

Report of the seminar Modelling Landscape Scenarios: lessons learned from exploring potential SDG progress in 3 case studies

Date: Monday 11th of June

Time: 14:45 – 17:00

Venue: The Hague, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rijnstraat 8, Multi Purpose Room

Objective of the seminar

Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PBL and EcoAgriculture Partners collaborated to develop and assess the use of spatially explicit modeling and planning tools to support stakeholders in integrated landscape initiatives in exploring various future scenarios and assess their potential in achieving multiple SDGs. This seminar provided a brief overview of the project, the case studies and the main lessons learned. Also feedback on the project and the main lessons was requested and discussed.

Programme

14:45 Walk in, coffee/tea

15:00 Welcome and overview of the session (PBL)

15:05 Landscapes and the SDGs (EcoAgriculture)

15:20 Modelling of participatory scenarios to support landscape planning (PBL)

15:35 Case study Honduras with Solidaridad

15:45 Case study Ghana with IUCN-NL/A Rocha Ghana

16:00 Case study Tanzania with African Wildlife Foundation (by EcoAgriculture)

16:15 Reflection and open discussion on: lessons learned, related experiences and next steps

17:00 Closing and network drinks

The presentations and case study poster images are available online at the NLandscape website.

Recapturing the main lessons learned from the project so far:

- **The tools and scenario discussions strengthen landscape planning processes:**
 - Stimulates integrated local planning processes for sub-national implementation of SDGs
 - Facilitates communication and negotiation across sectors
 - Defines the landscape geographically
 - Identifies/clarifies joint ambitions
 - Identifies data gaps
 - Visualizations help stakeholders understand relationship

- **It can be catalyst for landscape partnerships at various stages:**
 - In Honduras, PASOS was already established
 - In Ghana, A Rocha was pursuing landscape-scale objectives, but not facilitating formal landscape partnership

- In Tanzania, landscape and vision not yet clearly defined, seeded the creation of a more formal landscape partnership
- Condenses stakeholder perspective and information into a common framework
- Linkages with other landscape planning and action tools (e.g. finance)
- **National and international policy relevance of modelling landscape scenarios:**
 - Demonstrate importance of land and resource use decisions (public/private) on range of economic, social and environmental values
 - Demonstrate how SDG strategies interact, and can be integrated (identify synergies, reduce tradeoffs)
 - Catalyze structured policy dialogue on alternative development strategies
 - Inform national policy on action/investment to achieve landscape ambitions
 - The scale of the challenge is not receiving needed scale of response
- **Data availability and modelling challenges:**
 - Delineating the landscape boundary: covering all ambitions and stakeholders
 - Recent data available for remote sensing derived inputs
 - Socio-economic data outdated, last census HD: 2011, TZ: 2012, GH: 2010
 - Identifying and operationalizing spatial interventions from stakeholder input
 - Model interactions and impacts: still work (and research) in progress

Related topics addressed during the discussion

Thematic issues raised:

- Explore if and how to add/improve climate, emissions, jobs and social welfare
- Current economic analysis is limited, could it be added easily?

Role in decision making:

- Link to local process, like spatial and development planning. Take landscape boundaries into account: i.e. watersheds/districts
- Increasing interest in evidence based decision making (relate to model outcomes?)
- Linking to investment decision making.

Wishful thinking in scenarios and risk of misuse?

- Prevent misinterpretation of results

Multi-stakeholder process:

- Connecting to ongoing landscape initiatives, ambitions already being discussed
- Accelerate the process of building shared understanding and vision
- Increases ownership in the landscape, the process is defined by the stakeholders

Potential and identified next steps:

- Extend the coverage of SDGs:
 - Poverty, health, energy, cities, gender
 - Economic outcomes
 - Connect with other initiatives
- Integration with other tools
 - Governance assessment
 - Landscape finance
 - Data facilities (i.e. NSO)
 - Organize a meeting for techies
- Improve robustness of interactions in the model
- Ensure flexibility and replicability of the methodology, how to facilitate making these tools and methods available for others (and with others)
- Policy extent:
 - In Ministry FA: landscape program and NGO partnerships, focus Sahel and Horn of Africa
 - Within countries: role for NGOs
- Potential link with serious games initiatives/projects