Evaluation of the cooperation between WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat

Joint management response of WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat

Overview

The evaluation report concerning the cooperation between WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat in improving accessibility to SLM best practices assesses the status of completion of the tasks set in the respective cooperation agreement, and also considers the efficiency of the cooperation as a process. It provides evidence-based information of the delivery of the cooperation products and links them with the broader context of the UNCCD aims and the work and mandates of WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat. It gives also an indication of the usefulness of the delivered products through analyzing user statistics and presenting a small number of testimonies. This information, although indicative, is an important building block for the consideration of further developments in improving the accessibility of best practices.

With regard to the cooperation process, the evaluation report identifies several factors that have affected efficiency. While noting that recently, progress has been smoother than at the beginning of the cooperation, the report suggests several measures to avoid drawbacks in the future. These measures are largely practical tools for planning and coordination, and WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat look forward to applying them in upcoming activities.

In general, the evaluation report provides a thorough account of the results of the cooperation between WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat, and useful ideas for further improvements. It is a timely input to the exchanges between WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat on potential next steps after the current cooperation agreement expires at the end of 2018.

Recommendations

Strategic recommendation 1: The UNCCD secretariat and WOCAT should continue their cooperation on SLM best practices.

<u>Management response: Accepted.</u> The SLM best practices online facility is an important tool for accessing and sharing information for implementing the UNCCD, and both the Convention secretariat and WOCAT have an interest in its maintenance and further development. As the current cooperation agreement is close to completion, the secretariat and WOCAT will consider possible new activities for collaboration. These activities will take into account the lessons learned in this evaluation and serve the aims of both partners.

Strategic recommendation 2: The UNCCD secretariat should use the UNCCD process to promote the importance and potential of collection, sharing and use of best practices.

Management response: Accepted.
The secretariat will continue to encourage the UNCCD stakeholders to use the SLM best practices in the WOCAT database and to share information of their SLM practices, i.a. through the reporting process. The secretariat will also continue to work together with WOCAT for increasing the relevance of the WOCAT best practices in relation to the UNCCD process.

Strategic recommendation 3: WOCAT should create tools to improve the access and use of the database at the country and, as possible, local levels.

Management response: Partially accepted. WOCAT will consider possible approaches to facilitate improved access and use of the submitted SLM best practices at the country and local levels based on clear needs assessment and dependent on additional resources to be secured. This may include new tools within the online facility, but it may also include support to countries in using the information contained in the database for customized distribution.

Operational recommendation 1: The UNCCD secretariat and WOCAT should ensure that the next phase of cooperation is founded on a jointly agreed framework of objectives and activities, and clear roles and responsibilities.

Management response: Accepted. Consideration of future cooperation between WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat will start with the agreement of overall objectives, and include the establishment of a detailed work programme defining the operational modalities and allocation of resources, responsibilities, tasks, main activities, outputs and schedule for the delivery of the results.

Operational recommendation 2: The UNCCD secretariat and WOCAT should establish a realistic budget for the cooperation and secure the needed resources in a timely manner.

Management response: Accepted. Closely related to the response to the operational recommendation 1 above, planning for the next phase of cooperation will include a realistic estimation of the resource needs of both WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat, early identification of related sources of funding, and definition of the roles of each in mobilizing additional resources if needed, as an integral part of the scheduled work programme.

As the activities proceed, WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat will regularly communicate on the progress made and problems envisaged, as well as on the use and status of any additional financial resources that may have been mobilized for the purposes of cooperation. WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat will also make public information of the plans and results concerning their cooperation, with the aim to leverage interest of potential partners.

Operational recommendation 3: The UNCCD secretariat and WOCAT should cooperate with other development partners active in SLM field and intensify their own joint efforts to enable cross-fertilisation, synergies and learning.

<u>Management response: Accepted.</u> WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat will actively seek information and experiences on sharing and learning from SLM best practices from their cooperation partners, with the view to using this information and experiences for related work for UNCCD implementation.

WOCAT and the UNCCD secretariat will also look for opportunities for better mutually benefiting from each other's knowledge and approaches to best practices, which may include increasing their involvement in suitable committees, workshops and processes that the other entity is organising, and further information exchange.