

# Appraising and Selecting SLM Strategies

A methodology based on stakeholder participation and global best practices

Gudrun Schwilch, Felicitas Bachmann, Ernst Gabathuler, Hanspeter Liniger,  
Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland; gudrun.schwilch@cde.unibe.ch

**Imagine:** You are an agricultural advisor and you need solutions to:



- improve water availability or
- prevent dam siltation or
- adapt to climate variability and change or
- combat desertification and land degradation.

- How and where can you find best practices, proven strategies, new ideas?
- How can you proceed in appraising and selecting strategies?

We have developed a **three-part procedure** for identification, assessment and selection of strategies

## Part I - Identification

Identify existing and potential SLM strategies using a participatory learning approach (Stakeholder Workshop 1)



Identifying land degradation and conservation measures with the help of photographs and the water and biomass cycles

Learning together in the local context and selecting promising technologies and approaches for further assessment

This methodology was developed by the EU project DESIRE in collaboration with WOCAT

The complete methodology is being tested by DESIRE in 16 study sites around the world and will be used in various WOCAT initiatives.

Further testing and application is welcome!

## Part II - Assessment

Evaluate, document and share strategies with standardised questionnaires



Interaction between land users and experts using WOCAT questionnaires which help to understand the reasons behind successful local experiences

Standardisation allows adding to and sharing of experiences worldwide through the WOCAT database

## DESIRE

Desertification mitigation and remediation of land – a global approach for local solutions (EU FP6; [www.desire-project.eu](http://www.desire-project.eu))

## WOCAT

World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies ([www.wocat.net](http://www.wocat.net))

## Part III - Selection

Select the most promising strategies with a decision support tool (Stakeholder Workshop 2)



Selection of options is based on a search of the WOCAT database, leading through a series of key questions.

Setting criteria, scoring, and the decision making process are supported by software for multi-objective decision support (MODSS).

Both tools are embedded into a stakeholder workshop, continuing the 'learning for sustainability' approach.

## A coherent and comprehensive process

- from initial co-learning among main stakeholders
- to participatory appraisal of existing field experience and
- to the selection and decision-making for implementation.

With the approach proposed here, it can be hypothesised that selected measures are ecologically effective, socially acceptable, and financially viable, and thus have a high chance of successful implementation!



World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

