
Information note for the TerrAfrica Executive Committee

Summary of proposed Validation Process for the *SLM Vision Paper for sub-Saharan Africa*

and

The SLM Country Support Tool

A. Background and Rationale

Within its objective to support Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) states on mainstreaming and scaling up the adoption of SLM practices, the TerrAfrica partners have been actively engaged over the past 18 months in the development of a joint vision for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in SSA. This vision is at the core of the TerrAfrica Business Plan and underpins the design and strategy of key tools such as the *TerrAfrica GEF Strategic Investment Program for SLM* and the *Country SLM Investment Framework (CSIF) methodology*.

The vision for SLM has now been articulated in a draft document entitled "*SLM Vision Paper for Sub Saharan Africa*" which has been developed through an extensive consultation process with Stakeholders under the guidance of the FAO Investment Centre, NEPAD and the TerrAfrica Executive Committee.

Value of the SLM Vision will be in the extent to which the "Vision" is internalised and owned by local (African) players and stakeholders. Therefore, process to allow local players and stakeholders to critique, validate, refine and buy-in on this SLM vision is essential if the Vision is to serve its purpose of stimulating and guiding the mainstreaming and investments in SLM. Key in the SSA's institutional arrangements for internalisation of the SLM vision are the NEPAD's Environmental Action Plan (EAP) and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). EAP and CAADP provide Africa's own galvanised frameworks for addressing objectives on sustainable productivity in agricultural and natural resource services and products and environmental resilience. The EAP and CAADP frameworks, hence, present the most extensive and inclusive delivery mechanisms also for the validation of the SLM vision.

With support and leadership of the RECs and key African technical institutions NEPAD plans an elaborate exercise to validate and facilitate buy-in in the "*SLM Vision Paper for Sub Saharan Africa*". The process is also expected to contribute to ensuring African intellectual, political and policy leadership in shaping the evolving TerrAfrica partnership.

The ultimate goal is to have the "SLM Vision" refined and widely adopted both substantively and politically as Africa's vision/framework for SLM. NEPAD's Environmental Action Plan and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme and the UNCCD framework provide some key African driven delivery mechanisms for the operationalisation of the SLM vision.

Following below is an outline of the strategies and processes for engaging to solicit widespread buy-in and strengthening the leadership of African institutions and players in the process of developing and finalising the "*SLM Vision Paper for Sub Saharan Africa*".

B. Objectives and expected outcomes of the SLM Vision validation process

Objectives: The Validation process specifically aims to:

1. To provide broad based African peer review and technical refinement and endorsement of the SLM Vision
2. To facilitate internalization, build buy-in and ownership of the SLM vision by national and regional political and policy frameworks and institutions
3. To strengthen the African ownership of the SLM Vision by facilitating processes to embrace the SLM Vision as integral to the NEPAD (CAADP and EAP) agenda

Expected Outcomes and Indicators of Success

Key outcomes from this process are envisaged in two main categories, namely:

- i) substance: The process will ensure refinement and quality of the Vision with regard to:
 - realism (in the African context)
 - comprehensive and technical completeness
 - reflecting the diversity and range of options in area and socio-economic specific use and management of natural resources
 - enhance and support understanding of SLM linkages to (a) livelihood – food security and poverty alleviation, (b) environmental sustainability (ecosystem resilience and sustainable productivity in agriculture and ecosystem services and products
 - content refinement to ensure consistency and coherence with Africa’s own development agenda as articulated in NEPAD frameworks
 - scientifically and peer validated content
- ii) Internalisation and ownership: The process will stimulate and facilitate:
 - local (African) internalization, buy-in and ownership
 - Vision acknowledged as key tool in strategic thinking, planning and designing of SLM investment programmes
 - RECs and key technical, political and policy organs/institutions buy-in and support/align with the SLM Vision

It is also important to recognize that the “SLM Vision” endorsed through this process will remain a living concept with the alliance of AUC–NEPAD–REC, on one hand, and professional and user institutions, on the other, providing the local (African) institutional arrangement for on-going revision and adaptation of the SLM Vision.

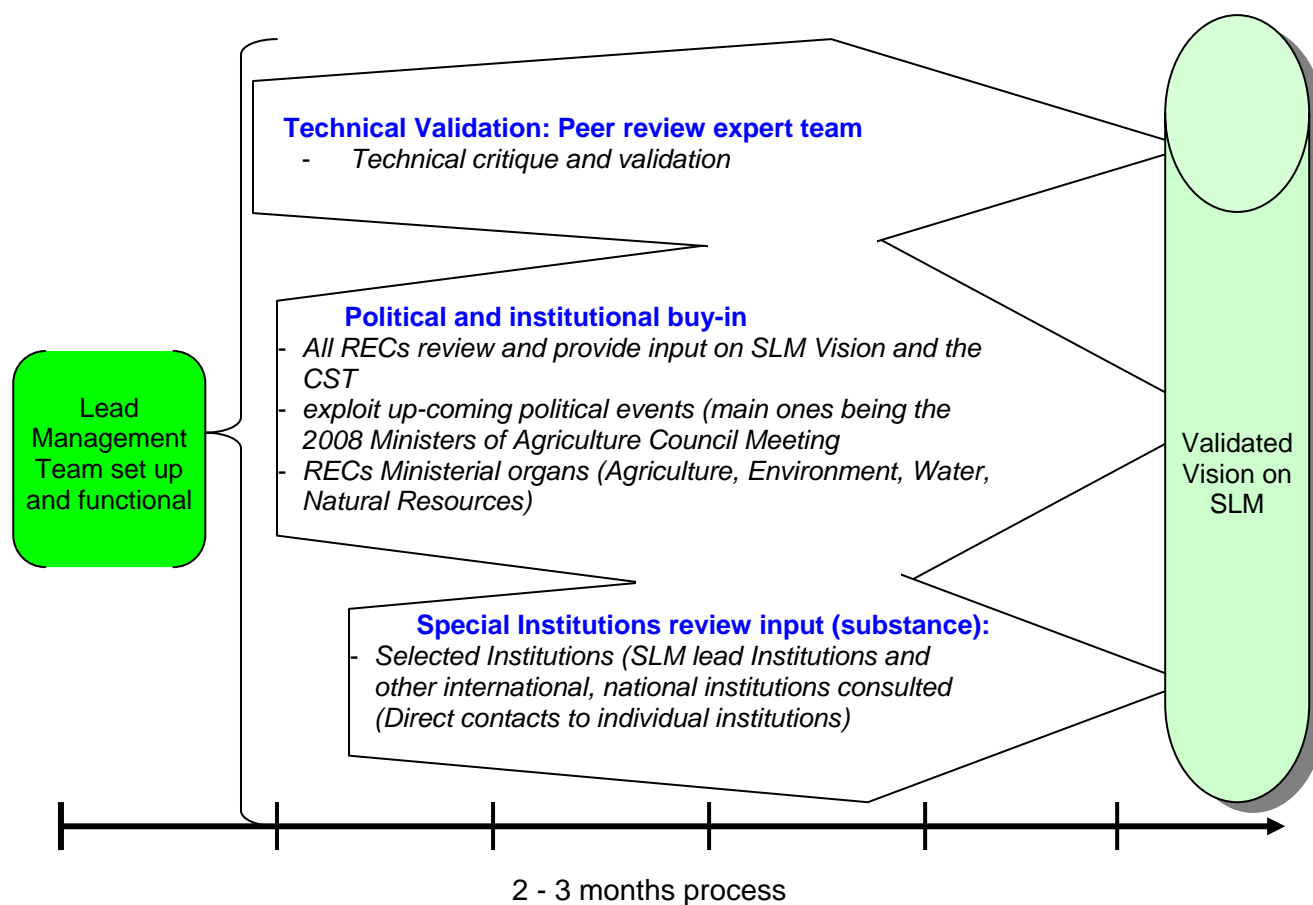
The outputs of this validation process, both in content, i.e. the SLM Vision, and in approach, i.e. the coalitions and partnership and increased general awareness on SLM issues is also expected to provide ideal momentum to move the SLM vision and the SLM agenda into continental and regional policy organs, i.e. appropriate council of ministers meetings.

C. Suggested Modalities

The validation process will involve a number of purpose-specific mutually exclusive components each with a defined primary target group. Table 1 and Figure 1 outline some basic characteristics of the envisaged key components of the process.

Component	Main audience/target	Main thrust
Expert peer review process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary specially selected team of knowledgeable and experienced professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technical (substance) review, critique and validation
Political and institutional review and buy-in by RECs and other regional bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant AU, REC ministerial organs Local civic leaders and institutions ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, IGAD, ECCAS, EAC and the ECA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> securing political endorsement and buy-in and policy mainstreaming by country, regional and continental political organs Political and technical buy-in and internalization
Specialist SLM national, regional and continental institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected institutions to ensure wide representation in terms of regionalism, discipline, sector including research, training and extension institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical review and institutional buy-in
Validation workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation of key players and stakeholders at various levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General public, institutional buy-in

Key components of the process:



1. SLM Expert Team Review Process

- a. technical expert and peer review of the Vision paper
- b. critique the draft vision paper particularly in terms of realism (in the African context) and completeness in guiding/stimulating principles on shared vision on SLM in Africa
- c. critique and provide input to the draft vision paper to ensure clarity on how SLM support (will support) the continent in attaining its set livelihood (food security and poverty alleviation), environmental (ecosystem resilience and sustained productivity in agriculture and ecosystem services and products) and indeed the growth agenda
- d. Critique and provide input to the draft vision paper to ensure consistency with the objectives of CAADP and EAP.

This will be a specially selected team of experts reflecting key disciplines, sector and geographical/ecosystem diversity.

The team will over a defined period participate in a moderated electronic review process through which they will individually review and provide input on the draft vision paper. The comments/input will be consolidated in one report to be taken up by FAO for the revision of the draft vision paper.

The team of experts will thereafter participate as resource persons in the general validation workshop.

2. Targeted Institutional review and buy-in

This is suggested as an email based process whereby strategic institutions are specially targeted for comment/input on the draft vision paper. The exercise will aim to ensure the buy-in by the targeted institution. This means that selected institutions will also be those whose buy-in in the SLM vision can contribute to its adaptation in stimulating and guiding responses to problems of land degradation and biodiversity loss.

These institutions would include government centres of excellence, international organisations, and NGO/CBO initiatives. However, need to note that this is expected to be no more than 10 institutions; deliberately restricted to a small number also as way to ensure focused feedback/input including some validation.

Institutions that will be targeted include:

CILSS, ACT, ASERACA, CORAF, ARC-South Africa, Kenya Agriculture Research Institute, Serien Agriculture Research Institute – Tanzania, FARA's DONATA and the Challenge Programme and SAFGARD

3. Political and Institutional Endorsement

This will involve a special meeting (1-2 days) to “sell” the paper to the technical officers responsible for SLM in the RECs. One or at most two persons from each REC (SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD and ECCAS) will meet to review the draft vision paper.

This meeting will enable the draft vision paper to benefit from what most RECs already have in form of agriculture/SLM policy and strategic guidelines.

The aim will also be to start a process through which the RECs would bring the SLM Vision into their own agriculture and environmental strategic agendas.

4. Validation Workshop

The validation workshop will mark the final consultations on the SLM vision paper. Aware that the vision paper will be a “live” document a mechanism for on-going revision and adjustment in response to needs, new challenges and ideas will be proposed and agreed.

The goal is that the final document will be a document, not just for TerrAfrica, but a continental vision aimed at aligning SLM initiatives toward shared commitment and action.

The workshop will target senior members of Ministries/Departments of Finance/Development Planning/Agriculture and Environment. All key players and stakeholders in government and other sectors from both national and regional institutions will also be invited to participate in this workshop. Others expected to participate are representatives of interest groups such as farmers/land users and specialised national, regional and international organisations.

D. Implementation modalities, timeline and budget

1. Operationalisation and management

The process will be managed and coordinated by a small specially constituted team led by NEPAD. Additional to NEPAD, the small team will comprise representatives of RECs (3, i.e. ECWAS, COMESA and SADC), one from the AUC and 1-2 representatives of potential SLM lead institutions. The FAO Investment Centre (IC) will closely participate in the team within its responsibilities on the development of the SLM vision and country SLM support tools.

The team will steer the process through its components and the various phases.

The AU/NEPAD profile will provide the necessary institutional framework and credibility for operations of the team and the process.

2. Role of TerrAfrica Partners

It is important that the TerrAfrica partners actively support the process and where necessary facilitate review of the Vision paper and the CST through their own institutions. Potential support to logistical arrangements includes:

- recognize and support both the validation process and the outputs in form of an African SLM Vision and the CSTs
- facilitate review and input from relevant specialists from within the TerrAfrica partner institutions
- committed to align toward this SLM vision on the support to country development and implementation of SLM scaling up programmes

3. Operational timeline

Task	Timeline							
	July		August				Sep	
	Wk3	Wk4	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk1	Wk2
1. TOR agreed and finalised between FAO/NEPAD and shared with TAEC								
2. SLM Expert Team review process								
3. Special RECs engagement								
4. Special Targeted Institutional review and buy-in								
5. Validation workshop								

4. Operational Budget

Task	Budget	
	Costs (\$us)	Source
1. TOR agreed and finalised between FAO/NEPAD and shared with TAEC	-	-
2. SLM Expert Team review process	\$5,000	NEPAD/FAO DGF
3. Special RECs engagement	\$15,000	NEPAD DGF
4. Special Targeted Institutional review and buy-in	\$5,000	NEPAD DGF
5. Validation workshop	\$50,000	NEPAD DGF