

Landscapes for People, Food and Nature

An International Initiative for Dialogue, Learning and Action

Context and Objectives

Challenges of food security, persistent poverty, climate change, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss have risen to the top of international agendas. To address these issues successfully, it is critical to move beyond zero-sum strategies that solve one problem but exacerbate others.

“Integrated landscape management” (ILM) is an important way to realize synergies and reduce trade-offs among these multiple objectives. Farmers and land managers in hundreds of landscapes around the world are reaching out across traditional sectoral boundaries to forge partnerships and solve problems that are clearly inter-connected.

To be implemented effectively, landscape approaches require the right policies, investments, institutions, market incentives and knowledge systems. To support the broader and more impactful use of integrated landscape approaches, more than 70 leading agriculture, environment and development organizations have come together to form the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative (LPFN). As a global coalition, the LPFN advances viable pathways for sustainable development in places where food production, ecosystem health and human wellbeing must be achieved simultaneously.

Decisions made now will define society’s chosen trajectories in relation to climate change, ecosystem degradation and rising demand for food, energy, fiber and water. To secure a sustainable path, key decision makers must take bold steps to mainstream a whole landscape approach, tackling these complex challenges with a united voice. The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative is partnering with leaders around the world to accelerate this change.

Components

Strengthening Landscape Initiatives

The LPFN strengthens capacities and strategies of integrated landscape initiatives (ILIs) in Africa, Latin America and Asia, resulting in measurably increased and sustainable agricultural production, enhanced livelihoods, and conserved biodiversity and ecosystem services. Multi-stakeholder Regional Dialogues – held in Africa in 2012, 2014 and 2017, and to take place in Central and North America in 2018 – are an important part of this work, bringing together innovators engaged in applying and promoting integrated landscape approaches. The Dialogues enable peer-to-peer learning, speed deployment of tools and techniques, and craft action agendas for policy, investment, capacity building and research.

Building an Enabling Environment

The LPFN works collaboratively to advance integrated landscape management as a key means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to catalyze new policy commitments and investments (public, philanthropic, private) to support the integrated landscape approach nationally and internationally.

Deepening the evidence

The LPFN assesses potential contributions to address key development challenges; synthesizes lessons from field experience for landscape practitioners, businesses and policymakers; and improves the scientific basis for action.

Raising Awareness

The LPFN promotes and advocates for integrated landscape management as an effective approach to achieve sustainable development at local, national, and international scales.



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A man processes sisal fiber in Mexico. Photo credit: Shutterstock

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

The Initiative strives to realize six specific, measurable outcomes.

1. Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Initiatives Strengthened

The LPFN is focused on improving the capabilities of multi-stakeholder platforms to manage agricultural landscapes for the full range of needed products and ecosystem services, while conserving biodiversity. We are currently developing the Landscape Academy to strengthen capacities of landscape leaders – farmers, conservationists, scientists, policymakers and business people – to more effectively implement and support integrated landscape management.

2. Policies Support Integrated Landscapes

Countries around the world have begun to establish policy frameworks that make it easier to undertake multi-stakeholder, inter-sectoral landscape initiatives. The LPFN is assisting interested countries to design and implement local, state or national level policies and programs tailored to their contexts.

3. Business Leaders Incorporate Integrated Landscape Approaches in their Business Models

The LPFN is collaborating with business partners to implement the Business for Sustainable Landscapes Action Agenda, which refines the “business case” for engagement in integrated landscape initiatives and supports the implementation of business partnerships in landscapes.

4. Expanded finance for Integrated Landscape Investment

Most public financing in agricultural landscapes is sector- based. The LPFN is working with financial experts and development partners to evaluate the financial case and mechanisms for integrated landscape investments, mobilize greater public financing of integrated landscape strategies and work with international institutions to open or expand windows of financing for integrated landscape investment.

5. Science and Knowledge Systems Support Integrated Landscape Initiatives

While research to support the design and implementation of integrated landscape approaches has expanded greatly, the knowledge base remains inadequate to support understanding, management, and policy-making for integrated landscape systems. Scientists involved in the Initiative are working to sharpen the focus and strengthen the quality of landscape research and to catalyze increased funding to improve the evidence base for managing whole landscapes.

6. Key Stakeholders Aware of the Benefits of Integrated Landscapes

The LPFN is raising the profile of landscape approaches through a strategic outreach effort. Resource materials are being widely disseminated through communication channels of the Co-organizers and collaborators, as well as through the media. Initiative collaborators are working to ensure that landscape approaches are considered in the formulation of international policy.

MORE INFORMATION

The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative welcomes new collaborators in all components of the LPFN. For more information, please email us at lpfn@ecoagriculture.org.

peoplefoodandnature.org



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