PROGRESS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRIOCAT

WOCAT SYMPOSIUM AND 18TH WOCAT NETWORK MEETING
CALI, COLOMBIA, JUNE 2017

SMC Synergy
Spatial Management Consulting

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INTRODUCTION

- The history of WOCAT in Africa goes back to 1995 when a regional WOCAT workshop was held in Magoebaskloof in the Limpopo province, South Africa.

- Around 28 soil and water conservation specialist from 8 countries attended the workshop during which 22 technology questionnaires and 17 Approaches questionnaires were completed.

- During the 17th WOCAT Symposium and Network Meeting in Feldafing, Germany representatives from 10 African countries signed a Notice of Intent - basically the first step in the formation of AfriOCAT.

Feldafing, 11 June, 2015

Notice of Intent:

Following a spontaneous meeting of the African delegates of the 17th WOCAT Network Meeting (8 – 11 June, 2015), we herewith:

1. Wish to state our commitment to for, and actively support, the establishment of AFRI-CAT, the network of African collaborators in the use and further development of WOCAT;
2. Wish to consolidate our voice, our unique backgrounds, our skills, expertise and vision to contribute to the further growth of WOCAT;
3. State that we will actively explore funding opportunities to advance the application of WOCAT techniques and approaches, as well as to support the secretariat of WOCAT-International;
4. Emphasize that the intent of this statement and the formation of the African WOCAT network, is to strengthen our joint capacity to influence policies at local, regional, national and continental level, to influence all work relevant to SLM (Sustainable Land Management).

Signed in Feldafing, Germany:

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CHALLENGES

- Institutional – mandated members on committee, secretariat
- Logistics – coordinating institution, meetings, entity (AfriOCAT)
- Funding – up to now all voluntary contributions without compensation

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Achievements since July 2015

- Established an Interim Steering Committee /Secretariat
  - Zwide Jere (Malawi) - chairman
  - Dirk Pretorius- (South Africa) - secretary
  - Joy Tukahirwa (Uganda) - treasurer
  - Charles Malingu – (Uganda) - committee member
  - Leonidas- Nzigiyimpa (Burundi) - committee member

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Achievements since July 2015

- Compiled a Draft Strategy
  - It is suggested that AfriOCAT adopt the same management structure as WOCAT International which consist of a Steering Committee and a Secretariat
  - It is envisaged that AfriOCAT will function as a non-profit company with members of the secretariat as directors of the company
  - Registered domain www.afriocat.net
  - Reserved Afriocat company name

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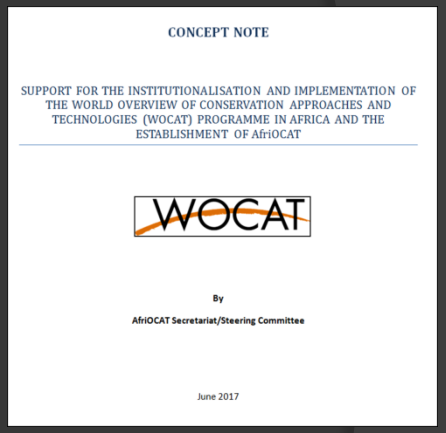
Achievements since July 2015

- Prepared a Concept Note for Funding
  - **The main objective will be to provide support towards the institutionalisation and implementation of the WOCAT programme in Africa and the establishment of AfriOCAT**
  - **Submitted to NEPAD/TerrAfrica**
  - **Acknowledgement from NEPAD – prepared to support some activities of AfriOCAT – details to be discussed**



CONCEPT NOTE

SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTIONALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD OVERVIEW OF CONSERVATION APPROACHES AND TECHNOLOGIES (WOCAT) PROGRAMME IN AFRICA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AfriOCAT

WOCAT

By

AfriOCAT Secretariat/Steering Committee

June 2017

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Outlook with respect to challenges

- Secure funding for the institutionalisation of WOCAT in Africa
- Establish an entity for AfriOCAT
- Appoint formal management group
- Sign formal MOU with WOCAT
- Develop website – www.afriocat.net
- Enlist member countries
- Arrange first AfriOCAT meeting/workshop to finalise strategy

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