World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) – related decisions by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 16th session of the Conference of Parties (COP16)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2-13 December 2024
https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2024-12/cop24add1%20-%20advance_0.pdf

Decision 4/COP.16 - Improving the procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties [...] Acknowledging with appreciation the support provided by technical partners[2] to national reporting under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through the provision of a growing array of data and analytical tools that can support (i) land degradation and drought monitoring; as well as (ii) decision-making to achieve land degradation neutrality,

[2] *Technical partners include, inter alia: Centre for Development and Environment – University of Bern, Conservation International, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, European Space Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship initiative, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, International Soil Reference and Information Centre, Joint Research Center of the European Commission , Open Geospatial Consortium, OpenGeoHub Foundation, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences of University of Southampton, United Nations Environment Programme, University of Maryland,* **World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies**, *World Resources Institute.*

Decision 9/COP.16 - Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties [...] welcomes with appreciation the Global Environment Facility's encouragement to project implementing and executing agencies to use the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database, as appropriate, especially in projects applying sustainable land management practices, and invites the Global Environment Facility to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;

Decision 16/COP.16 - Science-policy recommendations on aridity trends, projections and impacts

The Conference of the Parties [...] Invites the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, acting within its mandate and in cooperation with Parties, to identify the sustainable land and water management best practices that have effectively taken aridity trends, projections and impacts into account in order to support knowledge-sharing and, as appropriate, the adoption of successful integrative approaches;

Decision 18/COP.16 - Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation

The Conference of the Parties [...] recalling decisions 9/COP.15, 11/COP.15, 15/COP.15, 20/COP.15 and 24/COP.15 on the collaboration between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, [...]

Acknowledging the continuing efforts by the secretariat and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of sustainable land management best practices, and in developing tools relevant to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders,

Welcoming the various projects implemented by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in collaboration with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders globally,

Also welcoming the continued collaboration between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies aimed at implementing the renewed World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies strategy (WOCAT 2020+) in line with the knowledge needs of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders and the development of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Multi-Donor Basket Fund,

Requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, thus facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders globally;

Also invites developed country Parties and other Parties as well as other institutions to support the implementation of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies strategy (WOCAT 2020+) through the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Multi-donor Basket Fund;

Decision 25/COP.16 Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender (WOCAT not mentioned, but in the Report of the COP 16. Part one: proceedings)

Annex VII Report from the Gender Caucus:

The European Union representative noted that equal participation and leadership of women in public and political life is crucial for achieving the SDGs. The EU has a Gender Action Plan, which supports attendance of women to COPs. EU is a major contributor to multi-donor ICCD/COP(16)/24 initiatives, working together with international finance institutions. Women are driving the shift to more climate resilient ecosystems. There is a great need for equal access to resources: land, credit, and farming technologies. The UNCCD should continue supporting WOCAT, as an essential source of gender data.

Ms. Camilla Steinboeck, Research Scientist, WOCAT, presented the tool to assess gender-responsiveness of SLM practices, developed by WOCAT together with gender and SLM experts. This tool uses a questionnaire to identify gender-related parameters, as well as technical and socio-cultural factors, that promote the adoption of SLM by both women and men. The aim of the tool is to apply a gender lens to SLM technologies and approaches and to assess their gender-responsiveness, and to assess how the gender-responsiveness of SLM technologies and approaches can be improved to enhance their adoption and dissemination, so that SLM benefits women and men alike. Recently, the tool went live on the WOCATwebsite.