



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FORESTERS CALL FOR ACTION: FUTURE LAND MANAGEMENT NEEDS BETTER INTEGRATION OF SECTORS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS



WFC2015
XIV World Forestry Congress

The XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC) delivers a strong message: global challenges require increased efforts to better manage land by integrating forests and other land uses.

- Why is better integration of forests and other land uses essential?
- What barriers on the ground must be overcome to simultaneously increase agricultural output and boost the productive and protective functions of forests?
- How can policymakers, the private sector, stakeholders and researchers contribute to a more integrated and sustainable approach to land use?

This brief explains how these questions were addressed at the World Forestry Congress in South Africa in 2015. It aims to stimulate discussion as well as collaborative and cross-sectoral planning and action at the landscape scale.





Photograph: Liliانا Vanegasw

10 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

Major global challenges such as food insecurity, climate change, water scarcity, poverty, biodiversity loss and limited resources in the context of a growing world population require integrated and cross-sectoral approaches. As an international community, concerned about the future of forests and forestry in sustainable development, we need to:

- 1** Better integrate forestry and related land-use policies.
- 2** Seek cohesive solutions across sectors, regions, generations and boundaries.
- 3** Apply the landscape approach and adaptive management on the ground within and across forestry and agriculture sectors.
- 4** Direct research and practices to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and societies.
- 5** Initiate and support processes, and create enabling conditions, to prevent land-use conflicts and safeguard natural resources.
- 6** Leverage existing information and guidance on integrated approaches and related frameworks and tools.
- 7** Invest in participatory processes and create and maintain effective multi-stakeholder engagement platforms across sectors, with broad participation of indigenous people, local communities, youth and women.
- 8** Establish new partnerships across the forest, agriculture, finance, energy and other sectors.
- 9** Promote broad societal values and objectives and build the business case to guarantee engagement of the private sector and sustainable investments.
- 10** Coordinate policies and develop adequate governance arrangements across sectors and at all levels.

The XIV World Forestry Congress – strong focus on better integrating forests and other land uses

Nearly 4 000 participants from 138 countries met at the World Forestry Congress on 7–11 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. After a week of rich discussions during ministerial dialogues, technical sessions and numerous special events¹ organized around the main theme

“Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”, the **Congress produced three outcome documents:**² the Durban Declaration that outlines a new vision 2050 for forests and forestry, a message on climate change to inform negotiations at UNFCCC COP on a new climate

agreement, and a message on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The issue of **better integration of forests and other land uses** emerged as critically important to face global challenges.



WHY IS BETTER INTEGRATION OF FORESTS AND OTHER LAND USES ESSENTIAL?

Major issues are at stake

Broad consensus exists that while we need to strengthen the sustainability of forestry, we also need to look beyond sectoral approaches and address sustainable land use in a way that interlinks the driving forces behind global development. “The **issues at stake** – climate change, food security, biodiversity, poverty, resource security – **are so large that governments, development professionals and even the private sector see the need for a different approach.**”³

The approach should build on a more integrated view based on the meaningful engagement of stakeholders. Moreover, people, and the need to ensure food, water, energy and employment for current and future generations, should be at the centre of future efforts in forestry, agriculture and watershed management. In summary, sectoral approaches need to be sustainable while integrated approaches need to be enhanced, to deliver multiple benefits from land.

¹ XIV WFC (World Forestry Congress). 2015. International Forest and Water Dialogue, Africa Day, More than heat! – Wood energy for the future, Wildlife Forum, Youth Vision: Our commitment for Change, Innovation and Investment Forum, Forests and Climate Change. Special Events of the XIV World Forestry Congress, 7 – 11 September 2015, Durban, South Africa.

² XIV WFC (World Forestry Congress). 2015. Congress outcome process. Website (available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/outcome/en/>). Accessed 30 November 2015.

³ Tropenbos. 2014. *Unravelling the 'landscape approach' – are we on the right track?* Proceedings of the ILEIA co-organized seminar, 17 September 2014, Wageningen, the Netherlands. Tropenbos International. No. 8. The Netherlands.



Increasing demands on scarce resources

The demands on agriculture production, forest use, water utilization, and environmental services are rapidly increasing. A **growing world population** and the limited **availability of natural resources** will require more **sustainable production and consumption** to meet societal demands.⁴ Rising demand increases the pressure on land and often results in **degradation or conversion of land**. Sustainable production therefore requires integrated approaches involving a **careful consideration of trade-offs** between services and beneficiaries. Multi-stakeholder processes are key to finding ‘acceptable’ solutions.

REDD+

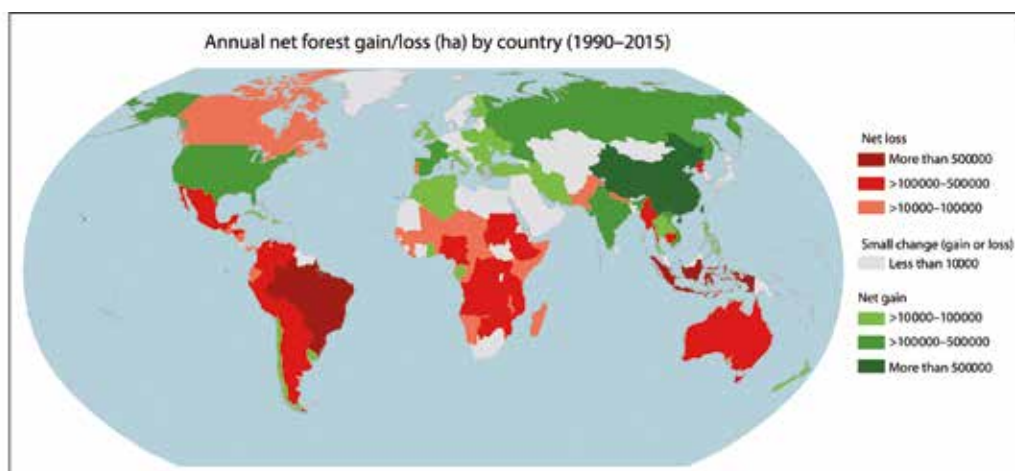
Through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) activities, forests help reduce emissions and enhance carbon stocks in forests while contributing to sustainable development. The effectiveness, coordination and mobilization of financial resources for further REDD+ activities is still a challenge and needs more attention.

Global forest area change (1990–2015)

Year	Forest (000 ha)	Annual change (000 ha)	Annualized ^a Change
1990	4 128 269		
2000	4 055 602	-7267	-0.18
2005	4 032 743	-4572	-0.11
2010	4 015 673	-3414	-0.08
2015	3 999 134	-3308	-0.08

^a Calculated as the compound annual growth rate.

The FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 was launched at the Congress, releasing the most recent United Nations global data on the status of the world’s forest resources and their sustainable management. The world’s forest cover continues to decrease as forest land is converted to agriculture and other uses; however, over the past 25 years the rate of net global deforestation has slowed by more than 50 percent.



WHAT BARRIERS MUST BE OVERCOME TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE ON THE GROUND?

While the concept of integrated land use has the broad agreement of many stakeholders, the principles of a landscape approach have yet to be included in regular policymaking and development planning.

Institutional and governance concerns are believed to be among the most severe obstacles to

implementing more integrated approaches to land use.⁵

Other barriers frequently include the **gap between science and practice**, difficulties in **translating a long-term landscape vision into short-term returns**, and **the complex nature** of integrated approaches in terms of scope, scale and time.

However, with increasing support for the **general principles** of the landscape approach, including adaptive management, stakeholder involvement and multiple objectives, now is the time to push for implementation in the global development policy arena.

⁵ Sayer et al., 2013. Ten principles for a landscape approach to reconciling agriculture, conservation, and other competing land uses. *PNAS*, 110(21): 8349–8356.



HOW CAN POLICYMAKERS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, STAKEHOLDERS AND RESEARCHERS CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO LAND USE?

Governments have a crucial role to play in supporting and applying the **ten key recommendations** above. Most importantly, policymakers can set up stakeholder platforms, integrate sectoral policies and build adequate governance arrangements across sectors.

The **private sector** is taking an increasing interest in integrated landscape approaches, boosting scope for private-sector partnerships that have been largely absent in integrated landscape initiatives thus far.⁶ Companies can apply third-party production **standards**

and certification regimes and demonstrate to manufacturers, retailers and consumers that commodity production has followed sustainable practices.⁷

Stakeholders can intensify the call for more integrated approaches among public and private decisionmakers, **proactively engage** in dialogue, get involved in landscape initiatives and demonstrate measurable successes in comparison to sectoral approaches.

Researchers can help increase knowledge and awareness of integrated land

use among political leadership and stakeholders by providing **technical guidance**.

Sharing knowledge and methodological approaches from different land-use sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, water management, urban development, commerce and industrial systems to ensure a holistic point of view is key.⁸ Many tools are already available,⁹ yet a need exists for well-structured, easy applicable **manuals or methodologies** on the practicalities of how to design, implement and monitor landscape approaches.

6 Landscapes for People, Food and Nature. 2015. *Engaging business for integrated landscape management*. Website (available at <http://peoplefoodandnature.org/challenge/engaging-business-for-integrated-landscape-management/>). Accessed 30 November 2015.

7 Kissinger, G., Morage, M., & Nojonen, M. 2015. Private sector investment in landscape approaches: the role of production standards and certification. In P.A. Minang, M. van Noordwijk, O.E. Freeman, C. Mbow, J. de Leeuw, & D. Catacutan, eds. *Climate-smart landscapes: multifunctionality in practice*, pp. 277-293. Nairobi, ICRAF and World Agroforestry Centre.

8 ELI. 2015. European Land Use Institute – Profile. Research and Development Strategy. Freising, Germany (available at <http://www.eli-web.com/PDF/ELI-Profile-updated-2015.pdf>).

9 Landscapes for People, Food and Nature. 2015. Find Tools. Website (available at <http://peoplefoodandnature.org/learning-network/find-tools/>). Accessed 30 November 2015.

A call for action

The XIV World Forestry Congress witnessed a strong consensus on the need to better integrate forests and other land uses. Facing global challenges, there is a growing and common understanding of the need for more holistic and cross-sectoral approaches. Bold action is now required to move from consensus to implementation following the powerful vision formulated by youth at the Congress: “We are committed to change!”



FORESTS, INTEGRATED LAND USE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Better integration of forests and other land-uses can significantly contribute to achieving the SDGs. Integrated sustainable land use and the SDGs have many overlapping objectives, such as reducing poverty, boosting food security and the availability of clean water, combating climate change, safeguarding ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss.

We call for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. (UN General Assembly, 66/288. 2015. *The future we want.*)

The XIV WFC Durban Declaration 2050 vision for forests and forestry

Forests are more than trees and are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods.

Forests are an essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Integrated approaches to land use provide a way forward for improving policies and practices to: address the drivers of deforestation; address conflicts over land use; capitalize on the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits from integrating forests with agriculture; and maintain multiple forest services in the landscape context.

New partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors, and engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities are required.