

Decision support framework for mainstreaming and scaling out SLM

rationale

FAO and WOCAT are key players in the global effort to combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) through establishing a knowledge-based decision-making process and supporting countries in mainstreaming and scaling out Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

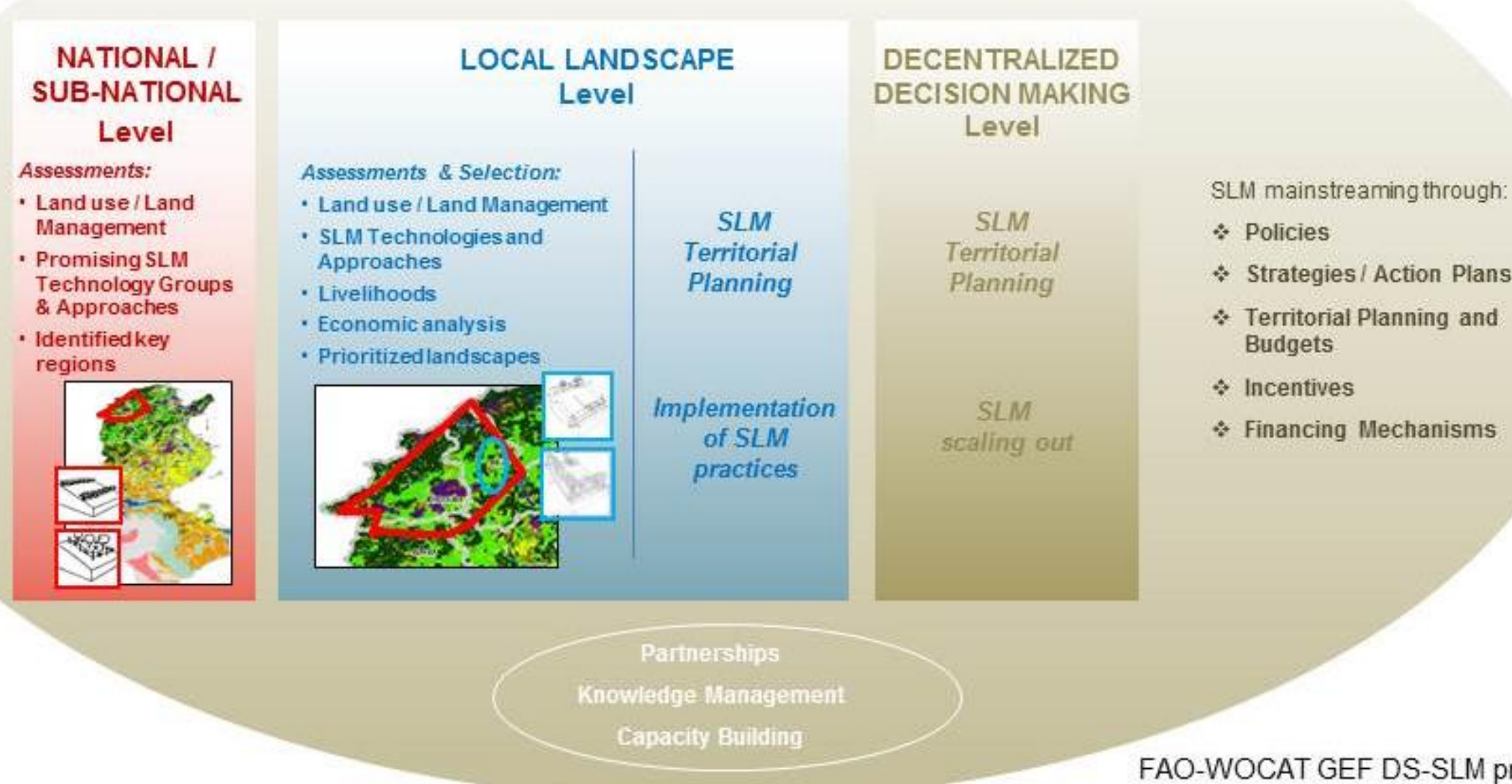
methods

A multi-level SLM decision support framework (DS-SLM) is being developed by the FAO-GEF project 'Decision support for mainstreaming and scaling out SLM' about to start in 15 countries in Africa (Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia); Asia (Bangladesh, China, Philippines, Thailand); Europe and Central Asia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Uzbekistan) and Latin America (Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama). The DS-SLM framework is based on existing WOCAT and FAO tools and methods on assessment of DLDD and SLM and identification of SLM options at various scales (based on WOCAT-LADA-DESIRE methodologies). The DPSIR (Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) and the DFID Sustainable Livelihoods frameworks are used to analyse assessment findings and inter-relations at local and national levels. Participatory approaches throughout the process will ensure full ownership of the outcomes by national partners and stakeholders at the various levels.

Decision support for SLM mainstreaming and scaling out

based on WOCAT-LADA-DESIRE methodologies

operational strategy for SLM mainstreaming and scaling out



results

The DS-SLM framework comprises three main levels of intervention: national or sub-national level, decentralized level and local landscape level. A cross-cutting operational strategy for mainstreaming and scaling out will be implemented during the project, supported through partnerships and key policy instruments. The DS-SLM framework allows different entry points for newcomers and advanced users of LADA-WOCAT tools and, according to needs, allows in-depth or less detailed assessments of DLDD and SLM as the basis for informed decision-making. Objectives, criteria and bottlenecks for scaling out SLM are identified and best practices evaluated and documented for further outreach.

1. National or sub-national assessments allow decision-makers to understand the status and trends of land resources and ecosystems, and to identify with SLM specialists, decision makers, land users and other stakeholders: a) the extent and effectiveness of SLM related responses by the range of actors; and, b) the bottlenecks, benefits and opportunities for scaling up appropriate SLM practices using a landscape approach.

2. At Landscape level the assessment is refined to obtain evidence and in-depth knowledge so to understand the effects of the main land use systems/management practices on livelihoods and ecosystem services and effectiveness of SLM responses with concerned land users and other actors. The most suitable SLM technologies and approaches are selected and support measures identified through negotiation among all stakeholders, implemented in prioritized landscapes and monitored in terms of costs, benefits and impacts to inform the scaling out strategy. Local and decentralized decision-makers are empowered through improved SLM knowledge management used for SLM territorial planning and implementation of SLM practices.

3. At the decentralized decision-making level results, bottlenecks and opportunities from the assessments and implementation at landscape level are reviewed to inform the development or improvement of decentralised and national strategies for SLM Territorial Planning and scaling out. Decision-makers are supported in developing institutional responses and capacity development plans and mechanisms for SLM integration in policy instruments and financing mechanisms. Partnerships are sought through strategies and programmes to facilitate SLM implementation and scaling out.

outcomes

The DS-SLM framework enables countries to make informed decisions for mainstreaming and scaling out SLM by providing in-depth knowledge, understanding and analysis of the effects of land use change and management, effectiveness of SLM responses, and evidence on the reasons WHY it is crucial to invest in SLM, and WHERE, HOW, WHAT and WHEN to invest. Priority SLM strategies are evaluated and selected through a compilation of knowledge and analysis, and negotiation of various options and criteria by national and local decision-makers and stakeholder groups. A modular DS-SLM framework with different entry levels allows for a wide flexibility in the application by countries according to their context and needs.