

WOCAT-LADA Tools: Assessing and Quantifying Land Degradation

18 April 2015 | Article

As a result of the great collective efforts between the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Jordan, The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Nearest, a training on the use of WOCAT-LADA tools and Restoration of degraded lands for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Jordan was held under the patronage of Dr. Radi El Tarawneh, the General Secretary of MoA, from the 13th to 16th Apr 2015 in Amman. The aim of the training was to introduce WOCAT-LADA tools and methodologies to a different stakeholders from government and non-governmental organizations in Jordan.

WOCAT has developed a well-accepted framework for documentation, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of SLM knowledge, covering all steps from data collection, to a database and to use the information for decision support. WOCAT tools provide a unique, widely accepted and standardized method of application.

WOCAT-LADA method is designed to be used by an interdisciplinary team of specialists in subjects related to land degradation, land management, land use and soil and water conservation. LADA was launched in 2000 aiming at developing methods to assess and quantify the nature, extent, severity and impacts of land degradation on ecosystems in drylands and carrying out a global assessment of land degradation.

SLM with its focus on soil structure and land cover improvements has the potential to make significant progress towards critical global sustainability goals related to Desertification Land Degradation and Drought, namely food security, energy access, and water availability. SLM practices significantly enhance soil water retention capacity and improve water availability.

Valuable experiences dealing with the sustainable development and natural resource management activities, including development in water catchment areas and combating land degradation, are made or have been gained through past and on-going national and regional initiatives in Jordan.

The programs and projects that were implemented in Jordan and related to land degradation and sustainable land management are mostly community based, and generate information and knowledge in terms of methodologies, approaches, and technical solutions to Land Degradation problems, taking account of the national and regional experience in arresting land degradation, and contributing to pursue water and biodiversity conservation.

In Jordan and with the tremendous support from MoA, IUCN ROWA succeeded in identifying an opportunity to bridge the policy implementation gap through the revival and support of the Hima system. The revival of Hima is carried out by linking communities with local government to legitimize their land management strategies, which enables communities to establish and enforce rules and regulations for rangeland resources, promoting natural re-vegetation and recovery of soil and water cycles.

During the training, the participants visited Hima Bani Hashem to witness the success of the revival of Hima system in Jordan and test the WOCAT LADA questionnaire on the ground, where they had the chance to see the Hima site and meet the local community who stand behind its success.



Opening of WOCAT LADA Tools Training
Photo: IUCN ROWA



Drylands, Livelihood and Gender Programme Manger talks about Hima Approach
Photo: IUCN ROWA



Participants in the WOCAT LADA Training Visit the packaging unit for medicinal plants in Hima Bani Hashem
Photo: IUCN ROWA



Participants' Visit to the Hima Site in Bani Hashem Villages
Photo: IUCN ROWA



Participants' Visit to the Hima Site in Bani Hashem Villages
Photo: IUCN ROWA



The participants' valuable inputs and sharing knowledge and skills during the training paved the way towards strengthening investments and building capacities for sustainable land management in Jordan.

For more information, kindly contact:

Fida Haddad, the Drylands, Livelihoods and Gender Programme
Manager at:

Fida.haddad@iucn.org