



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Land-use planning for REDD+



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Land-use planning as a key instrument to combat climate change

Land-use planning is increasingly being recognized as a central part of the formulation and implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, contributing to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Conflicting interests and competition over land and resources have been major driving forces of forest conversion, with increasing pressure due to population growth, degradation of lands, economic interests and, not least, the impact of climate change.

An integrated and participatory approach to land-use planning can help identify the most appropriate land uses within a territory – balancing food production and environmental, social, and economic values – towards low-emission and resilient development. In the context of climate change, land-use planning can be a practical tool to determine where and how to allocate land uses to maximize the sustainability of existing resources for present and future generations and to foster synergies across sectors for win-win solutions. Land-use planning can identify priority areas for REDD+ implementation, where there is the highest potential to reduce or sequester carbon emissions, while ensuring socio-economic and other environmental benefits. It can also serve as a tool to plan for adaptation, contributing to the resilience of communities and ecosystems, and to help identify



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and resolve existing and potential land conflicts. When carried out effectively, land-use planning increases certainty and long-term sustainable investments for stakeholders.

Land-use planning is one of the most important cross-cutting actions to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments; as such, it is reflected in many REDD+ strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

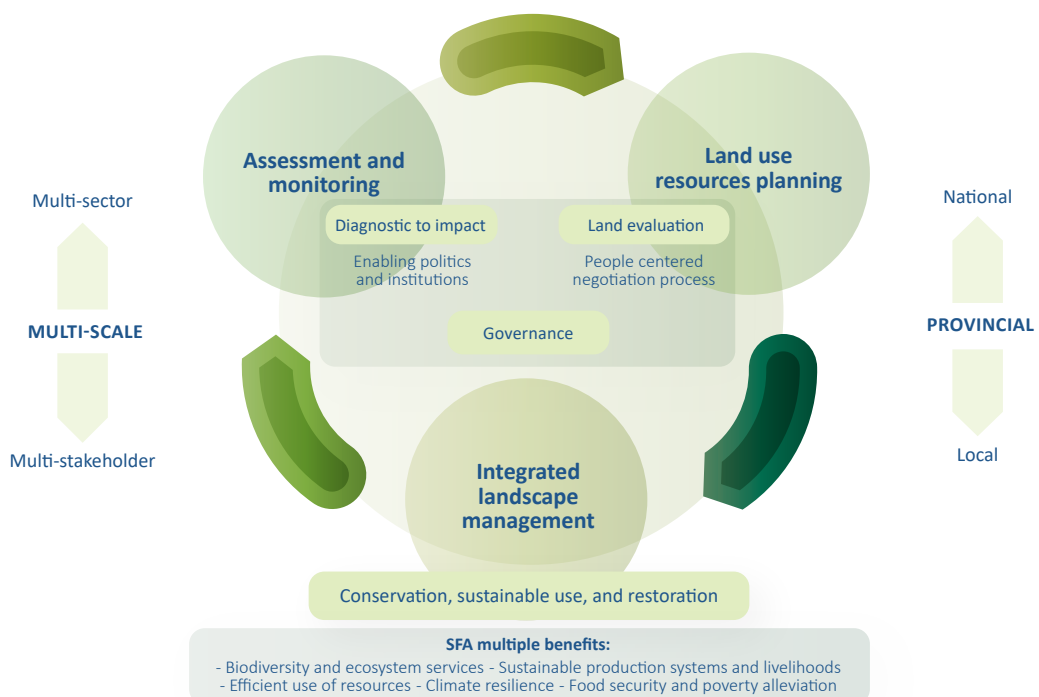


Figure modified from Land resource planning for sustainable land management. FAO, 2017. www.fao.org/3/a-i5937e.pdf



What is land-use planning?

Integrated land-use planning is carried out across sectors and governance systems, and involves the allocation of land for different uses across a landscape in a way that balances economic, social and environmental values at national or sub-national level.

In a given landscape, it should identify the combination of land uses that is best able to meet the needs of land users and other potential demands while safeguarding the resilience of land resources and terrestrial ecosystems for the future.

A key factor in land-use planning is the participation and coordination of the many users in a particular landscape, and their buy-in of the agreed decisions.

Land-use planning is iterative; it should be able to adapt to the changing circumstances and desired objectives of land owners and managers.

FAO support

FAO's technical support to countries are on:

- 1. Assessing forest and land resources** through (I) forest-and land-monitoring systems, generating data to inform land-use planning, (II) studies on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and (III) feasibility and sectoral studies (including cost-benefit analyses).
- 2. Conducting studies on alternative land uses and risk of land conversion**, including assessing how conversion of forests and related greenhouse gas emissions could be halted and reversed considering direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- 3. Developing decision-making and land-monitoring tools** tailored to country needs.
- 4. Facilitating participatory and negotiated territorial development** and other land-use planning approaches for selecting and balancing land uses, and to enhance synergies and socio-economic benefits, while safeguarding ecosystems and contributing to combat climate change.
- 5. Promoting of good governance on land resources**, including harmonization of sectoral laws and policies.
- 6. Exploring guiding elements of transformational change** in integrated landscape management towards low-emission and resilient development, where agricultural production and food security are enhanced without causing forest loss.

Examples from the ground

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

FAO is supporting Equateur province in developing micro-zoning of the land in 326 villages during the implementation of a REDD+ integrated programme. This initiative aims to achieve a concerted and wise allocation of space, reconciling the potential of the land and forest with the needs and aspirations of local people for development and forest management, and taking into consideration existing land rights.

Peru

Through FAO's technical and financial support, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest Service and regional governments have recognized that strategic land-use planning frameworks should be established at the national level to harmonize agricultural, mining, forest and other land uses according to REDD+ priorities as well as NDCs and Sustainable Development Goals. The frameworks should be complemented with strategic interventions on the ground that are planned in coordination with regional governments, which are ultimately responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws and regulations in their territories.

Viet Nam

Integrated land-use planning is a component of both Viet Nam's national REDD+ strategy – or action programme – and its provincial REDD+ action plans. With FAO support, spatial analysis has been used to prepare maps with provincial stakeholders identifying priority areas for REDD+ implementation, either in communes (administrative areas) or forest management units. Viet Nam has also recently passed a law streamlining its planning procedures.

Deforestation and forest degradation are often related to conflicting land uses. They need to be addressed through coordinated planning and management across the many sectors concerned with land and other natural resources. Examples around the world show that initially conflicting land uses, such as for forests and agriculture, if planned jointly, can become allies in the fight against climate change.

Key resources

FAO portal on Land Resources Planning Toolbox:
www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning-toolbox/en

FAO. 1993. Guidelines for land-use planning:
www.fao.org/docrep/t0715e/t0715e00.htm

FAO. 2017. Land resource planning for sustainable land management:
www.fao.org/3/a-i5937e.pdf

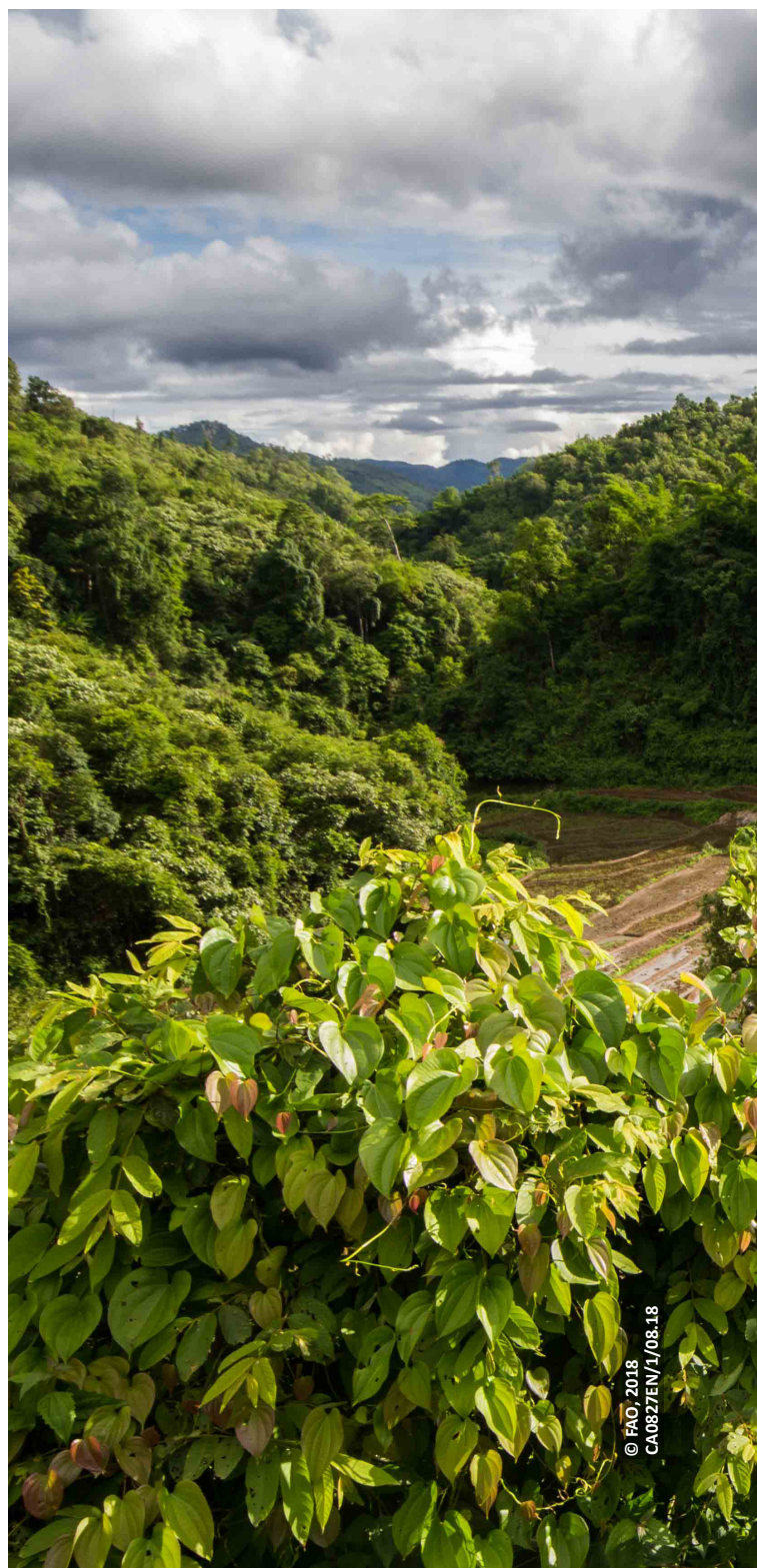
FAO. 2017. Landscapes for Life: Approaches to landscape management for sustainable food and agriculture:
www.fao.org/3/i8324en/i8324en.pdf

For more information, please visit the following webpages:

FAO REDD+
www.fao.org/redd

FAO Land Resources Planning
www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning/en/

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