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STSM title: WOCAT Training (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies)

STSM Host scientist: Gudrun Schwilch, University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), Bern, Switzerland

Five Keywords: WOCAT, Plantation of Pines, soil erosion and hydrological functions.

Topic summary: Participants learned about WOCAT and other methods for documenting, evaluating and monitoring SLM practices. It was not a formal training course, but rather a self-learning within a group of students and under the supervision of WOCAT staff. There was a half-day fieldtrip near Bern for practical application of the questionnaires in the field. After the course the participants applied the WOCAT questionnaires on at least one SLM technology and approach within their country or study site.

Methods summary: The draft application on WOCAT that I prepared for the course had the title “Partially reforestation (pine plantation) of degraded rangelands” in Lagadas County of Northern Greece.

Results and implications for restoration: Plantation of Pine trees (*Pinus Brutia*) in between scattered oak trees (*Quercus* sp.) and shrubs (*Quercus coccifera*). This technology is applied only in hilly to very steep slope. The purpose is to create a mixed plantation of the native oak trees with combination with the planted pines in order to create a stable ecosystem that prevent soil erosion and promotes hydrological functions.

Relevant web links: <http://practice-netweb.eu/node/715>



Image of the mixed plantation of pines in between scattered oak trees and shrubs