

# The DS-SLM Sustainable Land Management Mainstreaming Tool

By

**Soledad Bastidas Fegan**

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# Acronyms

DLDD	desertification, land degradation and drought
DS-SLM	Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up Sustainable Land Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands
QA	questionnaire for approaches
QM	questionnaire for mapping
QT	questionnaire for technologies
SLM	sustainable land management
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies



# 1. Mainstreaming SLM strategies

## 1.1 CONTEXT

- The **DS-SLM Sustainable Land Management Mainstreaming Tool** has been developed as part of the Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up Sustainable Land Management (DS-SLM) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT).
- The DS-SLM project (2015 to 2018) is being implemented in 15 countries. Its aim is to support decision-making processes on sustainable land management (SLM) on the basis of national, subnational, landscape and local geographic information and participatory assessments of the drivers, pressures, status and impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and SLM best practices. The information obtained through these means is crucial for political decision making and land-management planning processes at the national and subnational levels.
- Each country participating in the DS-SLM project is expected to design an operational strategy and targeted action plan to structure and monitor activities for integrating SLM into national policy, planning and financial decisions.
- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies are a key component of the project's **DS-SLM Support Framework** (*Module 1: Operational strategy and action plan for mainstreaming and scaling out SLM*). As part of this framework, activities for mainstreaming SLM are to be developed in each country, supported by the process and findings of assessments of DLDD and SLM best practices.
- The strategy of the DS-SLM project is to remove key global, regional and national barriers to scaling up SLM through improved SLM decision support by linking sound scientific assessments of DLDD and SLM best practices with the mainstreaming of SLM priorities in national sectoral policies and investment programmes. The pathway from the use of scientific, evidence-based tools to improved decision making is not linear or straightforward, however, and the provision of information to decision makers is unlikely, on its own, to bring about a change of perspective and priorities. Therefore, strategic activities need to be undertaken to promote the integration of SLM into policy, planning and finance-related processes.

“Environmental mainstreaming” is the informed inclusion of relevant environmental concerns into the decisions and institutions that drive national, sectoral and local development policy, rules, plans, investment and action.

IIED ([www.environmental-mainstreaming.org](http://www.environmental-mainstreaming.org))

## 1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE MAINSTREAMING TOOL

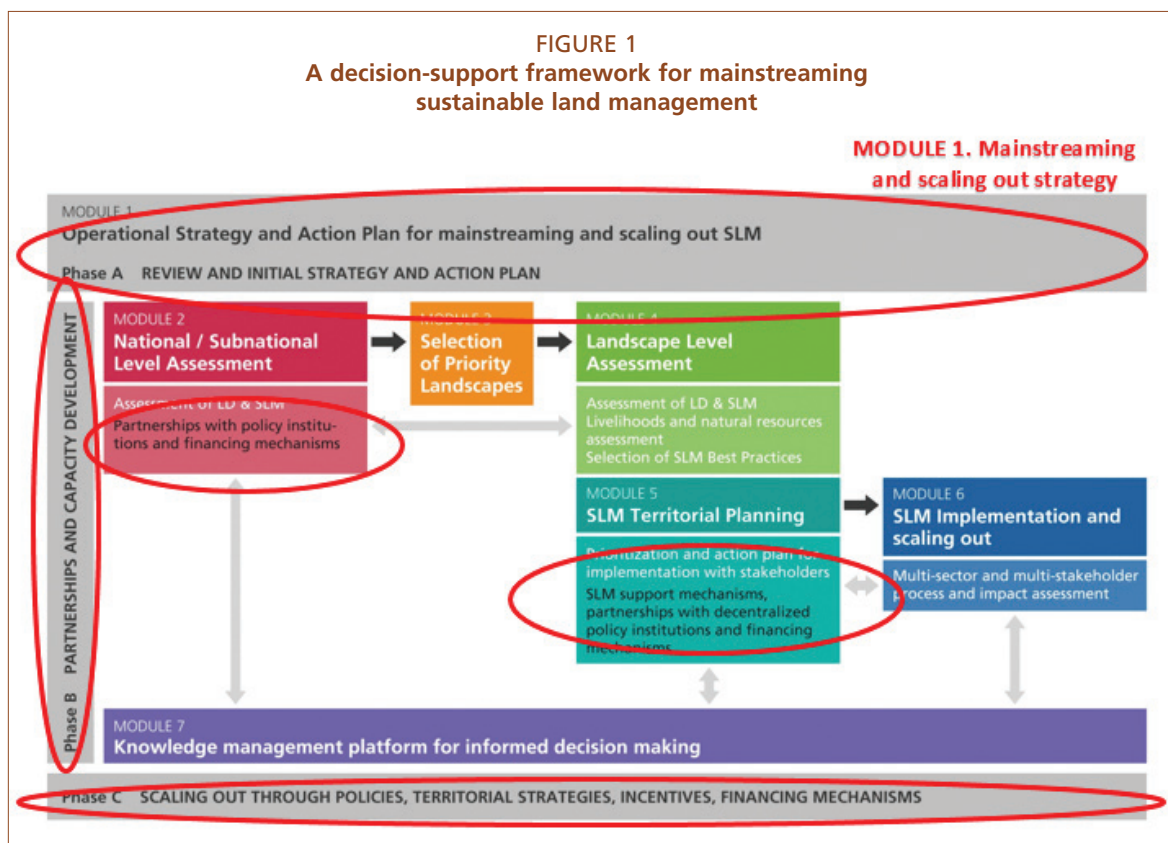
- The objective of the DS-SLM Sustainable Land Management Mainstreaming Tool is to provide elements for the design of operational strategies and action plans for mainstreaming and scaling up SLM (referred to hereafter as “DS-SLM

mainstreaming strategies”). The aim of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies is to guide DS-SLM national teams and other SLM-related projects in establishing processes for mainstreaming information on DLDD and SLM into national and subnational decision-making processes.

- The DS-SLM Sustainable Land Management Mainstreaming Tool sets out a stepwise process for designing SLM mainstreaming strategies. It focuses on the identification of key decision-making processes such as national policies, land-use and territorial planning, and financing mechanisms into which information on DLDD and SLM best practices can best be integrated. It also addresses the development – in synergy with key identified institutions – of viable mainstreaming objectives and activities.

### 1.3 THE DS-SLM PROJECT’S DECISION-SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

The DS-SLM project established a **decision-support framework** (Figure 1) based on seven modules. Module 1 of the framework involves the design of an **operational strategy and action plan for mainstreaming and scaling up SLM**. This strategy and action plan supports the process of using local and national assessments of DLDD and SLM best practices (modules 2, 3 and 4) in decision making. Module 5 is aimed at integrating SLM into land-use planning, and the aim of Module 6 is to facilitate the implementation and scaling up of SLM. Module 7 sets out knowledge-management actions to support the other modules.



### 1.4 DS-SLM MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES

Each country has its own setting of policies, institutions, programmes and schemes that determines the extent to which SLM will be taken into account in resource-management decisions. For SLM to become an active and permanent process, political, institutional, social and financial support is needed for implementing SLM and for scaling up (and



scaling out – see Figure 2) SLM technologies and approaches. This requires a conducive policy, institutional and political environment; otherwise, SLM interventions will remain isolated or implemented through projects that last for only limited periods and are usually geographically restricted to pilot areas.

Some of the inputs for the design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies are summarized below.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.5 OBJECTIVE

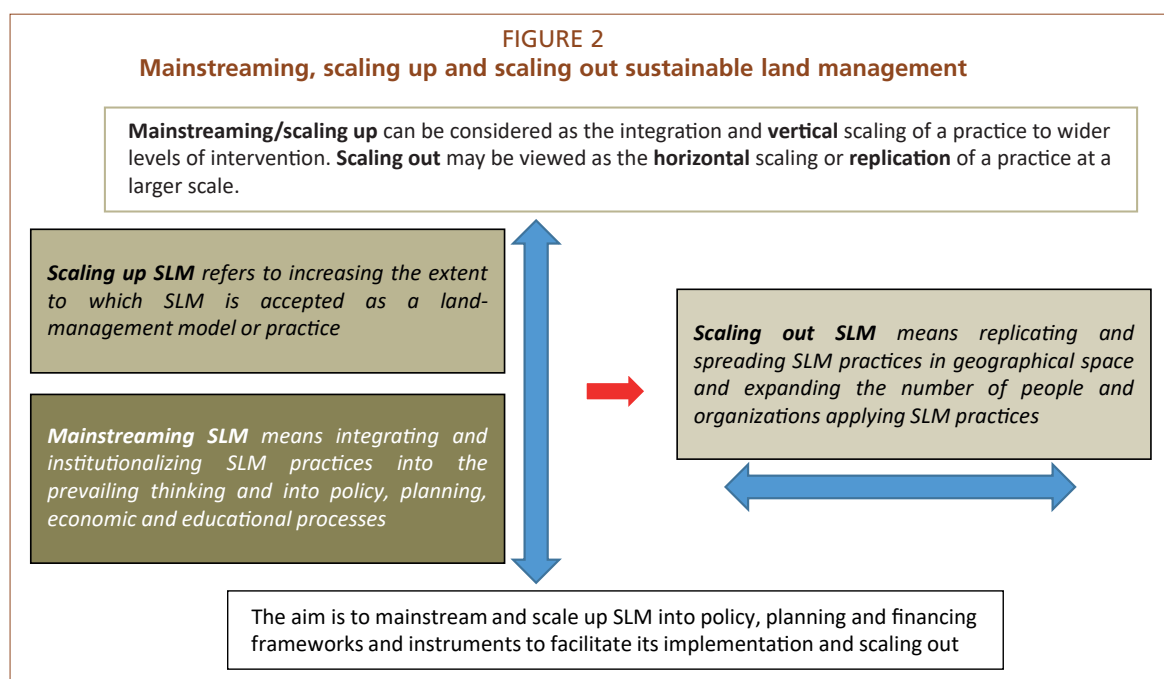
In general terms, the objective of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies is to strengthen the contributions of DLDD and SLM methodological assessments, tools and project findings to key decision-making processes for the uptake of SLM practices.

Thus, DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should:

- Establish a pathway for integrating SLM into national and decentralized policy, planning and finance related decision-making processes that can facilitate SLM implementation and scaling out.
- Establish activities for mainstreaming SLM in coordination with key institutions and stakeholders.
- Provide long-term support for the implementation of SLM.

## 1.6 MAINSTREAMING, SCALING UP AND SCALING OUT

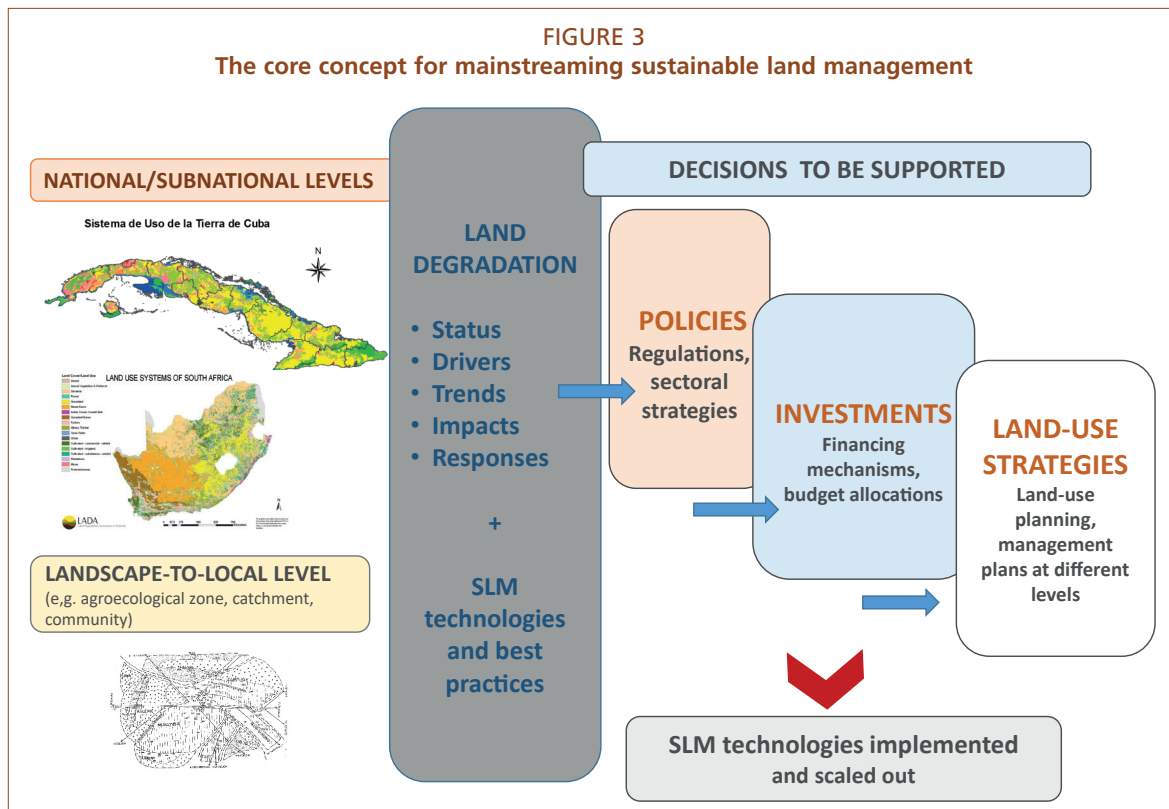
There are differences between the concepts of mainstreaming and scaling up (Figure 2). In the DS-SLM project, however, they are generally considered together under the term *mainstreaming*, with a view to better contextualizing and separating the mainstreaming/scaling-up process from the idea of implementing and replicating (“scaling out”) SLM technologies.



<sup>1</sup> See “Mainstreaming sustainable land management into national policy instruments”, an output of the DS-SLM project, for more information.

### 1.7 KEY ELEMENTS OF DS-SLM MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES

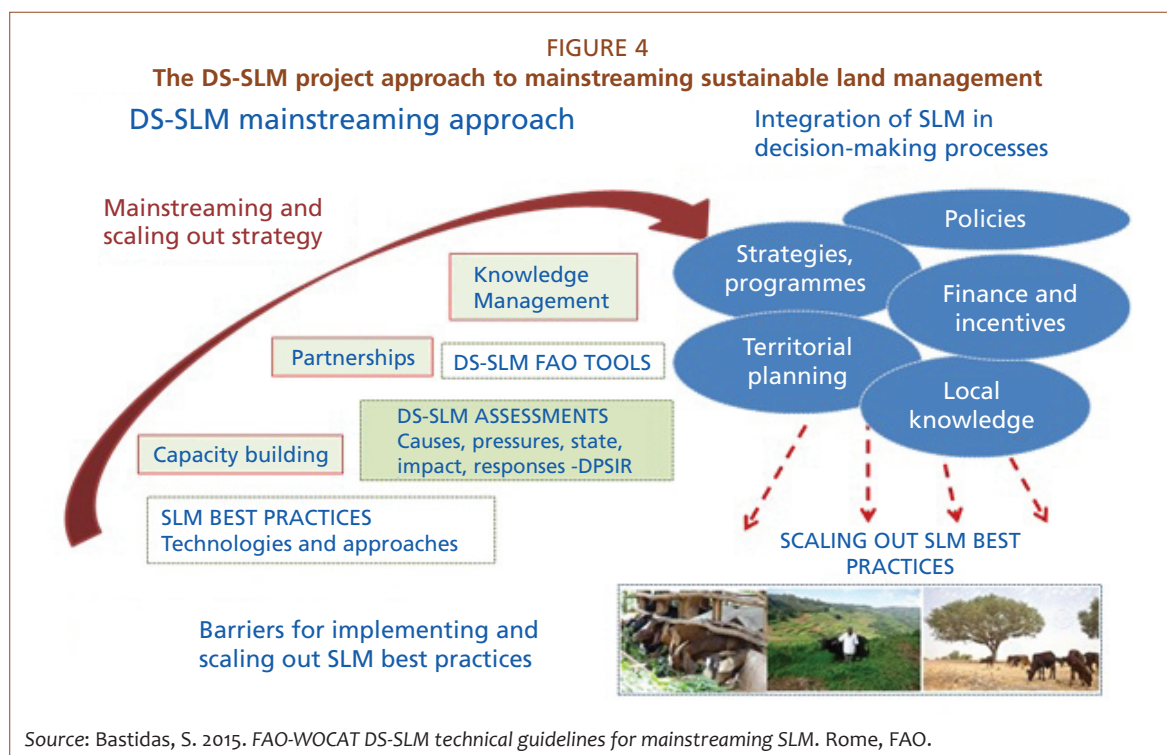
- In formulating DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies, **the idea is to go beyond the traditional approach of mainstreaming the results of pilot projects through the production of policy briefs** or by inviting relevant institutions to share project findings at events.
- A DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy should be a simple, proactive and strategic process in which activities for mainstreaming SLM are planned, developed and monitored.
- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should focus on a **few viable mainstreaming strategic objectives and activities** that the DS-SLM project team and its partners can undertake during project implementation that can integrate SLM or at least trigger a process for doing so that will have longer-term impacts – beyond the end of the project (e.g. integrating SLM into an existing incentives mechanism or integrating project findings into an existing land-use planning process).
- Figure 3 shows the core concept of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies.



- The point of departure for a mainstreaming strategy should be to **overcome barriers to the implementation of SLM** (such as a lack of incentives) by integrating SLM into key decision-making processes.
- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should focus on **knowledge management, capacity building and partnership building**.
- Assessments of DLDD and SLM best practices, together with other existing and related information, can serve as inputs for deciding why, where and for what kind of practices incentives should be oriented. Partnerships can be built with key institutions to develop the multi-institutional assessments required to **integrate SLM into existing incentives mechanisms or to create new incentives mechanisms** that will enable farmers to implement and scale out SLM practices.

- Existing decision-making processes at the national and subnational levels may hinder or facilitate the implementation of SLM. DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should **identify key decision-making processes** that represent opportunities for promoting SLM.
- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies can be developed at the **national, subnational and local levels**.

Importantly, SLM cannot be scaled out solely by demonstrating its benefits. The uptake of SLM requires an enabling environment comprising policy, financial, technical and social support (Figure 4). Integrating the SLM concept into national policies and planning processes, and developing a financing mechanism for it, will facilitate its implementation.

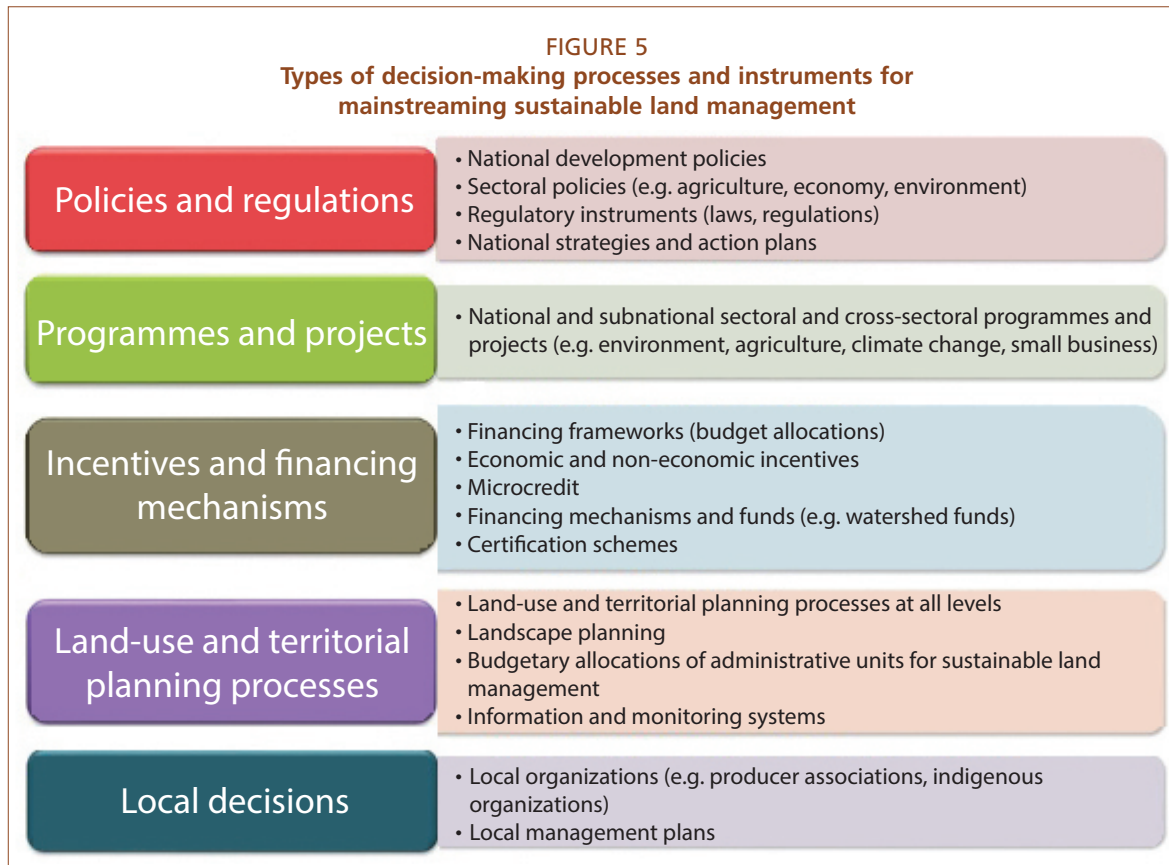


### Types of decision-making processes

Implementing SLM requires that landowners and producers make appropriate decisions by landowners, and such decisions, in turn, require an enabling environment comprising appropriate policies, incentives, capacity-building processes and access to finance and markets at different levels. Figure 5 sets out the types of decision-making processes and instruments in which SLM could be integrated.

The categories proposed in Figure 5 are intended to help in the schematic design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies and to standardize the type of information obtained across countries involved in the DS-SLM project.

Decision-making processes may have impacts at various scales (for example, land-use planning might have impacts at the subnational and farm scales), and various sectors might provide capacity building in SLM best practices and technologies.



**Key entry points** may be those identified as needs and opportunities for facilitating SLM. Needs may be able to be met by the existing institutional scenario, or they may constitute gaps to be filled. For example, a key entry point may be the existing land-use and territorial planning process or the lack of an incentives mechanism for SLM. Thus, it may be possible to formulate the objectives of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy by focusing on overcoming barriers and addressing key decision-making processes that will facilitate SLM implementation and scaling out.

## 2. Designing DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies

### 2.1 OVERVIEW

#### KEY ELEMENTS

- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should have a small number of viable objectives, and they should identify a **small set of viable mainstreaming activities** to be implemented or catalysed by the DS-SLM project and partners.
- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies **do not need to include broad policy and institutional mapping**. Rather, they should provide a clear analysis of the needs, priority areas, decision-making processes and institutions to be addressed in order to scale out SLM.
- Analyses should be done for each objective of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy, **if possible at the local level**.

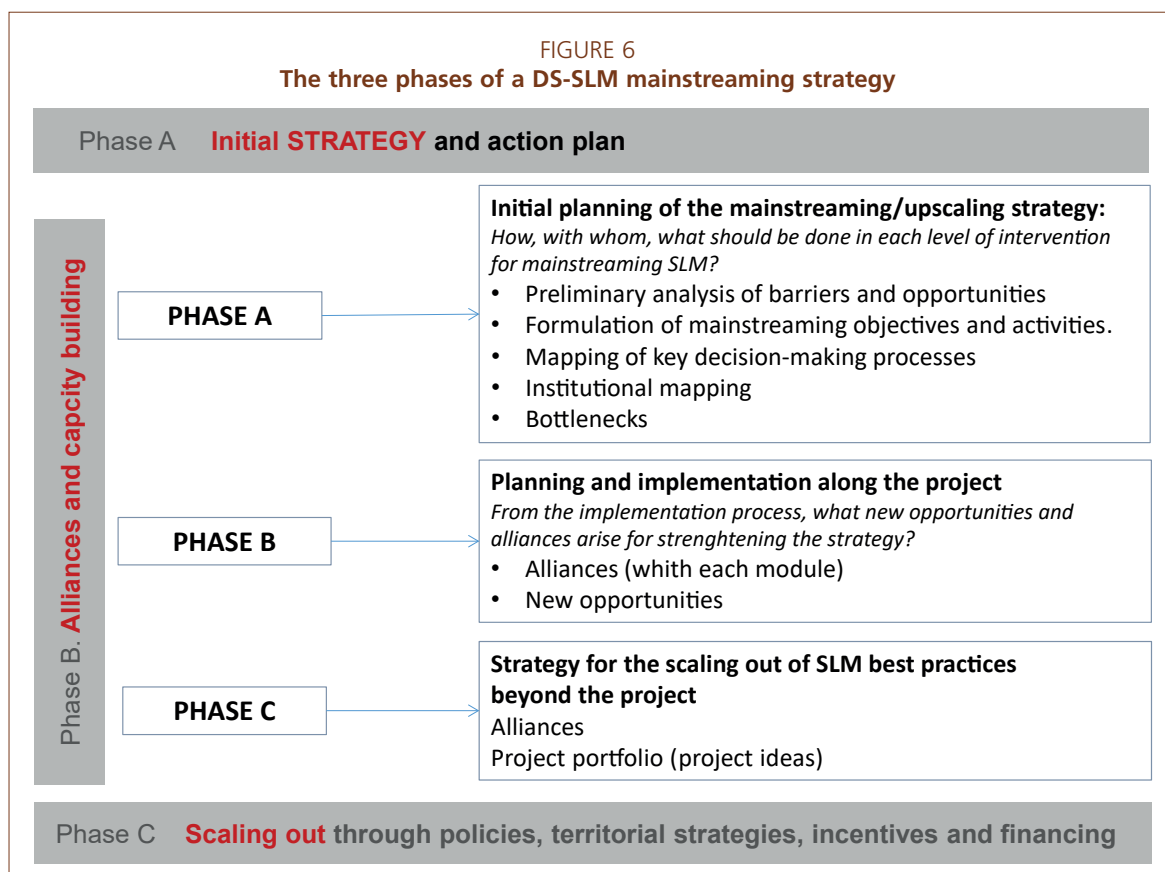
### 2.2 WHO, WHEN, WHAT

#### Who should design a DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy?

- The DS-SLM project coordinator is ultimately responsible for the design of a country's DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.
- In some cases, the support of a consultant may be required to facilitate strategy design and conduct relevant meetings and workshops.
- A first draft of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy should be prepared by a consultant or the national DS-SLM project coordinator and then validated or finalized in multistakeholder workshops. Alternatively, an interinstitutional working group could design or validate the strategy.
- In linking the design of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy and the DDLD/SLM assessments, much depends on the scope of the strategy (e.g. whether it is to be implemented at the national, subnational or local level). Participants and stakeholders brought together for national, subnational or local assessments could form a multistakeholder working group to design, validate and follow up on the design and implementation of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy or simply to provide inputs to the design.
- If, for example, the DS-SLM project is focusing on local-level assessments, local-level participants could analyse the potential decision-making processes affecting SLM implementation in their localities. This analysis would help in defining local-, subnational- and national-level objectives for mainstreaming SLM into key decision-making processes.

### When should the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy be designed?

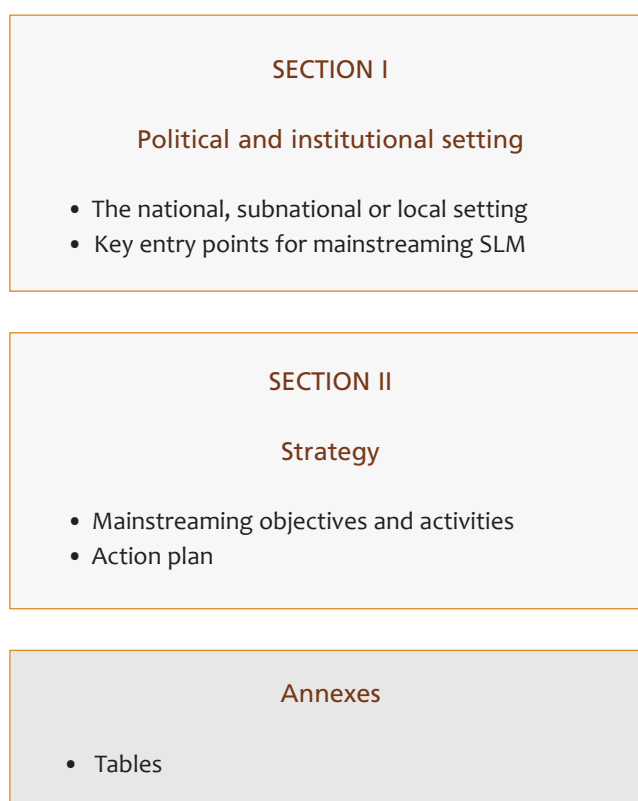
- In each country, the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy should be designed, if possible, in the **early phases of project implementation** or **in parallel to the development of DLDD/SLM assessments** (Figure 6).



- When the mainstreaming strategy is formulated at an early stage of project implementation, modules such as DLDD/SLM assessments, partnerships and overall implementation can take place during project implementation.
- In designing the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy in parallel with DLDD/SLM assessments, national teams can initiate discussions with stakeholders on the status of land degradation while undertaking mainstreaming assessments and discussing barriers, opportunities and potential solutions and responses (e.g. mainstreaming objectives).
- If the mainstreaming strategy is designed towards the end of the DS-SLM project, it should include an approach aimed at triggering catalytic actions and involving partner institutions to undertake mainstreaming activities beyond the end of the project.

### What is the expected outcome?

- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies should be set out in **short, concise** strategic documents with a small number of objectives.
- The idea is not to create a long diagnostic document on the political and institutional setting of a country but rather to produce a highly strategic document setting out clear objectives and actions.
- The DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy should contain the following **sections**:



The action plan set out in the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy should form part of the country's DS-SLM programme of work. Activities – and associated budgets – will need to be assigned to implement the strategy (if such activities have not already been foreseen).

### **Scope of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies**

- DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies may be designed for the national, subnational or local scales.
- The main aim of a DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy is to overcome barriers to the implementation of SLM best practices. Usually, therefore, a series of decision-making processes, from the local to the national level, will need to be addressed in parallel. The activities to be carried out at each scale (from local to national) will need to be identified.
- The scope of impact that can be achieved by working at a local, landscape or subnational scale will depend largely on the extent of decentralization in the country and the scale of intervention of the DS-SLM project.

If the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy is being implemented at the subnational scale, for example in a pilot area where a DDL/D/SLM assessment is being made, the mainstreaming strategy and the DDL/D/SLM assessment can be replicated in other subnational areas.

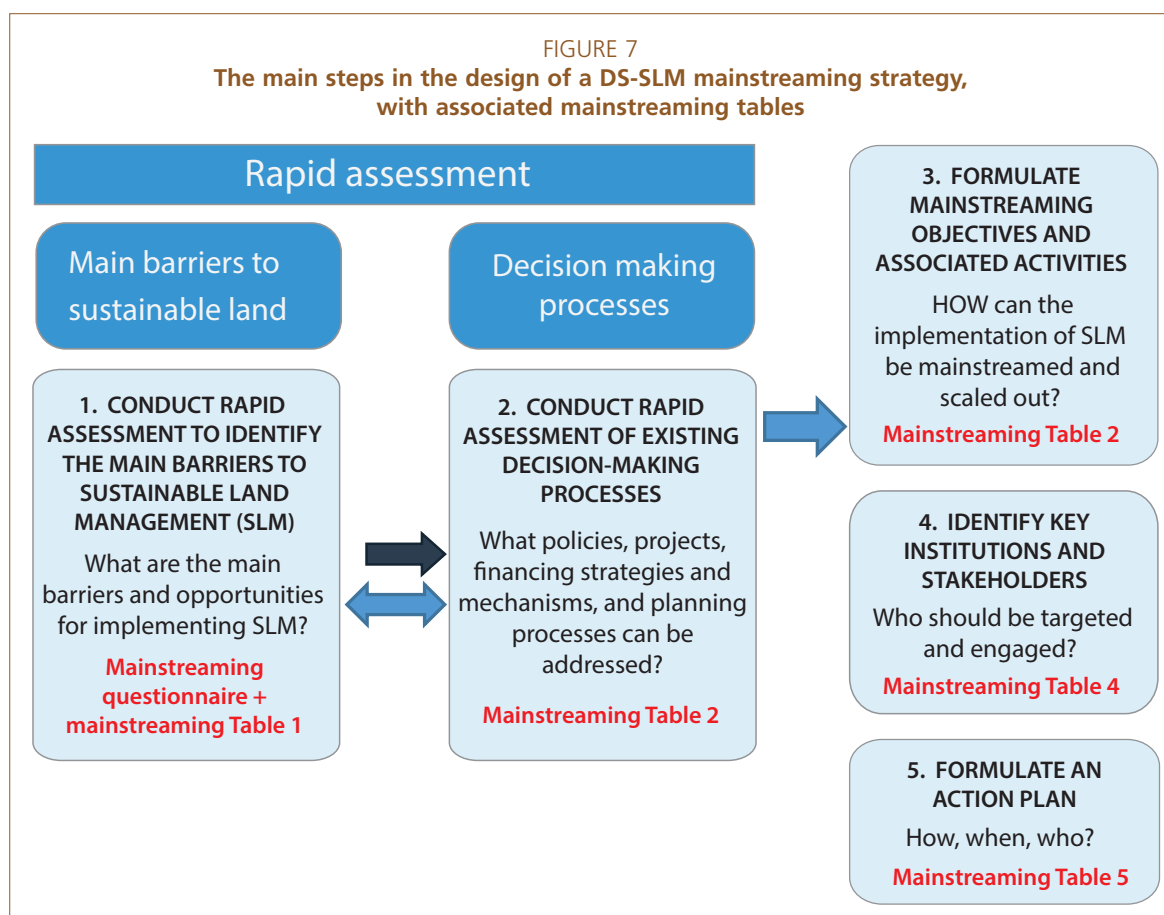




## 3. Developing DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies

### 3.1 STEPS IN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Figure 7 shows the five main steps involved in the design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies, specifying the “mainstreaming” tables provided by the DS-SLM Sustainable Land Management Mainstreaming Tool to assist the process. The process has two main phases: an initial rapid assessment (steps 1 and 2) and the formulation of the strategy (steps 3–5). Although the steps follow a natural progression, elements may overlap or occur out of sequence.



#### Mainstreaming assessment

An **initial rapid assessment** should be undertaken to establish a baseline of the existing national, subnational or local environment that is facilitating or hindering the uptake of SLM practices. This assessment should focus on the barriers and decision-making processes that could be addressed in the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy to enable the formulation of relevant mainstreaming objectives. The assessment should address:

1. **The barriers to implementing and scaling out SLM** faced by the country, subnational jurisdiction or community (e.g. a lack of land-use planning or a lack of incentives for SLM).

Note: Decision-making processes and barriers are analysed together in a mainstreaming assessment. Nevertheless, the first step may be the analysis of decision-making processes, or the analysis of barriers, or vice versa.

2. **Existing decision-making processes as well as possible entry points and opportunities** provided by the political and institutional setting. This aspect of the assessment should involve a rapid review of policies, projects, strategies, financing mechanisms, extension programmes and other decision-making processes (see the types of decision-making processes described in Figure 5) at the relevant scale that are facilitating or hindering the implementation of SLM **and that could be addressed in the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.**

### Strategy formulation

The formulation of a DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy involves the following three steps (i.e. steps 3–5 in the overall design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies):

3. Establish the **objectives** (e.g. “to integrate or strengthen SLM in the provincial land-use and territorial planning process”) for a strategy aimed at overcoming key barriers to the mainstreaming and scaling out of SLM. These objectives may be proposed before or after the identification of existing decision-making processes.
4. Identify **institutions and stakeholders** in decision-making processes and partner institutions to be targeted or partnered with, either to mainstream SLM directly or to participate in the process of generating information on DLDD/SLM, multistakeholder dialogues, and, ultimately, mainstreaming SLM. Also in this step, identified institutions and stakeholders help validate the objectives and activities determined in step 3.
5. Develop an **action plan** (in a simplified logic framework) that sets out the activities, roles and responsibilities for achieving the strategy’s objectives, and integrate this into the DS-SLM project programme of work.

### 3.2 MAINSTREAMING TOOL

The mainstreaming tool has been designed as a simple step-by-step process to be used by the DS-SLM project team as a contribution to the design of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.

The tool has two sections:

1. This **guiding document**, which includes a mainstreaming questionnaire for the initial phase of strategy design (mainstreaming assessment); and
2. an **attached file** with **five mainstreaming tables in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel** for organizing and systematizing the information gained in each of the five steps in the design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies, as set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1  
**Tools for the design of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies**

		Mainstreaming table number
<b>STEP 1</b>	Conduct rapid assessment to identify the main barriers to SLM	1
<b>STEP 2</b>	Conduct rapid assessment of existing decision-making processes and possible entry points and opportunities	2
<b>STEP 3</b>	Formulate mainstreaming objectives and associated activities	3
<b>STEP 4</b>	Identify key institutions and stakeholders	4
<b>STEP 5</b>	Formulate an action plan	5

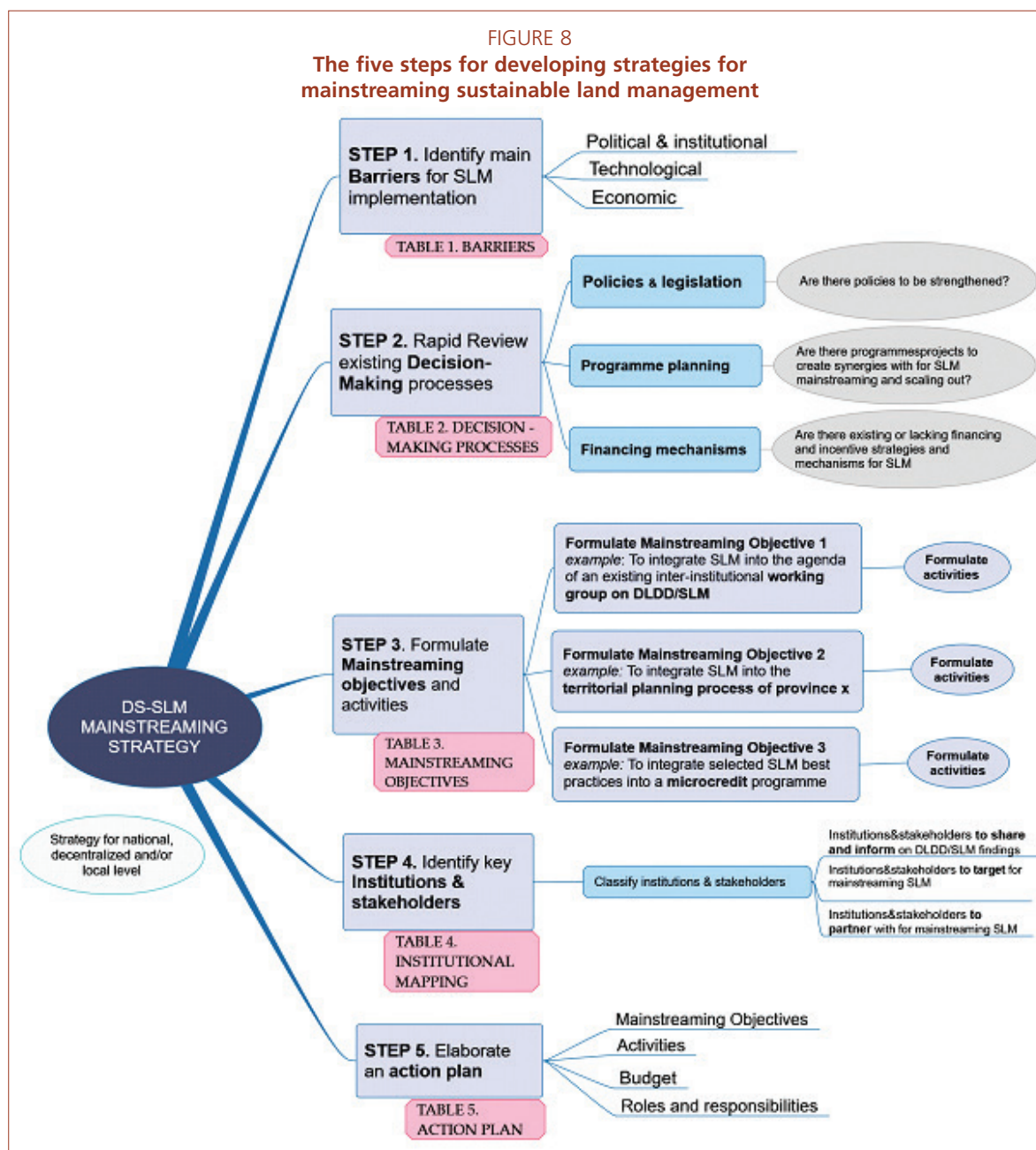
- Each institution and project team will have its own process for institutional mapping and identifying key decision-making processes, but the tables may help to organize findings.
- The tables are not guides to the methodology of the analysis to be undertaken. Rather, they are designed to help focus and organize the information gathered in a standardized way.

The tables can be used in mainstreaming workshops for national, subnational and local stakeholders and institutions that are to be involved in the design and implementation of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.



## 4. Step-by-step guide

This section provides more detail on each of the five steps in developing a DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy. Figure 8 summarizes this overall process.



## STEP 1

### CONDUCT A RAPID ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY THE BARRIERS TO SLM

In this step, a rapid assessment is carried out to identify the barriers to, and opportunities for, the uptake of SLM and key entry points for mainstreaming SLM.

#### Objective

To identify and prioritize institutional barriers that are limiting the implementation and scaling out of SLM.

#### Actions

1. Conduct a mainstreaming assessment to identify both institutional barriers (step 1) and decision-making processes (step 2) (using the mainstreaming assessment questionnaire) by organizing one or more local-level workshops with local stakeholders, technical experts and implementing institutions. Alternatively, gather information from secondary sources on barriers for implementing SLM.
2. Classify the barriers as policy, economic, technological or socio-cultural.
3. Formulate the general actions needed to overcome the barriers and with potential to enhance SLM implementation.
4. Synthesize findings into **mainstreaming table 1** of the **MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT** (“**BARRIERS TO SLM IMPLEMENTATION**”).

#### Elements to consider

- This step can be conducted in workshops at the local level – or at the national level if stakeholders can be identified with a clear view of the barriers to the implementation of SLM.
- Identification of the main barriers can also be done as part of national, landscape or local assessments of land degradation and SLM best practices. Use the mainstreaming questionnaire (see below) to help gather information from local stakeholders, technical experts and implementing institutions.
- The identification of barriers provides a first overview of the factors arising for political, economic, technological and socio-cultural reasons – usually beyond farms and SLM practices – that need to be overcome to facilitate the implementation of SLM (such as a lack of incentives for SLM).

**Key entry points** may be those needs and opportunities in the existing institutional setting, such as the land-use planning process, or they may be gaps that should be filled, such as the lack of an incentives mechanism for SLM. Thus, the objectives of the mainstreaming strategy might focus on overcoming key identified barriers and addressing crucial decision-making processes that will facilitate SLM implementation and scaling out.

## STEP 2

### CONDUCT RAPID ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

#### Objective

To identify and prioritize institutional opportunities or key decision-making processes related to national and subnational policies and regulations, planning processes, programmes/projects, financing strategies and mechanisms and local decisions on land use that are facilitating or hindering SLM and that can be influenced, targeted, strengthened or addressed through the DS-SLM project.

#### Actions

- Conduct a **mainstreaming assessment** to identify key decision-making processes that can strategically contribute to SLM.
- Analyse existing decision-making processes that need to be addressed and which present opportunities for promoting SLM. Such processes may occur in five main areas (see Figure 5).
- Prioritize the decision-making processes to be addressed (e.g. the land-use planning process to be addressed by the DS-SLM project).
- Describe the processes (e.g. their objectives, functions and scope) and how each may contribute to the implementation of SLM.
- Synthesize the findings in **mainstreaming table 2** of the **MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT (“DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES”)**.

#### Elements to consider:

- Each country has a unique political, institutional, economic, environmental and social setting, with different opportunities and limitations for raising SLM as an important issue in the political, planning, technical and financial spheres.
- A rapid mainstreaming assessment (on barriers and decision-making processes) can be carried out to identify existing and potential policies, institutions, plans and strategies relevant to national economic development, SLM, agriculture, environmental management, and other sectors, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation, and thereby to provide an indication of the existing SLM-related political framework. Nevertheless, it might be unnecessary to develop a complex political and institutional diagnosis beyond the focus of the mainstreaming strategy. The idea is to avoid making a long diagnosis but, rather, to briefly describe the political and institutional setting, focus on key instruments that facilitate or hinder SLM mainstreaming and scaling out, and identify key entry points.
- A wide range of programmes and projects not necessarily mentioned here (e.g. climate-change adaptation programmes and rural development projects) should be considered if they are closely related to SLM.
- National, subnational and local decisions are made through various types of decision-making processes, not just regulatory processes.
- Key decision-making processes can be identified by posing a series of questions (see mainstreaming questionnaire).
- Decision-making processes can be conducted at the local level, providing information that will help guide step 3.

**Examples of key decision-making processes:**

- Strategies and national plans with which to create synergies in order to strengthen public policies with relevant information from DLDD and SLM assessments (e.g. information on the status, causes and impacts of land degradation).
- Cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination mechanisms (e.g. a national coordination group on SLM) relevant to mainstreaming, implementing and scaling out SLM.
- Existing incentives mechanisms for agricultural development that can be strengthened and oriented towards SLM.
- Land-use planning processes that could further integrate SLM approaches and indicators.



## **MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENT ON INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING AND SCALING UP SLM – QUESTIONNAIRE**

A rapid assessment of existing barriers and possible entry points and opportunities for mainstreaming SLM should be conducted at the local, subnational or national level. The overall strategy should be based as much as possible on this assessment.

The idea is NOT to conduct a detailed, lengthy assessment of existing policies, institutions and decision-making processes, which may only describe the national institutional scenario. Rather, the aim is to focus on information for formulating the most crucial objectives for mainstreaming SLM into decision-making processes.

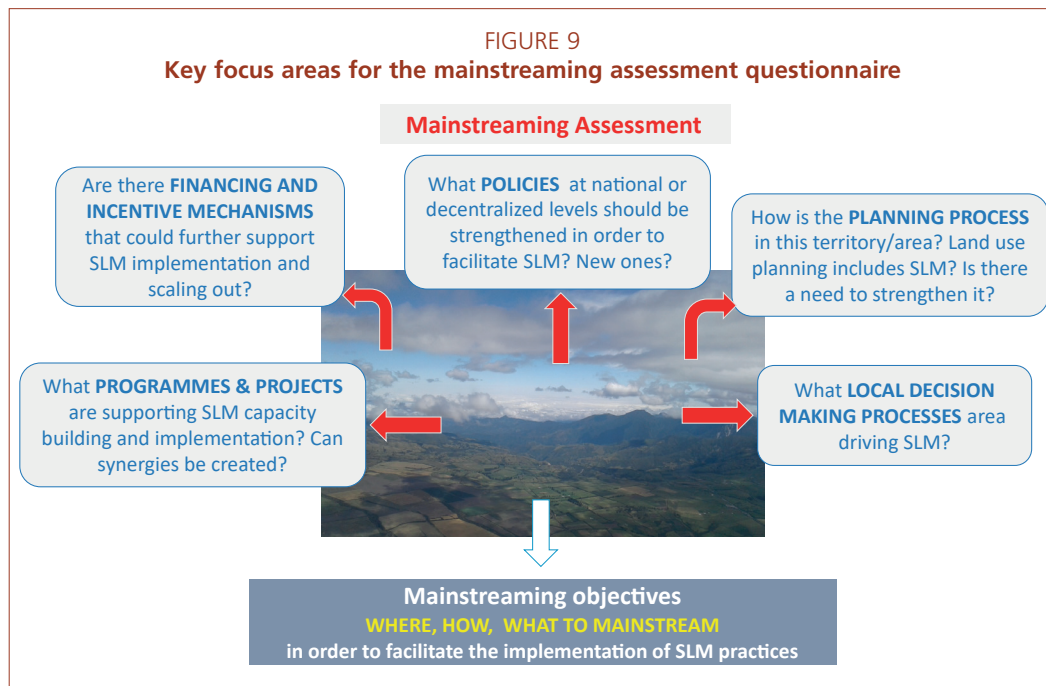
Strategy designers might wish to pose the questions set out below to stakeholders to assist in establishing the objectives and scope of the mainstreaming strategy.

### **Initial guiding questions for the design of an SLM mainstreaming strategy**

1. What are the main barriers to implementing SLM?
2. How can farmers be supported in implementing and scaling out SLM practices?
3. What opportunities exist for mainstreaming SLM – nationally, subnationally or locally?
4. Which key decision-making processes need strengthening to facilitate SLM implementation?
5. How might information on land degradation status, impacts, responses and SLM technologies and approaches, such as that generated by scientific and participatory assessments at the national, subnational or local level, contribute most effectively to a more informed decision-making process?

## MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENT – QUESTIONNAIRE

This aim of this questionnaire is to facilitate the assessment of the existing situation based on the institutional barriers and opportunities for implementing SLM and mainstreaming SLM into key decision-making processes. Figure 9 shows the main focus areas for the assessment.



The following questions are examples of relevant information that can be gathered in order to understand the institutional aspects facilitating or hindering SLM implementation in a given landscape. Some information may be derived from national or local LADA-WOCAT land degradation assessments (i.e. the questionnaire for mapping land degradation, known as QM, and questionnaires for technologies – QTs – and approaches – QAs). Nevertheless, it is likely to be beneficial to convene a discussion with local stakeholders at an initial dedicated workshop, followed by further research and a dialogue with key institutions. The questions in this questionnaire are mainly designed for local-level stakeholders, although they can also be directed towards stakeholders at the subnational and national scales.

### QUESTION 1

#### What are the main types and causes of land degradation in your landscape/area? Explain briefly.

The aim of this question is to generate a general, simplified description of the main land degradation processes to enable an understanding, at a glance, of the land-use situation and the status of land degradation. Stakeholders may be asked to indicate the extent to which the following causes of degradation are important and how they occur:

- **Deforestation and removal of natural vegetation**  
Types of questions: Are forest disappearing? Is natural vegetation being removed? Are forest remnants being depleted of key resources? Are crops or rangelands taking over forest areas? Why?

- **Improper management of agriculture**  
Types of questions: Is soil fertility diminishing? If so, why? Is soil being eroded? If so, what are the main reasons? Is the application of herbicides, pesticides and other agrochemicals a problem? Why?
- **Improper management of rangelands**  
Types of questions: Do you practise extensive grazing? Do pastures have sufficient shade trees? Is there widespread burning? Is overgrazing a problem?
- **Improper management of water**  
Types of questions: Is water scarcity a problem? Are water sources becoming degraded? If so, what are the main pressures? Why?

The information provided may refer to the types and causes given in the LADA-WOCAT QM, QT and QA.

### QUESTION 2

#### **What SLM practices are needed to reduce land degradation in the landscape?**

- Identify strategic practices that are needed in the landscape to reduce or halt degradation

### QUESTION 3

#### **What external decision-making processes are increasing or limiting the implementation of improved land management practices?**

In all landscapes, decision-making processes exist that facilitate or limit the implementation of SLM. It is important to identify key decision-making processes that the mainstreaming strategy can help strengthen, change or create. The following questions should help to identify key decision-making processes where SLM may be mainstreamed and that are relevant to address during the mainstreaming strategy :

- a. Policies, strategies and regulations**
  - Is the implementation of SLM limited by national or subnational policies, strategies or regulations (e.g. related to environment, agriculture, forestry, markets or mining)?
  - What national policies, regulations or national strategies could be strengthened to promote SLM?
  - Are new policies or regulations needed?
- b. Programmes and projects**
  - Do programmes or projects exist that support capacity building in SLM or its implementation or scaling out? (e.g. programmes supporting the implementation of sylvopastoral systems in a large area of rangelands).
- c. Finance and incentives**
  - Is there a financing mechanism such as microcredit to support farmers in the adoption of SLM practices?
  - Are incentives mechanisms in place?
  - Do farmers have access to financial resources or incentives to implement or maintain SLM technologies?
  - Are local authorities allocating funds to support SLM?

- Is a lack of financial resources a barrier to the uptake of SLM technologies? (e.g. Are wealthy farmers implementing SLM, or are the barriers more to do with a lack of capacity or enabling policies?)
- What kinds of financial and incentives mechanisms are needed or in place to enhance the implementation of SLM?

**d. Land-use planning**

- Is a land-use planning process in place?
- At what level of decision-making is the land-use or territorial planning process done?
- Does the planning process consider and facilitate SLM, including, for example, forest conservation, sustainable agriculture and land restoration zoning?
- What institutions are involved in land-use planning?

**e. Local decisions**

- Are local producers organized for planning, managing and/or marketing?
- Do participatory decision-making processes exist that include farmers and other producers?
- Who decides on local landscape management plans?

**f. Education and extension**

- Is there sufficient knowledge for implementing SLM, or is there a need for further capacity building? Who provides capacity building?
- Does the educational system present opportunities for strengthening SLM capacities?
- Do extension programmes exist? Do they include SLM?

**g. Do decision-making processes need strengthening to facilitate SLM?**

- Is it possible to integrate SLM into existing decision-making processes?
- What kind of information from DLDD and SLM assessments is available for sharing?

The mainstreaming assessment will help in identifying institutional barriers (step 1) and decision-making processes (step 2).

## STEP 3

### FORMULATE MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

#### Objective

To formulate objectives and activities for triggering, contributing to or achieving the mainstreaming of SLM in key decision-making processes, based on the preliminary and rapid assessment of barriers, opportunities and entry points.

#### Actions

1. Formulate objectives for mainstreaming SLM into policies, plans, financing mechanisms, land-use planning and decision-making processes at the national and/or local levels.
2. Determine the expected results from the DS-SLM project for each objective.
3. Devise activities for each mainstreaming objective.
4. Synthesize the findings in **mainstreaming table 3** of the **MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT (“strategy objectives”)**.

#### Elements to consider

- This is the main part of the mainstreaming strategy. Formulate a small number (1–3) of focused objectives.
- The objectives, and their associated activities, must be feasible to be undertaken and achieved during the implementation of the DS-SLM project according to existing priorities, institutional and partnering opportunities, and project resources.
- The activities should centre on alliance building, knowledge management and capacity building and be supported by DLDD/SLM assessments.

	Examples of mainstreaming objectives
Argentina	To develop a communication strategy to support the extension of best SLM practices in pilot areas
Colombia	To integrate SLM into land-use planning processes in pilot areas
Panama	To formulate a proposal for a new SLM national law
	To design an SLM fund for a pilot watershed

## STEP 4

### IDENTIFY KEY INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

#### Objective

To identify, characterize and prioritize key national and subnational institutions and stakeholders that should be targeted or involved in the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.

#### Actions

1. Identify key institutions and stakeholders with potential to provide support for achieving the mainstreaming objectives.
2. Prioritize and characterize those key institutions (e.g. in terms of their roles and scope) through institutional mapping.
3. Classify institutions into partner, target and participant institutions.
4. Synthesize the collected information in **mainstreaming table 4** of the **MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT (“INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS”)**.

#### Elements to consider

- The institutional analysis (or mapping) should be used to guide national teams in identifying relevant institutions to be involved in the implementation of the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.
- The idea is to identify and engage an appropriate range of SLM-relevant institutions and actors from diverse sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, land-use planning, farmers, the private sector, academia and civil-society organizations) in order to structure an alliance-based strategy for mainstreaming SLM.
- Institutional mapping should be done for each objective. A question to be asked might be: Which institutions should be involved if the objective is to influence land-use planning?
- Institutions will have been identified early in the process (i.e. while conducting the previous steps). Once the mainstreaming objectives have been established, however, the institutions can be organized by objective.
- Institutions and stakeholders could be classified according to their role and involvement in the DS-SLM project in the following non-exclusive categories:
  - **Partners:** institutions and stakeholders that could become partners in the DS-SLM project as a way of engaging them in SLM mainstreaming and scaling out (e.g. farmer associations).
  - **Targets:** institutions and stakeholders that could be **targeted** as agents for mainstreaming and scaling out SLM (e.g. interinstitutional coordination mechanisms for land-use planning).
  - **Participants:** institutions and stakeholders that could **participate** in DLDD/SLM assessments and **share** and help disseminate the findings (e.g. research institutions participating in DDLDD assessments).
- The participation of key institutions is important during the development and analysis of the assessments and the delivery of findings.
- Alliances should be built with relevant institutions (e.g. governmental, non-governmental, communities and academic) that are involved in or have the capacity to influence the identified decision-making processes.
- It is important to explore opportunities for building alliances with key institutions for mainstreaming, implementing and scaling out SLM beyond the project.

## STEP 5

### FORMULATE AN ACTION PLAN

#### Objective

To formulate specific activities, roles, targets, timelines and budgets for implementing the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy.

#### Actions

1. Develop an action plan with identified partner institutions, defining activities, budget (if needed), roles and responsibilities for achieving the proposed SLM mainstreaming objectives and activities.
2. Synthesize the collected information in **mainstreaming table 5** of the **MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT (“ACTION PLAN”)**.
3. Integrate the action plan into the overall DS-SLM programme of work and budget.

#### Elements to consider

- It is important to share and validate the action plan with the institutions involved, thereby encouraging institutional support and co-financing.
- Once the action plan has been formulated, it needs to be integrated into the overall DS-SLM programme of work and budget.
- Each project will have its own planning process and format for developing an action plan. The elements of the action plan suggested here are indicative only.





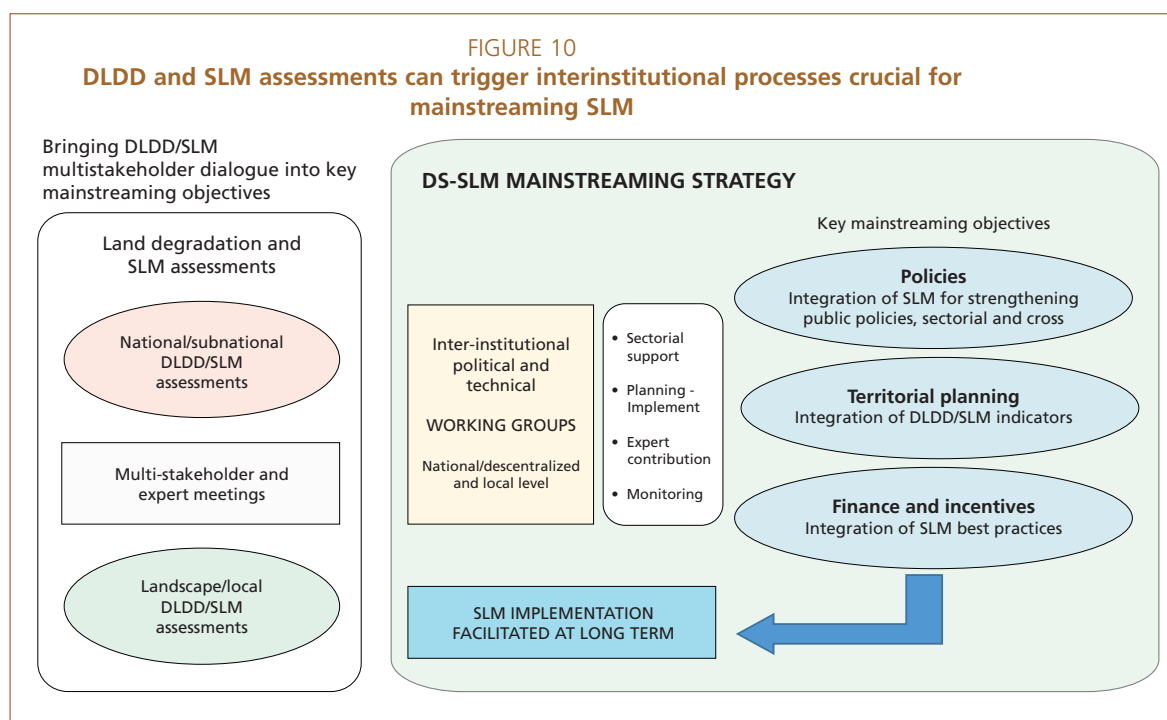
## 5. Bringing information from DDLDD and SLM assessments to decision makers

The DS-SLM project aims to support decision-making processes with **evidence and knowledge-based information** generated through DDLDD and SLM assessments to be conducted at the national, subnational or landscape/local levels. Thus, DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies consist of a series of activities to be performed by the DS-SLM project team and its partners to bring the information from DDLDD/SLM assessments to decision makers.

Two main processes can be used to link DDLDD/SLM assessments (DS-SLM Modules 2–4) to a DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy (DS-SLM Module 1).

### 1. DDLDD/SLM assessments facilitate interinstitutional dialogue.

In the process of conducting DDLDD and SLM assessments using LADA-WOCAT methodologies, a wide range of stakeholders and experts gather to discuss and assess land degradation and SLM best practices. The scientific and technical process of assessing land degradation can trigger an interinstitutional process, which is fundamental for coordinating and mainstreaming SLM into decision-making processes, as shown in Figure 10.



Both LADA and the DS-SLM project show that scientific activities can trigger an institutional process. In Argentina, for example, LADA and the DS-SLM project are being implemented through a multi-institutional platform (*Observatorio Nacional de la Degradación de Tierras y Desertificación*), allowing the planning, coordination and mainstreaming of SLM into relevant institutions and processes. In Ecuador, a national assessment process enabled the DS-SLM project to establish a technical advisory group (*Grupo Núcleo Interinstitucional*) among several ministries.

The participation of institutions in DS-SLM assessments is crucial for many aspects of DS-SLM mainstreaming strategies, including the identification of gaps in SLM implementation and key decision-making processes and the provision of support for achieving mainstreaming objectives.

## 2. DLDD/SLM assessments generate important information and data for SLM decision-making processes

- Key information and data arising from DLDD and SLM assessments at different levels should be taken into account in the mainstreaming of SLM in national, subnational and local decision-making processes.
- Knowledge-management and capacity-building activities will be needed to ensure mainstreaming. These might include the development of targeted documents and policy briefs; capacity-building workshops and trainings; communication and outreach; awareness-raising campaigns; and multistakeholder dialogues.
- Effective mainstreaming requires that the interests of the different decision makers are addressed in DLDD/SLM assessments. Some information and data –such as the status, extent, causes and impacts of land degradation – will be relevant to all levels of decision making. Nevertheless, certain target groups may have differing information needs: for example, information relevant to national politicians and decision makers may differ to that required by land-use planners and local decision-making groups.
- Relevant information should be delivered in terms that decision makers can comprehend and act on. A comprehensive communication strategy addressing each target group should be designed and implemented to support SLM mainstreaming.
- Different target groups are likely to have different entry points in the SLM mainstreaming process according to their main interests, priorities and scope for decision making and action. For example, national decision makers will focus on national policy decisions, macro-economic impacts and fiscal measures, and local decision makers may focus on the types and costs of SLM technologies. Table 2 provides an analysis of potential interests and key information, by decision-making level.

TABLE 2

**Potential interests at the national, decentralized/subnational and local/landscape levels, and objectives for communication with decision makers**

Decision-making level	Main interests or issues	The objectives for communicating with decision makers on land degradation and sustainable land management (SLM)
<b>National</b>	National development and environmental policies, strategies and plans Economic development Macro-economy	Understanding: of the status, causes and impacts of land degradation that: land degradation is a significant barrier to economic development SLM is a prerequisite for ensuring water, food, and energy security SLM contributes to the national economy (e.g. impact on gross domestic product, cost of inaction, land degradation economic valuations)
	SLM's contributions to, and conflicts with, other sectors	Understanding of the linkages of SLM with other development issues (e.g. food security, climate change, trade and poverty)
	Allocation of resources to ministries, national programmes and projects within sectors	Understanding: of the economic, social and environmental consequences of land degradation that SLM is an investment, not a cost or an externality
	Coordination of sectoral agencies involved in land use	Understanding that SLM is a multisectoral approach that addresses economic, social and environmental aspects
	Regulations for all sectors (e.g. agriculture, forest, water, land tenure, trade)	Understanding that: land degradation hinders all land-use sectors SLM contributes to the integrated management of natural resources and ecosystem services
<b>Decentralized subnational</b>	Subnational planning (i.e. what is to be done where)	Understanding of: the status, causes and impacts of land degradation land-use systems, land-degradation status and trends the contributions of SLM to livelihoods
	Land-use conflicts	
	Decentralized financing mechanisms and incentives	Knowledge of: the costs and benefits of SLM technologies SLM technologies to be incentivized
	Subnational economic and trade systems related to land production	SLM responses through enterprise development related to strengthening productive chains (e.g. sustainable livestock management)
<b>Landscape and local</b>	Local-level management plans (what needs to be done where)	Understanding of: land management in communes and farms land-use systems in a given area
	SLM technologies and approaches	Knowledge of: existing and new SLM technologies
	SLM technology costs	Understanding of: access to finance and incentives the costs and revenues of SLM technologies



## Annex 1 – Mainstreaming tables

Tables for use in synthesizing and sharing information on mainstreaming strategies for sustainable land management

### MAINSTREAMING TABLE 1. BARRIERS TO SLM IMPLEMENTATION

COUNTRY:

<b>Objective of Table 1</b>	To identify and prioritize institutional barriers and gaps (policy, finance, technology and cultural) that limit SLM implementation in order to orient the mainstreaming objectives towards overcoming them (FINDINGS OF A RAPID MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENT)
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BARRIERS FOR SLM IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALING OUT	OPPORTUNITIES TO INTEGRATE SLM
<i>Identify institutional barriers for implementing and scaling out SLM (prioritize up to 2 barriers in each category)</i>	<i>Identify opportunities and general actions that the DS-SLM project could carry out in order to overcome the barriers</i>
<b>Policy and regulation barriers</b>	
Example: Agricultural policies do not integrate SLM approaches	Example: Decentralized agricultural planning processes are open to integrating SLM indicators
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	
2.	
<b>Programmes and projects</b>	
Example: Existing programmes and projects do not provide support for the implementation of SLM technologies	Example: Integrate LADA-WOCAT methodology and results into the framework of relevant programmes
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	
2.	
<b>Economic, financing and incentive barriers</b>	
Example: There are few incentive mechanisms for SLM	Example: The existing incentive mechanism for land restoration could be strengthened by sharing the LADA-WOCAT methodology and project findings
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	
2.	
<b>Subnational planning barriers</b>	
Example: SLM is not included in subnational-level planning tools	Example: Integrate SLM indicators into watershed management plans
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	
2.	
<b>Technologies and knowledge barriers</b>	
Example: Farmers are losing traditional knowledge on SLM technologies	Example: The DS-SLM project could share methodologies for assessing SLM technologies and create synergies with local councils
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	
2.	

## MAINSTREAMING TABLE 2. DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

<b>Objective of Table 2</b>	To identify, prioritize and describe decision-making processes in five categories (policies, programmes, finance, land-use planning and local-level decisions) at the national and subnational levels where SLM could be further integrated, strengthened, addressed, tackled or changed through the DS-SLM mainstreaming strategy (FINDINGS OF THE RAPID MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENT)
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DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES	DETAILS OF THE PROCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING SLM
<i>Prioritize decision-making processes where the DS-SLM project could integrate SLM (e.g. processes to tackle, be strengthened or changed)</i>	<i>Provide details on the decision-making process (e.g. objectives, functioning and scope) and how this can contribute to SLM</i>
<b>1. POLICIES And REGULATIONS</b>	
Example: The National Development Plan, formulated in 2015, will be updated in 2018. SLM may be further integrated through dialogue and capacity building with the National Interministerial Council.	
1. <i>[Please complete; maximum of 2 per category]</i>	<i>[Please complete]</i>
2.	
<b>2. STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS</b>	
Example: The national watershed programme includes the restoration of degraded lands. Land degradation assessments done through the DS-SLM project can help identify key areas for land restoration. Identified SLM best practices can be integrated into the work.	
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	<i>[Please complete]</i>
2.	
<b>3. FINANCING AND INCENTIVE STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS</b>	
Example: Local microcredit mechanisms are mobilizing resources for sustainable agriculture and land restoration. An SLM microcredit strategy could be developed	
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	<i>[Please complete]</i>
2.	
<b>4. LAND-USE/TERRITORIAL PLANNING</b>	
Example: The land-use planning process is conducted annually and developed through local councils. SLM can be further integrated through this process	
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	<i>[Please complete]</i>
2.	
<b>5. LOCAL-LEVEL DECISIONS</b>	
Example: Community management plans can be strengthened through the farmer-to-farmer dissemination of SLM best practices	
1. <i>[Please complete]</i>	<i>[Please complete]</i>
2.	

## DS-SLM MAINSTREAMING STRATEGY MAINSTREAMING TABLE 3. STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Objective of Table 3 To formulate objectives and activities for mainstreaming of SLM into key decision-making processes (CORE MAINSTREAMING STRATEGY)

MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED RESULTS	COMPONENTS OR ACTIVITIES	DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO BE ADDRESSED	TARGET GROUP	Level of decision to address				
					Policies	Programmes	Finance	Subnational planning	Local decisions
Formulate 1–4 objectives for mainstreaming SLM into key decision-making processes to facilitate SLM implementation	Expected results of the actions undertaken by the DS-SLM project	Components or activities to be developed by the DS-SLM project and partners. Include several activities per objective (add rows if necessary)	Specify the decision-making processes that will be addressed by each objective and activity	Identify target groups within the decision-making process (if necessary)	X	X	X	X	X
<b>MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 1</b>									
Example 1: To integrate SLM into the decentralized participatory land-use and territorial planning process	Example: To integrate SLM into the participatory territorial planning process of one province	1. Develop SLM territorial indicators based on DLDD and SLM assessments 2. Convene SLM workshops to integrate SLM indicators into the territorial planning process 3. ....	Participatory territorial planning process	Provincial-level interinstitutional territorial working group	X			X	
[Please complete]	[Please complete]								
<b>MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 2</b>									
Example 2: To mainstream SLM into a microcredit programme	The integration of SLM approaches into a microcredit programme	1. Create synergies with microcredit a programme 2. Develop an SLM-microcredit strategy	The microcredit programme of a rural bank	N/A					
[Please complete]	[Please complete]								
<b>MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 3</b>									
[Please complete]	[Please complete]								
<b>MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 4</b>									
[Please complete]	[Please complete]								

**MAINSTREAMING TABLE 4. INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE	INSTITUTIONS OR STAKEHOLDERS	ROLE IN SLM	SECTOR				SCOPE OF ACTION			Type of partner for the DS-SLM project		
			Government	Non-governmental organization	Productive sector	Research and extension	International cooperation	National	Subnational (e.g. provincial, district)	Local	PARTNERS for implementing DS-SLM activities	TARGETS for mainstreaming SLM
Each mainstreaming objective will involve a series of institutions	Identify the main institutions and stakeholders involved (add rows if needed)	Specify the stakeholder's role in SLM	[ x ]	[ x ]	[ x ]	[ x ]	[ x ]	[ x ]	[ x ]	Institutions and stakeholders partnering the DS-SLM project to conduct mainstreaming activities	Institutions and stakeholders to be targeted to integrate SLM into their decision-making processes	Institutions that should be part of DS-SLM workshops or receive DS-SLM findings
EXAMPLE: MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 1. To integrate SLM into the land-use / territorial planning process	Interinstitutional land-use/territorial planning council in province	Formulates policies and programmes and mobilizes resources for SLM	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
	Communal councils	Decide on management plans			x			x			x	
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 1	Decentralized office of the Ministry of Agriculture	Provides support for extension	x					x		x	x	x
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 3												



## MAINSTREAMING TABLE 5. ACTION PLAN

Mainstreaming objectives	Components and activities	Budget	Responsible	Dates
Mainstreaming objectives (from mainstreaming table 4)	Separate components and detailed activities, if needed	If needed	DS-SLM project and/or partners	For monitoring progress (consider an iterative planning and revision process)
Example: MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 1. To integrate SLM into the land-use planning process	1. Development of SLM land-use indicators based on DLDD and SLM assessments	USD XXXX		Day/month/year
	2. SLM workshops to integrate SLM indicators into the land-use planning process			Day/month/year
	3.			Day/month/year
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 1	[Please complete]		[Please complete]	[Please complete]
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 2				
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 3				
MAINSTREAMING OBJECTIVE 4				

