

Sustainable Landscape Approach



Land-use planning initiatives are now embracing a more integrated and holistic landscape approach rather than sectoral approaches. This approach recognizes how people depend on their landscapes for their livelihoods, food, culture, and identity, and how essential it is to handle these with care.

This approach allows a landscape to be seen as a series of interdependent natural and human systems, and is particularly useful when there are multiple stakeholders within a landscape with varying resource requirements and interdependencies. It involves long-term collaboration to build consensus among all stakeholders with regard to land management policies and sustainable landscape objectives.

By integrating ecosystems into large-scale land-use strategies through a sustainable landscape approach, countries can achieve targets for sustainable agricultural and forest production, conservation of natural capital, and improvement of human well-being—all the while tackling the complex challenge of climate change.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE APPROACH: DEFINITIONS AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

A landscape is a jurisdictional planning area that includes spaces for essential natural capital and key production systems. These must be large enough to meet production and conservation goals, yet small enough to make implementation feasible. Examples include a watershed and its surrounding communities, or a whole country in the case of small island states.

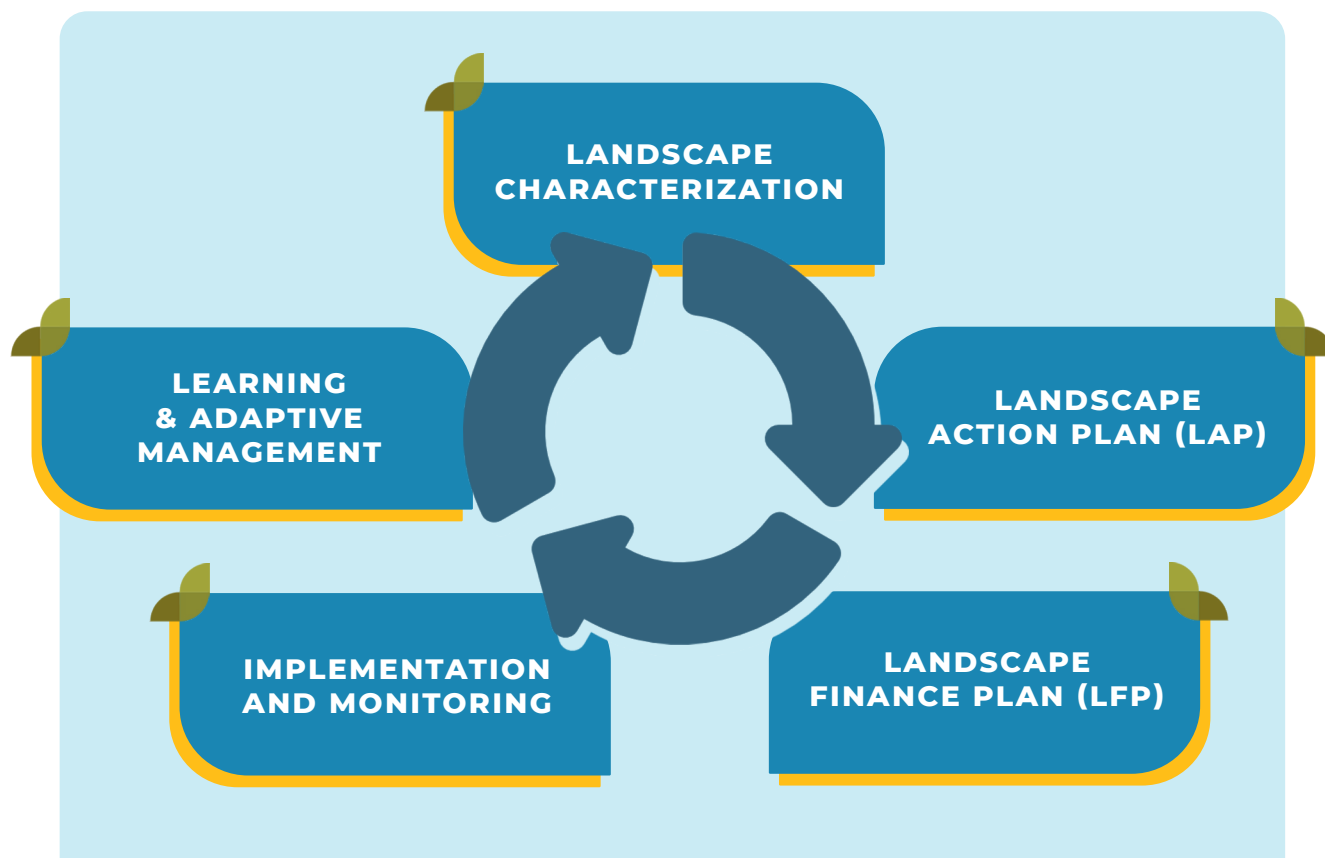
In a sustainable landscape approach, essential natural capital is maintained by promoting the use of best practices in production, planning, and local decision-making processes to ensure the healthy provision of ecosystem services and the improvement of human well-being.

A sustainable landscape also is characterized by zero net deforestation, with all land under some form of management regime, leading to quantifiable improvements in local human well-being. This includes sustainably-financed protection of essential natural capital and development of sustainable production areas.



FIVE PHASES OF THE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE APPROACH

According to Conservation International, an integrated sustainable landscape approach (SLA) involves these five phases:



- 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION:** To assess the status of landscape sustainability in terms of natural capital, production, human well-being and governance, and develop a shared understanding of the goals and priorities for the landscape.
- 2. LANDSCAPE ACTION PLAN (LAP):** To plan interventions with partners in pursuit of multiple goals by maximizing synergies, making well-informed decisions and identifying the best set of interventions for investment.
- 3. LANDSCAPE FINANCE PLAN (LFP):** To build a diverse portfolio of financial resources that can support implementation, with a range of mechanisms, timelines, risk tolerances and levels of investment.
- 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING:** To implement the management interventions and investment opportunities employed through partnerships as outlined in the LAP and LFP and monitor the impact of these interventions as well as the overall achievement of landscape goals.
- 5. LEARNING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT:** To exchange ideas and experience across CI to improve our interventions and effectiveness through adaptive management.

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