

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ACHIEVING THE SDGS THROUGH INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

*A Brief summarizing the benefits of using ILM as a key means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Integrated landscape management offers an action-oriented means to achieve multiple SDG targets simultaneously at local and subnational levels.
- ▶ National governments can readily build integrated landscape management into their national sustainable development strategies and utilize the approach as an integration and implementation mechanism for achieving multiple SDGs.
- ▶ The International community, donors, investors, and national governments should prioritize support for integrated *place-based* - rather than sector-based - development finance.
- ▶ Since UN Member States have recognized that the Sustainable Development Goals are indivisible and should be implemented in an integrated manner, achieving the goals will require intentional actions to overturn the business-as-usual single-sector and siloed approach to development.
- ▶ Collaborative planning, negotiation, and action at *landscape scale* in particular is essential to support improved coordination, the identification of synergies, and the management of trade-offs among diverse stakeholders.
- ▶ Integrated landscape management has been implemented and successful in a wide range of environments and cultures across the globe, providing practical examples of place-based implementation to enhance ecosystems and livelihoods.

* Based on Landscape Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Achieving the SDGs through integrated landscape management (2015), white paper by the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative's SDG Task Force.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, universally applicable to all nations. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals will require Member States and the international community to resist the business-as-usual single-sector and siloed approach to development.

Member States have acknowledged that the Sustainable Development Goals are indivisible and should be implemented in an integrated manner. This provides the opportunity to achieve coherence in policies and actions across all levels and scales, from local to global. Collaborative planning and action at *landscape scale* in particular is an essential foundation for maximizing synergies across multiple sectors.

Considering interlinkages between SDGs and the urgency to achieve SDGs simultaneously, a global coalition of leading agriculture, environment and development organizations – the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative – proposes integrated landscape management (ILM) as a fundamental means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Integrated landscape management:

- ▶ **Generates solutions that achieve multiple objectives at once.**
- ▶ **Improves inter-sectoral coordination and cost-effectiveness at multiple levels.**
- ▶ **Empowers communities through multi-stakeholder processes and inclusive governance.**
- ▶ **Enhances transboundary and regional cooperation.**
- ▶ **Contributes to national and regional strategies for addressing climate change.**

ILM supports integration across sectors and scales; increases coordination; and ensures harmonization of planning, implementation and monitoring processes at the landscape, sub-national and national levels. It ensures that by managing the underpinning natural resource base and ecosystem services in a coordinated way, societal needs can be met in the short and long term.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The international community plays a key role in promoting ILM as an integration strategy for the SDGs, and supporting national governments in utilizing ILM. Making these five changes would help scale integrated landscape management around the world to help states realize the sustainable development agenda.

- ▶ **Improve coordination, integration, and representation within the United Nations system.**
- ▶ **Stimulate NGO and civil society landscape and policy partnerships.**
- ▶ **Adapt international finance and investment strategies to the needs of ILM.**
- ▶ **Mobilize the private sector to build collaborative landscape partnerships into business models.**
- ▶ **Advance integrated landscape research and knowledge platforms.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Countries will need to develop their own development strategies that highlight national priorities in the context of the SDGs. An implementation plan will serve as the country's “roadmap”—adopted at the highest level—which identifies the specific actions to be undertaken and monitored, and which provides the policy framework for sub-national and local governments to work within. For example, the Government of Colombia has created the Inter-Agency Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. This commission

involves a range of ministries and departments—Foreign Affairs; Environment and Sustainable Development; Finance; Social Prosperity; Statistics; and Planning—reflecting an acknowledgment of the cross-cutting nature of the new agenda and the inter-sectoral coordination needed to deliver it. At the same time, the country has used the SDG framework to highlight its own national priorities.

YEAR 1 ACTION STEPS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- ▶ Form multi-stakeholder learning group on ILM and SDGs at national and sub-national levels where appropriate, which includes government and non-government actors.
- ▶ Take stock of existing landscape initiatives and assess their present and potential future contributions to the SDGs.
- ▶ Undertake a scoping exercise on available evidence and experience to support knowledge sharing and underpin negotiated decision making.
- ▶ Develop an inter-agency task force to review national/sub-national development plans to evaluate their alignment with integrated landscape management strategies.
- ▶ Review the existing policy framework and enabling environment for ILM.
- ▶ Explore ways to institutionalize a shift from sector-based to placed-based government financing, and move toward implementation.
- ▶ Institute a nationwide educational campaign on ILM and the SDGs to promote awareness and dialogue.
- ▶ Include language about ILM in key national policy and strategy documents.

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES (ILIS) IN THREE REGIONS* REPORTING IMPROVED OUTCOMES IN SELECT AREAS AND RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AREAS OF INVESTMENT BY LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES		CONTINENT			SDGS
		SS AFRICA	S & SE ASIA	LAC	
Total Number of Integrated Landscape Initiatives		87	166	104	
	ILIs that invested in one or more areas of agriculture (%)	97	89	95	
	ILIs with increases in yield	40	46	38	1, 2
	ILIs with reduced environmental impacts	39	57	56	6, 12, 15
	ILIs that invested in one or more areas of conservation (%)	93	93	85	
	ILIs with improved biodiversity protection	51	87	66	15
	ILIs with improved water quality and regularity	29	52	42	3, 6
	ILIs that invested in one or more areas of livelihoods (%)	90	91	93	
	ILIs with improved food security	46	69	42	2
	ILIs with higher income for low-income households	46	96	52	1, 8
	ILIs with improved access to healthcare	6	20	17	3
	ILIs that invested in one or more areas of institutions (%)	94	95	91	
	ILIs that saw greater empowerment of women	45	83	55	5, 10, 16
	ILIs that preserved/used indigenous and local knowledge	37	88	67	10, 16

* In these studies, to establish the list of ILIs cited in the table and for analysis, hundreds of landscape-level conservation and development programs were surveyed, and responses were screened against criteria used to establish that they were indeed integrated landscape initiatives.

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE APPROACHES KEY TO UNLOCK SDGS

The human community has rallied behind a new Sustainable Development Agenda. While the agenda is global, solutions will be landscape-scale, where the natural resources and ecosystem services that are humanity's life raft can be comprehensively managed.

The world needs, and is ready for, a new paradigm for development: one that acknowledges the inherent interconnectedness of human and natural systems and the resources that underpin them. Integrated landscape management allows local people to manage those resources so that development interventions capture synergies, mitigate trade-offs, and create local value and social capital. This practice is already at work around the world. A wide variety of examples of this approach in action are presented in the white paper on which this brief is based: transboundary landscapes, micro watersheds, lake basins, sacred sites, city regions and more. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg. But to achieve the sustainable development goals universally, we will need to do much more.

Governments should include this approach in their plans for implementation of the sustainable development agenda, in everything from financing strategies to development indicator selection. The international community should support these efforts through increased and better coordinated finance, stronger coordination between international agencies, and support for global knowledge sharing. The future we want lies ahead, if we are willing to take the necessary action and implement integrated landscape management around the world.

LPFN SDG TASK FORCE MEMBERS



**Landscapes for
People, Food and Nature**

MORE INFORMATION

The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative welcomes new collaborators in all components of the Initiative. For additional information, please contact Melissa Thaxton, Initiative Partnership Coordinator, at mthaxton@ecoagriculture.org.

For more information visit us at sdgs.peoplefoodandnature.org or follow us on

