

Landscapes for People, Food and Nature

An International Initiative for Dialogue, Learning and Action

Rio+20: The Time is Now

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, it is critical to move beyond zero-sum strategies that solve one problem but exacerbate others.

“Integrated landscape management” is an important solution 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 to solve problems that are clearly inter-connected.

But 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, a global coalition of leading agriculture, environment and development organizations has come together to implement the *Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative*. The Initiative will advance 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 rising food demand, climate change, and ecosystem degradation. At the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, leaders and decision makers from government, private sector, regional and international organizations, civil society and funding agencies will come together to map the planet's future post- 2015, when the Millennium Development

Goals expire. These leaders must prioritize agriculture and food systems, explicitly recognizing their critical linkages with ecosystem health, water, human health, energy, biodiversity and climate change. In order to secure a sustainable path, they must take bold steps immediately to mainstream a whole landscape approach, tackling these complex challenges with a united voice.

The premier sustainable development summit for a decade must make meaningful progress on global food security and sustainable agriculture. The *Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative* can be a valuable partner in accelerating this change.

Components

A **Global Review** is building the evidence base for integrated agricultural landscape management – assessing potential contributions to address key development challenges; synthesizing lessons from field experience for practitioners, businesses and policymakers; and improving the scientific basis for action.

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues are bringing together innovators engaged in applying and promoting integrated landscape approaches. The dialogues serve to interpret the results of the Global Review and craft action agendas for policy, investment, capacity building and research. The first major dialogue took place in Nairobi in March 2012 with nearly 150 landscape innovators and champions from around the world.

An **Action and Advocacy** component will implement these agendas through 2014 and beyond at the landscape, national and international levels. The Initiative's collaborators in action and advocacy include farmers' organizations, private sector companies, NGOs, multilateral agencies, governments and philanthropic organizations.



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Photo credit: Niel Palmer / CIAT

Strategic Outcomes

The Initiative strives to realize five specific, measurable outcomes.

Outcome 1: Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Initiatives Strengthened

The Landscape Initiative's highest priority is to strengthen the implementation of multi-stakeholder agricultural landscape initiatives around the world. This outcome is focused on improving capacities for managing whole landscapes and many of the knowledge products from the Global Review are designed to support it.

Outcome 2: Policies Support Integrated Landscapes

Countries around the world seek to establish policy frameworks that make it easier to establish multi-stakeholder, inter-sectoral landscape initiatives. The Initiative will assist interested countries to design and implement local, state or national policies and programs tailored to their contexts. The Initiative will also seek to ensure landscape approaches are considered in formulating international policy.

Outcome 3: Business Leaders Incorporate Integrated Landscape Approaches in their Business Models

Sustainability initiatives in agribusiness and the food industry have grown dramatically over the past two decades, but are not well-linked to efforts in other sectors. The Initiative will collaborate with business partners to refine the "business case" for engagement in integrated

landscape initiatives, support the implementation of business partnerships in landscapes; and work with business sustainability platforms to incorporate landscape perspectives into eco-standards, corporate sustainability codes, commodity roundtable initiatives and public-private investment schemes.

Outcome 4: Financing Expanded for Integrated Landscape Investment

Most public and donor financing in agricultural landscapes is sector-based. The Initiative will work 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.

Outcome 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. The Initiative seeks 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.

More Information

The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative welcomes new collaborators in all components of the Initiative. For additional information, please contact Sara J. Scherr, President, EcoAgriculture Partners, at sscherr@ecoagriculture.org.

Please visit the Initiative website at www.landscapes.ecoagriculture.org or the Initiative blog at <http://blog.ecoagriculture.org>

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