



PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED MAINSTREAMING AND ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Land degradation affects a considerable amount of agricultural area around the world, with nearly 2 billion ha estimated to be seriously degraded, in some cases, irreversibly so. Critically, land degradation reduces productivity and food security, disrupts vital ecosystem functions, negatively affects biodiversity and water resources, and increases carbon emissions and vulnerability to climate change. Despite this, there is limited documentation and evidence of the range of benefits generated by sustainable land management (SLM) practices across farming systems, which are ultimately necessary for convincing decision-makers to invest in these measures. Using a collaborative approach involving FAO, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and selected partners in the 15 participating countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan), this GEF-funded project focused on better understanding land degradation status, drivers and threats, and creating decision-support tools for combatting desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and promoting SLM.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The mainstreaming and scaling up of SLM within target countries was largely achieved through implementation of the Decision Support Framework (DSF) developed under the project. The DSF served to adapt global project goals to the specific contexts of target countries, guiding the process of evidence-based decision-making, through its seven modules, from the national to local level. Land degradation assessments were conducted in 14 countries, leading to the identification of SLM options that can be mainstreamed into future programmes and policies. Subsequently, 12 countries successfully formulated an SLM mainstreaming strategy and integrated SLM and DLDD into their planning processes. In addition, the project supported capacity development and experiencing sharing on SLM and DLDD through a series of regional South–South cooperation events. All countries identified demonstration areas for scaling up SLM efforts, while 12 countries were successfully applying SLM to their land use planning processes through the landscape plans developed under the project. Over 420 people across target countries acquired SLM demonstration, training and awareness-raising skills, while the national capacity of all countries to identify and document SLM practices was strengthened through specialized workshops on WOCAT methodologies and tools. Consequently, all countries were able to utilize the global SLM database to inform decision-making processes and identify broadly applicable SLM best practices. A total of 71 practices and approaches from 7 countries were uploaded onto the SLM database, while 40 additional datasets from 6 other countries were under peer review. Moreover, guidelines for harmonized approaches and standardized methods in assessing land management systems and supporting the scaling up of SLM practices were developed and made available.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 6 116 730

Duration

May 2015 – October 2019

Resource Partner

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Beneficiaries

Local, national and regional decision-making bodies and technical personnel concerned with sustainable land management



IMPACT

The project has contributed to combatting DLDD in target countries through supporting the adoption of context-specific SLM best practices using evidence-based and informed decision-making.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The global scope of the project led to a broad range of activities being implemented across target countries. These included the (i) formulation of mainstreaming strategies that were specific to national contexts; (ii) assessment of land degradation and development of land use system maps; (iii) selection of landscapes for scaling up SLM efforts; (iv) delivery of subnational trainings, workshops and consultations, and assessment of local contexts; (v) preparation of territorial plans within national strategies; (vi) implementation of SLM pilot activities, demonstrations and capacity development efforts; and (vii) delivery of training on knowledge management systems and publication of documents that strengthen broader SLM adoption.



Partners

World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies; *Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la República Argentina* (Argentina); Ministry of Agriculture (Bangladesh); (i) Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry and (ii) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (Bosnia and Herzegovina); State Forestry Administration (China); *Unidad de Planificación Rural Agropecuaria* (Colombia); *Ministerio del Ambiente* (Ecuador); Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation (Lesotho); *Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification* (Morocco); Federal Ministry of Environment (Nigeria); *Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente* (Panama); Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Department of Agriculture (Philippines); Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Thailand); Ministry of Agriculture (Tunisia); Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Turkey); and Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (Uzbekistan)

Project Code

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Donor: 4922

Project Title

Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling Up of Sustainable Land Management

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