



INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The Means of Implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Required: integrated approach to sustainable development

To simultaneously achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), communities and businesses will need to find new ways to invest in and manage their land and water resources to secure the full range of goods and services needed from their landscapes. Member States have acknowledged that the 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 is an essential foundation for maximizing synergies across multiple sectors.

Effective inter-sectoral coordination requires that stakeholders share evidence, information and best practices, and that planning, implementation and monitoring processes are harmonized at the landscape level. A global coalition of leading agriculture, environment and development organizations, the **Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative**, is working together to support the implementation of integrated landscape management worldwide. The Initiative advances viable

pathways for sustainable development in places where food production, ecosystem health and human wellbeing must be achieved simultaneously.

Goals related to poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, health and population dynamics, sustainable cities and human settlements, ecosystems and biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation, clean power generation, social stability and security, and sustainable production and consumption are necessarily linked.

Realizing multiple outcomes simultaneously

Integrated landscape management (ILM) is a term adopted by the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative—and now widely used—to describe the diverse approaches to landscape management. ILM 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. More than 80 communities of practice have been documented as rising to this challenge, including those undertaking participatory watershed management, pastoral community conservancies, ecosystem management, forest landscape restoration, climate smart territorial development, indigenous landscape management, agricultural green growth, climate-smart landscape, food-energy-water systems, and city region food systems.

Common characteristics of ILM include: generating an agreed vision among stakeholders of landscape goals; adopting practices that achieve multiple objectives; devising strategies to manage spatial and seasonal interactions across different land uses and users; linking institutions and establishing mechanisms for stakeholder dialogue, negotiation and action; and shaping markets, planning frameworks and policies to support desired outcomes.

Over the past decade, there has been remarkable growth in integrated landscape management activities on the ground and increased support by policymakers, businesses, and leaders to include ILM as a key component of their sustainable development portfolios. Continental reviews of Integrated Landscape Initiatives have documented nearly 500 of these initiatives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, and hundreds more can be found in North America and Australia. Some countries are leading the way in adopting more integrated, participatory and adaptable approaches to sustainable landscape management to achieve ambitious national development goals (see Box on back). These experiences provide valuable lessons for global uptake of ILM policies and practices.

The Advantages of Integrated Landscape Management

Integrated landscape management offers specific advantages for implementation of the SDGs compared to sector-specific implementation plans.

- 1. Generate solutions that achieve multiple objectives at once.** For example, a cross-sector program for watershed restoration can spur economic activity, improve agricultural productivity, foster biodiversity and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as improve water availability and quality. Adopting a landscape approach that systematically considers multiple sectors and diverse stakeholder needs enhances overall policy and program coherence and effectiveness.
- 2. Improve inter-sectoral coordination and cost-effectiveness at multiple levels.** Coordinated strategies and plans encourage synergies among national, sub-national, and local governments, and make best use of scarce financial resources by reducing redundancies and increasing sustainable development returns on investment through effective planning and decision making at all levels of government.
- 3. Empower communities through multi-stakeholder processes.** ILM is an inclusive, participatory process that engages all stakeholders—including women, youth, mobile communities, indigenous peoples, smallholder producers and other marginalized and vulnerable peoples—in collaborative decision-making and management of natural resources, agricultural lands, biological diversity, and culturally important resources.
- 4. Enhance transboundary and regional cooperation.** An integrated landscape approach considers ecological connectivity, economic cooperation, and labor migration all in one framework. By providing a platform for multi-stakeholder participation and negotiation and shared learning, ILM promotes dialogue and cooperation at all levels.

- 5. Contribute to national and regional strategies for addressing climate change.** By bridging science, practice and policy, climate smart landscapes can achieve mitigation, adaptation and agricultural production objectives while ensuring environmental sustainability.

COUNTRIES THAT ARE LEADING THE WAY IN INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Rwanda has adopted a national landscape restoration strategy with a goal of improving rural livelihoods while enhancing forest and land resources. Ethiopia is overcoming chronic food insecurity with landscape approaches to agricultural restoration and water management. In Colombia, public-private partnerships for integrated watershed management are improving water quality and lowering municipal water treatment costs while also reducing business risks for food and beverage manufacturers. Indonesia is adopting integrated landscape approaches to conserve forest in areas of rapid agricultural development. Eight nations in Central America are implementing an area-based approach to rural development that supports participatory regional planning to address agriculture, environment, health, human development and climate change in an integrated way.



The Sustainable Development Agenda reflects a shared understanding that a more integrated and coherent policy framework is the only viable way forward. The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative provides the leadership and expertise in integrated landscape management needed to achieve each of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This brief was produced by experts from the organizations below. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of those organizations.

