



## Announcement and Call for Abstracts

### Up- and Out-scaling Sustainable Land Management and Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality

### WOCAT Symposium and 19th WOCAT Network Meeting

Ethiopia, 13 to 16 May 2019



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## Meeting Invitation and Thematic Scope

The Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, CIAT, WLRC and WOCAT jointly invite participants to the WOCAT Symposium and the 19th WOCAT Network Meeting. The aim of the event is to bring together a wide range of WOCAT members and stakeholders to share and discuss their experiences and findings on how WOCAT has been used in the past and how it could be used in the future for up- and out-scaling Sustainable Land Management and for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality and other Sustainable Development Goals. From the perspective of WOCAT, this meeting will be also very crucial to pave the way forward beyond the end of the current WOCAT phase in 2019. With WOCAT being externally evaluated in the first half of this year, the WOCAT Symposium/Network Meeting will provide a major foundation for this evaluation.

The WOCAT Symposium and the 19th WOCAT Network Meeting has its thematic focus on 'Up- and Out-scaling Sustainable Land Management and Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality'. Sustainable Land Management (SLM) provides the foundation for ensuring food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, preventing and reducing natural disasters, and maintaining and protecting biodiversity. SLM therefore is essential for preventing and reducing land degradation, and for restoring degraded land. As such, SLM can be considered a key element for achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development - particularly for SDG 15 on sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and SDG target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (ICCD/COP(12)/20/Add.1:decision 3/COP.12, UNCCD COP12) - as well as in the LDN initiative by the UNCCD.

The LDN initiative is intended for countries to halt the ongoing loss of healthy land caused by degradation which affects more than 3.2 billion people (IPBES 2018). LDN creates a target for managing land degradation, through a dual-pronged approach of measures to avoid or reduce degradation of land, combined with measures to reverse past degradation. Many countries have set LDN targets which they will need to achieve by 2030. Countries all over the world must take action for halting and reversing land degradation in order to protect and sustain ecosystem services and biodiversity and to ensure human well-being, contributing to achieving the SDGs.

WOCAT (the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies [www.wocat.net](http://www.wocat.net)) as a global network of SLM specialists contributes to SLM and LDN by sharing and evaluating knowledge and promoting the use of standardized methods and tools to document and evaluate SLM in view of evidence-based decision-making. The Global SLM Database of WOCAT (<https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/>) is recognized by the UNCCD as the primary recommended database for best practices on SLM.

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## **Part 1: WOCAT Symposium – Monday 13 May 2019 (1 day)**

### **Main goal:**

To learn about innovative and proven approaches and initiatives towards up- and out-scaling SLM and achieving LDN and define ways for integrating existing methods and tools and expertise from countries and partners, to use synergies and achieve results more effectively. The Symposium is open to all interested institutions and experts.

### **Main topics:**

**1 Dealing with drivers.** How to address hindering factors and take advantage of opportunities for upscaling SLM and achieving LDN?

- Present and discuss the factors and drivers that determine whether SLM can be up- and out-scaled and LDN achieved and reflect on how they can be identified, analysed and addressed in order to turn them into opportunities. Consider a wide spectrum of enabling and hindering conditions and scaling instruments such as socio-economic aspects, policy context, economy and value chains, knowledge management, and other aspects that are relevant in this regard.

**2 Innovative pathways.** How to integrate innovative SLM and LDN pathways into successful up- and out-scaling initiatives?

- Present and discuss concrete examples of tested pathways and approaches, including methods and tools, their implementation and impacts, and their ability to foster scaling of SLM and achievement of LDN. Discuss and identify ways on how they can be harmonized to achieve the best possible results more effectively.

**3 Community of practice.** How can WOCAT, partner organizations and other institutions work better together to support the up- and outscaling of SLM and achieving LDN?

- WOCAT, partner organizations and other institutions will present ongoing and planned initiatives in support of scaling SLM and achieving LDN, and discuss and identify possible synergies and strategic partnerships for achieving better results more effectively.

### **Call for abstracts**

Participants are invited to submit a short abstract (max. 400 words) in English for a thematic contribution (plenary or poster presentation). Presentations shall address at least one of the above listed main topics, illustrate it through a concrete example and derive conclusions that are of relevance for the community.

### **Abstract submission and deadline**

Please submit the abstract through the [online registration form](#). The submission deadline is **Friday, 12 April 2019**.

### **Review process for abstracts**

The submitted abstracts will go through a review process led by the organizing institutions. The authors will be notified about the acceptance or rejection of their submissions towards the end of April 2019.

In addition to the thematic contributions, there will be a launch of new products so for example ‘Sustainable rangeland management in Sub-Saharan Africa - Guidelines to good practice’ as well as other new products from the countries and from partners.

### **Part 2: Field day – Tuesday 14 May 2019 (1 day)**

A field day to showcase successful SLM implementation and achievements and impacts of applying WOCAT tools and methods in Ethiopia will be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, CIAT and WLRC. The field day is open to all interested institutions and experts. Further details will be announced in due course.

### **Part 3: 19th WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) – Wednesday 15 to Thursday 16 May 2019 (2 days)**

The WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) will follow the Symposium and field day. This year’s WNM will be a closed meeting: we have invited a small group of experts with a rich experience in the WOCAT network and in working with WOCAT methods and tools. The expert group will evaluate the achievements and experiences made so far in applying WOCAT in the different countries and projects, and contribute to shaping the future of WOCAT as of 2020 to address the needs of countries, projects and other partners.

The WNM sessions and thematic contributions will be developed and included in the programme that will be shared in due course.

## **Organizational information**

### **Venue**

The WOCAT Symposium and the 19th WOCAT Network Meeting (WNM) will be held at

**Nexus Hotel**  
**Gerji Mebrathaile Street**  
**Addis Ababa**  
**Ethiopia**  
**Tel: +251-116-670-067**  
**Fax: +251 11 667 0081**  
**Website: <https://nexusaddis.com/>**

Contact persons for the meeting at the venue (coordination & logistics):

Name	Telephone	Email
1.Girma Gebrehawariat	+251920498498 or +251911212821	<a href="mailto:girma_ght@yahoo.com">girma_ght@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:girma.ght@gmail.com">girma.ght@gmail.com</a>
2.Kinfe Bekabil	+251911193610	<a href="mailto:kinfumz@yahoo.com">kinfumz@yahoo.com</a>

### **Date**

Monday 13 May - Thursday 16 May 2019

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## Arrival

Participants should arrive on **Sunday 12 May** at Bole international airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (and shuttle service will be provided by the hotel).

The Bole international airport is located only 5 minutes away from the Nexus Hotel.

## Departure

Plan your departure for Friday 17 May 2019.

## Visa requirements

The vast majority of travelers need a visa for Ethiopia to be able to enter. Citizens of Kenya can enter without a visa for periods of up to a year and citizens of Djibouti can enter for a period of up to three (3) months visa-free. These are the only two visa-exempt nationalities.

The Ethiopia eVisa has effectively eliminated the need to queue at the border for a visa on arrival as the application can be completed in advance. The eVisa is available to citizens, from every country, whose passports have at least six months remaining from the date of arrival in Ethiopia.

Apply here for the Ethiopia eVisa <https://www.ethiopiaonlinevisa.com/> After the Ethiopian visa application form has been submitted the information provided is screened by the Ethiopian authorities. The vast majority of applications will be approved within 24 hours. In rare cases, the Ethiopia visa application process can take up to 72 hours to process. To minimize the chances of delays, applicants should ensure that all the information is entered accurately and that no sections are left incomplete.

## Language of event

The language of the event will be English. Spanish-English translation will be provided.

## Organiser / Host

The WOCAT Symposium and the 19<sup>th</sup> WNM will be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia and jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, CIAT, WLRC and the WOCAT Secretariat.

## Participants

We invite WOCAT members and a broad range of stakeholders working in the field of SLM and LDN at the local, national, and international level. We hope to welcome many of you.

## Cost

We will charge a registration fee to be paid in USD and in cash at the venue at the beginning of the meeting. The registration cost DOES NOT include accommodation costs.

### Registration cost is as follows:

USD 100 (covering meals including dinner and lunch at Nexus hotel, starting from Sunday evening 12 May until Thursday evening 16 May)

## Accommodation

All participants will be accommodated either at Nexus hotel or in a nearby hotel connected to the venue by shuttle service. Accommodation cost at Nexus Hotel will be USD 80 per single standard room / night (breakfast included). Other recommended nearby hotels at lower cost are Sidra International Hotel <http://www.SIDRAHOTEL.COM>, Zola International Hotel ([contact@zolahotel.com](mailto:contact@zolahotel.com)) and Blue Sky Hotel <http://blueskyhotel.com-addisababa.com/>.

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Any payments at the airport, be it for meals and lodging, will need to be in Ethiopian Birr, USD cash, approved USD personal checks and USD traveler's checks as **no credit cards are accepted**.

**According to our policy, all participants must have a health and accident insurance during the period of the meeting. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Agriculture will not assume any legal or financial responsibility related with health problems or accidents.**

### **Sponsorship**

If invited experts require funding for their participation in the meeting, they are kindly requested to contact the WOCAT Secretariat at [wocat@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:wocat@cde.unibe.ch)

### **Registration**

Please fill out the [online registration form](#) until **Friday, 12 April 2019**.

**Your registration will be confirmed. Further information such as about the programme and accommodation you will receive around end of April 2019.**

We look much forward to your participation. Your participation and input in this meeting is important for shaping the future of WOCAT and its support to upscale SLM and achieve LDN!

Yours truly,

The meeting organisers

Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Ethiopia

Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), Ethiopia

WOCAT Secretariat, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne, Switzerland