

LforS in the EU research project DESIRE



Gudrun Schwilch



- Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
- University of Bern, Switzerland
- td-net conference Geneva, 15 September 2010

WOCAT DESIRE

u^b

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT

Methodology development

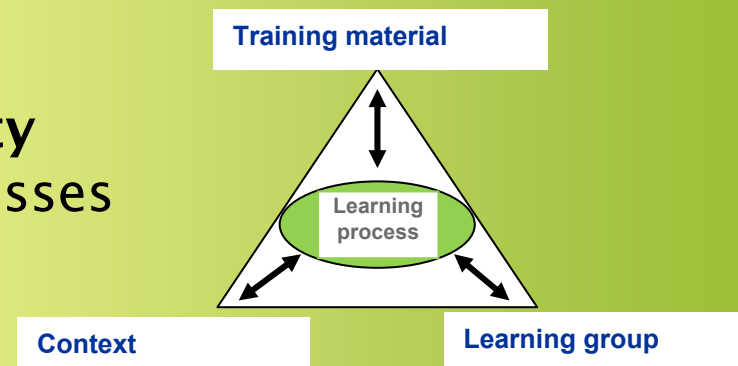
DESIRE: Desertification mitigation and remediation of land
– a global approach for local solutions
(EU FP6; www.desire-project.eu)
16 study sites



WOCAT – World Overview on Conservation Technologies and Approaches
(www.wocat.net)



Learning for Sustainability
-> social learning processes
in the local context

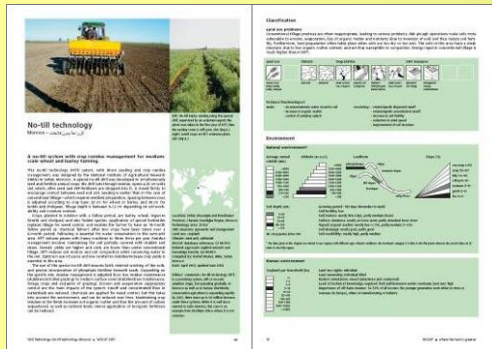


u^b

^b UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT

3-part methodological framework



- **Part I – Identification:**
Identify existing and potential strategies with a *participatory learning approach* (stakeholder workshop 1)
- **Part II – Assessment:**
Evaluate, document and share strategies with *standardised questionnaires*
- **Part III – Selection:**
Select the most promising strategies with a *decision support tool* (stakeholder workshop 2)

Part I: Identification

- 3-days local stakeholder workshop
- initiate process with LforS didactic approach
- participants:
 - a) **local stakeholders** (land users, representatives of local authorities, local NGOs etc.)
 - b) **external stakeholders**, i.e. researchers and development professionals (from NGOs, GOs etc.)



Learning together and in the context

WOCAT

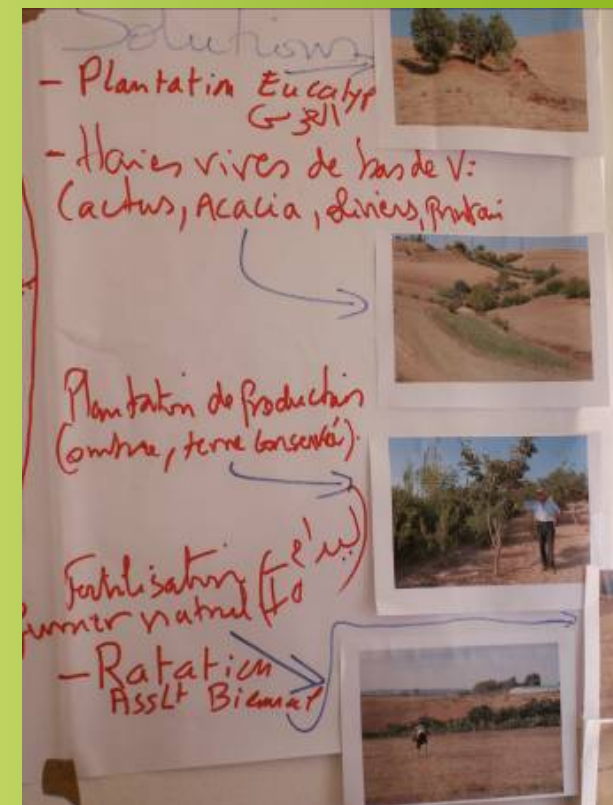
DESIRE

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT

Systemic approach

- Water and biomass cycles: to discuss and identify land management problems and solutions
- Focus on solutions right from the beginning
- Always related to the specific local context



Contents of stakeholder workshop 1:

- **Identification** of land degradation and desertification **processes**, their **causes** and **impacts** (Exercise 1 + 2)
- Identification of **local indicators** for land degradation and conservation (Exercise 3)
- Identification and first assessment of **currently applied** and of **potential prevention and mitigation strategies** (Exercise 7)
- Identification of **stakeholders**, and their roles and responsibilities concerning sustainable land management (Exercise 4)
- Working towards an outline of a coherent **overall strategy** for land conservation in the given local context (Exercise 8)



Part II: Assessment

- Based on 3-5 promising solutions identified in stakeholder workshop 1
- Use of the internationally recognized WOCAT questionnaires on SLM technologies and approaches -> help to understand and learn from own experiences
- Interactive between land users and experts
- Standard database allows sharing experiences worldwide (bases for selection and decision process)



Part III: Selection and decision

- Stakeholder Workshop 2 (2 days)
- Working through a series of steps, incl. multi-criteria evaluation, to reach decision for trial implementation
- Continuing LforS approach with same stakeholders



Synthesis on stakeholder WS

Strengths

- Valuable results
- Flexibility
- Integrating different stakeholders and initiate collaboration

Weaknesses

- Not enough attention to socio-economic constraints
- Too quick – too ‚dirty‘?

Challenges

- Demanding moderation -> selection of moderators
- Training -> mechanical application
- Role of researchers (natural and social scientists)
- Selection of workshop participants
- Application in top-down contexts
- Time constraints

Some stakeholder statements

- I liked it because it is simple, step by step. It was also fun.
- I liked most: visualization of techniques and importance in ecological, economic and socio-cultural terms. Normally we do not think in these 3 dimensions. Good way to get decision.
- The work with the photos and the way of scoring made the participants talking, but the presence of scientific people has intimidated the farmers, made it difficult for them to express
- Researcher: Some things only come out when working with the local stakeholders, which otherwise we would not consider
- Farmer: the atmosphere was relaxed. There were no conflicts, mainly because there was nothing to distribute (material).
- Everybody has learnt something from the others, it is mutual.
- Farmer: I learnt that it is better to take a decision with a group, because many ideas get together which one alone would forget.

Conclusions – critical issues

- **Complexity of methodology:**
consecutive steps building on each other
challenging for all involved partners
and especially for moderator
- **Integration of the three components of the methodology:**
continuity required from WS1 to WS2
composition of stakeholders
SLM objectives (focus of work)
- **Researchers as stakeholder**
(but moderator not!):
Researchers often wanted to teach others
Conflicting requirements of academic research and stakeholder involvement



Fogo Controlado

Portugal

Uso do fogo para cumprir um objetivo pré-definido.

Definição:
Controla-se a quantidade de queima de combustíveis. Não são queimadas de fogo. O tipo de fogo depende de objetivos locais. Para isso, fogo controlado é aplicado em ciclos de implementação e a presença de um técnico com formação específica, bem como equipas de apoio (operários, operadores florestais, ...) que controlam equipas que trabalham com água e ferramentas, meios e a ecologia da queima.

Objetivos:
- Melhorar as pastagens
- Redução da carga combustível
- Limitação da propagação de incêndios florestais

Instalação técnica especializada:
Requererem conhecimentos em condições meteorológicas, temperatura, vento e humidade para evitar os riscos potenciais de queima. No dia da queima realiza-se um trabalho de preparação e definição de objetivos para todos os intervenientes. A queima do fogo deve ser feita com regras práticas: a de contra vento e de contra fumo, cumprindo estas condições sendo obrigatório ao operador e instalados locais de queima que devem definir a área a queimar. Estas áreas podem estar separadas entre si, não tendo contacto com zonas de queima. A duração da queima depende da capacidade da zona a tratar para o fogo.

O planeamento do fogo controlado é baseado nos dados do solo, estado de total humidade, da temperatura, e implementação de estado de queima, sendo que as condições atmosféricas devem ser favoráveis e os combustíveis a queimar devem estar secos, ou caso não seja possível, humidade deve ser controlada a queima.

Atenção especial:
Nos climas mediterrâneos, o fogo é um elemento de manutenção natural da paisagem. A sua introdução controlada permite melhorar os habitats florestais e melhorar as condições ambientais, a sua aplicação é feita sobre populações que vivem nesta zona com uma forma de organização social tradicional.

Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento da Agricultura e da Silvicultura (APDA)
Associação de Silvicultores de Portugal (ASIP)
Associação de Silvicultores de Portugal (ASIP)

Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento da Agricultura e da Silvicultura (APDA)
Associação de Silvicultores de Portugal (ASIP)
Associação de Silvicultores de Portugal (ASIP)



Thank you !

