

Leveraging Data, Tools, and Regional Expertise for the 2026 UNCCD Reporting Process

Building smarter systems and
stronger support to deliver better
reporting outcomes



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



Streamlining reporting of SLM technologies between WOCCAT database and PRAIS

Background

WOCAT Database

The Global WOCAT Sustainable Land Management Database is the UNCCD primary recommended Database for SLM best practices and adaptation measures. The official recognition gives WOCAT the mandate to support the 194 signatory countries in recording their SLM best practices and using the SLM knowledge of stakeholders worldwide – from land users to decision-makers – to improve local land management.

www.wocat.net/en/global-slm-database



01

2014, following Decision 17 /COP.11

WOCAT was recognized as the primary recommended database for UNCCD stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best practices on SLM.

02

2019 Decision 19 /COP.14

Acknowledging the continuing efforts by the secretariat and WOCAT in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of sustainable land management best practice.

03

2022 Decision 11 & 19 /COP.15

The Conference of the Parties [...] encourages Parties to: [...] provide UNCCD-relevant information and good practices to the designated WOCAT database, where appropriate;

[...] Also requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with WOCAT, facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between UNCCD stakeholders globally;

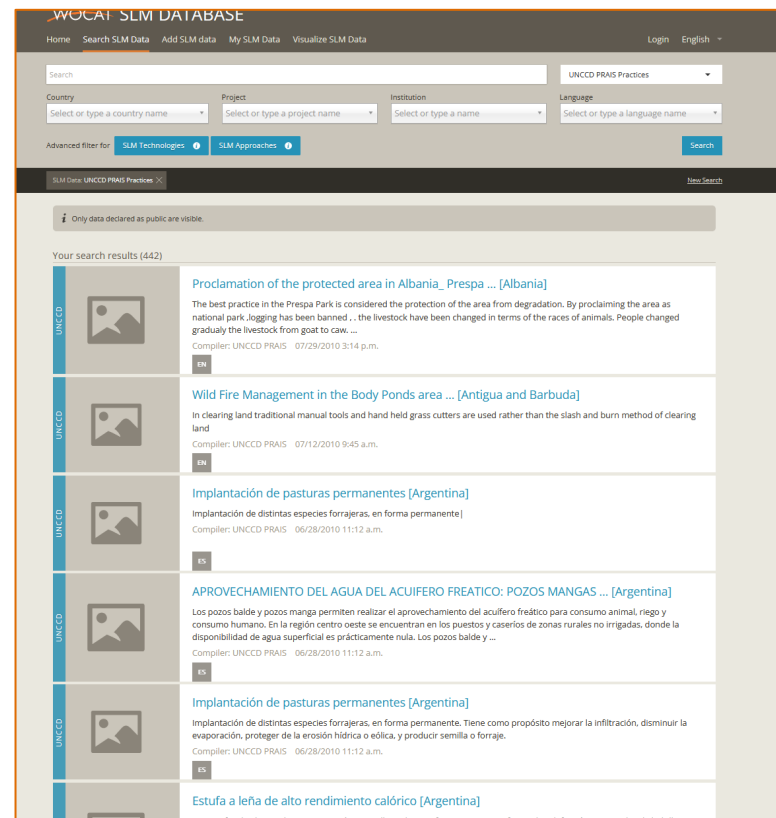
04

2024 Decision 18 /COP.16

Requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with WOCAT, thus facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between UNCCD stakeholders globally;

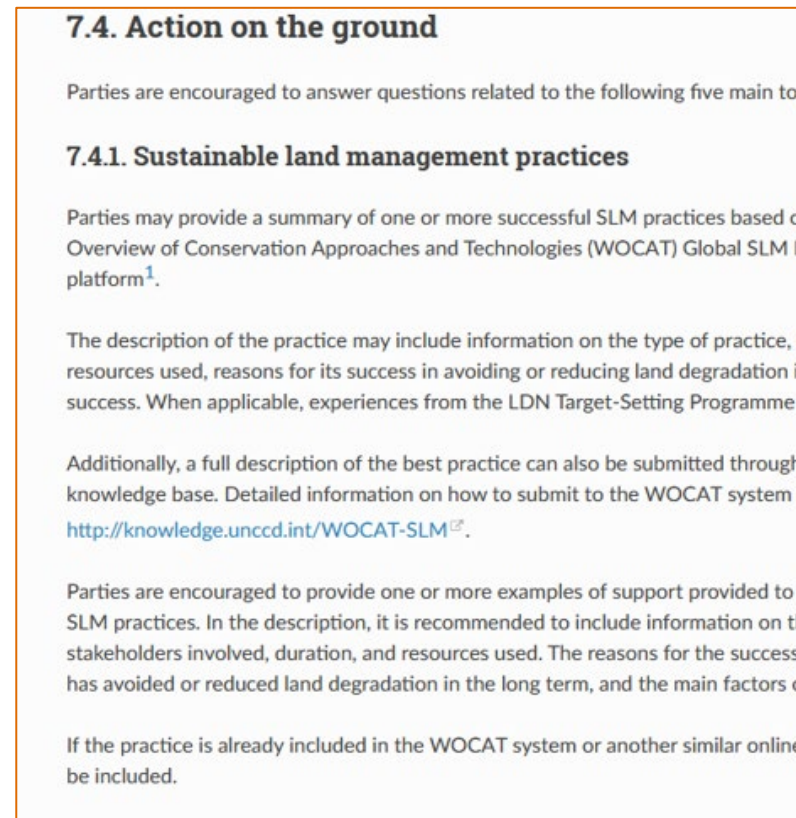
Process to date

WOCAT Database – PRAIS integration



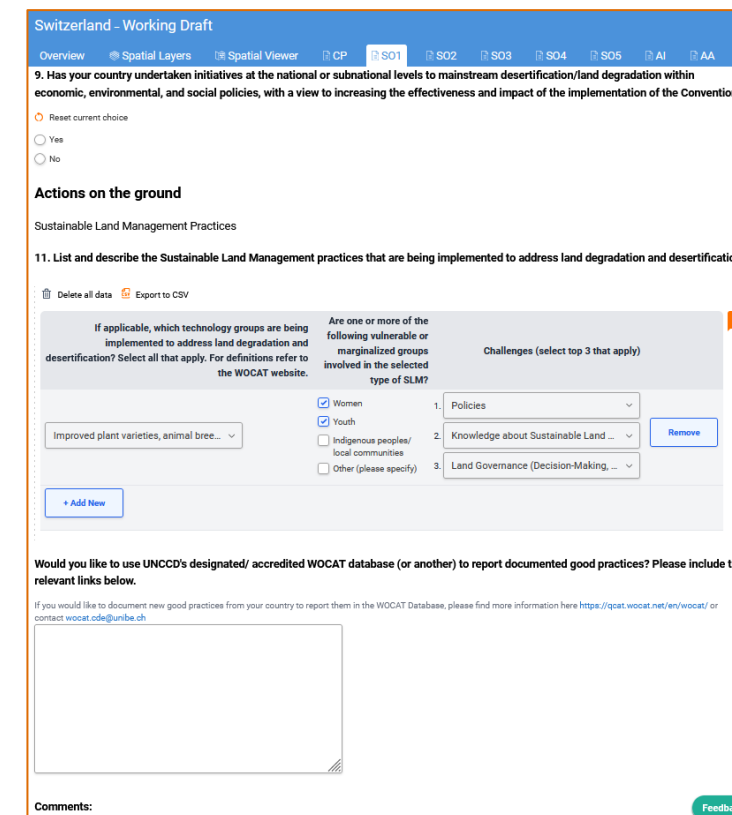
2014-2016: Migration of PRAIS Data

New WOCAT Database designed, allowing for SLM practices data - previously reported in PRAIS - migration to the WOCAT Database and availability online



PRAIS 4

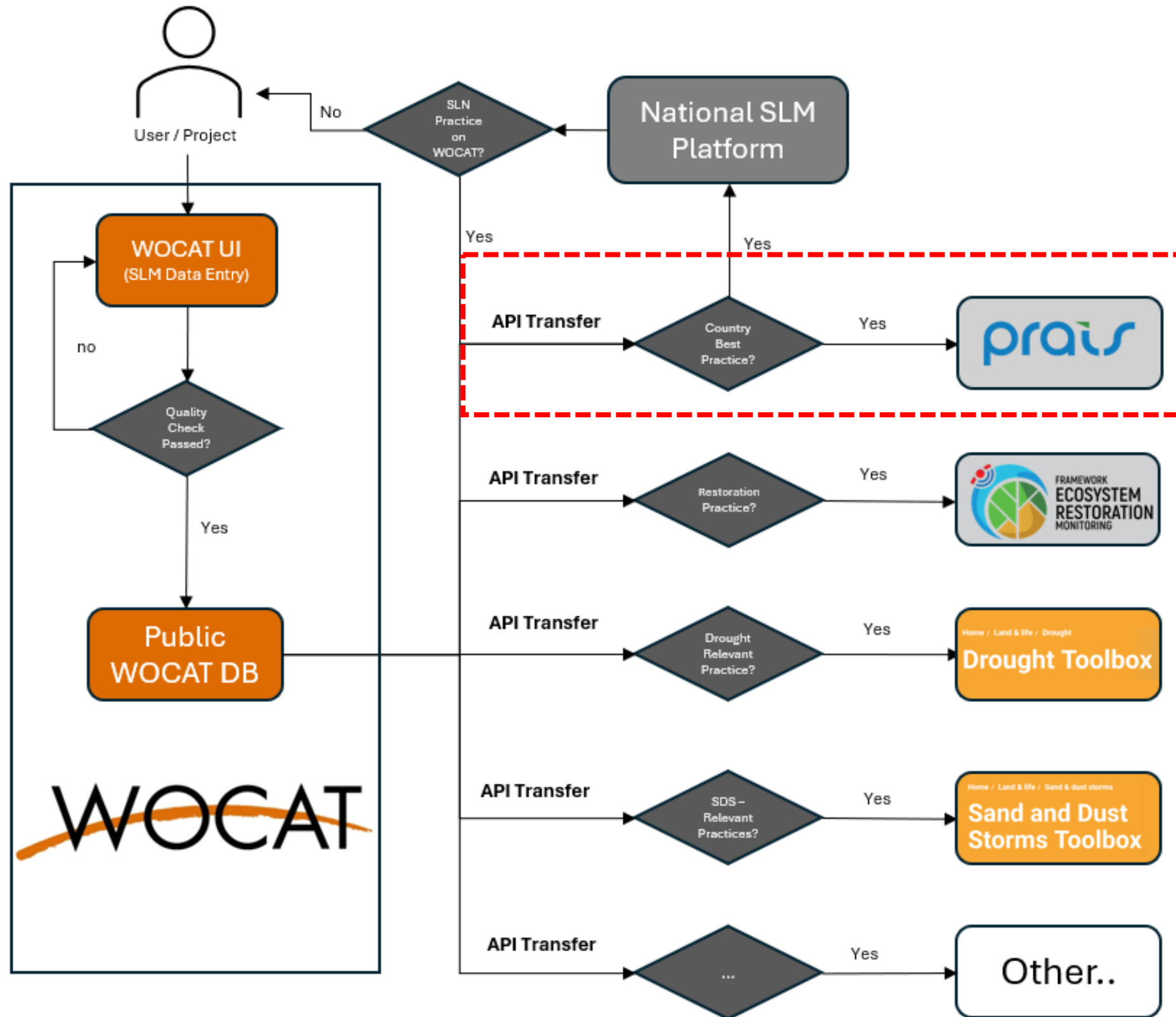
Parties can include a link of their SLM best practices in the WOCAT Database in the section 7.4.1 Sustainable Land Management practices



Updated PRAIS 4 for 2026 reporting






Under SO1, Parties are invited to share a link to their SLM best practices reported in the WOCAT Database or, if not available, document their SLM practices using the WOCAT standardized documentation framework

The reporting of SLM good practices remains **optional**, **generalized** and **lacks critical detail** regarding the SLM practice's objectives, location, effectiveness, scalability and alignment with the **LDN response hierarchy** (avoid, reduce, reverse)



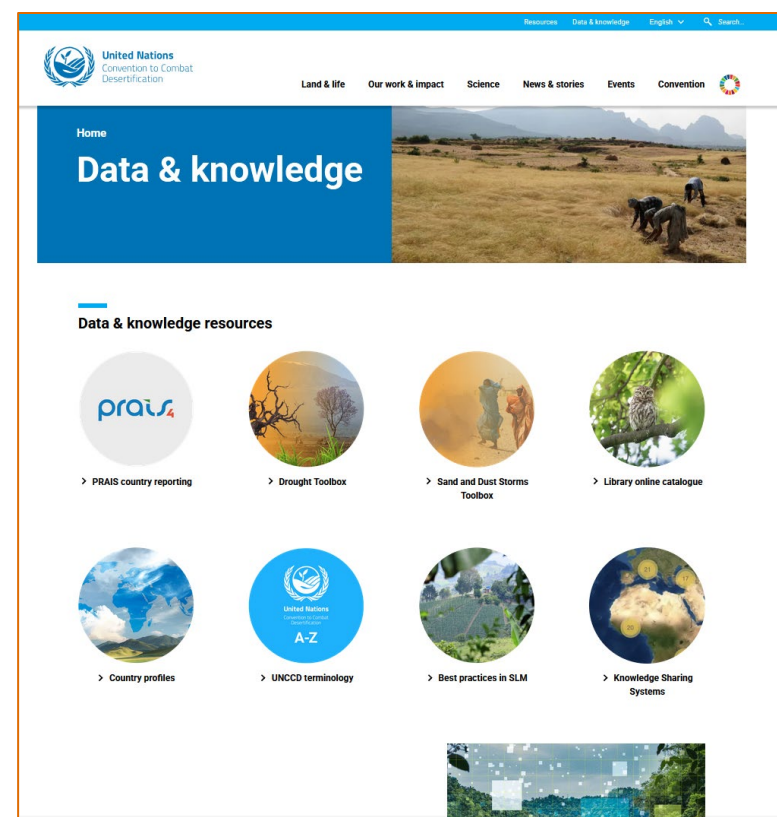
PROPOSED ENHANCEMENT

Integrated and automated SLM reporting approach

-  **Automated access to national SLM best practices**
Retrieves country-specific SLM practices per SLM Technology Group and standardized WOCAT documentation through the WOCAT Database Application Program Interface (API)
-  **Direct linkage to LDN reporting**
Aligns SLM practices with the LDN Response Hierarchy (Avoid > Reduce > Reverse) to relate to reported LD and LDN targets
-  **Assesses scaling potential of SLM practices**
Includes standardized questions to evaluate replicability, enabling Parties to report practices' suitability for wide adoption, i.e. scalability
-  **Supports harmonized analysis of on-the-ground actions**
Provides standardized criteria for assessing SLM impacts, costs and benefits, enabling comparative analysis (e.g. in UNCCD data dashboard)
-  **Harmonization with national SLM platforms**
Enables harmonization of national platforms with PRAIS via WOCAT.

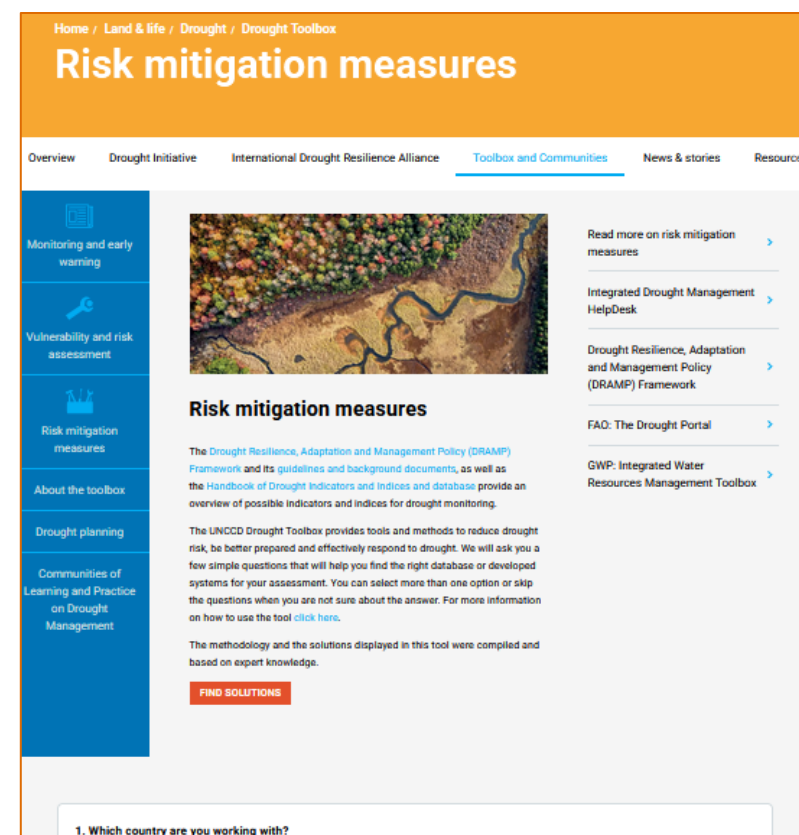
Current WOCAT Database link to other platforms

Interoperability for wide outreach - global



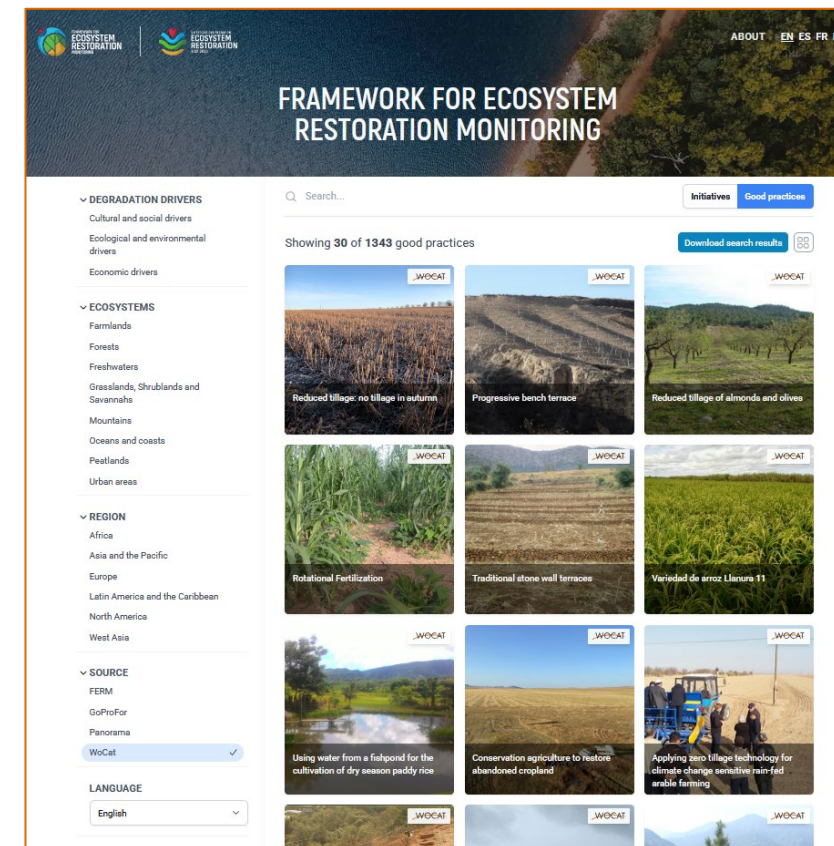
UNCCD knowledge Hub

Integrates selected SLM
practices from WOCAT
Database



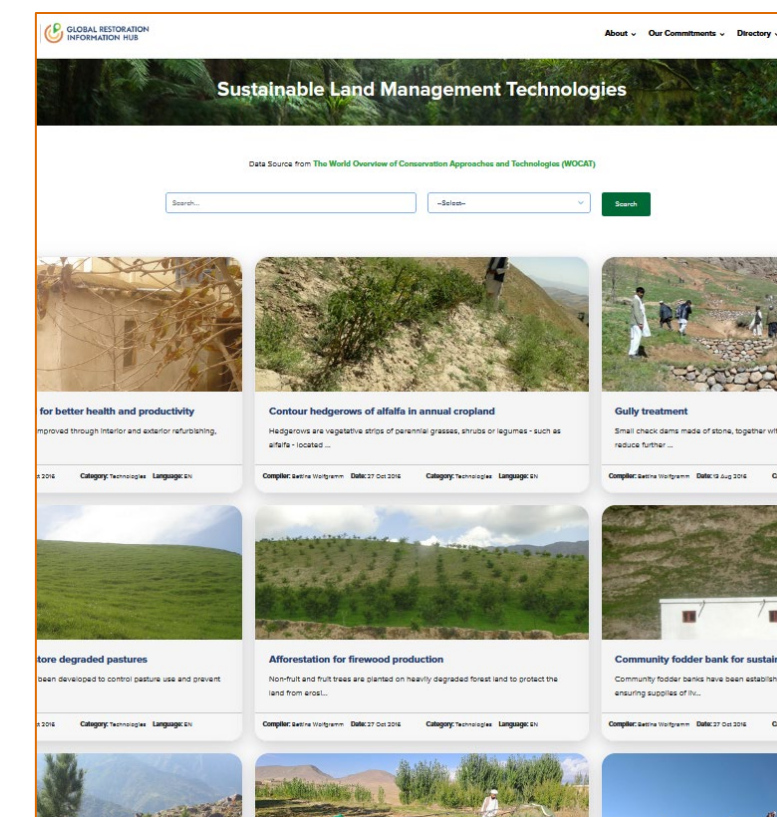
UNCCD Drought and SDS toolboxes

Provides drought and SDS-relevant
SLM solutions from WOCAT Database



UNDER Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring

Includes all restoration relevant SLM
good practices from WOCAT
Database and from 3 other platforms

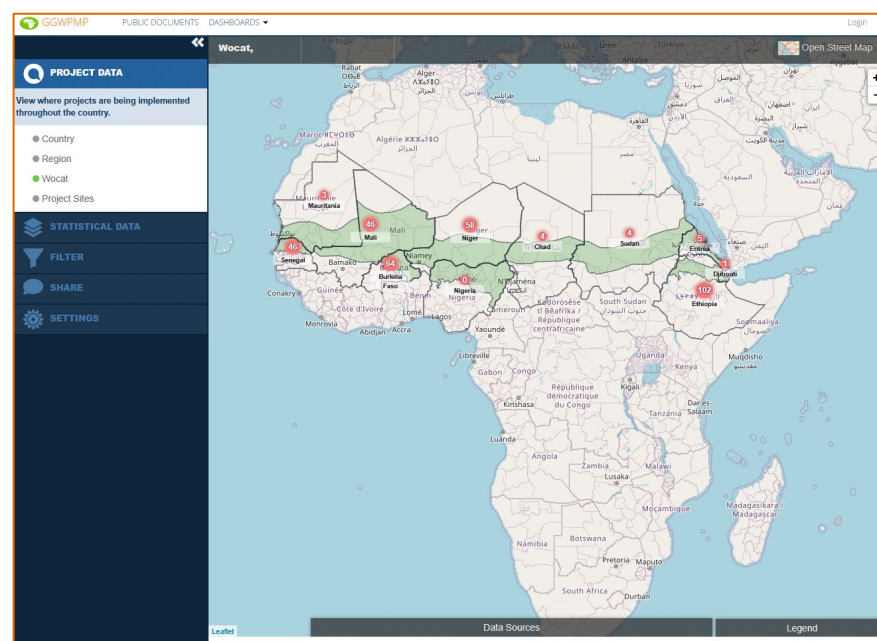


G20 Global Restoration Information HUB

Includes all SLM practices from the
WOCAT Database

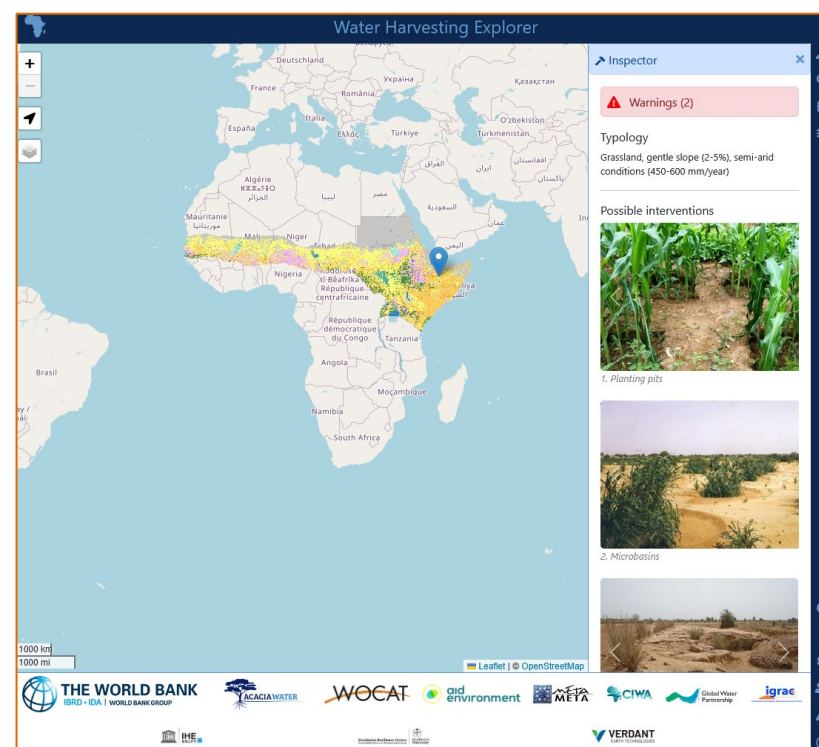
Current WOCAT Database link to other platforms

Interoperability for wide outreach – regional to local



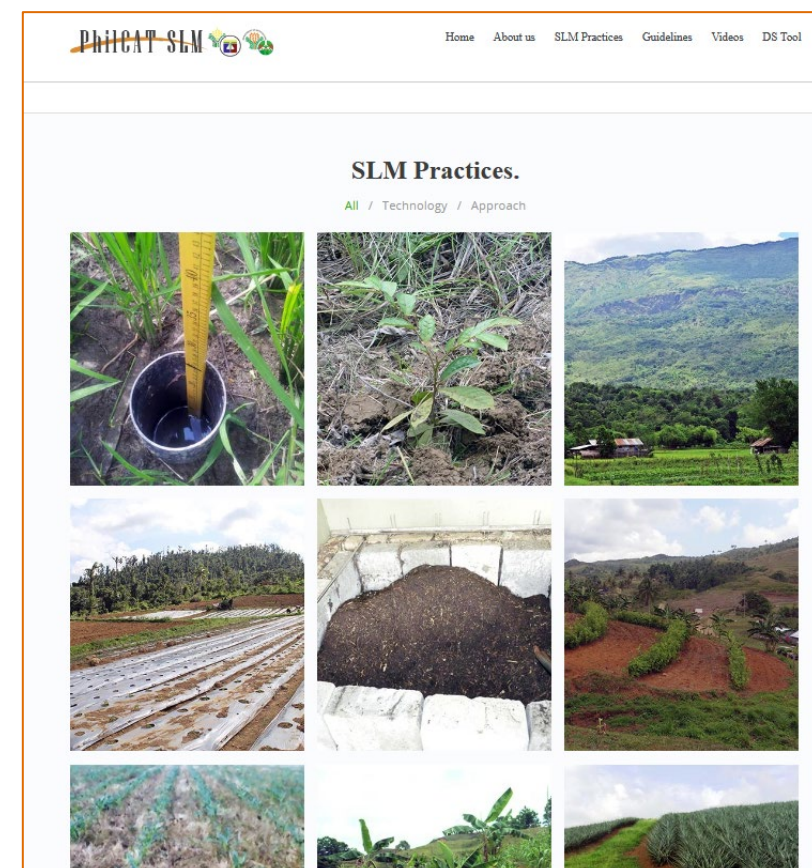
Great Green Wall Observatory

Integration of SLM practices from the
WOCAT Database from GGW
countries



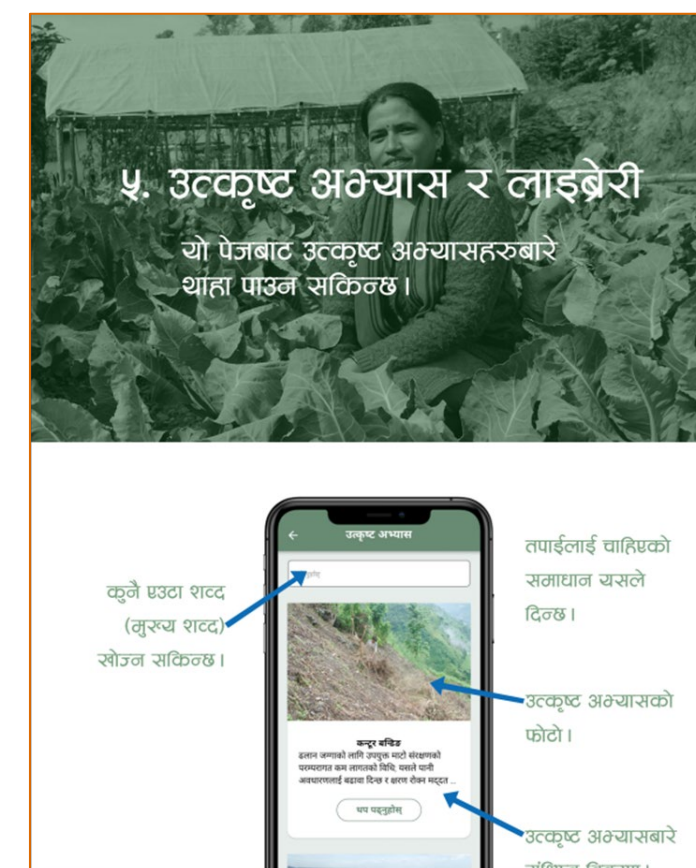
Water Harvesting Explorer

Multi-partner initiative to support
decision-making on suitable water
harvesting practices in the Sahel from
the WOCAT Database



National Databases

Countries retrieve their SLM good
practices from the WOCAT Database
for integration in their own
platforms/databases, e.g. PHILCAT



Digital advisory services

Digital solutions/ app providers
integrate the WOCAT SLM dataset
for reaching land users, cooperatives,
extension agents

Plural benefits

Standardized national SLM reporting to support Rio Synergies

Desertification,
Land Degradation
and Drought

Biodiversity

Climate Change
Adaptation and
Mitigation



Community Based Area Closure in Abagerima Watershed. This photo shows tree, grass, shrubs and bush vegetation. (Bekalu Bitew)

Community-Based Closed Area Management (Ethiopia)

Area Closure

DESCRIPTION

Area closure is a protection system to improve land with degraded vegetation and/or soil, by excluding livestock grazing and applying initial inputs and continuous maintenance. Once recovery is taking place through natural regeneration, area closures can become part of the agricultural system, thereby improving forage quantity and quality and also enhancing the fertility of land.

The area closure technology has been applied in community-based watershed development in Abagerima since 2012.

The area was closed from livestock free grazing, allowing grasses, bushes and trees to recover, thereby conserving soil and water, improving soil moisture, and preventing on- and off-site erosion.

Area closures serve as buffer zone by preventing siltation, acting as meteorological regulator, enhancing the water cycle, and improving the productivity of the land.

Generally, area closures can enhance the livelihoods of the community in social, economic, political, environmental and cultural aspects.

The major activity at the beginning is to create community awareness about the technology.

After that, construction of trenches, planting of trees (e.g. grevillea robusta) and some maintenance is needed.

Area closures have many benefits, like economical, reducing conflicts, etc., and most land users know these benefits and thus accept the technology.

LOCATION



Location: near Bahirdar, the capital of Amhara region, Amhara Region, West Gojam Zone, Bahir Dar Zurja, Ethiopia

No. of Technology sites analysed: 2-10 sites

Geo-reference of selected sites

- 37.49022, 11.65524
- 37.49022, 11.65524

Spread of the Technology: evenly spread over an area (0.1 km²)

<https://qcat.wocat.net/en/summary/6791/>

Compiler: Bekalu Bitew

Degradation addressed



soil erosion by water - Wt: loss of topsoil/ surface erosion, Wg: gully erosion/ gullying



soil erosion by wind - Et: loss of topsoil, Ed: deflation and deposition



physical soil deterioration - Pc: compaction



biological degradation - Bc: reduction of vegetation cover, Bh: loss of habitats, Bs: quality and species composition/ diversity decline

Biodiversity: vegetation, animals

vegetation cover	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
biomass/ above ground C	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
plant diversity	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
invasive alien species	increased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	reduced
animal diversity	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
beneficial species	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
habitat diversity	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased
pests/ diseases	decreased	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	increased

Table 3.1 Simple Summary Report following UNFCCC Common Reporting Guidelines.

Greenhouse Gas Source and Sink Categories	Baseline Scenario (2012 - 2013) Emissions and Removals				Project Scenario (2012 - 2013) Emissions and Removals				Carbon Benefits		
	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	GHGs	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	GHGs	Total tCO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e / ha	tCO ₂ e / ha / yr
	tonnes CO ₂ equivalent				tonnes CO ₂ equivalent						
Agriculture											
A. Enteric Methane		15345				15345			0	0	0
B. Manure Management		0	0			0	0		0	0	0
C. Rice Cultivation		0				0			0	0	0
D. Agricultural Soils	0	0	10135		0	0	10135		0	0	0
E. Prescribed Burning of Savannas	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
F. Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
G. Other	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Land Use Change and Forestry											
A. Forest and other Woody Biomass	0					-2348			-2348	-235	-12
B. Forest and Grassland Conversion	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
C. Abandonment of Managed Lands						0			0	0	0
D. CO ₂ Emissions and Removals from Soil	0					0			0	0	0
E. Other	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	15345	10135	0		-2348	15345	10135	-2348	-235	-12


United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification






Turki Fahad Almutairi
National Greening
Program National Centre
for Vegetation Cover &
Combating
Desertification Saudi
Arabia


Mandakh Nyamtseren
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and Technology
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Gina P Nilo
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Bhutan


Laura Meza Morales
UNCCD Regional
Liaison Officer LAC


Barron Orr
UNCCD Chief
Scientist


Aur lie Br s
WOCAT Focal
Point at FAO, Land
& Water Officer


Tatenda Lemann
WOCAT Executive
Team Member


Nicole Harari
WOCAT Executive
Team Member

Strengthening Reporting of SLM for LDN

Side Event at  **United Nations**
Convention to Combat
Desertification **CRIC23**

Wednesday, 3 December
18:15–19:45 EST
CARIBE 5
Interpretation EN – ES
Snacks provided



Thank You



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