

# Global Landscapes Forum



## Outcome Statement



2013, Warsaw, UNFCCC



## Recommendations

1. Apply landscape approach principles to REDD+
2. Consider landscapes in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal framework
3. Recognize the role of agriculture in climate change
4. Address gender inequalities
5. Facilitate cross-sector planning in National Adaptation Plans
6. Ensure long-term support for watershed management
7. Incorporate the voices of rural youth in decision making
8. Support coordination of local and regional institutions
9. Recognize the rights of local people
10. Foster policies that promote resilience and adaptation in mountain areas
11. Ensure good governance policies attract long-term, responsible investment
12. Support policies that enhance diversity
13. Encourage monitoring and evaluation of sectoral interaction

## Introduction

The Global Landscapes Forum, a two-day event held on the sidelines of the UN climate change negotiations as part of the Conference of the Parties (COP19) in Warsaw on 16-17 November 2013, was attended by over 1,200 experts on landscapes, agriculture and forestry. The Forum was designed to inform the global climate and development frameworks — specifically the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN General Assembly (*UNGA*)— about the opportunities of a “landscape approach” to development.

Actions are not only needed by the inter-governmental processes but also by legislators, non-government organizations, the scientific community and the private sector, who are all encouraged to consider the recommendations from the Forum.

A landscape comprises an area of land and the people depending on or relating to it. This includes mountains, hills, rivers,lakes, living plants and animals; and human

elements including farms, houses, roads, mines, structures and institutions, and their cultural and spiritual values.

There is a long history of segregating landscapes by sector,leading to fragmented and isolated management decisions. As a result we see many examples of unsustainable land use, leading to huge greenhouse gas emissions, loss of ecosystem services and unnecessary risks for livelihoods and food production.

A landscape approach seeks to better understand and recognize the interconnections between different land uses and different stakeholders by integrating them into a joint management process. This provides the opportunity to better handle trade-offs and realize synergies in the landscape.

We recognize that land use may become an important element of the post-2020 climate agreement. UNFCCC negotiators are seeking ways to link elements on Land



Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), REDD+, agriculture and other land uses.

We also recognize that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will support the Post-2015 Development Agenda are aimed to be cross-cutting and holistic, and that a Goal encompassing agriculture and forestry, among other sectors and land uses, is one of the options currently under discussion.

For both of these global challenges, a landscape approach provides opportunities in formulating policies and targets,

as well as implementing them. Landscapes hold the key to a very large part of the future we want.

The Global Landscapes Forum has articulated 13 actionable policy recommendations and incentives for a multilateral climate agreement, the SDG process as well as other actors. These recommendations, summarized below, are based on results of individual sessions and do not necessarily represent a consensus of the Forum as whole.

The full list of recommendations is available at [www.landscapes.org](http://www.landscapes.org)



## Apply landscape approach principles to REDD+



The principal objective of the UNFCCC's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) is to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by financially incentivizing countries to maintain forest cover. For a host of reasons, the scheme has also come to incorporate biodiversity, poverty, governance and adaptation objectives.

Applying the landscape approach concept to REDD+ can encourage cross-sectoral perspectives to deliver on equity goals, co-benefits and multilevel governance of natural resources.

### Negotiators should:

- **Approach** mitigation in an integrated way to capture all the related co-benefits of activities.
- **Address** missing institutions.
- **Consider** data from land-use change models that simulate and map future biodiversity loss, costs of transporting commodities, and changes in land cover when formulating land-use planning and REDD+ policies.
- **Encourage** countries to formulate and implement policies that go beyond carbon benefits to co-benefits.

Deforestation and forest degradation account for 10–15% of global human-induced greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1</sup> The causes of deforestation vary both regionally and temporally, and generally do not occur in isolation but operate through a complex range of interactions.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> van der Werf GR, et al. 2009. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from forest loss. *Nature Geoscience* 2:737–738.

<sup>2</sup> Boucher DH, et al. 2011. The root of the problem: What's driving deforestation today? Union of Concerned Scientists.



## Consider landscapes in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal framework

A comprehensive SDG framework should enable and compel the development of mutually supportive goals, while counteracting institutional silos. A sustainable landscape goal would provide an integrated and coherent picture, thereby supporting the performance of future SDGs.

A new investment asset class focusing on sustainable landscapes is emerging, but to successfully scale up that investment, long-term enabling conditions are required. An SDG focusing on sustainable landscapes could unlock

private sector innovation and investment, turning trade-offs into synergies.

### Negotiators should:

- **Support** the inclusion of socially just, effective and holistic policies to address natural resource management, through the landscape approach, in the post-2015 SDG framework.
- **Consider** sustainable landscapes as a standalone SDG, with targets defined across sectors as well as by individual sectors.



## Recognize the role of agriculture in climate change

Agriculture can be used for both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The sector accounts for 29% of GDP in developing countries and provides jobs for 65% of their populations.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, agriculture accounts for 14–24% of global greenhouse gas emissions and is the main driver of deforestation.<sup>4</sup>

Sustainable landscape management could increase food production, strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. To ensure that agriculture contributes to adaptation and mitigation efforts without undermining food production and the fight against poverty.

### Negotiators should:

- **Continue** to consider agriculture as part of the SBSTA process.
- **Provide** an integrated way of approaching mitigation through the Green Climate Fund and other mechanisms that favor actions that generate adaptation co-benefits.
- **Ensure** that the Green Climate Fund supports smallholder farmers.

<sup>3</sup> <http://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/farmings-climate-smart-future-placing-agriculture-heart-climate-change-policy#.Uo3ia8RQHvi>

<sup>4</sup> Vermeulen et al. 2012. Climate change and food systems. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 37:195-222. doi 10.1146/annurev-environ-020411-130608





## Address gender inequalities

Men tend to dominate many natural resource sectors, making it difficult for women to participate in management and decision-making.<sup>5</sup> Overlooking gender differences can result in incorrect assessments of the trade-offs and effects of policies on communities.

### Negotiators should:

- Ensure that the Green Climate Fund and other UNFCCC mechanisms focus on knowledge and technology transfer to women, especially in the farming sector and in REDD+.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cifor.org/mediamultimedia/key-facts-on-the-importance-of-forest/forests-and-gender.html> ; <http://worldbank.org/genderinag>



## Facilitate cross-sector planning in National Adaptation Plans

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) development can facilitate cross-sector planning between the agriculture, forestry, water and energy sectors.

### Negotiators should:

- Encourage domestic budgets to fund NAPs.
- Encourage existing development and sector policies to integrate national adaptation plans.
- Ensure sufficient stakeholder engagement is undertaken early and often, particularly engagement with the private sector.
- Encourage south-south learning in NAP development that enables countries to share success stories and lessons learned regarding cross-sector planning in the agriculture, forestry, water and energy sectors.







## Ensure long-term support for watershed management

Watersheds often encompass multiple areas of a landscape – forests, agriculture, mountains, fisheries. Their management requires a multi-scale, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach. The landscape approach has long been applied through watershed management and territorial development to improve the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities and ensure food supply.

### Negotiators should:

- Ensure long-term and multi-sector support and funding mechanisms for watershed management beyond conventional project approaches to such large-scale interventions.
- Ensure such interventions generate multiple livelihoods, food security and global environment benefits.



## Incorporate the voices of rural youth in decision making



Young people are rarely involved in important policy debates in natural resource sectors and, for various reasons, may choose not to work in the rural sector. If young farmers, foresters and fishery managers do not replace aging producers, sustainable future landscapes will be seriously compromised.

### Negotiators should:

- Encourage capacity development and involvement of youth movements within subnational, national and UN processes.



## 8 Recommendation

### Support coordination of local and regional institutions

There are numerous actors whose decisions influence the landscape and its evolution. However, coordination across institutions and sectors is often lacking — even within high-level bodies such as UNFCCC and UNCSD. Efforts are needed to bridge these gaps.

#### Negotiators should:

- Provide incentives and enforceable legal frameworks that support local- and regional-level actors in working across jurisdictions and sectors.
- Encourage efforts to bridge gaps between local, regional and national institutions to enable the development of effective governance systems that achieve multiple benefits.



## Recommendation 9

### Recognize the rights of local people

Rights-based approaches to land management are rooted in international treaties and legislation, yet are rarely implemented at the ground level. Any approach to land management must recognize and prioritize the rights, needs and positive contributions to ecosystem conservation of marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples, local communities, past or a lists and peasants.

Landscape approaches that consider the full implications of a policy for local people benefit the environment, the economy and society

#### Negotiators should:

- Recognize and prioritize the rights, needs and roles of indigenous peoples, peasants, past or a lists and women, and their indigenous territories and community-conserved areas, and ensure the implementation of rights-based approaches to land management.



## Foster policies that promote resilience and adaptation in mountain areas

Mountain ecosystems are home to almost a quarter of the world's population and cover 27% of the world's land surface. Mountains have been dubbed the 'water towers of the world', as they provide freshwater for half of the world's population<sup>6</sup> as well as energy, timber, biodiversity maintenance and opportunities for recreation.

### Negotiators should:

- Foster policies that promote resilience and adaptation in mountain areas to reduce the vulnerability of people who depend on mountain ecosystems.
- Ensure that a landscape approach that includes mountains is integrated into investment priorities of the Green Climate Fund.
- Ensure investments are culturally sensitive and promote appropriate indigenous solutions where they are available.
- Address glacial melting and its potential impact on worldwide water resources in UNFCCC processes.



<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/w9300e/w9300e03.htm>



## Ensure good governance policies attract long-term, responsible investment



National and international investments in rural landscapes should favor no-regrets options that contribute to mitigation and adaptation. Both public and private sector finance should be considered, as businesses and financial institutions increasingly commit to sustainable supply chains. The public sector should focus their resources on enabling conditions for investments.

### Negotiators should:

- Consider policies that create good governance and attract long-term responsible private investment within a stable tenure environment.
- Commit to sustainable commodity supply chains that reduce deforestation and improve social outcomes.



## Support policies that enhance diversity

Diversity at the landscape level — of ecosystems, species and genetic resources, and livelihood options — enhances ecosystem and human resilience to economic and climatic shocks.

### Negotiators should:

- Support policies, institutional support, research and resource management that seek to maintain and enhance environmental and socio-economic diversity and avoid landscape or ecosystem simplification.
- Ensure these policies are reflected in countries' National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).



## Encourage monitoring and evaluation of sectoral interaction

Enhancing sustainability goals requires transparency, effective monitoring and evidence-based impact assessment of commodity supply chain interventions, as well as multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral partnerships.

### Negotiators should:

- Ensure approaches to certification are streamlined so that multiple certification visits do not need to be made to small, rural communities.
- Encourage assessment of the demand for broader environmental services credits to ensure that they are viable on a market.





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