LAND TENURE FOR SLM MODULE

Guidance for implementation

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What is the Land tenure for SLM Module?

It is a WOCAT tool that supports land tenure integration into SLM practices. It links the existing and future body of knowledge captured in the WOCAT Global SLM Database to the nine VGGT pathways.

The Module takes a people-centered approach to identifying land tenure priorities to enable the adoption of SLM practices (Technologies and Approaches). It assesses how the tenure governance system in the practice area serves the tenure needs of the community and how these needs are changing because of the SLM practice.

It guides communities in linking their observations to the VGGT Pathways to prioritize areas for integration of tenure actions in future SLM activities. The ensuing recommendations focus on the practice's territory/ location/ area and identify options for integrating tenure actions in future practice activities.

Why a Land tenure for SLM Module?

The 14th & 15th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has acknowledged the importance of governance of tenure to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and requested the UNCCD secretariat work with FAO on the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of

Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) into the implementation of the UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

The Technical Guide identified nine VGGT-based "pathways" to address land tenure challenges when implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and LDN practices.

FAO has partnered with WOCAT (the World Overview on Conservation Approaches and Technologies), the manager of the world's largest repository of field-tested SLM data, the "Global SLM Database". The database aims to share and spread land management knowledge, support evidence-based decision-making, and scale up identified good SLM practices, thereby contributing to avoiding, preventing, reducing, and reversing land degradation and restoring degraded land.
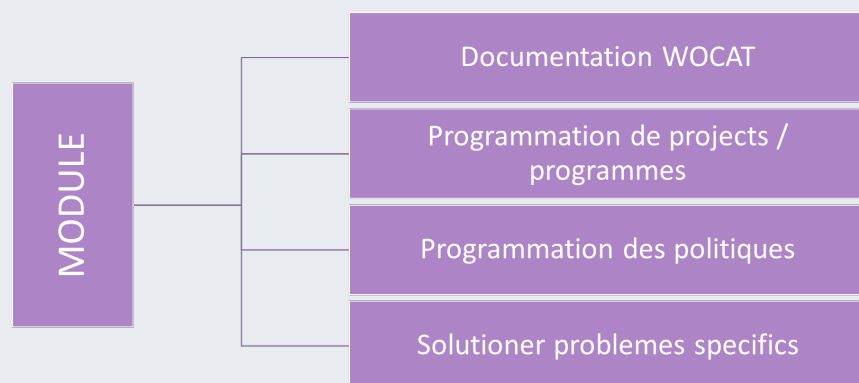
FAO and WOCAT have identified a gap in the Global SLM Database, showing that the current tools to document SLM technologies and approaches are not designed to capture how tenure governance interventions can contribute to addressing land degradation. This "Land Tenure for SLM Module" has been developed to address this gap and integrate the land tenure dimension into the (WOCAT) Global SLM Database.

The Module can be used as an add-on to an existing SLM Technology and Approach to add the tenure dimension or as a 'stand-alone' tool to facilitate tenure integration in the context of SLM initiatives (practices, projects, or programmes).

The Module's **questionnaire** is complemented by a **Literature Review** and **Key Informant Interviews** with national and local level stakeholders to capture the legal and policy frameworks, the land administration and governance systems, the national strategies for land, and to assess tenure capacity and identify information gaps.

The Module is for you if...

You are an SLM practitioner, programme manager, or decision-maker interested in the interaction between tenure and SLM.

MODULE	Documentation WOCAT
	Programmation de projects / programmes
	Programmation des politiques
	Solutioner problemes specifics

✓ You have documented or are in the process of documenting an SLM practice that (1) integrates tenure considerations, (2) is facing tenure challenges, (3) has identified tenure as a future priority.

✓ You are designing an SLM project or program and (1) are not sure if tenure should be prioritized and how; (2) want to assess tenure risks and mitigating strategies; (3) have identified tenure as a priority.

✓ You are working on the formulation of a new SLM or tenure policy and (1) want to understand better the people's perception of the interaction between tenure and SLM; (2) are aware of tenure challenges for SLM in general but want to understand the different perceived impact on different SLM practices; (3) have identified tenure as a SLM priority.

✓ You identified tenure challenges that are a bottleneck to implementing your SLM practice and want to identify people-centered solutions to address them.

What are the key success factors for the Module implementation?

A clear demand

This exercise requires an investment of time and resources; it is essential that the implementer and participants see how it can contribute to their work and lives. The apparent demand, the ownership over the process, and the delivery of concrete programmatic outcomes are fundamental prerequisites to implementation.

The team

The Module's execution requires mobilizing a team of facilitators who have access to the communities, speak the local language, and understand the local context.

In the Madagascar pilot, a team of Project field staff implemented the questionnaire. All staff held University degrees related to SLM and had experience with surveys and data collection.

Even more importantly, the team had already worked with the communities under the projects. The Module implementation provided an opportunity to enhance their land tenure capacity.

Types and extent of land tenure support

Land tenure support is required for Module implementation. The extent and quality of this support should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. It depends on the identified specific objective, the implementing team, the participants' tenure capacity, the availability of resources, and context-specific needs.

It can go from light remote support at critical stages of the exercise, to a more consistent effort that aims to increase the overall tenure capacity of the implementers, support program design and policy development, or ease program implementation.

In general terms, using the Module for WOCAT documentation should require minimal technical tenure support. In contrast, the need for technical tenure support for programming, policymaking, and troubleshooting is expected to be higher.

Tenure support activities required for each implementation should defined individually. **To determine the extent of support you require and define the role the land tenure specialist will play, you should identify the tenure needs associated with each of the below activities:**

- ✓ **ID the demand** or translate the need into a specific tenure question that the Module can help respond to.

- ✓ **Guide/perform** the literature review. The literature review is essential to the exercise because it increases the implementers' knowledge of the legal and policy framework.

- ✓ **Field visit and rapid tenure assessment.** There are instances where land-related information is not available, where there seem to be discrepancies between the projects or beneficiaries' perceptions and the information, or with a high level of complexity due to factors such as abrupt changes in land use, displacement, rampant or violent land disputes, or climate change effects. In such instances, it might be beneficial to perform a rapid tenure assessment in preparation or to complement the survey.

- ✓ **Adapt the questionnaire.** The questionnaire adaptation for WOCAT documentation purposes will ensure the questions are relevant and accessible in the specific

The example of MADAGASCAR at a GLANCE

One learning institution
High land use and management capacity
2 Projects,
2 SLM practices
On-going WOCAT documentation
12 villages
60 FGD
5 women only; 22 men only; 33 mixed
240 participants, 64 female, 176 male

1 month
data-collection
4 teams
8 facilitators & 1 supervisor

context. When the Module is implemented for a different purpose, only the relevant sections of the questionnaire should be selected, adapted, complemented as required, and implemented.

- ✓ **Train the team** on data collection and land tenure. While when the questionnaire is implemented in a project or programme context, it is probable that the team will have experience with data collection, they will not necessarily have enough tenure knowledge. It is critical to strengthen the team's capacity on land tenure, including basic VGGT concepts of tenure governance, legitimate land rights, inclusion and participation, etc.

- ✓ **Restitution and recommendations based on Pathways.** As part of the survey process, the respondents are encouraged in Chapter 4 to reflect on possible avenues to address their tenure needs. But, depending on their tenure knowledge and awareness level, they might require support. In this case, the team can formulate recommendations for action and validate them as part of the restitution process.

- ✓ **Analyze the data.** The data from the survey can be analyzed for the specific purpose of the implementer. To establish the tenure context, to evaluate the impact of tenure or a land use practice, to provide options for the participants to address the tenure issues they identified, for risk assessment and mitigation, for project or programme design, or to inform a tenure policy dialogue. Each purpose will entail a different level of complexity and will require different levels of tenure expertise.

Outcomes

The analysis of the results will provide data on:
- ✓ FGD participants' profiles
- ✓ Perceptions of land-related challenges, priorities, and linkages between land use and land tenure, tenure security, Decision making

- ✓ Information on land use, types of land, Tenure security, tenure governance, land disputes, Land dispute resolution

Testing the Module, next steps

The Land Tenure for the SLM Module's primary objective was to serve as an **add-on to the WOCAT Global SLM Database**. Its relevance, accessibility, and effectiveness in this context have been tested in Madagascar.

The second Module objective was to serve as a **stand-alone tool to integrate land tenure in the practice project, programme, or policy decision-making.**

The future Pilot/s will test the Module's effectiveness for situation assessment, planning, conflict management, and risk identification and mitigation in the project context. Verify if Chapter/s relevant to the assignment can be separated and used for programming outside the scope of the WOCAT documentation as per the intended design.

Specific objectives include tenure risk identification and mitigation, land conflicts mitigation, increased tenure security for increased sustainability of results, or taking stock of how land tenure affects the Project. The Module in this context can be implemented at any stage of the Project or Programme, from inception and design to the final evaluation and exit strategy phases.

In the case of **policy processes**, the Module can help take stock of the situation on the ground, explore the linkages between SLM and tenure in the specific context, and identify policy recommendations at the local level that can feed into the policy process.

Feedback from the Pilot on the above objectives will inform the final review and finalization of the Module.

Are you interested in finding out more?

You can request a copy of the English or French draft of the WOCAT Land Tenure for the SLM Module by writing to …..

Suppose you think the Module could be helpful to achieve your organization's objectives and want to engage with the pilots. You can contact the WOCAT Secretariat and discuss options for implementation…..