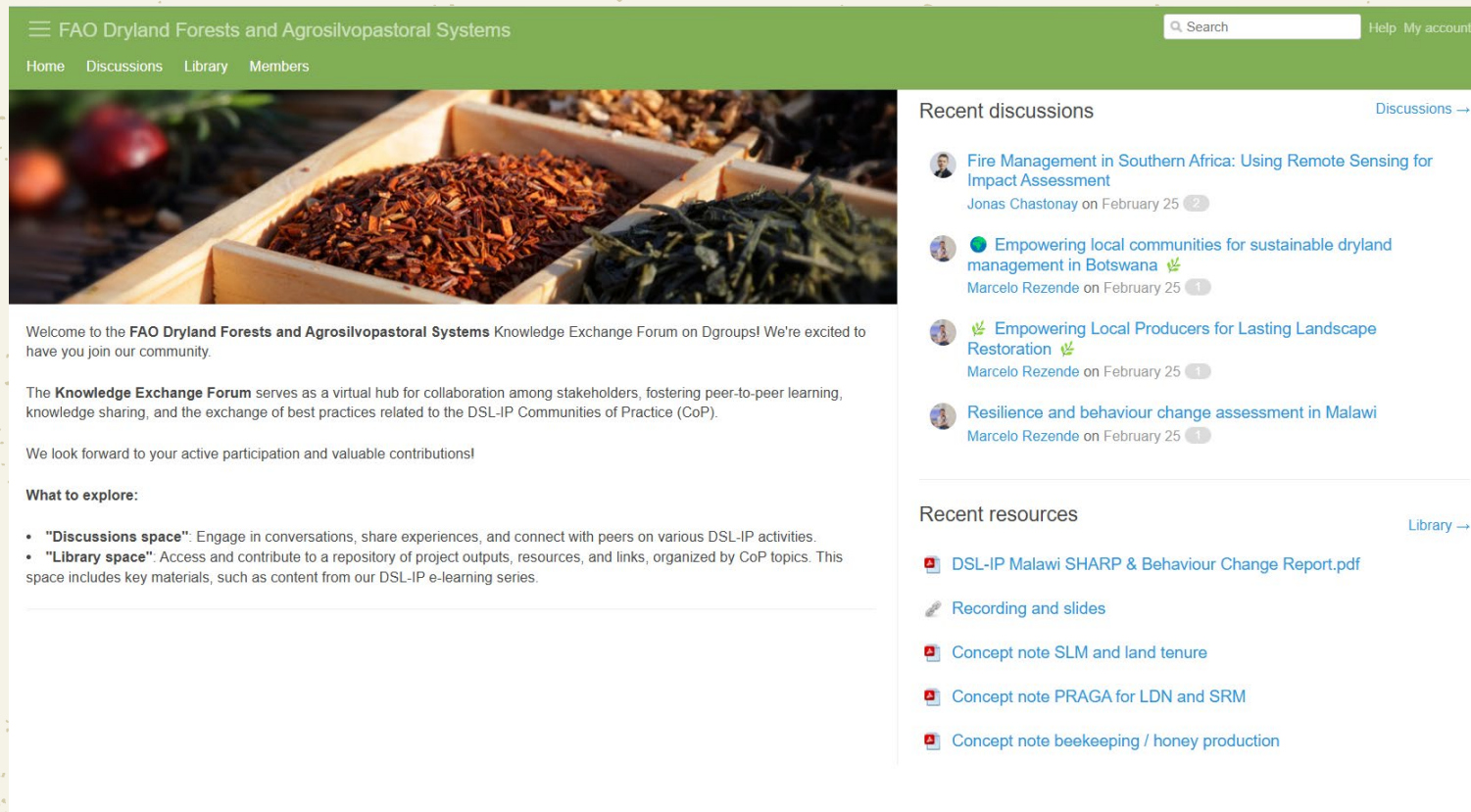


Introduction to Dgroups

Getting to know the platform

Key features in general

- Simple layout and navigation
- Multilingual
- Non-commercial
- Respectful of privacy
- Usage at low bandwidth
- Email and web-based exchange



The screenshot displays the Dgroups platform interface for the 'FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems' community. The header includes a search bar and a 'Help My account' link. The main content area features a large image of a wooden tray containing various types of wood chips and mulch. Below the image, a welcome message reads: 'Welcome to the FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum on Dgroups! We're excited to have you join our community.' This is followed by a paragraph explaining the forum's purpose as a virtual hub for collaboration and knowledge sharing. A 'What to explore:' section lists two key features: 'Discussions space' for engaging in conversations and 'Library space' for accessing project outputs and resources. On the right side, there are two sections: 'Recent discussions' with three entries, each featuring a user profile picture, a discussion title, and the author's name and date; and 'Recent resources' with four entries, each featuring a document icon, a title, and a 'Library' link.

FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

Home Discussions Library Members

Welcome to the **FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems** Knowledge Exchange Forum on Dgroups! We're excited to have you join our community.

The **Knowledge Exchange Forum** serves as a virtual hub for collaboration among stakeholders, fostering peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices related to the DSL-IP Communities of Practice (CoP).

We look forward to your active participation and valuable contributions!

What to explore:

- **"Discussions space"**: Engage in conversations, share experiences, and connect with peers on various DSL-IP activities.
- **"Library space"**: Access and contribute to a repository of project outputs, resources, and links, organized by CoP topics. This space includes key materials, such as content from our DSL-IP e-learning series.

Recent discussions

- [Fire Management in Southern Africa: Using Remote Sensing for Impact Assessment](#)
Jonas Chastonay on February 25
- [Empowering local communities for sustainable dryland management in Botswana](#)
Marcelo Rezende on February 25
- [Empowering Local Producers for Lasting Landscape Restoration](#)
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- [Resilience and behaviour change assessment in Malawi](#)
Marcelo Rezende on February 25

Recent resources

- [DSL-IP Malawi SHARP & Behaviour Change Report.pdf](#)
- [Recording and slides](#)
- [Concept note SLM and land tenure](#)
- [Concept note PRAGA for LDN and SRM](#)
- [Concept note beekeeping / honey production](#)

FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Overview of the Knowledge Exchange Forum

- **Purpose:** Facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders in dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems (DSL-IP, COFO WG, and beyond)
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide a (virtual) interactive space for learning, sharing knowledge around the DSL-IP priority work areas
 - Foster collaboration amongst stakeholders, enhancing peer-to-peer learning
- **Benefits:** Access to relevant information, networking opportunities, and a platform for discussion and learning.
- **Key Features:**
 - Discussions: Engage in conversations on relevant topics.
 - Library: Access and share documents and links on various topics.
 - Member Directory: Connect with other community members.

FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Overview of the Knowledge Exchange Forum

☰ FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

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Jonas Chastonay on February 25 2
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Marcelo Rezende on February 25 1

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Marcelo Rezende on February 25 1



Marcelo Rezende

on February 19

1

Reply

Wildfires are reshaping dryland ecosystems, threatening biodiversity and livelihoods. To improve fire management, the FAO-led Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) Impact Program is developing a Fire Impact Assessment Protocol for Southern Africa.

This protocol combines remote sensing, field data, and local knowledge to assess fire impacts on vegetation, land degradation, and carbon emissions. By providing standardized data, it supports evidence-based decision-making for fire prevention, control, and restoration.

Read more: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/dryland-sustainable-landscapes/news-and-events/news-detail/fire-management---developing-a-protocol-for-impact-assessment-in-southern-africa/en>

If you wish to contribute to the Protocol development, please reach out to dsl-ip@fao.org

🗨️ How can remote sensing improve fire management in drylands? Let's discuss!



Jonas Chastonay

on February 25

2

Reply

Very interesting – thanks for sharing, Marcelo!

There has also been a learning event on fire management as part of the DSL-IP e-learning series 2024. Particularly relevant to this discussion might be the insights from Gaston Hedwigino Tahintsoa (REAFMRC) and Lara Steil (FAO), who presented on fire management hubs, including FAO's Fire Management Hub and the Regional Eastern Africa Fire Management Resource Center.

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Selected discussion 1



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COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP)

Community of Practice 1 – Land Degradation Neutrality Assessment for Informed Decision Making

Community of Practice 2 – Good Sustainable Landscape Management and Sustainable Forest Management Practices

Community of Practice 3 – WeCan, Gender Responsiveness and Women Empowerment

DSL-IP Learning Events 2024

No. 1: Good Practices in Fire Management 2

No. 2: PRAGA for LDN and SRM Good Practices 2

No. 3: Good Practices in Invasive Species Management 2

No. 4: Good Practices in Beekeeping / Honey Production for SFM 2

No. 5: SLM and Land Tenure 2

DSL-IP Learning Events 2025

DSL-IP Malawi SHARP & Behaviour Change Report.pdf COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE 1 – LAND DEGR

Recording and slides NO. 5: SLM AND LAND TENURE

Concept note SLM and land tenure NO. 5: SLM AND LAND TENURE

Concept note PRAGA for LDN and SRM NO. 2: PRAGA FOR LDN AND SRM GOOD PRACTICES

Concept note beekeeping / honey production NO. 4: GOOD PRACTICES IN BEEKEEPING / HONEY PROD

Concept note invasive species management NO. 3: GOOD PRACTICES IN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEM

Concept note fire management NO. 1: GOOD PRACTICES IN FIRE MANAGEMENT

Recording and slides NO. 4: GOOD PRACTICES IN BEEKEEPING / HONEY PRODUCTION FOR SFM

Recording and slides NO. 3: GOOD PRACTICES IN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Recording and slides NO. 1: GOOD PRACTICES IN FIRE MANAGEMENT

Recording and slides NO. 2: PRAGA FOR LDN AND SRM GOOD PRACTICES

Concept note invasive species management

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DSL-IP Learning Event: Good practices in invasive species management

3rd July 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. C.E.T.

Zoom Link

Link: <https://ymbm.ch.zoom.us/j/62861972991>
Meeting ID: 628 6197 2991

Background

Invasive species management is a critical aspect of environmental conservation and sustainable land use management. Invasion by (alien) plant species represents a distinct form of land degradation with severe adverse impacts, including biodiversity loss, encroachment on agricultural and pasture lands, and depletion of ground and surface water. This results in the urgent need to sustainably manage alien plant species which have detrimental effects on ecosystems and human livelihoods.¹

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FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Using the Knowledge Exchange Forum: Email vs. Web Usage

- The Knowledge Exchange Forum can be used via web (<https://dgroups.org/fao/drylands>) or via email.
- Recommendation: Usage of the website as it provides an overview over all discussions and a library with documents/links on various topics (e.g. topics from the DSL-IP e-learning series)
 - When using via email adjust email preferences (by default you will receive immediate notification for newly added posts)
 - **immediate** sends one email notification for each event that occurred (new discussion posted, new announcement, new link, etc.);
 - **daily** sends one cumulative notification email per day, listing all events that occurred;
 - **weekly** sends weekly digest, listing all events for the past week in a single notification email;
 - **monthly** lists all events for the past month in a single notification email message;
 - **none** prevents sending any email notifications.

FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Using the Knowledge Exchange Forum: Email vs. Web Usage

■ Example: immediate vs. monthly

[drylands] Fire Management in Southern Africa: Using Remote Sensing for Impact Assessment

Jonas Chastonay <jonas.chastonay@unibe.ch> 15:17
über FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems <fao_drylands@dggroups.org>
[drylands] Fire Management in Southern Africa: Using Remote Sensing for Impact Assessment
An FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Antwort an FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

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Bilder von jonas.chastonay@unibe.ch immer anzeigen

Ein Anhang Ansicht Herunterladen

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One can rewatch the event here: <https://vimeo.com/949453788/8bfefe16e8?share=copy>

The session also covered key principles of fire ecology and fire management, along with practical examples from Madagascar, Niger, and South Africa.

For recordings and materials from all past DSL-IP learning events, visit the Knowledge Exchange Forum's Library or <https://wocat.net/en/wocat-media-library/global-coordination-project-for-the-sfm-dryland-sustainable-landscapes-impact-program-dsl-ip/>

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A reply to this message will be sent to all members of FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

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[drylands] Summary for January 1 - 31, 2025

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To: FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

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FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

Summary for January 1 - January 31

- [Test Discussion](#) 2 messages

Test Discussion

jonas.chastonay@bluewin.ch
January 20

Test Message

Reply

[Marcelo Rezende](#)
January 22

Very interesting topic. :)

Reply

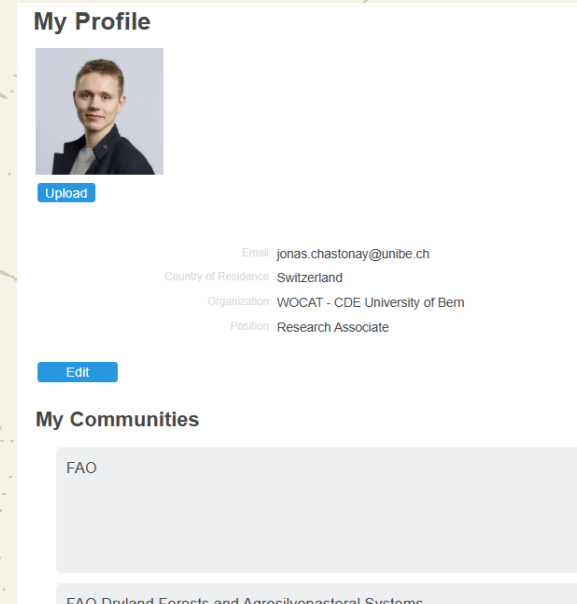
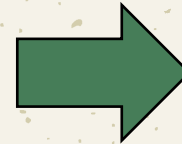
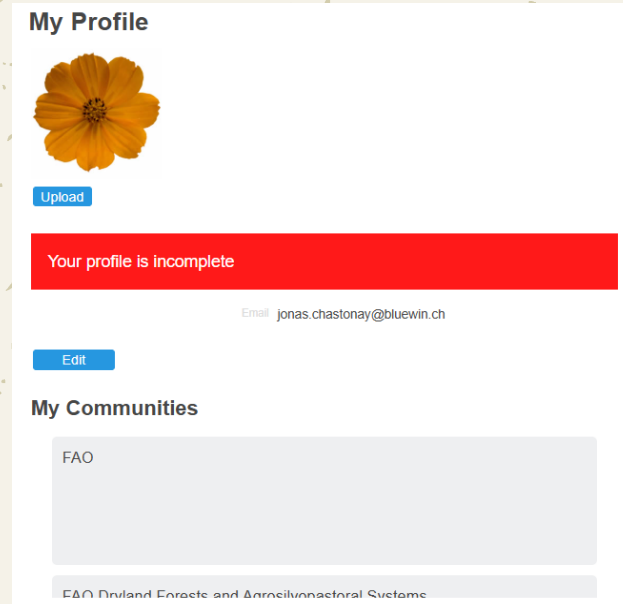
FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Using the Knowledge Exchange Forum: Official Information/Help

<https://dgroups.org/help/index.html>

FAO Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems Knowledge Exchange Forum

Hands-on exercise: Get acquainted with the Knowledge Exchange Forum



Main Session (with language interpretation)

- (Login/Create new account)
- Adjust email settings to your preference
- Update user profile
- Reply to threads
- Create new discussions
- Upload documents to library

Breakout Room

- Adjust email settings to your preference
- Update user profile
- Reply to threads
- Create new discussions
- Upload documents to library

E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Q&A

