Using WOCAT Tools in WLRC Learning Watersheds

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1. Introduction

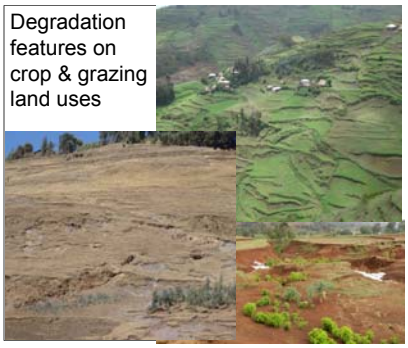
Application of WOCAT tool began within Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC) in 2012 and linked with the Learning Watershed Program. It is aimed to document best SLM practices and facilitate knowledge sharing for scaling up through the national SLM platform.

Mosaic of SLM practices in Aba Gerima and Gosh Learning Watersheds

2. Challenges

a. Land degradation emanated from soil erosion (gullies), deforestation and land fragmentation
b. Lack of participatory land use planning and harmonization of sectoral activities to integrate SLM, biodiversity, agriculture, livelihood and institutional objectives so as to achieve attractive and multiple benefits
c. Recurrent failure of the short rainy season from February to May (*belg*) and shift in rainfall pattern
d. There are inadequate standardized documentation of SLM practices and mainstreaming SLM into related national programs for targeting of technologies and approaches, and effective implementation of integrated landscape management.

Degradation features on crop & grazing land uses



3. Achievements since July 2013

1 – SLM Knowledge documentation

▸ **6 SLM Technologies applied in the Learning Watersheds documented**. Degraded area closure 9degraded lands), Gully rehabilitation and management (grazing and crop lands), Teff row planting (crop lands), Vegetated graded soil bunds (crop lands), Homestead Package (settlement), and Energy Saving Stoves.

▸ **5 SLM Approaches used in the Learning Watersheds documented.** Learning Watershed, Voluntary Community Organizations and Mobilization, Farmer-Research-Extension Group (FREG), Zero Grazing, Community based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

2 – WOCAT tool development and training / networking

▸ Landscape performance assessment framework that help to measure the performance of conservation, production, livelihood, social and institutional goals adapted to watersheds

▸ Development of field applications of SLM technologies and approaches specific to Learning Watersheds is undergoing.

3 – Most important SLM practice in your country

▸ Bunds on crop lands, area closure on degraded and grass lands, crop rotation composting, voluntary community labor mobilization for soil and water conservation and zero grazing are most important Technologies and Approaches widely applied in most parts of the country

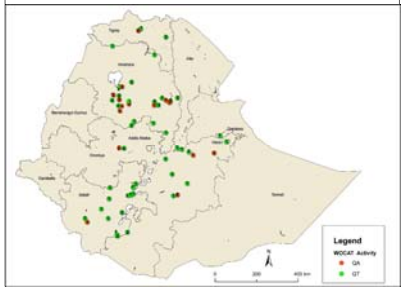
Experts engaged in the assessment of watershed performance

Area closure & terracing implemented through free community labour

4. Outlook with respect to challenges

- Streamline WOCAT into national watershed and landscape development initiatives and university graduate programs in the form of practical / seminar courses to spread its use as a knowledge management and decision support tool.
- Integrate WOCAT into the existing WLRC programs, Ethiopian Learning Landscapes Network and Learning Watersheds
- Strengthen the capacity of SLM practitioners and land users through WOCAT training and farmer to farmer extension systems
- Produce and disseminate working paper/guideline for SLM practices

WOCAT Technologies ● and Approaches ● distributed in the Ethiopian highlands



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