

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

SECTION I: Project Information

PROJECT TITLE:	Strengthening Land Degradation Neutrality data and decision-making through open free and open access platforms		
GEF PROJECT ID:		PROJECT DURATION:	<u>30</u> months
EXECUTING AGENCY:	Conservation International		
PROJECT START DATE:	(08/2019)	PROJECT END DATE:	(03/2022)
SEP PREPARED BY:	Monica Noon		
DATE OF (RE)SUBMISSION TO CI-GEF:	4/1/2019; 7/2/2019		
SEP APPROVED BY:	Ian Kisson		
DATE OF CI-GEF APPROVAL:	07/10/2019		

SECTION II: Introduction

Introduce your Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) by providing a brief context of your project and its stakeholders, and an overview of your SEP. Limit yourself to one page.

The project will have two levels of engagement with stakeholders: 1) through global partners developing the tools to be deployed at the local level, and 2) to the local level stakeholders using these tools trained during capacity building. Local level activities will be undertaken in different geographies within the project's pilot country. The project will select a pilot country based on the range of ecoregions, and different combinations of land use practices. The pilot country will be selected from participants of the UNCCD Target Setting Program, indicating political and technical will and capabilities to address land degradation within their territory. Also, previous engagements and field experience from WOCAT, LandPKS, and Conservation International, the availability of already established well-functioning partnerships, and minimal language barriers, also contribute to selecting the best suited candidate for these activities, providing useful insights for application in other regions of the globe.

Within the pilot country, engagement with key stakeholders involved in LDN planning will occur in the early stages of the project, since their input will be fundamental for the design and final implementation of the different project elements. Actual on-the-ground activities will happen in the second half of the project, once tools are functional and documentation and training materials have been completed. Piloting activities will include: 1) Land degradation assessments to be completed using improved methods (high spatial resolution indicators and indicators for high biomass forest ecosystems, where applicable); 2) Use of the mobile application to verify remotely sensed indicators of degradation and to collect sustainable land management field data; 3) Development of a participatory LDN priority setting exercise at national or subnational level using the decision support tool; and 4) Capacity building to local land users and stakeholders on tools for planning and monitoring for LDN,

and the role sustainable land management practices play for achieving it. It will also provide the knowledge on evidence-based decision making at local and national level on implementing and scaling SLM and thus achieving LDN. Findings and experiences from pilot activities will be summarized in the form of reports highlighting lessons learned for refining the tools, their dissemination and further application in different countries.

As a way to engage our stakeholders, there will be designated representatives from the organizing partners as well as local partners, including GEF and UNCCD focal points, within the steering committee. This will ensure that they are involved from the inception stages of the project and that there is ample representation from marginalized groups.

SECTION III: Stakeholder Mapping

Stakeholder Name and Function <i>Name of the key stakeholder, and their main purpose/function</i>	Stakeholder's Interest <i>What are the stakeholder's main interests in and concerns about the project?</i>	Impact of Project on Stakeholder <i>How will the stakeholder be affected (both positively and negatively) by the project?</i>	Influence of Stakeholder <i>How can the stakeholder affect the project? Can they hinder or contribute to the success of the project?</i>	Risk Management <i>(Is this a low, medium or high-risk stakeholder? And how would you manage medium/high risk stakeholders)</i>
Government (Add rows as necessary)				
Ministry of Environment or Development in pilot country	These will be selected from the ministries where the GEF/UNCCD focal points site.	The stakeholders from this ministry will be positively affected by the project through capacity building and increased exposure to tools assisting in monitoring and reporting on LDN.	A focal point for the GEF within the Ministry will ensure that the linkages are made among the project outcomes, the mission of the ministry and the commitment to advancing GEF projects within the country.	Medium risk Engagement with this ministry is essential to streamline planning for monitoring of degradation and LDN into developmental plans. CI and partners will work with locally based counterparts to communicate with government partners.
CSOs/NGOs (Add rows as necessary)				
TBD				
Local communities (Add rows as necessary)				
TBD				
Private Sector (Add rows as necessary)				
TBD				
Academia/Others (Add rows as necessary)				
US Department of Agriculture	Investing in the existing	The stakeholder will be positively	The stakeholder will contribute to the	Low risk

(USDA)/University of Colorado/Land-Potential Knowledge System (LandPKS) <i>a mobile app supported by cloud computing that allows site-specific land-use planning, management and monitoring.</i>	technological platform of LandPKS to expand the accessibility of outputs from Trends.Earth platform and WOCAT SLM database.	impacted by integrating additional databases into their platform and expanding upon the mobile application user base.	success of the project through increased understanding, participation and support for conservation activities.	
University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) University of California Global Health Institute (UCGHI) Planetary Health Center of Expertise (PHCOE) <i>is to lead the world in research, education, and policy to coupled population-environment health challenges.</i>	The research institute will be able to directly influence how global LDN is understood and monitored by offering improved methodology for the impact of drought. This will allow the stakeholder to have their research not only publicly available, but accessible in a free, easy to use tool.	The stakeholder will be positively impacted by providing the best available methods for assessing droughts impacts on LDN with validation data piloted through direct user feedback.	The stakeholder will provide analysis to be implemented into Trends.Earth tool. This will require the stakeholder to complete their work with sufficient time for the developers to integrate into Trends.Earth. Developed relationships between the stakeholder and others ensure that there will be minimal risk to succeed in this aspect.	Low risk
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <i>Custodial agent of SDG 15.3.1 with targets for monitoring LDN progress until 2030</i>	Trends.Earth is a tool that assists in reporting SDG 15.3.1. CI has worked closely to ensure their needs and requests were covered in the first project.	UNCCD invited developers of Trends.Earth to train focal points for use of the tool to report on SDG 15.3.1 in 2018. The UNCCD will be positively impacted by the project, having an updated version with improved documentation and higher resolution inputs to monitor LDN over time.	UNCCD has provided constant communication, feedback and support of this project. CI has no reservations that the UNCCD will continue to support and contribute to the success of the project.	Low risk
World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) <i>is a global network of specialists on Sustainable Land Management (SLM), with the aim to combat land degradation and support knowledge sharing and evidence-based decision-making for promoting the implementation and</i>	WOCAT published a paper with CI on recorded SLM activities and their impact seen through Earth Observation. This generated interest to partner in order to integrate their SLM database with the current efforts to monitor and assess land degradation by CI.	WOCAT has lead efforts to understand SLM for 30 years and has extensive experience in documenting these activities on the ground. The advantage of partnering with CI, allows them to integrate an abbreviated version	WOCAT has already proved to be a partner that is readily available to communicate and discuss collaborative work. The involvement of this stakeholder strengthens the project's portfolio in SLM and LDN.	Low risk

<i>upscaling of SLM and contributing to the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).</i>		of their questionnaire on SLM into an accessible platform and mobile application.		
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SECTION IV: Stakeholder Engagement During PPG Phase

a.

Stakeholder Name	Date, Location and Method of Engagement ¹	Outcomes
<i>Name the key stakeholder contacted during PPG in this column. Add rows as necessary.</i>	<i>When and where did you meet? Was it a meeting, consultation, workshop, etc?</i>	<i>What was the aim/rationale? What was discussed? What decisions were made, if any? How did this contribute to the design of the project? If/how do they want to be engaged during the implementation phase?</i>
Daniela Raik, Senior Vice President of Americas Field Division/CI and Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich (CI)	In person meeting, CI Arlington, March 2019	Informing that a pilot location would be located within the region. Recommendations for pilot location for workshop to fit in with strategies of the Americas Field Division (CI).
Jeff Herrick (USDA LandPKS) and Jason Neff (University of Colorado)	Email correspondence, 11/09/2018, 11/13/2018, 1/13-16/2019, 2/4/2019, 2/5/2019, 3/11/2019	Discussion on the capabilities of the Benefits and current outreach of the LandPKS system. How we can integrate data collection and dissemination into the LandPKS platform.
David Lopez-Carr (UCSB)	Email correspondence, 2/6/2019	Discussion to include the drought analysis recommended by the UNCCD into Trends.Earth indicators measuring changes in productivity.
Alex Zvoleff, Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich, Monica Noon (CI) and Sasha Alexander, Pedro Lara, Sven Walter, Juan Carlos Mendoza, Camilla Nordheim-Larsen, Barron Orr (UNCCD)	Phone call, 26 February 2019	Meeting to discuss the key components of the PIF, partners and pilot country. Detailed feedback was provided to link the proposal to the future high-level targets of UNCCD for reporting and monitoring LDN following feedback from technical trainings held in 2018 and the CRIC.
Sasha Alexander, Sven Walter, Juan Carlos Mendoza, Barron Orr (UNCCD) and Alex Zvoleff (CI)	Conference, 28-30 January 2019, CRIC17 Georgetown, Guyana	CI has regularly engaged with the UNCCD since attending trainings on Trends.Earth at Regional Workshop on reporting for SDG 15.3.1 held by the UNCCD in 2018. The recommendations the UNCCD secretariat develop guidance on drought vulnerability and assessment methods so as to support parties in “enhance[ing] the role of land in drought response”.

¹ Method of engagement can be face-to-face meeting, telephone call, workshop, consultation, survey, etc.

Nicole Harari, Hanspeter Liniger, Renate Fleiner, Tatenda Lemann (WOCAT/University of Bern)	11/13/2018, 11/29/2018, 1/17/2019, 2/5/2019, 2/7/2019, 3/11/2019, 3/12/2019	Communication began with a joint peer-reviewed article between WOCAT data and Trends.Earth outputs (Gonzalez-Roglich et. al. 2019). This developed into an informal agreement to partner in the integration of the WOCAT SLM database with Trends.Earth outputs.
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b. Reporting of Indicators During PPG

Number (and name) of stakeholder groups involved in project design and preparation process	Conservation International, WOCAT, LandPKS, UCSB	
Number of people who have been involved in the project design and preparation process	Men: 7	Total: 11
	Women: 4	
Number of engagements (meetings, workshops, consultations, etc) with stakeholders during PPG phase	2 Phone calls, multiple email communications	

c. Lessons Learned during PPG:

What went well and did not go well during the stakeholder engagements? What would you continue to do or do differently during implementation phase to have better stakeholder engagements?

There is no PPG process due to the structure of the ‘Enabling Activities’ proposal. During the preparation of the PIF, we found that proactive communication with potential partners was key to drafting a proposal agreeable to all parties. All stakeholders communicated promptly and were able to contribute to the design of the project. We collectively agreed on a pilot country based on all stakeholders providing feedback and to decide how we develop the proposal. Email communication seems to be the most feasible communication, due to stakeholders working in different time zones, until the project commences and we hold the inception workshop and schedule regular phone call meetings.

SECTION V: Stakeholder Engagement for Implementation Phase

Stakeholder Name	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Resources Required	Budget
<i>Name the key stakeholder and group type to be engaged. Add columns as necessary.</i>	<i>How will you involve and engage this stakeholder? (meeting, consultation, workshop, discussion, etc)</i>	<i>Where and When will you engage with this stakeholder?</i>	<i>What materials (presentations, websites, brochures, surveys, translation) are needed? What personnel are needed to lead and monitor these engagements?</i>	<i>How much will this engagement cost? Consider resources required, staff, transportation, etc.</i>
Project partners (WOCAT, UCSB, LandPKS/USDA)	Phone call consultations and invitations to attend in-person workshops.	Inception workshop (Washington, DC), Capacity building	Presentation, brochures (e.g. project fact sheets) and updates to website will be made available.	Travel costs incorporated into project partner budgets. Communication

		workshop (pilot country)		documentation accounted for in overall budget.
UNCCD	Phone call consultations and invitations to attend in-person workshops.	Inception workshop (Washington, DC), Capacity building workshop (pilot country)	Presentation, brochures (e.g. project fact sheets) and updates to website will be made available.	Travel costs incorporated into overall budget. Communication documentation accounted for in overall budget.
Government, Ministry of Environment or Development in Pilot country	Phone call consultations and invitations to workshops.	Inception workshop (Washington, DC), Capacity building workshop (pilot country)	Will work with colleagues in the pilot country to engage on the ground. Along with the staff in country, there are technical staff in CI Washington DC who are native Spanish speakers.	Travel costs incorporated into overall budget. Salary time accounted for in overall budget to pilot country staff.
Local NGOs	Working through our contacts and contacts of other partners, we will engage with local NGOs working in relevant fields (environment, agriculture, biodiversity).	Capacity building workshop (pilot country)	Will work with colleagues in the pilot country to engage on the ground. Along with the staff in country, there are technical staff in CI Washington DC who are native Spanish speakers.	Travel costs incorporated into overall budget. Salary time accounted for in overall budget to pilot country staff.
Local research institutions (e.g. universities)	Working through our contacts and contacts of other partners, we will engage with local research institutions working in relevant fields (environment, agriculture, biodiversity).	Capacity building workshop (pilot country)	Will work with colleagues in the pilot country to engage on the ground. Along with the staff in country, there are technical staff in CI Washington DC who are native Spanish speakers.	Travel costs incorporated into overall budget. Salary time accounted for in overall budget to pilot country staff.

SECTION VI: Monitoring and Reporting

The project will report on a quarterly basis (using the CI-GEF Quarterly Reporting template), progress made towards the implementation of the SEP.

On an annual basis and using the CI-GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) template, the following CI-GEF's minimum indicators are to be reported. The project can include other appropriate stakeholder engagement indicators in addition to the CI-GEF's indicators.

Indicator	Baseline		Target	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1. Number of people (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	7	4	8	8
2. Number of stakeholder groups (government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and others) that have been involved in the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	5		10	
3. Number of engagements (meetings, workshops, consultations, etc.) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis).	3		8	
4.				

Person responsible for implementing and monitoring the SEP:	Monica Noon, Project Manager
How/Where will the approved SEP be disclosed²:	On the project website: http://trends.earth and during the inception workshop in person (Q1, Washington, DC)
When will the approved SEP be disclosed:	Following the inception workshop, after agreement by all project partners.

² Approved Safeguard plans are to be disclosed to stakeholders in a manner and form that they will understand and that is culturally appropriate. This may require translation of the document.