

THE WOCAT SLM DATABASE

The primary recommended database for UNCCD best practices in Sustainable Land Management

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) promotes Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to fight desertification and to enable economic growth for local populations. In support of this, the UNCCD facilitates the exchange of knowledge by collecting and sharing SLM best practices.

Since 2014, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) SLM database has been recognized by the UNCCD secretariat as the primary recommended database for UNCCD best practices on SLM technologies, including adaptation. The SLM best practice data previously reported through the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) were transferred to the WOCAT SLM database.

More opportunities to populate the WOCAT SLM database and to foster the knowledge exchange exist, and as UNCCD Country Party you can contribute by:

- Submitting new SLM best practices
- Updating previously reported SLM best practices

In order to share more experiences and increase the national and global SLM knowledge base, UNCCD Parties and other reporting entities can enter SLM best practices by using the WOCAT template available at: <https://www.wocat.net/questionnaires>.

This template is tailored to the needs of UNCCD Parties based on guidance and feedback received by WOCAT from the UNCCD Parties at COP 12 and through a 2016 survey.

Since the new reporting template asks for more detailed and different kinds of information than the PRAIS templates used, we encourage Parties to update previously reported SLM best practices to the new template in the WOCAT SLM database. If needed, the UNCCD Secretariat can support reporting officers and organizations reporting on behalf of country Parties in this process. In addition, the WOCAT Secretariat can offer the reporting institutions support and guidance.

What is WOCAT?

WOCAT is a global network of SLM specialists that supports innovation and decision-making in SLM. WOCAT aims to increase the sharing and use of SLM knowledge with different stakeholders for better planning, decision-making and implementation. It was established in 1992, and has more than 2 000 registered users, more than 60 participating institutions, and about 30 national and regional initiatives. The overall goal of the WOCAT network is to unite the efforts in knowledge management and decision support for up-scaling SLM among all stakeholders including national governmental and non-governmental institutions and international and regional organizations and programmes.

The network provides tools that:

- Allow SLM specialists to identify key challenges and respective needs for action, and share their valuable knowledge in land management
- Assist in the search for appropriate SLM technologies and approaches
- Support decision-making in the field and at the planning level and in up-scaling identified best practices

The network is hosted by the WOCAT Secretariat at the University of Bern/CDE and strategically guided by a Steering Committee of eight Consortium Partners (CDE, CIAT, FAO, GIZ, ICARDA, ICIMOD, ISRIC, SDC). For further information or support on SLM reporting in the WOCAT SLM database, contact the WOCAT Secretariat at wocat@cde.unibe.ch.

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