



PROGRAMME

WOCAT and the role of Sustainable Land Management in contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

WOCAT Symposium and
18th WOCAT Network Meeting

Cali, Colombia, 13 to 16 June 2017

Thematic Scope

For achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a major transformation towards sustainable land and water use is needed with special emphasis on strengthening the resilience to emerging changes such as climate change, water scarcity and land degradation. One of the critical requirements is to meet future global food demand that is projected in 2050 to be some 60% or more above 2006-levels.

About 40% of the rural population worldwide (or 2.6 billion people) directly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and food security. Poor land and water management, however, jeopardizes land resources by accelerating land degradation, which affects rural communities and their resources, and indirectly impacts other communities further away. About 52% of the land used for agriculture worldwide is estimated to be moderately or severely affected by land degradation, and nearly 2 billion ha of land are seriously degraded.

Degradation trends in most areas worldwide are caused by increasing demand and pressures on limited, and in some cases fragile, land resources (soil, water and biodiversity) driven by demographic and economic growth, inappropriate land use systems and management practices as well as weak governance over land and natural resources such as tenure and rights of access and use. In addition, land degradation can be both a cause and effect of climate change which requires SLM practices that demonstrate impacts in adapting to and mitigating climate change (i.e. carbon sequestration above and below ground, efficient use of water, resilience to drought and extreme events, addressing water scarcity).

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is essential for minimizing land degradation, rehabilitating degraded areas and ensuring the optimal use of land resources by various actors so as to sustain the range of ecosystem services and address climate change and reduce disasters. This requires scaling up SLM at local to regional scale so as to ensure sustainability of the land uses across different landscapes. SLM interventions provide the foundation for ensuring food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, preventing and reducing natural disasters, and maintaining and protecting biodiversity. As such, promoting SLM is an essential building block for the United Nations Conventions such as UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD, as well as for achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the SDGs that focus on food security (SDG 2), sustainable management of water (SDG 6), sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) as well as climate change (SDG 13).

WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies www.wocat.net) is a global network of SLM specialists, supporting innovation and decision-making processes in SLM by sharing and enhancing knowledge. One important activity of WOCAT is the development of tools and methods to be used for assessing, monitoring and reporting of progress towards the SDGs, particularly so for three of their targets: SDG target 15.3¹ on land degradation neutrality²; SDG target 2.4³ on ensuring sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices; and SDG target 13.1 on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries on climate action⁴. The upcoming WOCAT Symposium and the 18th WOCAT Network Meeting will focus on how SLM and the application of tools and methods developed by WOCAT partners and others can support the scaling up of SLM and contribute to achieving the SDGs.

¹ SDG target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world (UNGA, Resolution 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015)

² SDG target 15.3.1 Land Degradation Neutrality is defined as the state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems. (UNCCD, Science Policy Brief 02 – September 2016). The minimum set of indicators on vegetation cover, net primary productivity (NDVI) and soil organic carbon, are also key in regard to adapting to and mitigating climate change and conserving above and below ground biodiversity.

³ SDG target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality (UNGA, Resolution 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015)

⁴ SDG target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries on climate action

Since its origin in 1992, WOCAT has undertaken efforts to link SLM specialists worldwide for compiling, documenting, evaluating, sharing and using SLM knowledge and curating this knowledge into an evidence database of SLM knowledge. The WOCAT SLM database (<https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/>) is recognized by the UNCCD as the primary recommended database for best practices on SLM. WOCAT is also a relevant potential partner of the UNFCCC, which recognizes that SLM is fundamental for implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The tools could be adapted to better capture SLM impacts on biodiversity in line with the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Acknowledging the key importance of SLM and in response to the pressing need for improving knowledge management and decision support, the WOCAT network aims at providing standardized tools and methods. Recent achievements of WOCAT International are marked by strengthened collaboration with various national, regional, and international partners and institutions resulting in new opportunities for partnerships and projects. These developments together with the institutionalization of the WOCAT Network and the increased acknowledgement of the WOCAT SLM database provides a strong basis for WOCAT to further build on and strengthen its support to the network.

Against this background, the WOCAT Secretariat in joint cooperation with CIAT and the support of FAO (through its country office in Bogota, Colombia, and Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile) is organizing the WOCAT Symposium and the 18th WOCAT Network Meeting that aims at bringing together a wide range of WOCAT members and stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organisations, Governments, International Organisations, donors and aid agencies, and other institutions to share and discuss their experiences and findings on how SLM and in particular SLM tools and methods can be used to contribute to the achievement of SDGs at different levels.

Programme structure

The symposium and meeting is targeted at SLM specialists, advisors and decision-makers at various levels and will be structured into three main parts:

Part 1: WOCAT Symposium (Tuesday, 13 June)

The WOCAT Symposium aims at bringing together SLM specialists, advisors and decision-makers at various levels from all over the world and particularly from the Latin America region to share their learnings on existing and new SLM knowledge with regards to how it can contribute to the SDGs, to global conventions as well as address relevant issues such as water scarcity and climate change.

Sharing and learning of the Symposium will center on the following four main topics:

- Topic 1: Challenges and opportunities for scaling up SLM practices in contribution to achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda
- Topic 2: Use of SLM tools and methods of WOCAT and others in local, national and regional programmes for achieving the SDGs
- Topic 3: Success stories of knowledge-based decision-making in SLM using tools and methods from the WOCAT network and other actors, contributing to achieving the SDGs
- Topic 4: Special focus Latin America: Promotion and achievement of SLM through the application of SLM tools and methods of WOCAT and others with emphasis to strengthen partnerships

Part 2: Field day to showcase SLM implementation and the application of WOCAT tools and methods in the surroundings of Cali (Wednesday, 14 June)

A field day shall give the participants an opportunity to experience successful SLM implementation and the practical application of WOCAT tools and methods. Organized by

CIAT, participants will be taken to the field in the surroundings of Cali to look at different land use and land management practices based on which they will discuss the use and value of the WOCAT questionnaires on SLM technologies and SLM approaches and specifically of the Climate Change Adaptation module, for land users and implementers.

More specific information will be provided during registration at the venue of the meeting. Participants are advised to be equipped with robust shoes and raingear.

Part 3: 18th WOCAT Network Meeting (Thursday 15 June - Friday 16 June)

The WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) shall serve to take up the key outcomes from the Symposium and develop these further as well as to elaborate new and further developments of tools and methods, partnerships, progress and directions for the way forward among new and long-term national, regional and international members and partners of the WOCAT Network.

Thematic contributions such as presentations and poster sessions on best practices and new developments from within the WOCAT Network will be complemented by interactive sessions to facilitate intensive learning and networking among the participants.

Venue

The WOCAT Symposium and the 18th WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) will be held at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Headquarters
Apartado Aéreo 6713
Recta Cali - Palmira, Km 17
Cali, Colombia, www.ciat.cgiar.org

Date

Tuesday 13 June - Friday 16 June 2017

Language of events

English and Spanish

During the official sessions of the entire meeting, translation in English and Spanish will be provided to all participants as per requirement.

Organiser / Host

The WOCAT Symposium and the 18th WNM will be jointly organised by CIAT (www.ciat.cgiar.org) and the WOCAT International Secretariat (<http://www.wocat.net/>) and with support of FAO (www.fao.org).

We are looking forward to your participation.

The workshop organisers

- The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Colombia
- WOCAT International Secretariat, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne, Switzerland
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Colombia/Chile

PROGRAMME

Monday 12 June 2017 - Arrival and Registration

17:00 – 18:00	Registration
18:00 – 18:30	Optional introduction to CIAT campus (Beatriz Narvaez)
18:30 – 19:30	<i>Dinner (individual)</i>

Tuesday 13 June 2017 - WOCAT Symposium:

WOCAT and the role of Sustainable Land Management in contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Venue: Kellogg Auditorium

07:30 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 08:45	Welcome and opening by organisers Evan Girvetz, CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya
08:45 – 09:00	Opening address Maya Rajasekharan, Head of Program Coordination CIAT, Colombia
09:00 – 09:15	WOCAT – key achievements, new challenges and opportunities Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT Director, Switzerland

Topic 1: Challenges and opportunities for scaling up SLM practices in contribution to achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda

Chair: Godert van Lynden, ISRIC WOCAT focal point, Netherlands

Rapporteur: Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland

09:15 – 09:20	Introduction to the topic by chair
09:20 – 09:35	<u>Focus on water scarcity and climate change:</u> Enfrentar la escasez hídrica y adaptarse al cambio climático mediante el fortalecimiento del intercambio de conocimientos, by Sally Bunning, FAO, Chile (<i>EN: Deal with water scarcity and adapting to climate change by strengthening the exchange of knowledge</i>)
09:35 – 09:50	<u>Focus on land degradation:</u> Creating drought resilient landscapes through Sustainable Land Management: the case of northern Ethiopia, by Kifle Woldearegay, Mekelle University, Ethiopia
09:50 – 10:05	<u>Focus on restoration:</u> Characterization of restoration activities in Latin America and their potential environmental impact, by Ruben Coppus, CIAT, Colombia
10:05 – 10:40	<i>Group picture followed by coffee break</i>
	<u>Focus on UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality:</u>
10:40 – 10:55	How SLM through WOCAT contributes to the goals of UNCCD and to

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), by Jeroen Van Dalen, UNCCD Secretariat, Germany

10:55 – 11:10 Neutralidad en la degradación de las Tierras en Colombia, by Fredy Neira, Colombia (*EN: Land Degradation Neutrality in Colombia*)

11:10 – 11:40 Panel Discussion with speakers on the challenges and opportunities for scaling up SLM practices and using WOCAT to contribute to the SDGs, to global conventions and to addressing key topics such as water scarcity and restoration, with Q&A, followed by conclusion on key issues of topic 1 by chair

Topic 2: Use of SLM tools and methods of WOCAT and others in local, national and regional programmes for achieving the SDGs

Chair: Sally Bunning, FAO WOCAT focal point, Chile

Rapporteur: Stephanie Jaquet, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland

11:40 – 11:45 Introduction to the topic by chair

11:45 – 12:00 Use of SLM Tools and Methods of WOCAT to Promote SLM Practices and Contribute to the Achievement of the SDGs: A Case in Cambodia, by Sophea Tim, Royal University of Agriculture, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

12:00 – 12:15 A Web-based Geoinformatic Tool to Better Target Sustainable Land Management Options at Different Scales and to Help Countries Report on National Progresses Towards Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality, by Quang Bao Le, ICARDA, Jordan

12:15 – 12:30 An open-source, multi-scalar approach for monitoring and reporting on land degradation, by Mariano González Roglich, Conservation International, USA

12:30 – 13:00 Panel Discussion with speakers on topic 2 with Q&A, followed by conclusion on key issues of topic 2 by chair

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 15:15 Poster Session (in groups)

Chair: Friederike Kraemer, GIZ WOCAT focal point, Germany

Rapporteurs: Renate Fleiner, Stephanie Jaquet

Topic 3: Success stories of knowledge-based decision-making in SLM using tools and methods from the WOCAT network and other actors – Focus on experiences made by the FAO-WOCAT DS-SLM project in Latin America in Decision-Support in SLM

Chair: Soledad Bastidas, FAO, Ecuador

Rapporteur: Carolina Olivera, FAO, Colombia

15:15 – 15:20 Introduction to the topic by chair

15:20 – 16:00 The framework for knowledge-based decision support for scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM (the experience of the FAO-WOCAT DS-SLM project) by Stefan Schlingloff, FAO, Italy

Presentations of DS-SLM in Latin America:

Argentina, by Cecilia Rubio

Ecuador, by Jorge Rubio

Colombia, by Javier Otero

Panama, by Karima Lince

16:00 - 16:30 Panel Discussion with speakers on topic 3 and opportunities for collaboration and networking in the Latin American Region and other regions, followed by conclusion on key issues by chair

16:30 – 17:05 *Launch of GLUES Book followed by Coffee break*

Topic 4: Special focus Latin America: Promotion and achievement of SLM through the application of SLM tools and methods of WOCAT and others with emphasis to strengthen partnerships

Chair: Wendy Francesconi, CIAT, Peru

Rapporteur: Ruben Coppus, CIAT, Colombia

17:05 – 17:10 Introduction to the topic by chair

17:10 – 17:25 Evaluación de la degradación de tierras a nivel nacional. Herramienta metodológica de soporte a la integración y ampliación del manejo sostenible de tierras y al apoyo a la toma de decisiones en la región de Mesoamérica y el Caribe, by Dr. Armando Jesús de la Colina Rodríguez, Instituto de Geografía Tropical, Cuba (*EN: Evaluation of land degradation on national level. Methodological tool to support the integration and amplification of sustainable land management y decisión support in the región of Mesoamerica and the Carribean*)

17:25 – 17:40 Aplicación de los Directrices voluntarias para la gestión sostenible de los suelos (DVGSS) necesita conocer e comunicar los impactos múltiples de los buenas practicas, by Carolina Olivera, FAO, Colombia (*EN: The application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) require the knowledge and communication of the multiple impacts of good practices*)

17:40 – 18:10 Panel Discussion with speakers on topic 4 with Q&A, followed by conclusion on key issues of topic 4 by chair

18:10 – 18:30 Synthesis and closing

Hanspeter Liniger (WOCAT Director, Switzerland) and Evan Girvetz (CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya)

18:30 - *Welcome drinks followed by dinner*

Wednesday 14 June 2017 – Field Day (1 day)

Participants will be taken to the field in the surroundings of Cali to look at different land use and land management practices. The application of adapted and new WOCAT tools and methods for documenting and using SLM knowledge will be discussed, e.g. the Climate Change Adaptation or Watershed Module and their value for land users and implementers.

Time	Topic
<i>Until 06.15</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
As of 06.15	Departure from hotels: 06:15 Hotel Movich, 06:30 Hotel Spiwak Stancia, 06:45 Hotel H&M, 07:30 CIAT
09:00 – 13:00	Visit of Hacienda el Congo
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Visit of Hacienda el Congo
15:00 – 13:30	Transfer to Cali followed by leisure time
<i>18:00 – 20:00</i>	<i>Dinner in La Zarzuela – Spiwak Hotel</i>
As of 20:00	Transfer back to the hotels

Thursday 15 June to Friday 16 June 2017 – 18th WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) (2 days)

Venue: Tropic Room

Thursday 15 June 2017

Time	Topic
<i>07:30 – 08:30</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
08:30 – 09:15	Special session for newcomers (as per demand): Introduction to the WOCAT Network and its tools and methods (in Spanish and English) Hanspeter Liniger (WOCAT Director, Switzerland) and Renate Fleiner (WOCAT Coordinator, Switzerland)
Session 1: Overview of the WOCAT Network and its recent achievements and how it can contribute to achieving the SDGs	
<i>Chair morning session: Evan Girvetz, CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya</i>	
<i>Rapporteur morning session: Stephanie Jaquet, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland</i>	
09:15 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction to the WOCAT Network Meeting Introductions of participants, expectations, approval of agenda Hanspeter Liniger (WOCAT Director, Switzerland) and Evan Girvetz (CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya)
09:30 – 09:45	Short synthesis of WOCAT Symposium and reflection of field day Dirk Pretorius, SMC Synergy, South Africa
09:45 – 10:30	Reflection on recent achievements of the WOCAT Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress reporting from the WOCAT Secretariat Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Coordinator, Switzerland • AfriOCAT – feedback on progress and challenges Dirk Pretorius, SMC Synergy, South Africa

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 11:30 **Reflection on recent achievements of the WOCAT Network (continued)**

- **Progress reporting from Cuba**
Dr. Jorge Ángel Luis Machín, Instituto de Geografía, Cuba
- **Progress reporting from Uganda**
Joy Tukahirwa, Uganda Landcare Network (ULN), Uganda

11:30 – 12:00 **Discussion round with all participants on how they value and use the WOCAT network and its tools and methods, the challenges and how they can be overcome, and opportunities for regional and global collaboration, and conclusions**
Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT Director, Switzerland

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch break*

Session 2: New SLM tools and methods (including lessons on approaches for scaling up)

Chair afternoon session: Godert van Lynden, ISRIC WOCAT focal point, Netherlands
Rapporteur afternoon session: Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland

13:00 – 13:15 **The new WOCAT website as a tool for promoting the use of WOCAT tools and methods and sharing knowledge**
Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Coordinator, Switzerland

13:15 – 13:30 **The WOCAT SLM database**
Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Coordinator, Switzerland

13:30 – 13:45 **Guidelines for decision support at national/local landscape level**
Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT Director, Switzerland

13:45 – 14:00 **The use of WOCAT/LADA tools in the Ntabelanga rehabilitation project in South Africa**
Dirk Pretorius, SMC Synergy, South Africa

14:00 – 14:30 **The Watershed mapping tool and its adaptation for land degradation mapping in catchments**
Hanspeter Liniger and Dirk Pretorius

14:30 – 14:45 **The Climate change adaptation module**
Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT Director, Switzerland

14:45 – 15:00 **Climate smart agriculture**
Evan Girvetz, CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya

15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 – 15:45 **Using a cloud-based SLM project management system to identify suitable case studies to consider for inclusion in the WOCAT QA and QT database**
Dirk Pretorius, SMC Synergy, South Africa

15:45 – 17:00 **Discussion round with all participants on other SLM tools and methods available and how these can be harmonized with WOCAT and conclusions**
Hanspeter Liniger and Renate Fleiner

Time for networking and exchange / free time

18:30 – 20:00 *Dinner*

Friday 16 June 2017

Venue: Tropic Room

Time	Topic
07:30 – 08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
Session 3: Learning from SLM projects	
<i>Chair morning session: Friederike Kraemer, GIZ WOCAT focal point, Germany</i>	
<i>Rapporteur morning session: Stephanie Jaquet, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Sharing experience and knowledge from SLM projects (presentations with discussions in groups followed by reporting back in plenary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences from field projects on assessment and monitoring tools and methods, and opportunities for harmonization in support of monitoring SDGs Evan Girvetz, CIAT WOCAT focal point, Kenya • FAO lessons on SLM scaling up through landscape approaches for ecosystem services and biodiversity in Latin America, FAO Sally Bunning, FAO WOCAT focal point, Chile • Discussion in groups on the use of WOCAT tools and methods for evidence based decision making at local level for scaling up, what worked and what not, the challenges and how they can be overcome, and conclusions Hanspeter Liniger and Sally Bunning
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 4: Linking up WOCAT/SLM with SDGs, global conventions and other critical issues – practice and planning globally and in the regions and countries	
<i>Chair afternoon session: Sally Bunning, FAO WOCAT focal point, Chile</i>	
<i>Rapporteur afternoon session: Renate Fleiner, WOCAT Secretariat, Switzerland</i>	
11:00 – 12:15	<p>How WOCAT and SLM are/can be contributing to achieving the SDGs, global conventions and addressing critical issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A global perspective from WOCAT Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT Director, Switzerland • Discussion round with all participants on how WOCAT tools and methods are and can be used in projects, regions, countries Hanspeter Liniger and Renate Fleiner
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Group work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added value and opportunities for promoting SLM and WOCAT for SDGs in the regions and in the countries • How to strengthen regional and national networks and hubs of WOCAT • Planning the next steps for 2017-2018
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Group work (continued)
14:30 - 15:15	Groups reporting back in plenary and conclusions

15:15 – 15:45 **Participants feedback and evaluation**

15:45 – 16:15 **Closing of 18th WOCAT Network Meeting**

Final conclusions by host (Evan Girvetz, CIAT, Kenya), WOCAT Director (Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT, Switzerland), and FAO (Sally Bunning, FAO, Chile)

18:30 – 20:00 *Dinner*

Saturday 17 June 2017

Time	Topic
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Morning	Departure of participants
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Time available in Cali depending on travel schedule
