3.21 Strengthening Landscape Partnerships

2.1 What, in brief, is the solution?
We propose a global collaborative initiative to strengthen, and help form, new Landscape[1] Partnerships (LPs) that are enabled and empowered to lead coordinated transformation of their local food systems, including nature-positive production, access to safe and nutritious food for all; sustainable consumption patterns; equitable livelihoods; and resilience to climate change and other vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. Strong LPs will engage diverse partners; facilitate a shared understanding of their landscape; develop a landscape vision, action plans and investment portfolios that enable financing to flow at scale to locally owned landscape transformation. Governments and finance institutions can to meet priorities and commitment by working with these LPs.

2.2 What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?
This solution has emerged from the work of 100's of organized landscape partnerships around the world in which farmers, forest managers, fishers, local governments, businesses, social and environmental NGOs have joined together to devise and implement a shared vision for collaborative landscape regeneration. Innovations to strengthen such partnerships have been developed locally, as well as the fast-growing communities of practice around integrated landscape management and territorial development. The mechanism proposed for implementing this solution is the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People initiative (1000L), an expanding coalition of partners launched in 2019 to enable multi-stakeholder Landscape Partnerships around the world to realize their collective visions for thriving landscapes through more effective tools, finance and connections (www.landscapes.global).[2] To achieve scale, 1000L seeks to act as a transformation catalyst, through "radical" collaboration and advocacy for LPs with public and private initiatives/organizations to work through an integrated landscape management (ILM) approach. Many have already endorsed ILM, including: Global Landscape Forum, UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and Tropical Forest Alliance to name a few. The Global Environment Facility has a strong and growing portfolio of landscape programs, as do UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, WFP and World Bank. The growing movement for territorial development is highly aligned and a valuable source of solutions. Numerous networks of landscape partnerships have generated lessons and models for scaling.

2.3 What problem is it trying to address within food systems?
Transforming food systems requires a systemic and cost-effective approach to achieving food security in every place, with simultaneous and aligned actions for nature-positive agriculture; ecosystems that sustain nutrient-rich soils, access to clean water, and climate change resilience; biodiversity important for production and human health; and food markets and agribusiness; and rural livelihoods and rural-urban linkages. **However**, the current fragmentation of action in these domains--unaligned and at cross-purposes--and top-down policy, program and finance decision-making, undermine local visions and coordinated action for thriving landscapes. Stronger landscape-scale local governance and coordination are needed to link territorial development to local needs and human rights.

2.4 Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your ACAI?
Even with accelerating policy and investment to support sustainable food systems, nature-based climate solutions and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, rural renaissance, health and water security, business-as-usual implementation severely constrains success. Multiple project-based efforts work at cross purposes; the failure to cooperate strategically within a landscape or territory limits their ability to

---

[1] We use the term 'landscape' here to refer to inter-connected place and people, at the scale where communities, agricultural production and ecosystems converge. Related terms include territories, jurisdictions, bioregions, watersheds, green growth corridors, and numerous others.

[2] List the 7 core partners and 25 technical partners?

slow or stop processes contributing to degradation; short-term focus of investment makes it difficult to develop holistic-landscape-scale portfolios or attract the financing needed to achieve generational transformation. We need to strengthen local institutional foundations for long-term (generational), multi-sector collaborative planning and action, with aligned strategies for regenerative production and land use; natural habitats; and most sustainable settlements, infrastructure and industry.

2.5 How can this solution address that problem?
LPs provide a facilitated platform that enables voices of all stakeholders, including farmers, women, youth and marginalized groups, to participate effectively in crafting and advancing a coherent landscape vision. They provide a mechanism for negotiation, joint problem-solving and building solidarity for long-term collaborative action. While each landscape or territory is unique, 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People has developed an adaptable framework and tools, and a strategy to strengthen LPs. This has four interrelated components: institutionalizing capacity support for integrated landscape management; Terraso--a digital platform to help LPs access data and operate more effectively; solutions for scaling finance for multi-sector portfolios of landscape investments; and networking LPs and their supporters. Components are being co-designed by LPs on the ground, and multi-organization Design Teams. 50 LPs will be actively using and refining these components by 2022. By 2030 these will beneift at least 1000 landscape partnerships through access to the Terraso platform; established learning networks and training institutes providing support; public, private and civic finance actors supporting pipelines of projects with suitable financial mechanisms; and through the 1000L partner network. Multi-dimensional impacts can be monitored through Terraso and the use of tools like LandScale. Success in this initiative depends on shared commitments to a 'radical collaboration' among many partners; a strong, lean and nimble facilitating 'hub'; investment in impact assessment, learning and knowledge-sharing; and political support for local leadership.

2.6 Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?
1000L has been designed explicitly to catalyze food and related systems change to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, and establish the institutional foundation in multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships to sustain that change over time. The particular systems changes are: the empowerment of landscape partnerships to realize their own priorities for landscape regeneration; provisioning information technology that transforms LPs' be more efficient, effective and inclusive; to institutionalize centers of capacity building for integrated landscape management; and to shift financial flows to portfolios of synergistic landscape investments. The targeted support and development for LPs by 1000L follows an aligned framework for Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) which will integrate a Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) component which has core indicators (including human rights), as well as locally-adapted indicators through LandScale which are SMART. Depending on the LP, key indicators can include accountability provisions within LP governance which can serve the double function of supporting adaptive management and enabling external audits for trust.

2.7 What is the existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least that it will achieve the initial outcomes described above?
Between 2013 and 2016, surveys documented 428 examples of locally-driven, long-term Landscape Partnerships in South and Southeast Asia,[1] Latin America and the Caribbean,[2] sub-Saharan Africa[3] and Europe.[4] These partnerships had been operational for several years and involved stakeholders from different scales and sectors working toward multiple objectives for agriculture, environment and human well-being. LPs have arisen through grassroots movements[5] and are increasingly promoted by international NGOs, UN agencies and national governments in strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, land and forest restoration, food systems transformation, territorial development and green economy transition. Evidence shows that ILM can support climate change mitigation and carbon

sequestration,[6],[7] sustain institutional processes for climate change adaptation[8] and resilience;[9] enhance livelihoods;[10] and meet the SDGs in an integrated way.[11] Landscape approaches show strong potential to reconcile conservation and development by building social capital, enhancing community income and employment opportunities, as well as reducing land degradation and conserving natural resources.[12] A recent stocktaking of Territorial Development experience in 14 territories documented key factors driving success. [13] Each of the 1000L interventions is backed by research evidence or action research [14], including evidence on the development of new landscape finance mechanisms and tools [15].

2.8 What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

There is rapidly growing political support for strengthening landscape partnerships to achieve multiple goals for land and resources and associated economy. ODA from Governments of the Netherlands, Germany, UK and USA have been strong supporters. The Global Environment Facility, UNDP, FAO, World Bank have large and fast-growing portfolios of integrated landscape projects, and the Green Climate Fund, IFAD, Global Adaptation Fund and others are incorporating a landscape framework for investing. While concerns have been raised that top-down landscape programs could divert efforts to meet external interests, 1000L is squarely focused on supporting locally-driven LPs. 1000L has already attracted more than 30 international NGOs and financial organizations as partners; many others are supportive. Other stakeholders have expressed support, including the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Global Agribusiness Alliance. Several CGIAR research institutions are leading research on effective ILM. The UN CBD, UNFCCC, CCD, the Bonn Challenge, and High-Level Political Forum of the SDGs have all formally endorsed landscape and/or territorial approaches. The Global Landscapes Forum and UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration both have a strong integrated landscape approach. Many of the above have highlighted the urgent need for Landscape Partnerships to have more organized and systematic access to services specifically designed for their needs. [Add GAO, INNER, ALGOA?]

2.9 Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?

Integrated landscape management can be adapted to diverse institutional contexts. But it is especially powerful in countries that have more decentralized decision-making, and where leaders are familiar with and supportive of participatory democratic processes. Where powerful stakeholders are located outside the landscape, LPs may need external allies to help 'level the playing field.'

2.10 Who are the key stakeholders to be further involved in the process of developing and refining the solution idea?

LPs provide a platform that can be used to pursue solutions across all of the Action Tracks. So it will be important to mobilize inputs from across the Tracks, as well as from UN agencies (which can be mobilized by 1000L partner UNDP), companies and financial institutions, and especially from the existing LP learning networks. EcoAgriculture Partners, 1000L and FAO-North America will hold two international UNFSS Dialogues on Landscape strategies to transform food systems in March and June 2021, and IUCN is planning relevant Common Ground dialogues.

2.11 Other remarks/comments to be reflected in AT3's report out on 'game changing' solutions

This solution is highly complementary with many other game-changing solutions, including integrated landscape finance and enhanced restoration monitoring and data to enhance investment, and scaling diverse production, conservation, consumption, nutrition and resilience solutions.

----

[1] Zanzanaini, C., Tran, B., Singh, C., Hart, A., Milder, J., & DeClerck, J. 2017. Integrated landscape management for agriculture, livelihoods, and ecosystem conservation: an assessment of experience from South and Southeast Asia. Landscape and Urban Planning 165: 11–21.

[2] Estrada-Carmona, N., Hart, A., Harvey, C., Fabrice, A., DeClerck, J., and Milder, J. 2014. Integrated landscape management for agriculture, rural livelihoods, and ecosystem conservation: An assessment of experience from Latin America and the Caribbean. Landscape and Urban Planning, Vol 129:1-11.

[3] Milder, J.C., A.K. Hart, P. Dobie, J. Minai, and C. Zaleski. 2014. Integrated landscape initiatives for African agriculture, development, and conservation: a regionwide assessment. World Development 54: 68–80.

[4] Garcia-Martin, M., Bieling, C., Hart, A., & Plieninger, T. 2016. Integrated landscape initiatives in Europe: Multi-sector collaboration in multi-functional landscapes. Land Use Policy, 58:15, 43-53.

[5] Hart, A., McMicheal, P., Milder, J., & Scherr, S. 2016. Multi-functional Landscapes from the Grassroots? The Role of the Rural Producer Movements. *Agriculture and Human Values* 33:305–322.

[6] Harvey, C., Shames, S., Chacon, M., Donatti, C., Garen, E., Wollenburg, E., and Bede, L. 2013. Climate-Smart Landscapes: Opportunities and challenges for integrating adaptation and mitigation in tropical agriculture. Conservation Letters 7(2):77-90.

]7] Scherr, S., Shames, S., & Friedman, R. 2012. From climate-smart agriculture to climate-smart landscapes*. Agriculture & Food Security* 1:12.

[8]Shames, Seth and Sara J. Scherr. 2019. "Achieving Climate Change Adaptation through Integrated Landscape Management." Global Commission on Adaptation. Rotterdam and Washington, DC.

[9] Buck, L. and Bailey, I. 2014. *Managing for resilience: framing an integrated landscape approach for overcoming chronic and acute food insecurity.* EcoAgriculture Partners on behalf of the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative: Washington, DC:

[10] Stoian, D., A.Rodas, M.Butler, I.Monterroso, B. Hodgdon. 2018. Forest concessions in Peten, Guatemala: A systematic analysis of the socioeconomic performance of community enterprises in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. CIFOR: Bogor, Indonesia.

]11] Thaxton, M., Forster, T., Hazlewood, P., Mercado, L., Neely, C., Scherr, S., Wertz, L., Wood, S., and Zandri, E. 2015. *Landscape Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Achieving the SDGs through Integrated Landscapes Management.* The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative. EcoAgriculture Partners: Washington, DC

[12] Reed, J. ?. Vianen, J. Barlow and T. Sunderland, "Have integrated landscape approaches reconciled societal and environmental issues in the tropics?," Land Use Policy, vol. 63, pp. 481-492, 2017

[13] Forester, Thomas, Louise Buck, Sara Scherr. 2021. ADD. Territorial Development Stocktaking. GIZ: Germany [complete]

[14] 1000 Landscapes. 2021L 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People: Strategy document. EcoAgriculture Partners: Fairfax, Virginia. February.

5[Shames, S. and S.J. Scherr. 2020. Landscape finance models report [complete]. EcoAgriculture Partners, 1000 Landscapes, CPIC, Landscape Finance Lab.

[x] **https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/02/food-system-impacts-biodiversity-loss**