



Strategy 2015–2018

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"Sustainable Land Management is simply about people looking after the land – for the present and for the future."

1 Rationale



Smallholder farmers participating in an FAO project called KAGERA TAMP – Trans-boundary Agro-ecosystem Management Programme for the Kagera River Basin.

© Ny You

Sustainable land management (SLM) seeks nothing less than to ensure the harmonious coexistence of humankind and the natural world for today's generation and future generations, in particular by enabling our ecosystems to continue providing the services so vital to life on earth.

SLM means maintaining healthy land resources – soil, water, vegetation, and animals – including their productive functions (e.g. food security), ecological functions (e.g. water, nutrient, and carbon cycles), and biodiversity.

SLM provides flexible, adaptable solutions in a world of fast-changing natural conditions (e.g. climate change and variability, extreme weather events), social conditions (e.g. migration, feminization of agriculture), and economic conditions (e.g. changing markets). Global and local development challenges demand that land users innovate and find ways of managing their land sustainably, staying resilient in the face of change and maintaining or improving their livelihoods and living conditions.

Despite increasing urbanization, rural areas are still home to half the world's population. About 2.6 billion people – 40 per cent of the global population – directly depend on agriculture.¹ Family farms play an essential role, producing about 80 per cent of the world's food and acting as custodians for approximately 75 per cent of all agricultural resources.²

Poor land and water management at all levels and a lack of appropriate governance and legal and regulatory frameworks to deal with increasing pressure on limited resources are leading to accelerating degradation of the land resources upon which rural communities and society at large depend. Proper land management is a key concern being taken up in the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs). SLM is particularly relevant in goals 2, 6, and 15, and indirectly related to goals 1, 12, and 13.³ SLM is absolutely essential to ensure a world in which agriculture prospers within vibrant ecosystems, farming communities thrive, food security is guaranteed, and people everywhere are resilient to climate change and disaster risk. That is why SLM is emphasized in three United Nations Conventions⁴: UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD; in FAO's goals; and in the proposed SDGs.

Knowledge management

To achieve those international goals and associated national goals, all SLM stakeholders – including land users, advisers, and planners – must have access to robust, up-to-date SLM knowledge, tools, and methods in order to decide on and implement the most appropriate SLM practices/systems for their specific socioeconomic and environmental setting. These tools and methods must also enable the stakeholders to continuously monitor the impacts and adjust to changes. Finally, stakeholders must be able to document their SLM experiences, enabling wider uptake and showing the benefits to land users and wider society.

Indeed, proper knowledge management and decision support are absolutely essential for SLM to reach its full potential. *Without effective knowledge management and decision support tools and processes, land degradation and land resource management will continue to be addressed in an ad hoc manner, all too often overlooking, ignoring, or only selectively applying useful knowledge and experience gained over the years in various regions.*

The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) Network was established over two decades ago under the joint management of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)/University of Bern, FAO, and World Soil Information (ISRIC). It was far ahead of others in recognizing the vital importance of SLM and the pressing need for corresponding knowledge management. In 1992, WOCAT launched efforts to compile, document, evaluate, share, and apply SLM knowledge as well as to build a knowledge and evidence base (for more information on the WOCAT Network history and achievements, and on WOCAT tools, refer to Annex).

¹ UNCCD facts and figures: <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/DocumentLibrary/WDCD/DLDD%20Facts.pdf>

² FAO. 2014. *The State of Food and Agriculture: Innovation in family farming*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome, Italy

³ Sustainable development goals (SDGs): Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

⁴ UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn, Germany; UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy

2 Key challenges



WOCAT's pioneering efforts established a strong foundation, but its work must continue and grow and support SLM uptake worldwide. Today, various challenges must be overcome to enable the widespread uptake of SLM practices as well as to ensure proper knowledge management and decision support for shifts towards SLM.

The challenges to be addressed by WOCAT may be divided into two groups:

Challenges to the adoption of SLM by land users

- Lack of evidence on specific types of direct and indirect benefits or effects of SLM practices (e.g. cost-benefit analyses, on-site and off-site impacts), especially in comparison with other practices in the range of farming systems
- Lack of context-specific facts and figures on SLM to help raise awareness and advocacy
- Limited access to innovative tools/systems for knowledge management
- Limited access to appropriate planning and monitoring tools (decision support) for successful SLM implementation and adaptation to change
- Lack of support or incentive measures to enable land users to take the risk and invest in testing more sustainable practices
- Competing demands on land resources from various actors/stakeholders due to the multi-functional nature of landscapes and unavoidable trade-offs between different land uses and sectors

*"I told my son to do 2-3 grafts on the same tree.
If one variety doesn't produce, the other one will. In
the name of God, we have 4 types of pears here!
This is my own research station!"*

Iskandar Mirzoev, farmer, Tajikistan



Orchard-based agroforestry plot in
Tajikistan surrounded by degraded lands.

© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

Challenges to mainstreaming SLM

- Insufficient sharing and dissemination of good practices and successful SLM experiences beyond the local level
- Lack of knowledge- and evidence-based decision support at the local, landscape, regional, and global levels
- Need for a harmonized SLM knowledge management and decision support platform to serve multi-sector (discipline) and multi-level stakeholders
- Lack of appropriate governance mechanisms and legal and regulatory frameworks in place (or effectively applied) to guide SLM
- Lack of participatory land use/territorial planning capacity and tools as a basis for stakeholder agreement and concerted efforts to attain short-, medium-, and long-term goals
- Lack of familiarity with or use of modern information and communication technologies (ICTs)

3 WOCAT Network set-up



Apple orchard in Tajikistan.
© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

Vision and mission of the WOCAT Network

WOCAT's vision⁵ is to improve land resources and ecosystems (including soils, water, flora, and fauna) and people's livelihoods by sharing, enhancing, and using SLM knowledge.

WOCAT's mission is to support adaptation, innovation, and decision-making around SLM. This includes enhancing land productivity and water use efficiency, improving provisioning of ecosystem goods and services, sustainable use of biodiversity, and contributing to food security, climate change adaptation/mitigation, and reducing disaster risks as well as land and water conflicts. Collectively, these activities should facilitate cost-effective investments in SLM and scaling up of SLM, gradually reducing land degradation.

The WOCAT Network's intended end beneficiaries are land users and broader society, who stand to gain more sustainable livelihoods, reliable food production, and other necessities of life thanks to improved management of land resources and ecosystems. To reach these end beneficiaries, WOCAT brings together:

- SLM specialists in the field, including technical staff, extension workers, agricultural advisers, and project implementers
- SLM specialists at the (sub)national level, including planners, project designers, decision-makers, and researchers
- SLM specialists at the regional and global levels, including international programme planners and donors

⁵ Note: The vision, mission, and overall goals are adapted from the WOCAT International Framework Agreement.



Small-scale farmer in the Philippines.

© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

Overall goal of the WOCAT Network

WOCAT's overall goal is to unite knowledge management and decision support efforts, gradually spreading SLM among all stakeholders. This will be done by:



Building and maintaining an effective global network of SLM specialists, including formation of new partnerships and maximization of synergies



Further developing standardized tools and methods for knowledge management and decision support at the local, national, and global levels

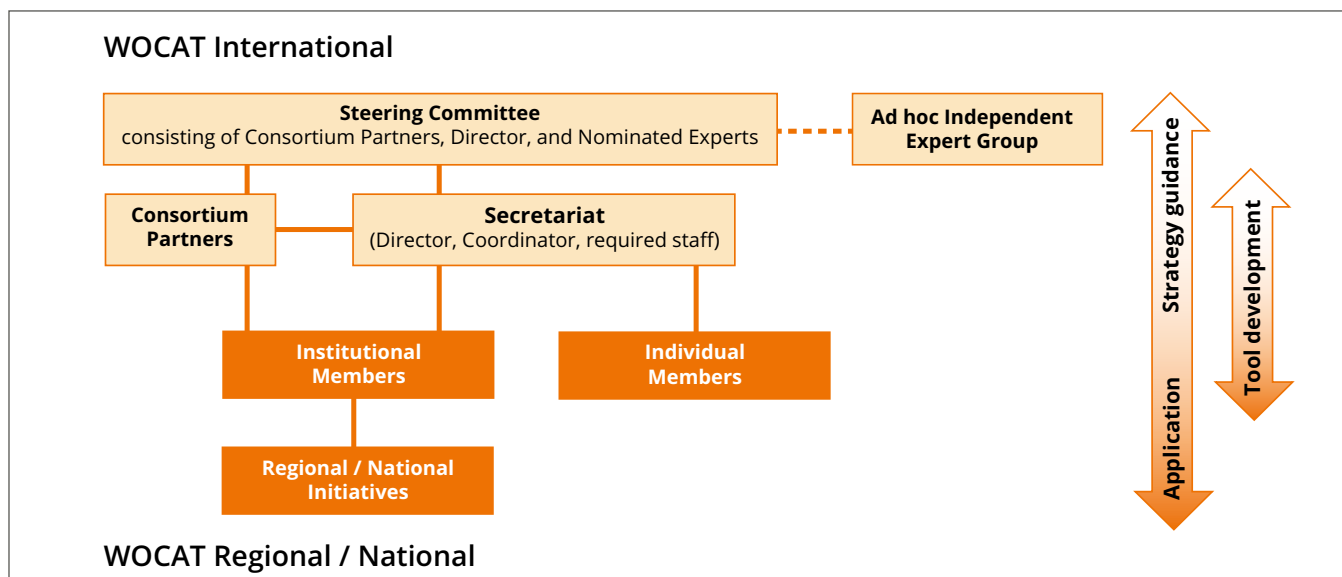


Building and maintaining a global knowledge base on SLM, synthesizing experiences, and disseminating targeted information via different media



Enhancing the capacity and knowledge base of a range of actors (e.g. implementers, researchers, trainers, educators) to promote SLM adoption at different scales

Organizational structure of the WOCAT Network



Organization of the WOCAT Network

The WOCAT Network was reorganized in 2014 to establish a more formalized international network. The network comprises WOCAT International as well as WOCAT Regional/National and its Institutional and Individual Members (see Annex).

WOCAT International

WOCAT International consists of four bodies: the Steering Committee, the ad hoc Independent Expert Group, the Consortium Partners, and the Secretariat. The Secretariat hosts the Director, Coordinator, and required staff. WOCAT International is linked to WOCAT Regional/National, and together they build the WOCAT Network. The Framework Agreement defines the constitution of WOCAT International.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of WOCAT International currently consists of eight Consortium Partners and the WOCAT Secretariat, who bear a shared responsibility for the functioning and further development of the WOCAT Network. The Steering Committee meets annually.

Members of the WOCAT International Steering Committee



Consortium Partners

The eight Consortium Partners are:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CGIAR
- ISRIC – World Soil Information
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

Their competencies and complementarities are listed in the Annex. The Consortium builds a strong unit out of complementary skilled partners involved in SLM.

"If I compare the yields from my farm from this year with other farmers' yields who have not done the work I have done, I see a big difference. I have harvested something and they, nothing! They ask: does this person have his own rain? Yet, the rains are the same everywhere!"

David Njeru Kibuthi, farmer, Kenya



Stone lines with maize residues in Kenya.

© Mats Gurtner, CDE

WOCAT Regional/National

WOCAT Regional/National is an integral part of the WOCAT Network and includes Institutional and Individual Members and their Initiatives. Partnerships are formalized by signing a printed memorandum of understanding (MoU) or an online terms of agreement (ToA). These initiatives operate in an autonomous, decentralized, and self-funded manner. The WOCAT Network meets biennially at the International WOCAT Network Meeting. Regional/National Members are technically supported by WOCAT International to implement the Network's vision and mission in their country and/or region.

At the national and regional levels, WOCAT is included in specific projects, is mainstreamed in local programmes, and may become part of a national strategy. Its tools are used to document and evaluate local SLM successes and to share them with others. Rather than prescribing what users must do, WOCAT enables practitioners and decision-makers to make informed choices about implementing and scaling up good SLM practices.

4 WOCAT International strategy 2015–2018



Rice fields in Orissa, India.
© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

For the four-year period 2015–2018, WOCAT International will focus on improved knowledge and decision-making for SLM and its use in planning, implementation, and policy formulation worldwide. This requires assessing the overall impacts of SLM, including off-site benefits within landscapes and globally. Emerging issues such as food and water security, disaster risk, climate change, biodiversity, migration, and landscape-/ecosystem- and rights-based approaches will be given special attention.

WOCAT International strategic goal 2015–2018

Goal *Land users and the public benefit from more secure ecosystem services, thanks to greater adoption, adaptation, dissemination, and mainstreaming of SLM in our fast-changing world.*

Outcomes and key outputs



Outcome 1

Enhanced knowledge and tools for evidence-based decision-making, adaptation, and dissemination of SLM at different scales (local, landscape/watershed, national)

Key outputs

- 1.1 Decision support framework developed, tested, and adapted to user needs
- 1.2 Tools for increased recognition of SLM's overall impacts (including off-site benefits within landscapes/watersheds) for decision-making, land use planning, implementation, and policy formulation developed and/or enhanced
- 1.3 Standardized tools and methods for SLM knowledge management are available and further updated and developed, addressing diverse national and global issues; introduction of innovative tools (e.g. mobile phone/tablet computer application, videos, webinars) to disseminate or collect knowledge
- 1.4 Continuously populated and enlarged global knowledge and database on technologies and approaches; improvement in quality of existing and new data; and continuously populated and enlarged global knowledge and database on national and regional SLM mapping
- 1.5 Enhanced global and national SLM knowledge products (e.g. synthesis reports, guidelines, books, videos)
- 1.6 Development of training methods, tools, and guidelines for various users
- 1.7 WOCAT tools applied in field, research, and education
- 1.8 Strengthened capacity of regional and national network partners to apply WOCAT tools



Outcome 2

Engaged institutions/organizations, policymakers, private sector, civil society organizations, and general public, who adopt and mainstream SLM as key cross-cutting approach to tackle global issues

Key outputs

- 2.1 Advocacy products such as policy briefs, brochures, flyers, and videos
- 2.2 Advocacy campaigns on the impacts and benefits of SLM
- 2.3 SLM knowledge and evidence of overall impacts of SLM applied by institutions/organizations, policymakers, etc. in decision-making, land use planning, implementation, and policy formulation
- 2.4 Regional and national networks/hubs established which promote use and adaptation of WOCAT products to local/regional contexts (including translation into local languages as well as books and videos)



Outcome 3

A recognized, jointly developed, and supported harmonized Global WOCAT SLM Platform for Knowledge Management and Decision Support

Key outputs

- 3.1 An effective global SLM network that provides basic and advanced services
- 3.2 Harmonized and standardized knowledge management and decision support platform (linking practical, technical, and scientific information)
- 3.3 Knowledge base adapted and revised to fulfil the requirements of harmonizing and improving links to existing knowledge management tools and databases
- 3.4 User-friendly web applications, including offline functionality
- 3.5 A revised multilingual platform and website
- 3.6 Linkages and collaboration with other knowledge management platforms

5 Fundraising strategy



Women farming in Nepal.
© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

New, more diverse funding opportunities are emerging thanks to the WOCAT Network's new organizational set-up, the complementarity of its Consortium Partners, and growing recognition of SLM's importance. By working together, the Consortium and Network Partners will harmonize approaches and develop user-friendly tools and applications, building on their comparative advantages. This will help leverage additional resources and wider buy-in.

Funding of WOCAT International is divided into two areas:

Funding for WOCAT International

- To cover *basic functioning and services*⁶:
 - annual contributions of Consortium Partners, foundations, private companies, etc. and/or percentages of project funds earmarked to the basic services (e.g. 5 per cent) and/or combined with funding for advanced services
 - contributions from national and/or regional WOCAT focal points or initiatives to the basic services for anticipated or rendered services
- To cover *advanced services*⁷:
 - funds included in projects/programmes or linked to specific products
 - revenues from advanced services (e.g. capacity building, training events)

⁶ The WOCAT Secretariat provides basic functioning and services, such as general coordination activities, facilitation of communication within the WOCAT Network, etc.

⁷ The WOCAT Secretariat provides advanced services upon request, e.g. providing specific technical support and assistance to Network Members and other stakeholders, or producing tailor-made client-oriented products.

"After several years of application of WOCAT we think it is a good tool and local farmers, the government, and academics have benefitted from it. WOCAT is easy and simple to disseminate."

Zengming Song, Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems, Global Environment Facility (PRC-GEF), PR China



Terraces in the Loess Plateau of China.

© Hanspeter Liniger, CDE

Funding for outcomes and key outputs of the WOCAT International strategy 2015–2018

- **Project-based funding:**
 - project funds embedded in ongoing programmes or partner activities related to food security, climate variability and change, and disaster risk reduction (maximizing synergies)
 - contributions from projects developed in response to funding calls that match the WOCAT Network's overall goals
 - proposals developed for projects dedicated to WOCAT International key outputs, e.g. development of SLM knowledge platform, IT/database/web applications
 - revenues from consultation projects that support the WOCAT International strategic goal 2015–2018
- **Donations from the public, including foundations, private companies, etc.**

WOCAT International will endeavour to generate long-term programme funding to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability, while also remaining open to short-term project funding.

A more detailed funding strategy is elaborated in a separate document called "WOCAT International Fundraising Strategy".

6 Monitoring and evaluation



Organic vegetables nursery in
Huellas Verdes farm, Santiago de Chile.
© Felix Zingg

The WOCAT Secretariat will monitor and evaluate WOCAT International activities according to the standard procedures of project cycle management.

The results-based progress reports will be presented annually at the Steering Committee Meetings as well as at the biennial International WOCAT Network Meetings.

To monitor project outputs and outcomes, specific indicators have been established that are shown in WOCAT International's results-based logframe (refer to Annex). The WOCAT Secretariat prepares an annual work plan and budget in collaboration with the Consortium Partners.

External evaluations of WOCAT International's performance and impact may be arranged upon request.

To ensure effective outreach and uptake, WOCAT Network results will be recorded and disseminated to diverse audiences by means of outputs/publications, good practices, lessons learned, and policy briefs. Dissemination of these WOCAT products is the responsibility of the Secretariat and the Consortium Partners.

7 Annex



Farming plots in the area of Kagbeni, Nepal.
© Isabelle Providoli, CDE

WOCAT Network history and achievements

WOCAT was founded in 1992 as an informal global network of soil and water conservation specialists. It was one of the first programmes to promote resource conservation and SLM in response to land degradation (www.wocat.net). WOCAT developed standardized tools for documenting, monitoring, and evaluating SLM know-how as well as disseminating it around the globe, enabling land users to exchange their experience. Joint and participatory development of the programme by national and international partner institutions and organizations has made it possible to continuously improve and adapt its contents to users' needs while maintaining the benefits of standardization. Over the years, WOCAT expanded its focus in several ways. It went beyond data collection to conduct evaluation, monitoring, training, and research on SLM. An initial emphasis on soil erosion and declines in soil fertility was broadened to include examination of good practices (technologies and approaches) for SLM that account for soils, water, vegetation, and animals. WOCAT's initial use of questionnaires gradually developed into a flexible, modular methodology. Overall, it went from being a programme mainly focused on knowledge generation to one concerned with the use of that knowledge for evidence-based decision-making, addressing both on-site and off-site benefits of SLM including watershed and landscape approaches.

WOCAT achievements

The programme's evolution and accomplishments can be grouped according to four areas of knowledge:



1 *Information sharing and networking*

- Begun as a small project and informal network, WOCAT has evolved into a comprehensive, standardized SLM knowledge management platform
- Since 2014, UNCCD acknowledges WOCAT as the primary database for SLM best practices, granting it a mandate to support the 194 signatory countries in recording their own SLM best practices
- Since 2014, WOCAT is organized as an open consortium (currently of eight partners) and collaborates with over 60 institutions worldwide, including government ministries, universities, NGOs, UN organizations, and more
- It operates in a decentralized way, through self-funded regional and national initiatives
- SLM experts, extension workers, researchers, planners, and decision-makers all work together in the programme
- It features a comprehensive website/platform with more than 1,800 registered users



2 *Tools and methods*

Jointly developed with partner organizations worldwide, WOCAT's flexible framework for documentation, monitoring, evaluation, sharing, and dissemination of SLM knowledge encompasses:

- Standardized questionnaires for documentation and evaluation of SLM technologies and approaches (e.g. case studies), with additional modules on climate change adaptation and watershed management
- A global database for storage, query/searching, analysis, and exchange of SLM practices
- A scale-independent mapping tool for assessment of degradation and SLM
- A decision support tool for identification and selection of good practices at the local level (and a prototype approach for the watershed level)
- Manuals for the assessment of land degradation and SLM at the global, national, and local levels developed jointly with the FAO
- A manual for the production of SLM instructional videos developed jointly with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Taken together, the WOCAT tools (see also Annex) support anyone involved in SLM to identify priority areas for interventions, to determine suitable SLM technologies and approaches, and to share existing expertise and new developments in land management.



3 *SLM technologies and approaches*

- WOCAT maintains a global online database of SLM practices, comprising more than 500 SLM technologies and 250 SLM approaches from over 50 countries in many different languages
- It has published many books and brochures describing and synthesizing different aspects of SLM, including:
 - *Water Harvesting* (2013) on guidelines to good practice
 - *Desire for Greener Land* (2012) on options for SLM in drylands
 - *Sustainable Land Management in Practice* (2011) on guidelines and best practices for sub-Saharan Africa
 - *Where the Land is Greener* (2007), a global overview book; as well as regional and national survey books and fact sheets (e.g. on Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Latin America, Nepal, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia)
- WOCAT produces informational videos on SLM and instructional videos on a range of SLM technologies and approaches
- It specializes in many other forms of print media as well, including:
 - SLM promotion material, tailor-made policy briefs, and learning notes
 - National and regional maps of degradation and conservation
 - Peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and scientific conference contributions



Women watching a short WOCAT video on an SLM technology during a workshop, Tajikistan. © Hanspeter Liniger, CDE



4 **Training, education, and research**

- WOCAT leads participatory multi-stakeholder workshops to identify land management problems, assess promising SLM solutions, and support decision-making on selecting and scaling up good practices
- Over 500 SLM specialists from 40 countries have been trained using WOCAT Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) tools for documenting, assessing, and mapping SLM technologies and approaches
- WOCAT methodology has been integrated into the curricula of various universities at the bachelor's and master's levels, giving rise to over 30 MSc and PhD studies evaluating SLM, filling knowledge gaps, and providing support for monitoring and assessment of SLM impacts (on-site and off-site; socioeconomic and environmental)

"Do you want to make a change? Learn from those who made it."



WOCAT Network organizational structure and bodies as described in the Framework Agreement

WOCAT Network: this comprises WOCAT International and WOCAT Regional/National and its Institutional and Individual Members.

Network Members: these consist of WOCAT Regional/National and Consortium Partners.

WOCAT International: this is a consortium and consists of the Steering Committee (including all Consortium Partners, the Nominated Experts, and the Director), the Secretariat, and the ad hoc Independent Expert Group (in an advisory role).

WOCAT Regional/National: these comprise Institutional Members belonging to a regional or national Initiative, or Individual Members. Institutional or Individual Members sign a memorandum of understanding or the online terms of agreement, respectively, pertaining to the vision and mission of WOCAT.

WOCAT Initiative: a specific WOCAT Initiative is established if one or more Institutional Members and/or Consortium Partners collaborate in a country or region to jointly apply WOCAT-LADA tools and methods.

Taking water quality measurements with the farmer field school in Burundi.

An activity of the FAO Project KAGERA TAMP – Transboundary Agro-ecosystem Management Programme for the Kagera River Basin. © James Batchelor

Consortium Partner: this is an Institutional Member with a seat in the Steering Committee.

WOCAT Director: this individual leads the Secretariat and executes the WOCAT Strategy as approved by the Steering Committee.

WOCAT Coordinator: this individual supports the Director in the management of the daily activities of the Secretariat.

WOCAT Secretariat: this body supports the Director in the management and co-ordination of the WOCAT Network. The Secretariat is composed of the Director, the Coordinator, and additional staff as required.

Steering Committee: this body consists of the Consortium Partners, the Nominated Experts, and the Director, and steers/guides the work of WOCAT International.

WOCAT-related SLM knowledge management and decision support tools

Tools at the local/field levels:

- *Standardized WOCAT questionnaires* for use in documenting and assessing SLM technologies and SLM approaches, and a corresponding database where this knowledge is stored and shared. Over the last 15 years, the WOCAT database has grown to encompass over 500 technologies and 250 approaches from all continents. SLM practices are presented in an attractive, standardized way, available both electronically and in hardcopy format. Instructional videos on SLM technologies and approaches show how SLM technologies and approaches are implemented.
- The *WOCAT climate change module* evaluates SLM technologies and approaches in the context of climate change, examining how resilient or how vulnerable they are to climate extremes or changes.
- *Informative WOCAT videos* made by and for land users that show how SLM works, the problems it solves, how challenges can be overcome, and what benefits can be achieved locally, regionally, and globally.
- *FAO's Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)*, a local-level impact assessment methodology for use in measuring the impacts of degradation and SLM in the field. The LADA Local Manual outlines how to conduct field observations and measurements of land degradation and SLM indicators, as well as how to conduct interviews with land users and key informants.
- *WOCAT decision support framework* for selecting SLM practices at the local level (as well as a prototype for SLM at the watershed level). The three-part framework consists of identification of problems and possible solutions (Part I), documentation and evaluation of existing solutions (Part II), and selection of the most promising SLM technologies and approaches (Part III).

Tools at the national/subnational levels:




















- The *WOCAT watershed module* brings together individual case studies on SLM technologies and approaches for a given watershed, and assesses their combined impacts and benefits. The results of the module are used for watershed-management planning.
- *WOCAT-LADA-DESIRE⁸ (sub)national mapping methodology* for use in generating information on land degradation and SLM, providing the basis for identification of suitable areas for investment within a smaller or larger region.

Tools at the global level:

- *LADA Global Land Degradation Information System (GLADIS)* for illustrating how ecosystem services change based on human actions and natural processes.

⁸ Desertification mitigation and remediation of land – a global approach for local solutions

Consortium Partners in brief

Organization	Region / countries	Key topic(s) / mandate	Competencies	with WOCAT since	
University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)	Global North and South	Conducting research for SLM and sustainable development	Research for filling SLM knowledge gaps, development and testing of tools	1992	  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Global	Ensuring productive, efficient, and sustainable use of land and water resources in order to meet demands for food and agriculture and to safeguard food security for present and future generations	UN technical agency/convening of agricultural sector ministries and bodies; Assistance in developing policies, investment frameworks, providing technical support through country/regional/global processes and strengthening capacities in accordance with its Strategic Framework; Hosting the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) secretariat, and supporting GSP implementation with a focus on promoting sustainable soil management (Pillar 1)	1992	   
World Soil Information (ISRIC)	Global	Providing information about the world's soil resources to help address major global issues	Application of soil data in global development issues	1992	 
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Global with specific target countries	Reducing poverty, supporting smallholder farmers in diverse areas of production, marketing, and sustainable use of resources	Link to UNCCD, different global partnerships	1993	
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Global with countries based on bilateral agreements	Provision of demand-driven, tailor-made, and effective services for sustainable development (customized solutions to complex challenges)	Conceptualization and implementation of projects in all fields of rural development and agriculture; Draws on a wealth of regional and technical expertise; Different platforms; Different global partnerships and networks	2008	   
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)	Global non-tropical dry areas; Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA)	Global mandate for the improvement of barley, lentil, and faba bean, improving agricultural productivity in non-tropical dry areas, and sustainably improving the management of scarce water and land resources in dry areas	Delivering systems solutions for rain-fed, irrigated, and pastoral agricultural systems in drylands, which includes new crop varieties; agronomy; on-farm water productivity; natural resource management; rangeland and small ruminant production; and socioeconomic and policy research	1998	 
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Himalayan region	Mountain development, valuation of ecosystem services, and restoration of degraded ecosystems	Link to interface between practice/policy and science; Experience in watershed management	2001	
International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Global tropics	Land restoration and enhancement of ecosystem services, global responsibility for the improvement of cassava and common bean, and tropical forages for livestock	Knowledge generation on SLM in landscapes, engagement in Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) and other partnership networks	2014	 

WOCAT International Logframe for 2015–2018

Hierarchy of objectives / intervention strategy		Key indicators	Data sources	External factors
Goal				
Impact (overall goal)		Impact indicators	Means of verification	
Land users and the public benefit from more secure ecosystem services, thanks to greater adoption, adaptation, dissemination, and mainstreaming of SLM in our fast-changing world.		Innovations and adaptations are reflected in governance schemes and policy frameworks dealing with SLM	Reporting of governance schemes and policy frameworks	
Outcomes				
Outcomes		Outcome indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions and risks
	1. Enhanced knowledge and tools for evidence-based decision-making, adaptation, and dissemination of SLM at different scales (local, landscape/watershed, national)	– Knowledge and tools are used and results/findings are taken up by relevant SLM actors	– Progress reports by regional/national WOCAT members/initiatives/hubs using knowledge and tools	Assumption: value and benefits of national and regional initiatives are perceived Risk: lack of funding, commitment, and capacity of regional and national institutions
	2. Engaged institutions/ organizations, policymakers, private sector, civil society organizations, and general public, who adopt and mainstream SLM as key cross-cutting approach to tackle global issues	– Advocacy products are used by relevant SLM actors – Regional and national WOCAT initiatives/hubs established which promote and use WOCAT products	– Monitoring of use of advocacy products – Progress reports by regional/national WOCAT partners	Assumption: enough funds are available to maintain platform Risk: lack of funding to maintain platform, and lack of resources and interest of partners to actively participate in Network
	3. A recognized, jointly developed and supported harmonized Global WOCAT SLM Platform for Knowledge Management and Decision Support	– Effective global WOCAT SLM Network established – Harmonized and standardized Global WOCAT SLM Platform for Knowledge Management and Decision Support used by relevant SLM actors	– Progress reports by regional/national WOCAT members/initiatives/hubs – Monitoring of use of Global WOCAT SLM Platform	Assumption: enough funds are available to maintain platform Risk: lack of funding to maintain platform, and lack of resources and interest of partners to actively participate in Network
Outputs (per outcome)		Output indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions and risks
For Outcome 1: Enhanced knowledge and tools for evidence-based decision-making, adaptation, and dissemination of SLM at different scales (local, landscape/watershed, national)				
Output 1.1	Decision support framework developed, tested, and adapted to user needs	– Decision support framework developed and tested	– Guidelines and manual describing how to use the decision support framework and suggested tools	Assumption: well-functioning partnerships exist to develop the framework Risk: reluctance and insufficient potential of partners to apply and test the decision support framework
Output 1.2	Tools for increased recognition of SLM's overall impacts (including off-site benefits within landscapes/watersheds) for decision-making, land use planning, implementation, and policy formulation developed and/or enhanced	– Tools for increased recognition of SLM's overall impacts (watershed management and decision support tool, carbon benefit tool, cost-benefit tool, videos) developed and tested	– Progress reports – Tools	Assumption: earmarked funds for development of tools Risk: lack of resources (human and financial) to develop tools
Output 1.3	Standardized tools and methods for SLM knowledge management are available and further updated and developed, addressing diverse national and global issues; introduction of innovative tools to disseminate or collect knowledge	– QT, QA, QM revised – Tools are further updated and developed according to user needs and client demand – Several innovative tools developed and piloted (1 mobile phone/tablet application, at least 6 videos, webinars, etc.)	– Updated version of QT, QA, QM – Mobile phone/tablet application available in App store, videos uploaded on WOCAT website – Progress reports by WOCAT and WOCAT Consortium Partners and WOCAT Network Members	Assumption: mandates for updating of tools and clients have earmarked funds for services such as adapting tools Risk: lack of resources (human and financial) to fulfil demands of clients

Output 1.4	Continuously populated and enlarged global knowledge and database on technologies and approaches; improvement in quality of existing and new data; and continuously populated and enlarged global knowledge and database on national and regional SLM mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 400 new SLM practices (technologies and approaches) – At least 10 maps – Improved quality of existing data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Technology and Approach database entries – Mapping database entries – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: interest and willingness of WOCAT Network partners to use WOCAT tools and methods, and availability of funding to populate databases</p> <p>Risk: reluctance of WOCAT Network partners to apply WOCAT tools and methods; lack of funding to populate databases</p>
Output 1.5	Enhanced global and national SLM knowledge products (e.g. synthesis reports, guidelines, books, maps, videos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 10 knowledge products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BMBF GLUES book on SLM research put into practice – 6 instructional videos – Other planned publications (Caritas, Terrafrica, Kagera) realized – Maps – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: interest and willingness of WOCAT Network partners to produce such products and availability of funding</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding</p>
Output 1.6	Development of training methods, tools, and guidelines for various users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidelines for Global Environment Facility (GEF), FAO-WOCAT SLM decision support framework further developed and tested jointly with partner countries and organizations – At least 2 training manuals and videos produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Guidelines for GEF/FAO-WOCAT SLM decision support framework further developed and tested jointly with partner countries and organizations – At least 2 training manuals and videos produced – Guidelines for GEF/FAO-WOCAT SLM decision support framework finalized – Training manuals – Training videos, annotated PowerPoint presentations (2–3) 	<p>Assumption: high demand for training material among partners</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding to produce training material</p>
Output 1.7	WOCAT tools applied in field, research, and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WOCAT tool used in BSc, MSc, PhD theses – WOCAT tools and methods used in research projects – Tools and products used in university curricula – WOCAT tools and methods used in implementation projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BSc, MSc, PhD theses finalized – Used in Catastrophic Shifts in Drylands (CASCADE) and Preventing and Remediating Degradation of Soils in Europe through Land Care (RECARE) EU research projects – University curricula and courses that include WOCAT tools and methods – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: interest and willingness to use WOCAT tools and availability of funding</p> <p>Risk: reluctance to use WOCAT tools and lack of funding</p>
Output 1.8	Strengthened capacity of regional and national initiatives partners to apply WOCAT tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 8 WOCAT trainings held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training reports – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: interest and willingness of partners to attend trainings</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding to attend training</p>
For Outcome 2: Engaged institutions/organizations, policymakers, private sector, civil society organizations, and general public, who adopt and mainstream SLM as key cross-cutting approach to tackle global issues				
Output 2.1	Advocacy products such as policy briefs, brochures, flyers, and videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 2 policy briefs – At least 4 brochures, flyers, and posters – At least 3 videos – Media coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Policy briefs, brochures, flyers, and posters – Videos – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: availability of funds to produce these advocacy products</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding</p>
Output 2.2	Advocacy campaigns on the impacts and benefits of SLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 3 advocacy campaigns – Participation in at least 8 conferences and workshops – Participation in UNCCD events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Campaign – Abstracts and papers in proceedings of conferences – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: availability of funds to organize advocacy campaign and attend conferences</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding; limited flexibility of UNCCD due to bureaucracy</p>

Output 2.3	SLM knowledge and evidence of overall impacts of SLM applied by institutions/organizations, policymakers, etc. in decision-making, land use planning, implementation, and policy formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Applied by 15 countries of GEF/FAO-WOCAT SLM decision support framework – Applied by additional countries depending on acceptance of project proposals (e.g. IFAD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: availability of funds and willingness of countries/partners</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding</p>
Output 2.4	Regional and national initiatives/hubs established which promote use and adaptation of WOCAT products to local/regional contexts (including translation into local languages as well as books and videos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 10 regional and national initiatives/hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional and national initiatives/hubs – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: value and benefits of regional and national initiatives are perceived</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding, commitment, and capacity of regional and national institutions</p>
For Outcome 3: A recognized jointly developed and supported harmonized Global SLM Platform for Knowledge Management and Decision Support				
Output 3.1	An effective global SLM Network that provides basic and advanced services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1 effective global SLM Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feedback/satisfaction of Network Members and partners with services provided – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: partners are interested to participate actively in Network; devolution of tasks to regional and national WOCAT partners</p> <p>Risk: lack of resources and interest of partners to actively participate in Network; WOCAT unable to deliver its services as demand rises, costing credibility</p>
Output 3.2	Harmonized and standardized knowledge management and decision support platform (linking practical, technical, and scientific information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1 harmonized and standardized knowledge management and decision support platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recognized, supported, and harmonized Global WOCAT SLM Platform – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: enough funds available to maintain platform</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding to maintain platform; being sidelined by other global institutions that create or call for their own global platform on SLM</p>
Output 3.3	Knowledge base adapted and revised to fulfil the requirements of harmonizing and improving links to existing knowledge management tools and databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Knowledge base adapted and revised – At least 3 links to existing knowledge management tools and databases established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Knowledge base revised and available – At least 3 web links available – Progress report 	<p>Assumption: enough funds available to carry out the revision of the knowledge base, and willingness among partners concerned to collaborate</p> <p>Risk: lack of resources and willingness to collaborate among partners; WOCAT unable to deliver its services as demand rises, costing credibility</p>
Output 3.4	User-friendly web applications including offline functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – User-friendly web application – Offline functionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Offline functionality in use – Web application in use – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: enough funds available to develop user-friendly web application</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding or IT know-how</p>
Output 3.5	A revised multilingual platform and website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Revised platform and data available in at least 3 languages – Website available in English, French, and Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WOCAT website available in at least 3 languages – WOCAT platform and database translated into several languages according to user needs 	<p>Assumption: enough funds available; devolution of tasks to regional and national WOCAT partners</p> <p>Risk: lack of funding</p>
Output 3.6	Linkages and collaboration with other knowledge management platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Links to other platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least 3 links to other knowledge management platforms – Progress reports 	<p>Assumption: interest and willingness of other platforms to establish links</p> <p>Risk: reluctance of other platforms to establish links</p>

