



## **A methodology to appraise and select strategies to mitigate desertification based on stakeholder participation and global best practices**

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The main aim of the methodology is to provide a framework for a participatory process for the appraisal and selection of options to mitigate desertification and land degradation. This methodology is being developed within the EU-project DESIRE where it allows the selection of promising conservation strategies for testing implementation in 16 desertification hotspot sites in the Mediterranean and around the world. The methodology consists of three main parts: The first part aims at identifying and listing existing prevention and mitigation strategies already applied in the DESIRE sites through workshops with representatives of different stakeholders groups (land users, technicians, policy makers, researchers, etc.). The methodology initiates a mutual learning process by sharing experience and jointly reflecting on current problems and mitigation of land degradation. In the second step the locally applied solutions that have been identified are assessed with the help of the WOCAT methodology. Comprehensive questionnaires and a database system have been developed to document and evaluate all relevant aspects of technical measures as well as implementation approaches by teams of researchers and specialists working with land users. This process allows better understanding of the reasons behind successful local experience and how to share it among various sites. The third part comprises another stakeholder workshop where promising strategies for sustainable land management are selected based on the global best practices database of WOCAT, including the locally applied strategies evaluated for the DESIRE sites. A newly developed decision support tool allows better assessment and negotiation of remediation strategies that can be applied

to any particular site.