

SLM Knowledge Base

Many African stakeholders find that operational knowledge resources on land management are often isolated or incomplete. This lack of access to knowledge forms a barrier to improving land and water management at national and local levels.

To address this concern, **TerrAfrica partners are working together to collect, package and customize existing information on Sustainable Land Management (SLM)**. This information is freely available to all and can be utilized at various levels of implementation from community planning and investment design to policymaking and financing.



For the KB's administrators only

What is the Knowledge Base?

The Knowledge Base is a simple, interactive website that facilitates the exchange and accumulation of key knowledge to roll out Sustainable Land Management throughout Africa. The Knowledge Base includes information on technical implementation on the ground, as well as information on the range of incentives and institutional environments that drive land users to adopt better land and water management practices.

The Knowledge Base is a clearinghouse for key information resources that can support countries in securing the integrity and productivity of their rural landscapes and watersheds via improved land use, whether crop, pasture or forest. This information comes from a variety of sources in different formats including text, multimedia, maps, statistics and websites.

As of September 2009, about 700 resources have been collected on the Knowledge Base.

What are the objectives of the Knowledge Base?

- Provide one-stop access to key information on complex issues related to rural land management in Africa.
- Provide a platform for the exchange of data and information on cross-cutting issues among different users within and across countries.
- Build consensus and foster alignment on action, understanding and enhanced monitoring of results and impact.

What is the added value of the Knowledge Base?

Compared to existing websites, the Knowledge Base offers the following advantages:

- **Interactive Tools:** Easily utilized by any registered user to interact dynamically with the Knowledge Base and other visitors.
- **Decentralized management:** Management and administration of the Knowledge Base is completely decentralized. Anyone with Internet access can participate.
- **Community building:** One of the goals is to gather national and international development experts committed to rolling out SLM in Africa. These experts can share their knowledge, resources, ideas and experiences.
- **SLM Vision:** Information resources are organized around the components of the vision shared by TerrAfrica partners for SLM in Africa. Also facilitates the alignment around a common body of knowledge.

What TerrAfrica partnership publications are available on the Knowledge Base?

The **TerrAfrica Vision Paper** summarizes the impacts and root causes of land degradation in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as maps out a strategic pathway toward greater land quality in African landscapes. The paper provides an overview of successful land management practices, processes and regional experiences. It outlines technological, institutional, and financial barriers and bottlenecks that currently hinder efforts to raise land quality at scale. It details the necessary shifts in emphasis and identifies key elements needed to upscale successes that can secure lives, livelihoods and landscapes.

The **TerrAfrica Country Support Tool** provides operational guidance to country teams to build or customise program based approaches to upscaling SLM. The tool proposes how a country might:

- Convene current actors around a common body of knowledge, goals, priorities and investment
- Assemble current diagnostics and identify gaps to be filled
- Enhance current implementation structures
- Identify, prioritize, sequence and monitor discrete investments across actors and delivery mechanisms
- Improve the efficiency of domestic financing and secure additional international financing
- Design a phased multi-stakeholder Investment Framework that encompasses the points above to reinforce existing country efforts

The **Resource Guide for Using SLM Practices to Adapt to and Mitigate Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa** identifies, reviews and highlights evidence that demonstrates that SLM practices can produce win-win outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa. The guide is a tool under the umbrella of the TerrAfrica Country Support Tool and aims to assist government, civil society, land managers, extension workers, local communities and land users alike in implementing strategies to increase the resilience of their agricultural and natural resource management systems to the on-going and predicted impacts of climate change.