WOCAT Evaluation 2019

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Stockholm International Water Institute

Bridges science, policy and practice for a Water Wise World

- Stockholm Water Prizes
- World Water Week
- Project Office
- Swedish Water House
  - provides dialogue platforms for multistakeholder consultation processes
- Africa Regional Centre (ARC) in Pretoria
  - **Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture (TIARA) initiative**, focuses on the importance of green water and establishes the business case for investing in rainfed agriculture in Africa at scale

Objectives of the Evaluation

- **Assess the effectiveness and achieved impacts of WOCAT** on the land resources and ecosystems, the project beneficiaries and target groups at the local, national and global level.

- Further assess the **relevance and the efficiency of WOCAT** and its collaboration modalities.

- Produce a clear set of concluding **lessons learnt**.

- Make concrete and specific recommendations for:

  - **Actions to improve the performance** to achieve better delivery of its outcomes and outputs, and

  - **Strengthen WOCAT's contribution in the global SLM discourse** particularly considering its contribution to the achievement of targets set in the Agenda 2030 and the three UN conventions specifically UNCCD.

Key recommendations from previous reviews

In 1998 review of WOCAT still relevant in 2019:

- Must address the use of the outputs for development purposes
- Diversification of funding for future developments and upscaling

In 2007 review of CDE:

- WOCAT is qualitatively high-standing and its funding should not be discontinued without adequately accompanying measures
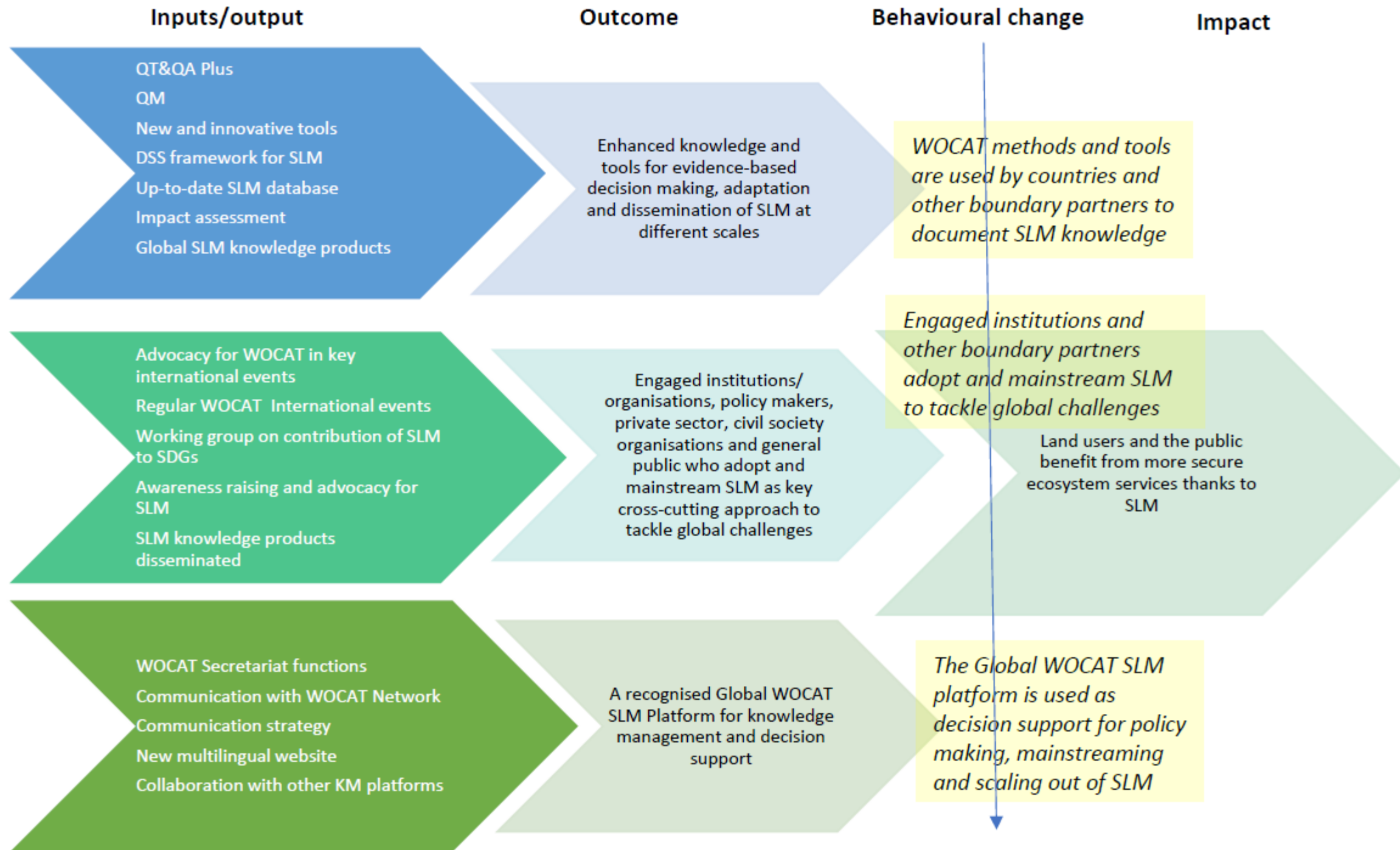
In 2011 external review of WOCAT

- WOCAT needs to strengthen its dissemination and advocacy strategy to reach out to policy makers.
- The institutional status needs to be strengthened to make WOCAT more international and improve access to funding.

Evaluation Methodology

1. **Overview of the database, tools and documents** as well as **institutional set up and funding mechanism** of WOCAT in April 2019 to enable the lead evaluator to formulate useful questions for the evaluation together with the WOCAT Secretariat.

2. **Data gathering** through documents and interviews and draft outcome descriptions based on a **theory of change**.

3. Engage WOCAT partners in formulating outcome descriptions. A **survey** will be sent out to WOCAT partners **to assess behavioural change and impact**.

4. Participation in the global WOCAT Network Meeting in Ethiopia in May. **Interviews** will be conducted with WOCAT partners at national, regional and international levels, and **informal discussions** will also be held.

5. Outcomes are substantiated through **field visits to at least three countries**.

6. **Results are analysed and interpreted** in relation to the theory of change. Evidence from reviews, field visits, interviews and participant observation will be triangulated to cross-examine results and overcome biases.

7. **Presentation of findings** to SDC, CDE and WOCAT in Bern in October of 2019 on the key conclusions and recommendations.

WOCAT Theory of Change

Inputs/output	Outcome	Behavioural change	Impact
QT&QA Plus QM New and innovative tools DSS framework for SLM Up-to-date SLM database Impact assessment Global SLM knowledge products	Enhanced knowledge and tools for evidence-based decision making, adaptation and dissemination of SLM at different scales	*WOCAT methods and tools are used by countries and other boundary partners to document SLM knowledge*	
Advocacy for WOCAT in key international events Regular WOCAT International events Working group on contribution of SLM to SDGs Awareness raising and advocacy for SLM SLM knowledge products disseminated	Engaged institutions/ organisations, policy makers, private sector, civil society organisations and general public who adopt and mainstream SLM as key cross-cutting approach to tackle global challenges	*Engaged institutions and other boundary partners adopt and mainstream SLM to tackle global challenges*	Land users and the public benefit from more secure ecosystem services thanks to SLM
WOCAT Secretariat functions Communication with WOCAT Network Communication strategy New multilingual website Collaboration with other KM platforms	A recognised Global WOCAT SLM Platform for knowledge management and decision support	*The Global WOCAT SLM platform is used as decision support for policy making, mainstreaming and scaling out of SLM*	

Outcome mapping and harvesting

- Outcome is defined as a change in the behavior, relationships, actions, activities, policies, or practices of an individual, group, community, organization, or institution (Wilson-Grau & Britt, 2012).

- The evaluator collects information from reports, personal interviews, and other resources to document how a given programme or initiative has contributed to outcomes. Outcomes can be positive or negative, intended or unintended, but the connection between the initiative and the outcomes should be verifiable

- The evaluation will look at the contribution of WOCAT to achieve outcomes and impacts, not attribution!

Behavioural change – preliminary findings (from reviews of annual reports, etc.)

- An increasing number of countries and institutions are using WOCAT tools and methods. WOCAT is thus becoming the global standard for reporting on SLM, including for the UNCCD.

- WOCAT methods and tools are being mainstreamed in big donor(e.g. GIZ) programmes and projects as well as national programmes to tackle global challenges, such as LDN.

- The global WOCAT SLM platform and WOCATpedia are used extensively by a growing number of countries (more than 21,000 visits from 185 countries in the last report).

- However, to what extent the SLM platform and WOCATpedia provide decision support as well as their links to decision making are not clear in the WOCAT reporting during the period in question.

Some gaps identified so far

- SLM and linkages to gender and youth issues

- WOCAT's development impacts
  - Impact on policies and institutions
  - Impact on investment flows at national to international level
  - Impact on the ground

- WOCAT's lack of a harmonised monitoring and reporting system to track impact along the impact pathway/theory of change

Table 2. WOCAT's contribution to achieving LDN.

Outcome	Significance of the outcomes	Contribution/output	Sources
WOCAT contributes with knowledge, information and practical tools to achieving a Land Degradation Neutral World (SDG15.3)	WOCAT can help promote scaling out of SLM and thereby contribute to LDN	Coupling of WOCAT and Decision- Support System (DSS) to achieve LDN – the role of SLM knowledge in evidence-based decision making	Liniger et al. (2019).
	WOCAT in combination with other global tools as well as expert assessments can be used to monitor progress towards LDN	Coupling WOCAT and big data from remote sensing to monitor LDN – Trends.Earth and precipitation data, integration of different methodologies	Garcia et al. (2019), Gonzalez-Roglich et al. (2019)
	Community-based SLM initiatives documented using WOCAT can contribute to achieving LDN on the ground	The contribution of community-based initiatives to LDN using WOCAT - identification of enabling conditions needed, such as knowledge development, inclusive land governance (including land tenure security), and access to technical and financial resources.	Haren, et al. (2019)
	WOCAT and its partners have contributed to capacity building in land use planning to achieve LDN	Training of UNCCD focal points in application of WOCAT tools and approaches in planning, implementing and monitoring LDN schemes	UNCCD CRIC17 Guyana: LDN response hierarchy and land-use planning - tools and approaches

WOCAT's relevance to the global SLM agenda

- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), SDG15.3
- The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general
- Collaboration with the UNCCD

SDG	Target	Significance and links to WOCAT	Source
2 ZERO HUNGER	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	Food security, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	Harari et al. (2017)
5 GENDER EQUALITY	5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	Women's rights and access to land resources and decision making for SLM	??
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	Water harvesting, SWC, DRR	Harari et al. (2017)
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	Sustainable and resilient communities, DRR	Harari et al. (2017)
13 CLIMATE ACTION	13.1:Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries 13.3:Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	Climate mitigation and adaptation through SLM, DRR	Harari et al. (2017)
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	DRR	Harari et al. (2017)
15 LIFE ON LAND	15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements 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	Resilient landscapes, land degradation neutrality (LDN)	Harari et al. (2017) LDN papers (2019)
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	UNCCD reporting and knowledges sharing using WOCAT	??

Collaboration with the UNCCD

- **An agreement between UNCCD and WOCAT** was signed on 15 April 2014. UNCCD identified WOCAT as a primary recommended database for best practices on SLM technologies.

- The official recognition of UNCCD **gives WOCAT a 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.

- **A UNCCD Knowledge hub using WOCAT** has been established.

- **UNCCD evaluation of the partnership with WOCAT** – overall positive and incudes recommendations for the next phase.

Institutional set-up of WOCAT

- How could the functioning and efficiency be improved?
- Funding of WOCAT Secretariat and its services?

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Quick look at questionnaire survey responses

https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/wIIn35IB2mGQnEce2uOOJZRBzsSrjWDbiN7n4wradX0_3D

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Next steps

- Questionnaire survey
  - The main focus is on analysing behavioural change to assess the impact of WOCAT

- Semi-structured interviews
  - During the meeting
  - Via telephone/Skype

- Field visits to assess impacts on land resources, ecosystems and livelihoods
  - Selection of countries
  - Access to remote sensing data through Trends.Earth

Discussion groups

- Impact of WOCAT – national, regional and global scale

- WOCAT's relevance to the global SLM agenda – SDGs

- Institutional set-up of WOCAT and funding – what works and what doesn't?

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Thank you for your attention