

Regional Workshop for Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange for the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Management and Land Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Background:

Between 2015 and 2019, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) collaborated for the implementation of the global project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) "[Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling Out Sustainable Land Management \(DS-SLM\)](#)". The objective of the project was to contribute to combating desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) worldwide through scaling up sustainable land management (SLM) best practices based on evidence based and informed decision making. Various countries participated in it, including Ecuador, Argentina and Panama.

During the final workshop of the DS-SLM project in Ankara (April 2019), the countries emphasized the need to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and capacities, with the support of FAO and WOCAT to continue strengthening South-South cooperation on issues related to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), as well as innovative financial mechanisms. Likewise, **the importance of South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange to achieve LDN was emphasized by countries during the UNCCD COP15 in Abidjan.**

Consequently, in order to move forward with a South-South initiative for knowledge exchange on best practices for SLM and land restoration, a series of workshops and consultations with countries are being organized to contribute to the establishment of knowledge exchange networks on Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Management and Restoration.

Given the current context, in which **countries are preparing their national reports for UNCCD, which includes the estimation of indicator 15.3.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "Proportion of degraded land over total area"**, and given the technical difficulties to map land degradation, we consider it opportune to organize a first instance of exchange on the strategies, difficulties and solutions found by countries to map land degradation in a reliable way.

Therefore, the Governments of Argentina, Ecuador and Panama, with the support of WOCAT and FAO, are organizing a workshop for the exchange of knowledge to capitalize on lessons learned and good practices regarding the development of the PRAIS4 Report for the UNCCD.

Workshop objective

To exchange experiences, needs, and strategies of countries of Latin American and the Caribbean, regarding the mapping and monitoring of land degradation and the estimation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1, in order to strengthen the technical collaboration within the region in the context of the preparation of the National Reports to the UNCCD.

Specific objectives:

- Present the experiences of three countries in the region regarding the systematization of information and monitoring of LDN.
- Compare the default estimates of land productivity dynamics with other available alternatives.
- Understand the processes carried out by the exhibiting countries, in relation to the preparation of their National Reports, identifying the bottlenecks they encountered and the responses they gave to them.
- Generate an environment for the exchange of the methodologies and tools used by the participating countries in the context of preparing PRAIS4 reports.

Date and Time:

Wednesday, November 30th, from 9 to 12 hs UTC-5 (Panama) / 11 to 2 UTC-3 (Buenos Aires)

Link to ZOOM platform: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83590894584>

Meeting ID : 835 9089 4584

Participants in this first Workshop: UNCCD Focal Points and Science and Technology Correspondents, and whomever they wish to convene.

Agenda:

Time (GMT -5)	Time (GMT -3)	Activity	Responsible
9:00 – 9:10	11:00 – 11:10	Opening of the event	Nicole Harari (WOCAT) & Aurelie Bres (FAO)
9:10 – 9:40	11:10 – 11:40	LDN mapping and monitoring: how to improve SDG 15.3.1 estimation	Ingrid Teich (WOCAT)
9:40 - 10:10	11:40 - 12:10	Ecuador's strategy to map land degradation in the context of PRAIS4	Pablo Caza (MAATE Ecuador)
10:10 – 10:40	12:10 – 12:40	LDN monitoring and mapping for Strategic Objective 1 in Argentina	Ma. Laura Corso & Gabriela Parmuchi (MAyDS)
10:40 – 11:10	12:40 – 13:10	Experience related to LDN and its link with the PRASI4 National Report in Panama	Karima Lince & Joel Jaramillo López (Minambiente Panamá)
11:10 – 11:50	13:10 – 13:50	Exchange and discussion	Group Work
11:50 - 12.00	13:50 - 14.00	Conclusions and closing of the event	Ingrid Teich (WOCAT)

Expected results:

- Strengthen communication and collaboration between LAC Member Countries to share methodologies, experiences and identify possible synergies through the integration of tools on LDN, MST, Land Restoration (RT), among others.
- Share the experiences of Ecuador, Panama and Argentina on how these countries implement these frameworks/methodologies seeking to exchange the lessons learned with other countries.
- Identify the next steps necessary to capitalize on the work carried out by each of the countries, improve synergies, opportunities and integration of future work between them and define preferences in relation to the different knowledge exchange mechanisms (such as forming a virtual network exchange of experiences and practices; physical and/or virtual meetings; field training, field visits, expert visits, learning routes, among others).