



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

to participate in the Regional **Sustainable Land Management Training Workshop** and **Launch of AfrioCAT**

Background

The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) is the global network for Sustainable Land Management (SLM), established in 1992, committed to promoting SLM and advancing Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) globally. WOCAT unites stakeholders for transformative actions towards a future where knowledge is mobilized to fight degradation, ensure land is on the global agenda, and sustainable practices are successfully taken up – benefitting people and nature.

WOCAT in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) have initiated the establishment of a Regional Cluster in Africa, in short, AfrioCAT, based on demand from its partner network to enhance its regional impact, foster localized leadership and promote South-South knowledge sharing and innovative problem-solving. AfrioCAT serves as official representative of WOCAT in Africa, offering capacity development on SLM and LDN using the WOCAT toolbox, promoting exchange and joint learning from SLM implementation and advocacy, and catalyzing the integration of SLM and LDN into regional strategic agendas.

About the Workshop

The proposed Regional Training Workshop aims to bring together current and future WOCAT network partners from Africa, offer insights on the WOCAT toolbox and co-develop and launch the WOCAT Regional Cluster AfrioCAT. It seeks to **harness and amplify the wealth of SLM and restoration knowledge within Africa and strengthen collaborative efforts with WOCAT global operations and partners worldwide to reach a land degradation neutral world by 2030. This workshop will be co-organized with the Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

The workshop objectives are as follows:

- **Capacity Enhancement:** Address capacity gaps and foster learning and partnerships for SLM and LDN knowledge exchange through SSC.
- **Training on WOCAT Tools and Methods:** Train relevant stakeholders on WOCAT's tools and methods, through a training-of-trainers approach or introductory sessions, ensuring these are integrated into institutional programs and regional initiatives.



The Call

WOCAT, AUDA-NEPAD and WLRC are inviting up to 20 institutions across Africa to nominate a representative to participate in the WOCAT Regional SLM Training Workshop and Launch of AfrioCAT. Applications are welcome from the following types of organizations actively engaged in SLM, land restoration, and LDN:

- **Governments and regional bodies**
- **NGOs and civil society organizations**
- **Academic and research institutions**
- **Regional and national think tanks**

WOCAT will cover travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence allowances (DSA) for the selected participants.

Additional 10 seats will be made available for private sector entities and representatives from international organizations which can apply on a self-funded basis.

- **Fostering Innovation and South-South Cooperation:** Encourage the co-creation and dissemination of innovative SLM solutions tailored to African contexts, and foster South-South collaboration for mutual learning and technology transfer.
- **Launch and Formalize AfrioCAT:** Officially establish the WOCAT Regional Cluster for Africa and define its organizational structure.
- **Strategic Planning:** Develop an action plan for AfrioCAT to promote SLM and LDN, aligning with regional priorities.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitate networking among regional stakeholders and with the WOCAT Secretariat for mutual learning and collaboration.
- **Visibility and Advocacy:** Enhance the visibility of WOCAT's global mission and encourage SLM mainstreaming into policy and practice in Africa.

The expected outcomes are:

- Enhanced capacity to integrate SLM knowledge, WOCAT tools and methods into participating African institutions' land management and restoration initiatives.
- Official establishment of AfrioCAT with a clear governance structure and a strategic action plan for AfrioCAT's operations and collaborations.

- Strengthened partnerships for SLM knowledge sharing and capacity building of practices, technologies, and policies tailored to African contexts.
- Increased visibility and advocacy for SLM and LDN initiatives in Africa.

Dates and Venue: Week of 20 October 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Venue to be confirmed.

Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Institutions based in Africa, designing and implementing SLM and land restoration interventions and/or involved in land-related policies.
2. Institutions with a strong interest in becoming actively involved in WOCAT and specifically AfrioCAT.
3. Institutions from least developed countries¹ are encouraged to apply.
4. Nominations should promote gender balance and the inclusion of underrepresented groups.

Selection will aim for balanced representation across Africa's regions and among different types of institutions.

Applications in English, French and Portuguese are welcome.

For any questions you may have, please contact
simon.pulei@unibe.ch

References

www.wocat.net

APPLICATION AND DEADLINES



If your institution is interested in sending a representative to participate in the workshop, please complete this application form and attach an official letter of interest signed by the head of Institution/Department:

<https://shorturl.at/x6EiG>

Application deadline is **11 July 2025**. The selected institutions will be informed by mid-august.

Photos: 1 Harifidy Rakoto Ratsimba, LLandDev; 2 Hanspeter Liniger; 3 Nicole Harari, CDE

¹ <https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>