A Strategy for Transforming Food Systems through Regenerative Landscapes

February 2025

1000 LANDSCAPES FOR 1 BILLION PEOPLE **Regen10**

Authors: Sara J. Scherr, Louise E. Buck, and Bemmy Granados, EcoAgriculture Partners

with 1000 Landscapes partners, and with case contributors:

Heleen Bulcken, IDH-Sustainable Trade Initiative
Laura Eugene, EcoAgriculture Partners
Victoria Guiterrez, Commonland
Juliana Jaramillo and James Githuku, Rainforest Alliance
David Kuria, Nelson Muiru, Charles Nyanjui, Julius Kariara, KENVO
Juan Carlos Ramos, EcoAgriculture Partners
John Recha, SANREM–Africa
Carlos Solis-Rojas, The Nature Conservancy
Roger Villalobos, CATIE and Latin American Model Forest Network (RLABM)
Daniel Zimmer, Climate-KIC

| Executive Summary

Galvanizing a Global Regenerative Agriculture Transition in the Context of a Polycrisis

The world's food systems are fundamentally unsustainable. They face the impacts of, and significantly contribute to, the global "polycrisis"—the interconnected challenges of persistent food and water insecurity, accelerating climate change, biodiversity loss, widespread land and ecosystem degradation, and growing income inequality. There is an acute need to transition to regenerative solutions that address these systemic challenges. This means pursuing solutions that go beyond farm fences and food value chains to also protect the bounty and services of our natural world as well as the irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage of farming and Indigenous communities who are intimately entwined with a place.

For this, we must support and sustain community-led landscape partnerships (LPs). These can serve as voluntary platforms for diverse groups to strategize and collaborate to develop regenerative landscapes over the long term. They can grapple with such challenges as managing the tension between local and global food demands; aligning agricultural production with ecosystem management, built and green infrastructure; and securing funding and policies that foster coordinated landscape-wide change. While local governments are critical partners, LPs offer a neutral space to bring together public, private and community sectors, and to connect with actors responsible for people, food, and nature outside the landscape and at higher scales. LPs take diverse forms, from informal to highly structured.

This white paper is written to promote dialogue and action among global, national and sub-national movers and shakers of the regenerative agriculture and food system transition—in farming policy, finance, business, civil society, and science. The paper argues that community-led landscape partnerships are a key solution, and provides insights and recommendations on how food system leaders can become their strong allies in achieving landscape success. The analysis is based on lessons learned from the partners of 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People (1000L)—and other partners in Regen10—who cumulatively bring many decades of expertise to this challenge. The work is illustrated by numerous cases showing the rich diversity, impacts, and transformative potential of landscape partnerships as well as the innovative tools, programs, policies, and financial models that contribute to their success.

Landscape Partnerships: The Foundation of Regenerative Landscapes

Imagine an idealized regenerative landscape: Sustainable, diverse farming systems thrive, producing a mix of crops, livestock, and forest products that regenerate soil, conserve water, and enhance biodiversity. Farmers and communities—supported by green infrastructure such as pollinator pathways, living windbreaks, and restored waterways—collaborate to create a mosaic of productive lands and interconnected ecosystems. Equitable relationships across value chains connect local producers with consumers who value sustainability. There is a shared sense of community, purpose, and love of place.

Their investments in landscape-regenerating projects generate four kinds of returns: inspiration (increased connection to the landscape, motivating stewardship), human well-being (strengthened communities, health, nutrition, food and water security, social resilience), healthy nature (including biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and resilience), and regenerative economies (long-term economic resilience and prosperity of communities and businesses).

LPs have emerged as a way to advance such regenerative landscapes and are now widespread, facilitated by trusted NGOs, local governments, or other interested agents. By bringing together diverse stakeholders from across the landscape, LPs enable coordinated planning and action. They provide spaces for inclusive decision making, open dialogue, negotiation, and the co-creation of solutions that balance environmental and public health with social, cultural, and economic goals. The next section provides an overview of their diverse organizational forms, the functions they provide, and the roles and responsibilities of LP partners.

Overview of the Collaborative Landscape Process

Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) provides a practical, proven framework for guiding LPs toward achieving returns of inspiration, human well-being, healthy nature, and regenerative economics. The five elements are: build a strong landscape partnership; foster a shared understanding of the landscape; forge a long-term holistic vision, transformation strategy with a clear agenda for investment, and short-term action plans; mobilize and secure financing for the action plan; and promote systematic learning and impact assessment for continuous adaptation. The approach, tools, and methods of ILM have been refined over several decades—with a particular focus on addressing agriculture–environment–livelihood interactions. They are adaptable to both diverse contexts and the rhythm of local processes and are responsive to both new learnings and evolving conditions.

SECTION FOUR

Providing Services that Build and Strengthen Regenerative Landscape Partnerships

Most LPs struggle to get the support they need. For them to thrive, food system leaders can play strategic roles through five actions, illustrated in the paper by examples and synthesized learnings.

1 **Fund strong, long-term, community-led partnerships for agricultural and landscape regeneration capable of realizing their transformative vision.** LPs provide a key social infrastructure for regenerative landscapes, to implement processes such as governance, facilitation, assessments, coordination, and monitoring. Hence the highest priority for support, expressed by both partnerships and financiers, is sustained localized funding of LPs, directly or through multi-landscape funds. We call on philanthropies, governments, and corporate social responsibility programs to mobilize the resources needed.

2 **Strengthen programs to support regenerative landscape partnerships and facilitate connections with landscape-friendly businesses and other external actors.** Another key element of the social infrastructure is landscape programs organized by national and subnational governments, NGOs, farmer organizations, and businesses to provide technical, market, and other services for landscape partnerships. These can contribute specialized expertise such as in agroecology and market research.

3 **Promote learning networks to develop and disseminate the tools, learning resources, and software that local leaders seek for landscape food system transformation.** LPs require digital platforms, data systems, and software, as well as learning resources and tools, targeted to their needs. A participatory landscape service and learning network can accelerate access and enrichment. University and other research programs need to mobilize new knowledge that can be adapted to the socio-ecological realities of a specific territory to meet the priority needs of LPs.

4 **Establish financial services for landscape partnerships to foster and align investment-ready projects and implement coordinated finance strategies.** Develop services that help landscape partnerships create investment-ready projects and align funding streams for long-term success. These include private and nonprofit consultancy services; financial management, farmer and NGO intermediation services; landscape finance accelerator services; fit-for purpose mechanism development; and incubation services for regenerative enterprises and projects.

5 **Support national coalitions of landscape partnerships to accelerate knowledge-sharing and advocate for policy, financial, and institutional support.** Coordinated efforts among dozens of landscape partnerships can influence national policy and amplify local impact. Regenerative agriculture and food system leaders can support them through seed funding for building coalitions, government endorsement and engagement, and fostering cross-learning among national coalitions.

Mobilizing Key Levers for Landscape Partnerships to Succeed

Five other key actions will leverage enabling environments for landscape partnerships:

6 **Strengthen farmer organizations as landscape leaders**. It is essential to empower farmer organizations to co-lead and co-design landscape initiatives. Secondary and tertiary farmer/producer organizations can play leading roles with support from government agriculture, development, and environment departments, NGOs, and philanthropies.

7 **Mobilize businesses to source agricultural products from, and invest for the long term in, regenerative landscapes.** The agribusiness and food industries must better understand their risk exposure in each landscape and shift their own sourcing and sustainability strategies, learn to collaborate with LPs, develop new business models, and mobilize support from business schools and consultants to invest effectively. Corporate social responsibility programs should spatially identify key sourcing shed and support landscape partnerships there to co-manage systemic risks.

8 **Shift financial flows to regenerative landscape investment.** The finance system needs to shift towards place-based landscape investment, coordinating sectoral financial flows to invest in locally endorsed landscape project portfolios. Innovations are needed to analyze systemic risks, develop finance infrastructure that links projects with prospective investors, create blended finance mechanisms that catalyze coordinated regenerative agricultural and landscape investment, and add supportive finance regulation.

9 **Promote public policy and planning that enable LPs to be effective.** Governments can play critical roles by establishing policy frameworks and decentralizing public finance. They must strengthen Indigenous, farmer, and community rights; establish services for LPs and regenerative agriculture; and align land-use planning and design across sector investments. International agreements setting goals and rules around land use should explicitly promote regenerative agriculture and landscapes.

10 **Promote outreach and advocacy to raise awareness and spark action.** Coordinated outreach campaigns can inspire action both by highlighting the economic, environmental, and social risks and returns of regenerative landscapes and by empowering LPs to tell their own stories. Allies can collaborate for policy advocacy around regenerative agriculture and regenerative landscapes, elevating the voices of smallholder farmers and Indigenous communities in designing landscape programs, funding mechanisms and policies.

A Call to Action

We urge leaders to seize this moment to lead, inspire, and transform. By embracing regenerative landscape strategies, you can accelerate the transformation to regenerative agriculture and agroecology, shaping a future that nourishes people and the planet. Whether you are a leader in policy, business, finance, philanthropy, science or civil society, you can be a strong ally and collaborator with landscape and subnational leaders and become part of this global movement to create sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems that respond to the needs in every landscape.

Table of Contents

| Glossary

4 Returns[1]: A systems change framework that can be used by landscape stakeholders to undertake holistic landscape restoration. The framework seeks to balance competing stakeholder demands in a mosaic of different management approaches and business cases, creating four returns: natural returns (increased ecosystem health, including its ecological functionality and resilience), social returns (strengthened communities through increasing livelihood opportunities, community engagement, and social resilience); economic returns (long-term economic resilience and prosperity of communities and businesses), and the return of inspiration (increased connection to the landscape, motivating stewardship).

Agroecology: A holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans, and the environment while also addressing the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat and how and where it is produced.

Food systems: The entire process and infrastructure involved in feeding people. It covers the journey of food from farms to tables, including cultivation, harvesting, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, and consumption.

Gray infrastructure: Human-engineered/built structures such as dams, roads, seawalls, pipes or water treatment plants.

Integrated landscape management (ILM): A way of managing the landscape to achieve sustainability and resiliency that involves collaboration among multiple stakeholders. There are numerous terms with the same broad meaning.[1] A resilient or sustainable landscape consists of a land-, water-, or seascape that can sustain desired ecological functions, robust native biodiversity, and critical landscape processes over time, under changing conditions, and despite multiple stressors and uncertainties. Such landscapes enable communities and nations to meet sustainable development principles as defined by the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Landscape A "socio-ecological" area including interconnected natural and human-altered lands and waters. It is shaped by distinct natural processes, historical events, economic activities, and social and cultural practices. A landscape includes rivers, forests, and mountains as well as farms, cities, settlements, and other land uses, all influenced by the way people and nature interact over time. There are many other terms with similar meanings, such as seascapes, territories, bioregions, and watersheds. Landscapes are commonly at least 100,000 hectares in size, in order to encompass key ecological, economic, or social features, but landscape boundaries are defined by their stakeholders and may be much smaller or range to millions of hectares.

Landscape partnership: Long-term, intersectoral and multistakeholder partnership whose members work together towards a regenerative landscape.

Green (natural) Infrastructure: The networks of natural areas, working lands, and open spaces that preserve ecosystem values and functions with benefits for nature and human populations.

---

[1] From Commonland glossary
[2] See A Landscape by Any Other Name by Sara Scherr for an extensive list of alternative terms.

Regenerative agriculture: An agricultural approach aimed at restoring and enhancing farming ecosystem health. It prioritizes soil regeneration, biodiversity, water cycle improvement, and ecosystem services. Regenerative agriculture addresses the environmental impacts of conventional farming by focusing on practices that rejuvenate the land, nurture biodiversity, benefit farmers and communities, and support climate resilience.

Regenerative food systems: Food systems that embrace a holistic approach to food production, distribution, and consumption that centers on bountiful nutrition for society while actively improving ecological health and climate resilience.

Regenerative landscapes: Regenerative landscapes reflect the enhanced vitality of ecosystems, economies, and communities that have moved beyond conventional industrial/extractive economic models and externally controlled nature conservation. These landscapes generate holistic benefits or returns[2]: inspiration (increased connection to the landscape, motivating stewardship), human well-being (strengthened communities, including health, nutrition, food and water security, and social resilience), healthy nature (including biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and resilience), and regenerative economies (long-term economic resilience and prosperity of communities, farmers, and businesses). They have resilient, just governance systems. Guided by principles of interconnectedness, diversity, and reciprocity, regenerative landscapes help nature and people thrive as interconnected systems, inspiring future generations to steward the living world while creating conditions for life to flourish.

---

[3] This formulation builds on Commonland's 4 Returns model.

| Acronyms

1000L	1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People
4 Returns	4 Returns framework: a holistic approach to Integrated Landscape Management (ILM)
ERDRBE	Regional Strategy for Low Emission Rural Development (San Martin, Peru)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ILM	Integrated Landscape Management
ILF	Integrated Landscape Finance
KenLAP	Kenya Landscape Actors Platform
KENVO	Kijabe Environment Volunteers
LIFT	Landscape Investment and Finance Toolkit
LP	Landscape Partnership
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MSPs	Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NBFP	National Biodiversity Framework Project
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions to climate action reported to United Nations
RLABM	Latin American Model Forest Network (Red Latinoamericana de Bosques Modelos)
RPLC	Regenerative Production Landscape Collaborative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United National Development Program

Acknowledgments

| About this White Paper

This white paper was prepared for leaders across the food system who are working to mobilize large-scale transformation to regenerative agriculture and agroecology. The aim is to help them understand the potential contributions of community-led landscape partnerships in facilitating this transition and the concrete actions that food system leaders—government policymakers, business leaders, financiers, philanthropists, researchers, and those in the farming development, environment, and climate communities—can take to support them and scale their impact.

The paper builds on the Landscapes Discussion Brief co-published in December 2023 by Regen10 and 1000L that laid out the basic rationale and implications for action. It draws from the collective resources and experience of the partners of 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People (1000L) and other partners in Regen10. EcoAgriculture Partners led the process and synthesized these inputs into a joint document.

1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People is a collaboration of pioneers leading a movement to sustain and restore ecosystems, build rural prosperity, and confront climate change. Since its launch in 2019, 1000L has built a coalition of more than 50 civil society, academic, government and philanthropic organizations. These members are engaged with more than 200 local landscape partnerships worldwide, creating a powerful local-to-global network to resolve the world's crises through holistic action in landscapes. Our coalition is deploying a suite of locally designed and tested capacity strengthening, finance, coalition building, and digital tools, methodologies, and frameworks to accelerate the impact of landscape partnerships. 1000L leverages the expertise and networks of our partners to amplify our collective mission above what any individual could do alone.

EcoAgriculture Partners is a global action research center that helps communities balance the needs of people, nature, and economies through integrated landscape management. EcoAgriculture Partners has partnered with farmers, businesses, governments, and civil society for more than twenty years to create thriving, sustainable landscapes in more than 50 regions across 30 countries. From helping build sustainable landscapes across Kenya to assisting large-scale land restoration in Central America, EcoAgriculture Partners' work has improved agricultural productivity, restored ecosystems, bolstered local communities, and strengthened rural livelihoods. One of its most powerful vehicles to scale sustainable solutions on the ground is by convening the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People initiative, a global action coalition. By fostering collaboration and empowering local leaders, EcoAgriculture Partners turns fragmented efforts into coordinated action for a future where communities and ecosystems thrive together.

Regen10— a global multi-stakeholder collaborative comprising 13 organizations, including 1000L— supports an inclusive, regenerative, and equitable agrifood systems transition. Regen10 partners are co-developing a holistic, farmer-centric Outcomes Framework that seeks to drive alignment on the farm- and landscape-level outcomes of regenerative agrifood systems, informing decision-making and acting as a guiding star for what these systems can and should achieve. Regen10's Transition Pathways analyses explore the costs, benefits, and trade-offs of regenerative transitions, providing evidence of long-term profitability. Recognizing landscape partnerships as key drivers of this transition, Regen10 is co-developing tools and strategies with partners like 1000L to strengthen, expand, and scale these partnerships globally.

This white paper has not been formally endorsed by Regen10 or 1000L partner organizations. However, this version reflects their extensive comments and is meant to serve as a catalyst for broader and more vigorous discussion going forward and to provide momentum for the next steps.

1 | Galvanizing a Global Regenerative Agriculture Transition in the Context of a Polycrisis

Transitioning to regenerative agriculture or agroecology[4] globally is a critical challenge. This section reviews why and how holistic landscape management can be a key strategy enabling this transformation. While laying out a clear rationale for situating the transition to regenerative food systems within the communities and landscapes of which they are part, it also notes the many challenges for this to happen effectively and at scale. The paper's purpose and organization are then explained.

1.1 The imperative of regenerative agriculture and food system transformation in the context of the polycrisis

The practice of agroecology and regenerative agriculture is a holistic approach to producing food harmoniously with nature and improving farmers' livelihoods. It has been vital to communities' cultures and contributed to their resilience. Fostering regenerative agriculture creates strategic opportunities to accelerate food system transformation while broadly benefiting climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and restoration, and sustainable development. At the same time, regenerative agriculture is profoundly dependent upon natural resources and healthy ecosystems and communities. Farmers' and related stakeholders' interest in regenerative agriculture has surged in response to increasing crises in the sustainability of conventional agriculture and food systems.[5] Strategies for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the need for agriculture and food system transformations.[6] Ambitious programs are underway and leading sustainable development and conservation organizations are aspiring to transform food production and markets.

But this challenge is greatly complicated by what some call the "polycrisis": the interconnected challenges of persistent food and water insecurity, accelerating climate change, biodiversity loss, widespread land and ecosystem degradation, energy transition, and growing income inequality. Profound national and societal changes are required, including coordinated actions by government, business, finance, civil society, and science to reconnect people and nature.

The Global Alliance for the Future of Food's call to accelerate regenerative and agroecological approaches outlines transformational ambitions and specifies principles for catalyzing the systems changes required.[7] Multiple United Nations Treaties have underscored the connections between food production and the environment, including the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. At the Conference of the Parties for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2023 (COP28), 160 countries committed to take action to promote regenerative agriculture.[8]

Achieving this transformation will require many kinds of actions at many different scales, as highlighted at the 2023 UN Food Systems Summit.[9] But it is clear that top-down, siloed solutions are not working. Technocratic planning at the national level, even when well integrated across sectors, cannot generate aligned solutions that will accommodate the sharply distinct contexts in local farming regions.

---

[4] For purposes of this paper, we use these two terms interchangeably; the Glossary explains some of the differences.

[5] Major studies of the crises in global food and agriculture systems have been conducted by IPES, GAFF, FAO, EAT-Lancet, UNFSS, and others, calling for transformation.

[6] Six Transformations to achieve the Sustainable Development goals, including governance dimensions, were proposed by a team of scientists in 2019. Sustainable food systems, a game-changer from the UN Development Coordination Office perspective, is among the six transformative entry points, demonstrated by 2023 to have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs, thus included in the investment pathway framework for delivery of integrated approaches and support from the UN Joint SDG Fund 2023–2026.

[7] Principles that inform the Global Alliance for the Future of Food's call to accelerate and scale agroecology and regenerative approaches include prioritizing transformation, participatory and inclusive, outcome-focused flexibility and catalytic funding as well as working together in ways that foster locally led adaptation, promote power shifting to local leadership and organizations, amplify rather than duplicate, uphold diverse and holistic outcomes, and encourage multi-sector collaboration. for delivery of integrated approaches and support from the UN Joint SDG Fund 2023–2026.

[8] The COP28 Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes is a flagship initiative of global business leaders to aggregate, accelerate, and amplify existing efforts and new commitments to implement principles of soil health through diverse regenerative practices, transition large agricultural landscapes to regenerative landscapes by 2030, and transparently document progress.

[9] The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit culminated two years of preparatory work by hundreds of thousands of people across the globe and garnered commitments from hundreds of governments and corporate and civil society organizations to accelerate action toward aligning food systems with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2023 UN Food System Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment reviewed progress and secured further commitments to realize food system transformation through a multi-prong approach that includes regenerative agriculture.

1.2 Using collaborative landscape strategies to transform food systems

One promising solution is to situate regenerative agriculture and agroecology within regenerative landscapes that, spatially planned together holistically with other activities, generate four returns: inspiration, human well-being, healthy nature, and regenerative economies (Box 1).

Box 1. Our definition of regenerative landscapes

Regenerative landscapes reflect the enhanced vitality of ecosystems, economies, and communities that have moved beyond conventional industrial/extractive economic models and externally controlled nature conservation. These landscapes generate holistic benefits or returns:[10] inspiration (increased connection to the landscape, motivating stewardship), human well-being (strengthened communities, including health, nutrition, food and water security, and social resilience), healthy nature (including biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and resilience), and regenerative economies (long-term economic resilience and prosperity of communities, farmers, and businesses). Regenerative landscapes have resilient, just governance systems. Guided by principles of interconnectedness, diversity, and reciprocity, regenerative landscapes help nature and people thrive as interconnected systems, inspiring future generations to steward the living world while creating the conditions for life to flourish.

The practice of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM)[11] addresses how multiple partners, including farmers, governments, environmental organizations, communities and agribusiness, can come together to better manage human activities and natural processes for regenerating landscapes, including regenerative agriculture. ILM is used here as an umbrella term encompassing a wide range of collaborative and holistic land management approaches, including jurisdictional, bioregional, watershed, indigenous, and other territorial development.

Pursuing ILM requires voluntary "landscape partnerships" (LPs)--long-term, intersectoral, and multi-stakeholder alliances of land managers and resource users who work together for the future of the landscape. LPs bring partners and sectors together to collaboratively guide the sustainable development of the place that sustains and inspires them. LPs can catalyze regenerative landscapes by spearheading coordinated planning and action among diverse groups and local jurisdictions.

LPs can transform food systems by recognizing interdependencies and uniting actors to achieve more ambitious goals; by stewarding the ecosystems all rely on for food production, healthy lives, and thriving nature; by mobilizing strategic allies to accelerate action; and by managing complexity, risks, and costs through collaboration and innovation.

As LPs and their holistic approach to planning and management have expanded, evidence mounts of numerous advantages over single-sector solutions in addressing interconnected social, economic, ecological, and governance challenges.[12] Varying types of LPs have emerged in the hundreds and grown over the past few decades worldwide.[13] Many have arisen organically from grassroots and others from organized efforts of national or international agencies, NGOs, or businesses. There are diverse governance models for LPs, but a convergence around inclusive governance and facilitation principles to negotiate and reconcile competing interests.

---

[10] This formulation builds on Commonland's 4 Returns model; see here.
[11] The term "integrated landscape management" was coined by the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature initiative of knowledge-sharing, research, and advocacy led by EcoAgriculture Partners 2011–2020, with Bioversity International, Conservation International, the Government of the Netherlands, UN Environment Programme, World Agroforestry Centre, the World Resources Institute, and over 80 partners.
[12] Recent articles such as Knowledge review on integrated landscape approaches and Characterizing and evaluating integrated landscape initiatives point to a rapid expansion of landscape initiatives and convergence in understanding the main ingredients of effective practice. Similarly, closely related territorial and jurisdictional approaches to sustainable development that focus on place-based planning and action are becoming more widely applied and better understood.
[13] Over 450 LPs prioritizing regenerative agriculture were documented in four continents 2014–2017 by researchers in the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature initiative across Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and more. More recently Regen10 produced a map of agricultural landscape initiatives. The Jurisdictional/Landscape Resource Hub, with CDP, produced this map of company use of J/L initiatives.

Many LPs are recognized for their roles in restoring and sustaining land productivity and traditional ecological knowledge, protecting vital ecosystems, enhancing livelihoods, empowering civil society, and inspiring innovation. Numerous initiatives are now underway to advance ILM.[14]

There are other concepts of 'landscape' that, by contrast, seek to manage local resources to achieve a particular priority goal. For example, some corporate entities see landscape collaboration primarily as a way to facilitate agricultural product sourcing and quality control or to consolidate smallholder farms or markets. Some environmentalists are pursuing national or international goals for biodiversity conservation through large-scale conversion of working agricultural landscapes to natural habitat. By contrast, the approach discussed here prioritizes holistic community-led landscape strategies.

1.3 The challenge of bridging high-level action on regenerative agriculture and landscapes

Despite the many documented benefits of regenerative agriculture and landscape approaches, sustained investment is limited. Opportunity is ripe to synergize mutually reinforcing practices and investments to transform our harmful food systems into healthier ones for people and the planet. At COP28 (2023), in Dubai, there was a resounding call by state actors and civil society organizations around the world to link climate change and food system transitions, highlighting food as a strategic lever for realizing climate goals through the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action.

At a practical level, food system actors have conveyed they would like more guidance to move beyond the immediate demands of farm and market-level action. ILM offers a process that can clarify functions and roles in a particular landscape, in an inclusive and empowering way, providing a foundation for synergistic strategies. We see an opportunity for landscape partnerships and their networks to play a critical role in linking local and global food systems, as illustrated in Figure 1.
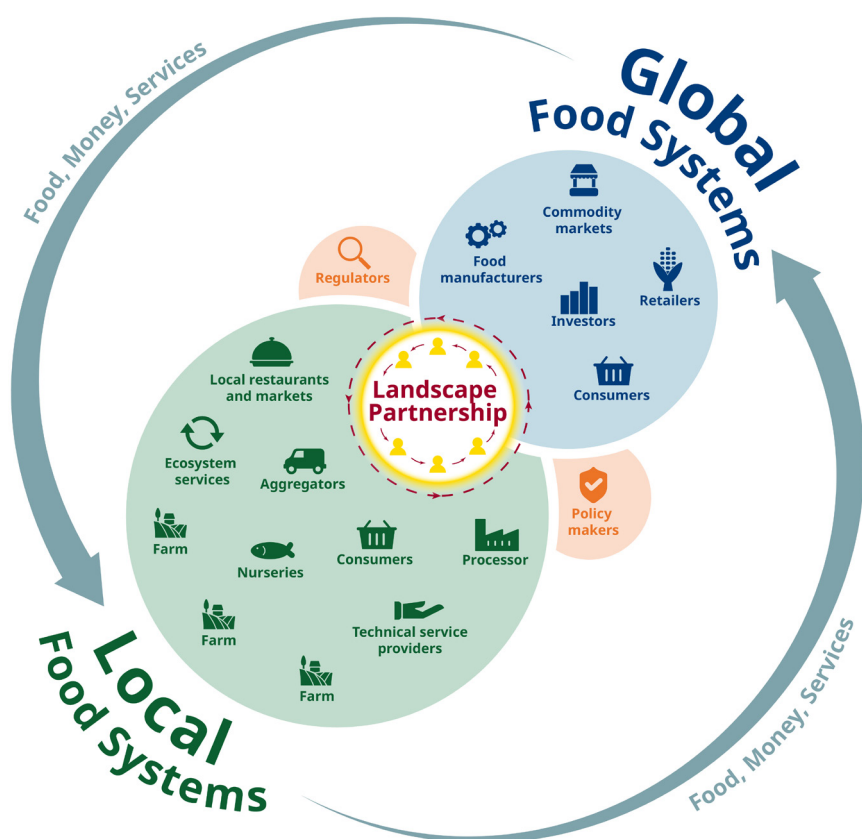
Figure. 1
Regenerative landscape partnerships can link local and global food systems

---

14 Ambitious programs to demonstrate and validate regenerative agriculture in regenerative landscapes are underway, including IDH, WWF, TNC, UFZ, ECLAC, Nestle; Food and Land Use Coalition, Conservation International, WBCSD, and Landscapes for our Future.

1.4 Overview of the paper

The [1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People](#) (1000L) initiative was formed in 2019 to promote this kind of collaborative action (see Box 2). Since 2023, 1000L has been a partner of [Regen10](#) - a global multi-stakeholder collaboration that supports an inclusive, regenerative, and equitable agrifood system transition at both the farm and landscape levels. In 2023, 1000L and Regen10 jointly produced a discussion brief on [Landscape collaboration for regenerative food systems: Towards an action agenda.](#) The brief provided a high-level look at the rationale for embracing landscape-scale approaches. It sparked heightened interest in the practical aspects of implementing the approach. In response, 1000L and Regen10, led by EcoAgriculture Partners, produced this report describing how landscape partnerships can help to create healthier and more regenerative food systems and to propose actions to help them accelerate a global shift to regenerative landscapes.

Box 2. Learning from the partners of 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People

1000L was formed in 2019 as a network to accelerate landscape efforts to sustain and restore ecosystems, foster thriving livelihoods and regenerative land uses, and address climate change. Within the large and growing international community involved in landscape development, 1000L focuses explicitly on empowering community-led landscape partnerships, shifting financing to landscape investments, and sparking a broad movement and advocacy.

More than 40 partner organizations, who have collectively worked with hundreds of LPs across the globe, have contributed their diverse experiences, insights, and resources to the initiative. Also, 23 landscape partnerships co-designed 1000L learning modules, tools, software and services.[15] Learnings shared here are also based on 1000L teams reviewing more than 200 tools for ILM, consulting nearly 30 LPs on software priorities and design, interviewing more than 80 financiers involved in commercial finance of landscape investments, engaging 175 landscape and finance actors in dialogue, and consulting 14 landscape partnership networks. Resources available from this work are described in Annex 1.

This paper's principal audience is global, national and sub-national champions of the regenerative agriculture and food system transition. Drawing lessons from decades of experience by the partners of 1000L, the paper offers insights and provides recommendations on how collaborative landscape action for regenerative agriculture and food system transformation can be strengthened and accelerated.

Section 2 of this paper invites readers to envision a regenerative landscape and describes basic features of a landscape partnership, its organization, functions, and the roles and responsibilities of partners. Section 3 describes the processes and steps required for local landscape partnerships to initiate and sustain regenerative landscapes, develop action and investment plans, mobilize and finance them, and assess their impacts.

Section 4 draws from this analysis to propose five direct actions that food system leaders can take to build and strengthen landscape partnerships to promote the regenerative transition. Section 5 proposes other key levers to enable landscape partnerships to succeed. Finally, Section 6 summarizes the call to action to regenerative agriculture and food system leaders, in policy, business, finance, civil society, and science to support regenerative landscape partnerships. The paper describes brief cases and examples that share landscape experiences, learnings, and impacts worldwide and suggests selected resources for a deeper dive.

While Regen10 partners have not formally endorsed this paper, it reflects their extensive comments and is meant to serve as a discussion paper going forward and to provide momentum for the next steps.

---

2 | Landscape Partnerships: The Foundation of Regenerative Landscapes

This section invites you to imagine the idealized characteristics of a regenerative landscape. It then describes some of the key challenges for incorporating food systems into ILM and the roles LPs can play in stimulating landscape transformation and the rise of regenerative food systems. The section describes the basics of LP organization and the roles of different actors in an LP.

2.1 Envisioning a regenerative landscape—how it looks and performs

Imagine yourself strolling with a friend through a pollinator pathway composed of grasses, wildflowers, and other native vegetation that winds through agricultural fields and farms on either side. You recognize various herbaceous and tree crops, some in mixtures, others in hedgerows and patches. Your view takes the shape of an appealing, garden-like mosaic. Farm fields that boast various crops and adjacent land features are laced together by a clear, meandering stream where fish can be seen

swimming and glistening dragonflies are darting about, bordered on either side by protective grasses and shrubs. You hear a symphony of buzzing, chirping, and squeaking insects interspersed with bird calls.

You reach down to touch the soil in one of the few places not covered by vegetation, and meet a soft, giving texture that feels alive and offers a pleasing earthy odor. You look up to notice two farmers walking from their fields toward the pathway you are on in the distance. You pause to wait for them, hoping they can help satisfy your curiosity about how this appealing place came to be. Compared to other agricultural areas you know, something is clearly different about how agriculture is practiced and about the larger landscape (Figure 2).

Figure 2:
The foundations of land use in regenerative landscapes: (1) agroecological farming (biologically based practices that foster soil–plant–animal interactions in sustainable production systems); (2) a "green infrastructure" that connects production areas and natural habitats to conserve biodiversity and regulates or supports other ecosystem services; and (3) people- and nature-friendly settlements and built infrastructure

Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners, 2024

You learn from the farmers that they are members of a group that works to coordinate their production and marketing practices with other land and water management activities in the area and contribute to local food security. This group feels deeply connected to its place and the community is proud of its unique features and history. They share a vision for its regenerative agricultural landscape that links this thriving place with bio-input suppliers, as well as buyers and consumers of its products who value the qualities you are sensing and seek to be part of the food system that supports it. They share a regenerative mindset that sees humans as an integral part of the natural world and its living systems.

Through your discussion, you note some key ingredients:

- Individual farmers and groups of farmers use ecologically sound production practices to manage complex dynamics among plants, animals, water, soil, insects, and other micro-fauna. They produce numerous crops, grasses, and trees in different parts of the landscape to diversify income and create habitat niches for a broad range of wild plant and animal species while slowing water flow, limiting erosion, and storing water and carbon.

- Environmental NGOs, public agencies, local producers, and community groups co-design, invest in, manage, and restore "green infrastructure" across the landscape to ensure clean water supplies, healthy soil, biodiversity, and sustainable supply chains. They establish vegetative cover and drainage systems to regulate flooding and provide reserves of food, water, and grazing for times of drought. They plant windbreaks to slow destructive winds, protect crop pollinators, and provide shade for people and livestock to reduce stress from the hotter climate.

- Partners have energetically debated and finally agreed on a shared vision and sustainability goals for the landscape derived from diverse stakeholders' knowledge and interests, including companies that source from them. The group envisions farms throughout the landscape applying regenerative agriculture practices that return health to soils, earning viable incomes for family and community members, helping restore surrounding ecosystems, and offering inspiration for the next generation.

- The partners are aligned around an adaptive planning process to realize their shared vision for a regenerative landscape. Communication, dialogue, conflict mediation, consultation, and co-design support collaboration across sectors, building stakeholder trust and forming a foundation for decision making and action.

- Equitable relationships with value chain actors foster robust, dynamic local and global markets relevant to regeneratively produced farm products stimulate a vibrant, inclusive economy.

- Spatial planning and management promote synergies among land uses to ensure the flow of goods and ecosystem services while contributing to larger landscape transformation outcomes, such as regenerative food systems, climate adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity conservation and restoration.

- Gray infrastructure planned by governments leverages the services provided by green infrastructure. Economic development strategies enhance competitiveness and minimize environmental harm in their design. Governments align sector development plans to meet holistic needs and reflect interdependencies.

- Enabling investments– like climate-adapted crop seed and native tree seedlings, early warning systems, equipment, bio-inputs, extension education; and investments in commercial enterprises—support farm and landscape-level regenerative production and management practices. Financial support services facilitate investment from multiple sources to implement the partners' holistic action plans for food system transformation (Figure 3).

Food system transformation can power regenerative landscapes across all major land uses to deliver economic, environmental, social, and inspirational benefits

Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners, 2023

Landscape Partnership

Through the LP, farmers agree on standard product prices and use regenerative farming practices

Promotes investment in value addition to agricultural products

Provides incentives and coordination to make logistics more efficient

Promotes small businesses and local products to wholesalers and retailers

Promotes landscape products, ecotourism, local culture to consumers

Grow — Farmers, Growers, Producers

Aggregate, store, process and package — Food Manufacturers, Bulk Shippers or Processors

Transport — Retail and foodservice distributors, Shippers

Sell — Markets, Restaurants, Grocery Stores

Buy — Customers and Consumers

2.2 Landscape food systems transformation: managing conflicts and interconnections

Many current agricultural landscapes differ sharply from our envisioned regenerative landscape. Public policies incentivize production practices that degrade agricultural ecosystems, such as extensive mono-cropping and intensive use of industrial inputs. Farming-induced degradation may extend far off-site as chemical pollution in waterways and oceans and as biodiversity loss from oversimplified vegetative cover.[16] Farms and gray (built) infrastructure are highly vulnerable to flooding, landslides, water shortages, salinization, and invasive species caused by others in the landscape.

Planning and decision making are often siloed, limiting participation, transparency, and accountability. Investment decisions are often made far from production sites with little consideration for effects on the local economy, environment, cultures, or social well-being.[17] Globalized economy and market forces have taken power away from communities.

Forging a broad regenerative transformation can be complex. In addition to dynamics internal to the landscape, the LP must navigate the urban-rural flows of goods and people.[18]

Food system change must address strategic challenges beyond changing farm practices: resolving competition between local needs and external market demands, aligning farm management with other land use and ecosystem management, mobilizing the support of other sectors for food system transformation, and financing landscape-wide transformation.

Resolving competition between local needs and external market demands. A common tension, if not conflict, in developing locally led visions and strategies for regenerative landscapes is between meeting the food security needs of local people and product demand from national and international markets from the landscape.[19] This manifests itself in decisions such as allocating land to local food vs. export products, the relative focus of public sector support to agriculture, and the choice of agricultural technologies. Agribusiness may benefit from sourcing priority products from large extensions of land with highly consistent products, while farm households and communities may value the food security, tradition, and reduced risks of diversified, mosaic land use patterns. LPs provide a platform for negotiating these potential trade-offs and for co-designing solutions that manage trade-offs and generate synergies.

---

[16] Key issues in our global food system—including greenhouse gas emission effects on climate change; deforestation, land degradation, soil depletion, and pollution effects on biodiversity loss; insufficient food and nutrient access for billions of people; and negative effects on health and well-being—are widely documented, e.g. by OECD, IPES-Food (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems) and The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health; and numerous UN publications. Critical issues and their causes remain insufficiently understood to conclusively inform policy, however, due to complexities in studying the numerous dimensions and interactions in food systems, and biases of different analysts (PNAS, 2019; Cambridge, 2018). Studying food systems at landscape scale holds the potential to reduce complexity, reveal and synergize biases, and operationalize findings.

[17] In a review article on transitioning to sustainable food systems, Wezel and others (2020) identify diverse pathways and entry points that principles and elements of agroecology open up to various actors to pursue in inclusive and integrated food system governance.

[18] See this Primer on Rural-Urban Linkages and Land produced for the COP 16 Parties as an official document by the UN Convention to Combat Land Degradation and UN-Habitat.

[19] Agroforestry for sustainable landscape management, a special issue of Sustainability Science (2020), highlights ways that agroforestry produces both high-economic-value food crops, especially in regions where agricultural systems are becoming more intensive, and multiple ecosystem services.

For example, Rainforest Alliance's [Mt. Kenya Sustainable Landscape and Livelihoods program](#), begun in 2020, formed a multi-stakeholder platform with two district governments and grassroots representatives. Their goal was to improve market opportunities for 50,000 smallholder farmers and 1,000 forest-dependent communities who face increasing land degradation. They designed a strategy to move beyond agricultural certification to ensure agro-ecologically sound production of smallholder coffee and tea, and food for local consumption. Private sector partners offer business financing, technical assistance, and market linkages. By 2023 7,468 coffee and 23,381 tea farmers were already making this transition on 5,495 hectares.

Aligning farm production with sound ecosystem management. Coordinating the design and management of green infrastructure in and around farms is often critical for reducing environmental risks for farmers, reducing environmental risks from farming, and providing connectivity for wildlife habitat. Such green infrastructure may include riparian buffers, pollination pathways, and gully re-vegetation to improve beneficial insect habitat, absorb stormwater, sequester carbon to mitigate climate change, and stabilize microclimate. Plants included in green infrastructure may provide wild-harvested food, supplemental feed and grazing, and woodfuel that can support food system resilience. Engaging farmers and other stakeholders in green infrastructure design and management can ensure that the effort is tailored to local realities, cultures, and fairly distributed (see Case 1 on Landcare). [Policy for green infrastructure](#) can be designed to offset costs to farmers and incentivize collaborative work off-farm.

Case 1. Landcare, a farmer-driven partnership model, integrates farm and off-farm land regeneration in Australia and the Philippines

[Landcare](#) is a 50-year-old movement that links sustainable agricultural production with environmental restoration and protection. Originating in Australia as a response to widespread land degradation threatening the agricultural economy, the approach has since spread to more than 60 countries. Landcare builds on farmers' knowledge and mobilizes volunteer collective action for natural resources management. Landcare strives for healthy food produced by biodiverse, resilient ecosystems that create a better quality of life for all living beings. Landcare seeks to instill hope and confidence by building partnerships and facilitating peer-to-peer learning about farming practices that regenerate soil and produce nutritious, profitable crops.

Farmer innovation in the **Philippines** through Landcare coordinates farm and off-farm action to repair gullies, prevent erosion, improve productivity, and restore ecosystems at the watershed scale. When Landcare was piloted in [Claveria](#) (Cagayan Province), farmers reduced soil erosion in their areas by 90% while increasing corn production by 30%. In Bohol Province, [economic analysis](#) found that farmers who adopt Landcare practices have twice the farm income of non-adopters. In **Australia**, [three case studies](#)—for liming crop fields in the Western Australian grains industry, riparian management in the cotton industry, and nutrient and effluent management in the VIC dairy industry—found that the combined market value of selected on-farm and off-farm economic benefits from Landcare investment was more than $1 billion.

To learn more, see this [case study](#) by Laura Eugene.

Mobilizing collaboration with other sectors for food system transformation. Transitioning from conventional to regenerative food systems must address numerous linkages between food, agriculture, and other sectors, as exemplified in [Growing Better: Ten Critical Transitions to Transform Food and Land Use.](#) Stakeholders across the landscape can contribute to food system transformation through their buying and eating preferences, including from tourism, and school and business cafeterias. Other ways to engage might include, for example, strengthening rural livelihoods through entrepreneurism in value-adding activities, linking with the development of renewable energy mini-grids and digital technology, and collaborating with health actors for infectious and other disease control. Improvements in built infrastructure can reduce erosion, pollution, and water diversions that negatively impact farmers.

Coordinating finance for landscape-wide transformation. A central feature of regenerative landscapes is a structured "portfolio" of activities, projects, and businesses that align to achieve long- and short-term outcomes for regenerative food systems, natural resource management, green, and gray infrastructure. These investments—from private, public, philanthropic, and community sources—must consider spatial interconnections and work to include marginalized groups in actions and benefits.

2.3 Forging solutions: functions of a regenerative landscape partnership

Food offers a space for all sectors and stakeholders to come together, "break bread," and share their cultural connections to the land. Anchoring food as the nexus of change at the landscape scale ensures relevance, commitment, and actionability for all stakeholders.[20] Landscape partnerships, in turn, take on a broad range of roles to support the shared vision for food system transformation, which directly connects to other areas of the landscape.[21] These connections are illustrated in Figure 4.[22]

Facilitate engagement, negotiation, and networking. LPs can instill in stakeholders a sense of belonging and voice and tap into the experience of all to find solutions. They promote collaboration in designing regenerative production practices on farms and surrounding lands. They practice dialogue, negotiation, and conflict management to build inclusive, dynamic, multi-stakeholder coalitions and foster transparent communications and governance. LPs can also help to maintain coherence, momentum and dialogue over the longer term, even when political actors change.

Strengthen capacities through collaborative learning. LPs can provoke the mindset shift needed to envision alternative food systems and motivation to bring them about. By facilitating peer-to-peer learning, developing theories of change, and "monitoring, evaluating, and learning" frameworks, they can inspire LP members and supporters to think and operate at a system scale. Various tools have been developed to support LPs throughout this process.[23]

Bring together crucial food system actors for the regeneration transition. LPs can support food systems actors in recognizing opportunities and gaps, identifying roles, and fostering community and shared learning. This can include adapting tools and equipment, tapping into available subsidies, and using decision-making tools.

Negotiate and coordinate funding and investment. LPs can foster the co-design of innovative landscape finance strategies with relevant actors (businesses, banks, donors, and transnational LP support networks). They can interact with potential funders, prepare proposals, negotiate budgets to attract long- and short-term funding, and help manage risks at the farm and landscape scales.

---

20 See IUCN's major overview [study](#) of the environmental and social benefits of regenerative agriculture.
21 A UN Food Systems Hub policy brief on [transforming food systems governance](#) explains that current siloed processes make it difficult to execute and monitor comprehensive change that reflects the complexity of food systems and the diversity of actors.
22 While Figure 4 specifies outcomes for SDGs 2, 6 and 13 for illustration, ILM can potentially contribute to all of the SDGs; see Thaxton, et al 2015 white paper, [Landscape Partnerships for Sustainable Development.](#)
23 For example, Rainforest Alliance's Regenerative Agriculture Scorecards are being used to monitor coffee, tea, cocoa, and palm oil adoption and can be modified to monitor the adoption of regenerative food crops. Also the Food and Land Use Coalition and Bioversity-CIAT Alliance produced this helpful guide for how agricultural practices align with long-term goals for integrated landscapes: [Aligning regenerative agricultural practices with outcomes to deliver for people, nature and climate.](#)

Advocate for policy change and financial support. LPs can advocate for supportive policies with local governments and engage in coalitions of LPs to influence national or company policies. They can communicate, align, and advocate and keep members, policymakers, and potential supporters informed of the LPs' activities, accomplishments, and aspirations.

Figure 4 illustrates how ILM processes led by LPs can influence perceptions, incentives, decision-making and institutional effectiveness. These open up new opportunities and design ideas for synergies in project interventions that advance regenerative agriculture and food systems, and deliver a range of SDGs.
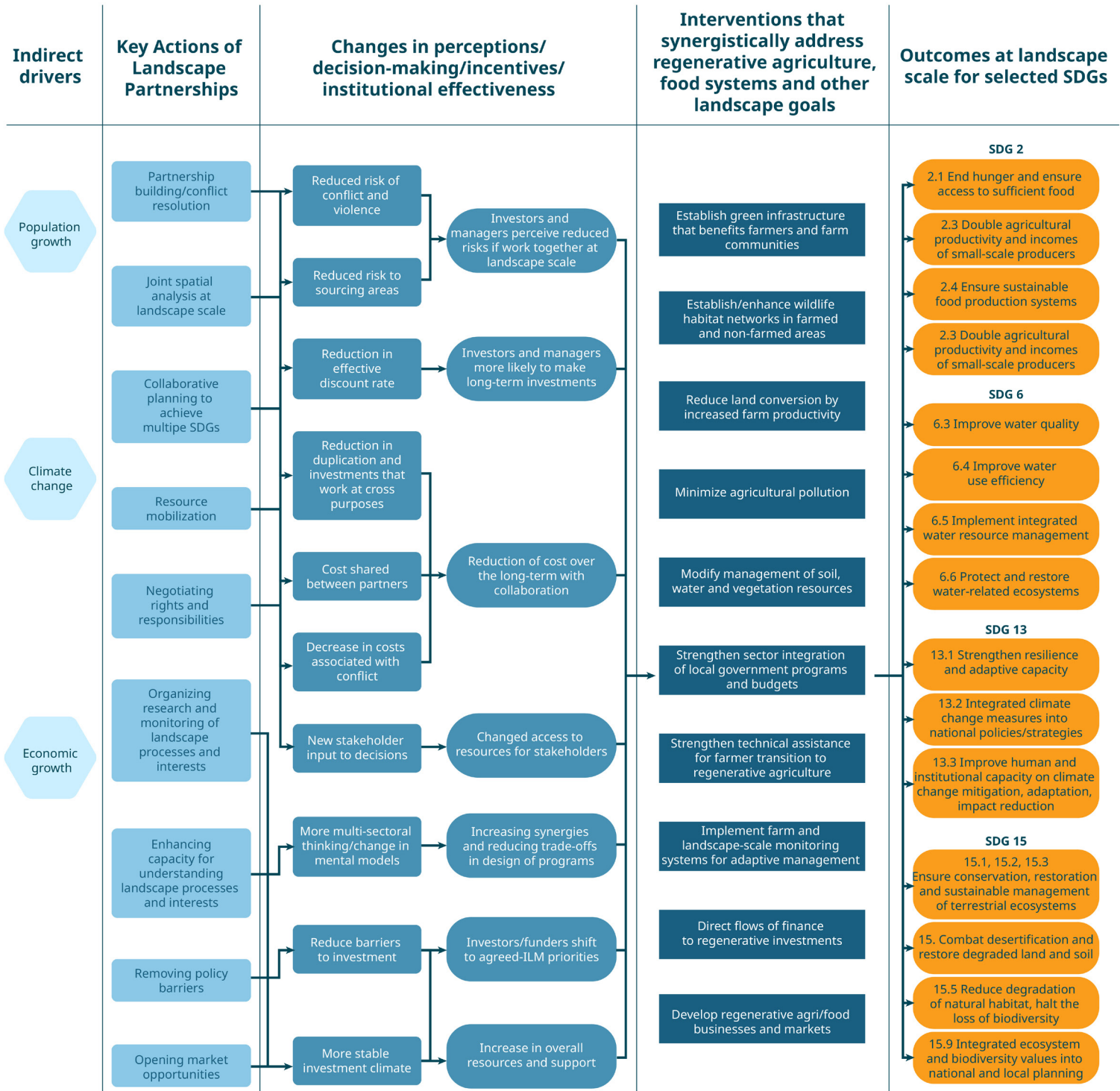
Figure 4:
Landscape partnerships can mobilize and de-risk investments in regenerative agriculture and food systems [24]

[24] Adapted from Scherr, S. J. and K. Heiner 2016. Towards an approach to integrated landscape modeling: Memo for SDG Modeling Workshop, Ministry of Environment, Government of the Netherlands. EcoAgriculture Partners: Washington, D.C. February.

2.4 Roles and responsibilities of actors in regenerative landscape partnerships

Leaders in landscape partnerships share a spectrum of roles ranging from convener, coordinator, facilitator, working group member, communicator, funder, advisor, participant, to champion. How the partnership originated, by whom, its stage of development, and cross-sectoral integration will influence the roles that different actors may play, including around regenerative agriculture. These roles and responsibilities also evolve over time.

Farmers and producer groups are central to the regeneration agenda. Farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest producers play critical roles in agriculture design and different plant and livestock associations, demonstrate viable practices to facilitate adaptation and adoption, spearhead marketing innovations, co-design green infrastructure, and inspire movements of like-minded farmers and entrepreneurs.

Civil society organizations promote holistic landscape goals and grassroots priorities. NGOs and CSOs have been prominent in organizing LPs and promoting holistic landscape outcomes around community health and well-being, nature conservation, local rights, and participatory governance.

Subnational program leaders and action researchers support local innovation processes. Local government, agriculture extension, and natural resource management agencies can coordinate support for different land users. Action researchers, including program monitoring and evaluation specialists, may employ community-engaged, collaborative discovery methods to build a shared understanding of issues, opportunities, and action strategies to advance a regeneration agenda.

Businesses along the agri-food value chain that foster nature-positive and landscape regeneration.[25] Businesses inside and outside the landscape connect with nature-positive value chain actors, including farmer and producer groups, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions, to stimulate local business development and regenerative practices.

National and international program leaders and financial actors can enable system change. These external organizations can help strengthen the capacities of stakeholders organizations in extension, research and business. National sustainability program coordinators attract resources linked to national commitments to global climate, biodiversity, restoration, and other agreements that require implementation at the landscape level, such as national biodiversity action plans.

A long-standing, well-functioning landscape partnership is described below in Case 2 from Lari, Kenya.

Aerial footage of La Junquera Farm, northwest of Murcia, Spain
Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners

[25] World Business Council for Sustainable Development (2023). *Roadmap to nature positive: Foundations for the agri-food system – row crop commodities subsector.*

Case 2. Lari Landscape, Kenya, a 30-year-old partnership that originated through local community mobilization, has catalyzed the development of food system enterprises

KENVO was formed in 1994 to mobilize local community members in response to illegal outsider-led deforestation that threatened their livelihoods. Leadership comes from the community to support teams of volunteer members who assume various roles needed to meet evolving challenges and aspirations. At the same time, a board of directors helps to steer KENVO and its Lari Landscape partnership. The Lari LP engages local government agencies from numerous sectors, businesses, and CBOs to pursue their common agenda to build and sustain a regenerative landscape.

In addition to sustaining one of the only remaining indigenous forests in the Aberdare Range, one with unique biodiversity, the collaboration has stimulated regenerative production systems and new eco-labeled markets for farmers, ecotourism, and bottling plants. Lari provides many examples of what an LP can achieve; you can view a multi-media story of their successes here. Funding comes mainly from community contributions and small project grants.

To learn more, see this case study by David Kuria, Nelson Muiru, Charles Nyanjui, Julius Kariara, and KENVO.

LP leaders, members, and supporters will benefit from deep learning and contemplation about how to nurture qualities of impactful LPs: how to organize and design effective LPs, and how to inspire actors to engage and remain active.

A design framework for **building landscape partnerships** helps identify actors to be involved, their roles and responsibilities, the functions of the collaboration, and possible organizational structures (Figure 5).

Various **frameworks, tools, and learning resources** can help LPs engage stakeholders and develop viable governance systems and adaptive collaborative management plans. 1000L has produced many such resources, which are listed in Annex 1, along with other helpful tools and frameworks developed by 1000L partner organizations.[27]

There is no one way to organize LPs. Each partnership has its unique conception depending on various factors. LPs commonly begin informally as platforms or forums for bringing together different stakeholders to share concerns, learn, identify possible solutions, and eventually pursue common goals through joint action. Other LPs may formally organize through rules, agreements, and carefully specified roles and responsibilities characteristic of those initiated by national or international NGOs. They may be organized around legally enforceable contracts between the public and
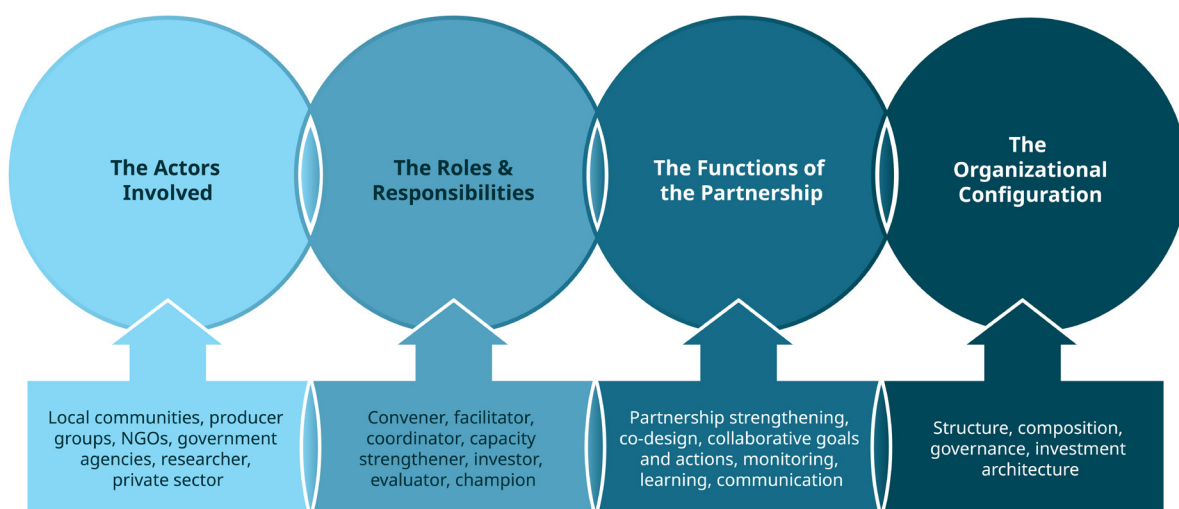
Figure 5:
Landscape partnership design framework [26]

The Actors Involved	The Roles & Responsibilities	The Functions of the Partnership	The Organizational Configuration
Local communities, producer groups, NGOs, government agencies, researcher, private sector	Convener, facilitator, coordinator, capacity strengthener, investor, evaluator, champion	Partnership strengthening, co-design, collaborative goals and actions, monitoring, learning, communication	Structure, composition, governance, investment architecture

[26] Buck, L. E., S. J. Scherr, C. Planicka and K. Heiner 2017. Building partnerships for landscape stewardship, In: Bieling, C. and T. Plieninger (eds). The Science and Practice of Landscape Stewardship, Chapter 4, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
[27] Design framework for building landscape partnerships. This tool from EcoAgriculture Partners helps LPs consider options for developing an LP by examining the four critical elements of a partnership: the actors, their roles and responsibilities, the functions of the partnership, and its organizational configuration. Examining connections among the four elements helps the group to build consistency and coherence across different dimensions of the partnership.
Participatory planning, monitoring, and evaluating multi-stakeholder platforms in integrated landscape initiatives. These guidelines from Tropenbos and EcoAgriculture Partners support LPs to develop healthy internal governance practices. Three components of the workshop method are first, identifying priorities for future multi-stakeholder collaboration in the landscape; then looking inward at the processes within the platform to identify areas for possible improvement; and finally, looking back by identifying the primary outcomes of the platform and comparing them to the original objectives.
Assessing landscape governance. This framework and tool from EcoAgriculture Partners helps LPs design effective governance systems in the landscape. This includes how rules and decision-making address overlapping claims and conflicting interests and how the LP can influence the processes. In participatory workshops, landscape leaders and stakeholders discuss critical characteristics of landscape governance and how to monitor and improve them.

private sectors to develop infrastructure or capital investment projects in landscapes, as with examples of Source-Up and Enduring Earth. Indigenous territories often have the advantage of existing territorial governance that already designates actors responsible for different dimensions of development.

Landscape leaders need to explore ways to **inspire stakeholders to engage in LPs, through connections to local traditions and knowledge**, to facilitate deep and broad-based engagement over the long term. "Aha" moments can be inspirational when former trade-offs

are recalibrated as synergies by a re-framing or modest change in the system. Recognizing what groups can accomplish when people from different locations, cultures, professions, or sectors align toward a common goal can also be inspiring. The research highlighted in Case 3 on the AlVelAl landscape suggests that investing in transformative stakeholder and governance processes can lay a foundation for long-term commitment to landscape restoration.

Case 3. The Alvelal landscape partnership in Spain: impacts in regenerative agriculture, conservation, land use, and business development

The AlVeLal Association was formed in 2014 to bring together farmers and other community groups into a social alliance to build a more prosperous future for the Alvelal landscape, a 1 million-hectare, semi-arid steppe becoming increasingly degraded. With three protected areas, three water basins of the rivers Guadalquivir and Segura and the Mediterranean basin, and roughly 250,000 inhabitants, the area is a hot spot for European rainfed almond production. Commonland, an international foundation, introduced the 4 Returns framework to local entrepreneurs, farmers, and conservationists, leading to the founding of the LP AlVelAl's in 2015. Since then, they have worked together, offering inspiration, guidance, and financial support through multi-year grants.

A 20-year holistic landscape vision was developed in 2015 using the 4 Returns framework, which included protected area

management, ecological corridors, regenerative production and new businesses for almonds, aromatic herbs, compost, rotational livestock and oils, honey, wine, and olives, as well as degraded land restoration. More than 600+ farmers and several businesses, local governmental agencies, and NGOs are now involved.

A 2020 landscape-wide analysis by Commonland and KPMG estimated the total value of the Altiplano Estepario intervention to be between US$100 million and US$500 million in net present value (NPV). Initial outcomes showed that the three key stakeholders—farmers, private investors, and the government—are responsible for 95% of the needed funding (US$120–US$140 million NPV)—all earn direct financial returns over the funding required. Other vital benefits include jobs, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

See this article, the complete valuation study and ETH Zürich Crowtherlab case study to learn more.

3 | Overview of the Collaborative Landscape Process

The practice of holistic ILM has five key elements (Figure 6). Strong landscape partnerships are at the center (element 1, discussed in the section above). The others are: 2) developing a shared understanding of the landscape; 3) developing a shared vision, strategy, and action plan for landscape transformation; 4) mobilizing and financing the action plan; and 5) learning and impact assessment. This framework is iterative, designed to accommodate multiple "entry points"[28] and applies to fostering regenerative agriculture and food system transformation. The process is not linear; it follows local dynamics and continues to evolve over the long term. A landscape initiative may be considered 'mature' when it meets core criteria around scale, governance, collective goals and actions, and collective monitoring.[29]

This section does not provide detailed guidance for implementation; rather, it is intended to show the types of LP actions that need support and funding. More detailed guidance and tools, drawn from and synthesizing resources from many organizations, may be found in the 1000L resources in Annex 1.

Figure 6:
The five elements of collaborative action align landscape partners around developing and realizing their vision for regeneration

Credit: 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People initiative, 2020

---

[28] By "entry point" we mean the factor that initially motivated an unusual set of partners to join forces. Examples include a disruption of water supply due to a degraded watershed; the potential loss of an iconic and culturally important wild species; landscape-wide risks from climate change, natural disasters, or invasive species; a public health risk related to environmental management or the imperative of moving the local economy away from a no-longer-viable commodity or to take advantage of a new one; and major demographic shifts affecting land uses.
[29] See ISEAL 2024. Core Criteria for Mature Landscapes: A Collective Position Paper, vers 1..

3.1 Shared understanding of the landscape

Developing a shared understanding of a landscape's characteristics, challenges, and opportunities helps stakeholders align their perceptions, inform intervention strategies, and be an important trust and relationship-building opportunity. Collaboratively assessing the landscape uncovers root causes, histories, and cultures behind its current situation and generates baseline information against which LPs can assess their progress and impacts. Iterations of inclusive, reflective dialogue around current agricultural practices, land uses, and the dominant food system(s) help identify different ways of thinking, opportunities, and gaps in awareness or knowledge that are preludes to serious co-design of regenerative landscape action. [30]

Organize a collaborative assessment process. The assessment process must be inclusive, conveying appreciation for knowledge and insights from and for all. It requires using a holistic assessment framework that includes the landscape's ecological, economic, social, and governance dimensions. This process should be strategic and incremental, focusing on broadly recognized, critical issues in the food system. The LP should engage a neutral facilitator to guide stakeholders in gathering and analyzing landscape information. 1000L and its partners have developed tools and resources to aid this process.

Utilize data and mapping for spatial analysis. Many types of data can contribute to the assessment, in particular around dimensions of land use.[31] Mapping—both professional and participatory with local stakeholders using remote sensing and related spatial tools—enables LPs to locate essential features, activities, and issues around which to focus their assessment. Taking into account the data and map, the group can draw on local agriculturalists, historians, economists, and ecologists who can provide perspectives on the data and maps, as inputs to stakeholder dialogue.

Utilize the assessment to clarify interactions between food systems and the landscape. LPs should identify other sectors, land uses, plans, and activities that interact with the food and agricultural sector, such as water, biodiversity conservation, tourism, housing, human settlement, and energy. Also, LPs can explore and spatially map food flows within the landscape, such as sites of production and markets, extent of food importation and export, location of food deserts, and connections with other land uses. It may be valuable to examine financial flows, including the inflows, exchanges, and outflows of money between individuals, businesses, and government actors in the food system and larger landscape. It will be useful to map the location and extent of regenerative agriculture practices, potential regenerative agriculture production locations, and projected market expansion. Case 4 below demonstrates how The Nature Conservancy's foodscapes approach in Argentina engages regional and local collaborators in the Argentine Gran Chaco foodscape to map and analyze land use transitions.

---

[30] 1000L's foundational learning module on Facilitation in ILM demonstrates how the process enables groups to engage in constructive dialogue, problem-solve, innovate, manage conflict, plan strategy, and make decisions.

[31] The Landscape Data Commons (United States Department of Agriculture, USDA) is used for standardizing, accessing, and applying large environmental datasets for agroecosystem research and management. Landscape Data Commons has created a community platform that standardizes agroecological data so that it can be used to understand agroecosystem dynamics and change across land ownership and scales.

A Landscape Perspective on Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainable Land Management (EcoAgriculture Partners) is a user-friendly training manual that helps LPs choose a strategic set of "integrative" indicators that generate information about multiple dimensions of the landscape.

The Ecological Landscape Assessment Tool (United States Department of Agriculture) assesses which land is for what and where ecosystem services are coming from. Commons has created a community platform that standardizes agroecological data so that it can be used to understand agroecosystem dynamics and change across land ownership and scales.

A Landscape Perspective on Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainable Land Management (EcoAgriculture Partners) is a user-friendly training manual that yelps LPs choose a strategic set of "integrative" indicators that generate information about multiple dimensions of the landscape.

The Ecological Landscape Assessment Tool (United States Department of Agriculture) assesses which land is for what and where ecosystem services are coming from.

Case 4. Protecting biodiversity in the Argentine Gran Chaco through a foodscapes approach to regenerative food systems

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is marshaling its long-standing expertise in evidence-based nature conservation to spearhead a foodscapes program. To plan for action in the foodscapes, it combines analyses of production systems and places to represent food systems spatially. In the Argentine Gran Chaco foodscape, TNC is engaging regional and local collaborators to map and analyze land use transitions that could address threats posed by increased demand for globally traded soy and beef commodities. This foodscape analysis helps stakeholders determine what nature-based solutions to food production are needed and where, while predicting what the land use transition could look like over time.

TNC draws on these inputs in facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships that connect traders, value chains, and roundtables promoting regenerative ranching and cropping practices. The analyses demonstrate how and where agriculture can become more profitable while halting forest loss and stimulating restoration. For example, in grazing systems, incorporating rotational and/or silvopastoral grazing into grasslands could potentially increase profits by an additional $3,550 per year for an average farm of 700 hectares, while in mixed livestock–cropping systems adding forest buffers and silvopasture to cropped areas—as well as adding cover crops to fields—is expected to increase farm profits two-fold, from $278,000 per year for a 2,000 ha farm to $557,000 per year. Argentine Gran Chaco foodscape planning predicts other positive impacts will include reduced soil erosion and flood risk, increased biodiversity on and off farms, and climate change mitigation.

To learn more, see [this report](#) by Bossio et al. 2021, pp 106-112.

3.2 Shared vision, strategy, and action plan for landscape transformation

A shared vision and goals for a healthy, productive, regenerative landscape are the basis for preparing a long-term transformation strategy for the landscape. That strategy then becomes the basis for developing a short-term regenerative action plan, creating synergies between the farm and landscape scales that result in more sustainable land use systems. For the food system components of the vision, strategy, and action plans, it is critical to ensure that all dimensions of the food system—from farms to tables, including cultivation, harvesting, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, and consumption, as well as the environmental and social elements—are incorporated.

Co-create a shared vision. A landscape partnership's vision frames the desired future and the landscape's most valued features and functions for its people, economy, and nature. LPs craft their vision to inspire diverse landscape stakeholders to collective action. Several iterations of workshops may be needed, and tools are available to help design an engaging and rewarding process.[32] Many Indigenous territories, on the other hand, often already have a shared cultural vision.

Sharing the vision widely in forms accessible to all stakeholders will help ensure all stakeholders feel ownership. The vision can be communicated as a short written text with illustrations, a single spatially oriented illustration, or any other creative mode or combination that speaks clearly to all stakeholders.

Devise a long-term strategy. Moving to concrete action requires translating the vision into measurable long-term goals for regenerative landscape transformation. These goals reflect a shared view of LP members of what "success" will look like in 20 years or more. For example, a vision of thriving smallholder farming communities could include a defined goal of widely shared agricultural income growth. A vision that highlights restoring an endemic wild species could have the goal of achieving ecological connectivity in an agricultural corridor located between two protected areas.

The longer-term strategy is designed to limit trade-offs among the goals and promote synergies, to ensure that the landscape is moving toward their goals over time.

A strategy may address land and resource use patterns across the landscape, new market developments shifting the mix of crops and other products, promotion of new production practices, education and capacity strengthening, new regulatory frameworks, and green and gray infrastructure development. Key factors to consider are sequencing of actions and investment over time, policy coherence, spatial targeting, financing, and incentive structures. The strategy should highlight resilience mechanisms, particularly how the landscape can "bounce back" or "bounce forward," in response to economic, social, or ecological shocks.

LPs use various methods to develop their transformation strategies. San Martin, Peru's low-emissions rural development strategy used a spatially explicit planning tool that links agriculture, conservation, and economic development (Case 5). The Produce–Conserve–Include models of IDH and the Governors Climate Task Force apply explicit food systems/deforestation analyses for strategy development. The Deep Demonstration models that Climate-KIC is developing in Ireland and Scotland and the whole-of-country design in Slovenia are models and tools for systemic change that are highly relevant to regenerative landscape transformation. All of these examine multiple trajectories of change, projecting from existing data, with local stakeholders contributing or estimating key parameters.

Develop a short-term action plan. With the shared vision and long-term strategy providing the roadmap for change, LPs then develop short-term action plans to implement the strategy, generally in three- to five-year cycles and revisited annually. This time frame corresponds with many government sector planning cycles, integrated planning cycles, and donor-funded projects. Action planning defines who has agreed to do what, when, and where. Importantly, the plan is designed to mutually benefit the programs and interests of the contributing organizations. LPs utilize maps to make action planning spatially explicit and foster awareness of interactions across the landscape.

3.3 Mobilizing and financing the action plan

Partners need to consider practical challenges to mobilize and finance the landscape action plan for the transition to regenerative agriculture. Moving from planning to action includes action tracking, communicating, and translating the action plan into a landscape investment portfolio. An essential feature of implementation is shared leadership—delegating these roles to the best-positioned stakeholder groups.

Track action. One of the roles of the LP is to track progress on the action plan, to facilitate any needed coordination, and identify potential constraints so they can be addressed in a timely manner. This is particularly important in aligning government, private sector, and civil society actions. Results also provide input for regular meetings of the partners to discuss any needed course corrections.

Build a communications strategy. Effective communication is the key to inspiration and long-term engagement. Internal communication among partners is critical to sustain energy, keep them informed, and facilitate coordination; external communication, to strengthen support and mobilize strategic connections. Various communication and advocacy tools will inspire different stakeholders to engage in and with LPs. Narratives of action and impact and story maps are useful for civil society organizations and small enterprises inside the landscape. Business case briefs are useful for companies. Case studies of improved cross-sectoral governance and progress toward SDGs help sub-national government officials, as do policy briefs for national and international policymakers.

Finance the action plan. Some components of the action plan build on existing businesses, government, and organizations that are already funded. But many actions will need new sources of funding or to shift how existing funds are deployed. Guidance materials have emerged over the past decade to support these place-based and whole-of-systems processes, using aligned frameworks to describe the main steps in mobilizing landscape finance:[34] These include: identify a "landscape investment portfolio" or a set of priority investment targets in the landscape, based on the agreed action plan; refine the business or project plans; create a "landscape finance strategy" that identifies and mobilizes prospective sources of finance; and, where needed, create financing mechanisms to fund those investments.

---

[34] These include the Landscape Investment and Finance Toolkit (LIFT) developed by EcoAgriculture Partners and IUCN; the 1000L Landscape Finance Accelerator service; and the Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet (Powers et al., 2024).
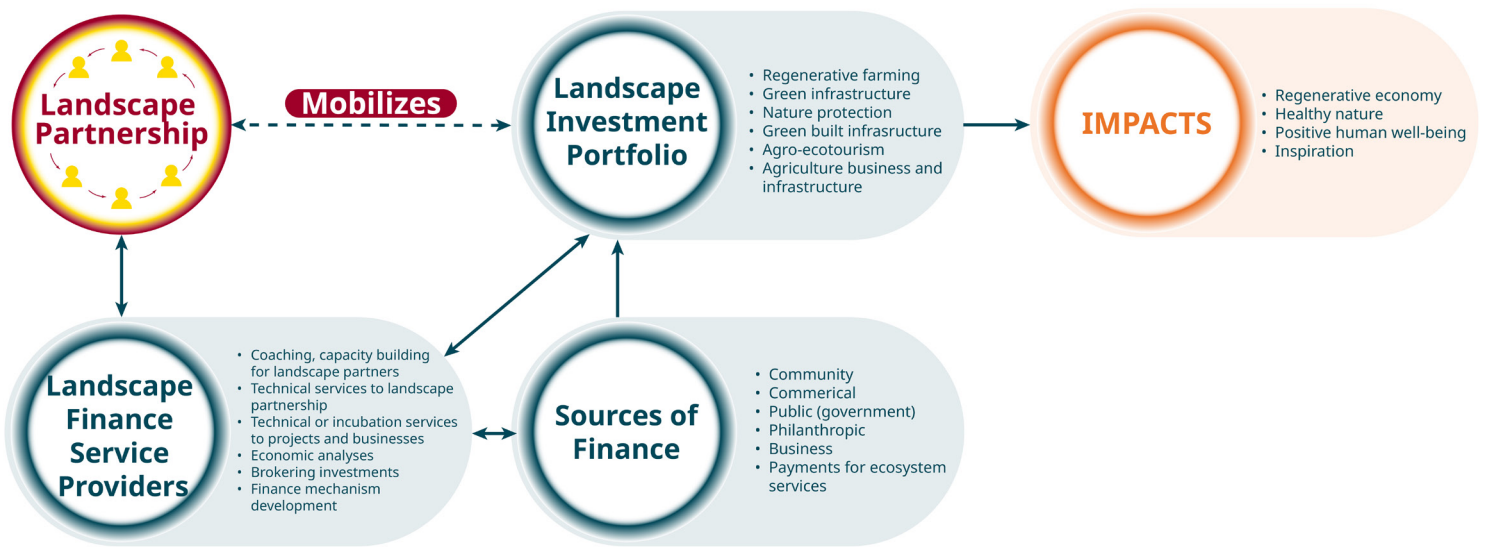
Figure 7.
Landscape partnerships can work with landscape finance service providers to mobilize and connect projects and businesses in the landscape portfolio with suitable funders

Identify priority investments (aka Landscape Investment Portfolio). The activities in the landscape action plan are evaluated in more detail to assess potential costs and benefits for different stakeholders, contributions to agricultural and landscape regeneration, synergies and trade-offs with other projects in the portfolio, and type and amount of funding needed. A cooperative priority-setting exercise may be useful and scenario modeling could be part of this process.

The portfolio will identify critical private, public, and civic projects and business investments that support the transformation objectives. It will map where projects would be implemented in the landscape, describe the synergies and trade-offs among investments, and identify key risks and opportunities. These portfolios tend to focus on production (agriculture and industry), protection (green infrastructure and ecosystem services) and built environment (gray infrastructure and development planning). Project descriptions should include information on their "investment readiness"; programs of project and business incubation will commonly be needed for some key actions. The types of finance required—grants, equity investments, loans, insurance, impact investors, government program funding—will be diverse and usually require forms of blending and coordination.

Develop a plan for funding the portfolio (aka Landscape Finance Strategy). Once an initial set of priorities has been established, the partnership can develop a "landscape finance strategy," a clear set of steps for funding the individual projects in the portfolio, separately or under a single funding umbrella.

Funding needs, sources of funding, and funding mechanisms will shift as a landscape initiative becomes more mature. Figure 8 provides a stylized illustration of what this could be like. The formative stage of a landscape partnership—stakeholder engagement, research, planning, and piloting—will draw on community financial and human resources and public or philanthropic grants. Once priority sectors and landscape-friendly investments are scaled up, financing mechanisms and sources diversify and grow.

Public investment and policy changes may be required throughout this process to foster a supportive investment environment for landscape-scale transformation that benefits scaling of land-use transformations, such as regenerative agriculture. This general sequence of funding was experienced in the more mature landscape cases of Lari, AlVelAl, San Martin, Madhya Pradesh, and RLABM.
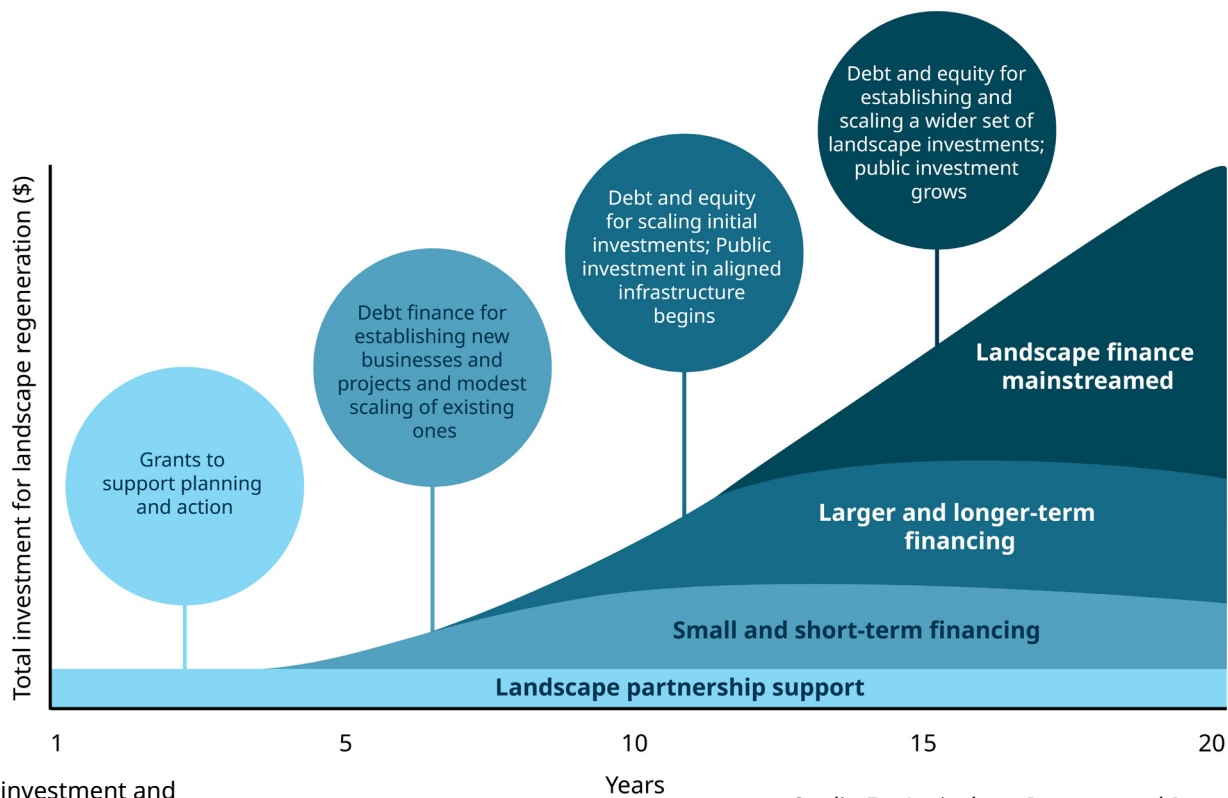
Figure 8.
Landscape investment and financing evolve over time

Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners and Regen10, 2024

Develop landscape finance and investment mechanisms. Some businesses and projects in the investment portfolio can self-finance or access mechanisms and sources of financing well known to their developers. Agribusinesses and other companies are innovating their investment tools to engage in multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships effectively. Sometimes new finance mechanisms need to be designed to solve the specific challenges of landscape finance, such as coordinating investments across a landscape, identifying how projects can harmonize efforts for landscape-wide impact, aggregating projects within a single portfolio, and reducing investment risk.[35]

Case 5 (next page) demonstrates how, in Alto Mayo, Peru, integrated landscape finance, including special funding mechanisms, has served as a process for operationalizing a landscape transformation strategy.

---

[35] 1000L conducted a global scoping study of existing mechanisms and has since produced detailed descriptions and webinars on promising mechanisms. This review underscored the need for inclusive, accessible mechanisms to finance smallholders, women, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups across a landscape.

Case 5. Integrated landscape finance supports agricultural land use transformation in San Martin/Alto Mayo, Peru

The integrated landscape finance (ILF) approach implemented in the Alto Mayo landscape of San Martin, Peru, serves as a model for operationalizing a broader transformation strategy. The Regional Strategy for Low Emission Rural Development (ERDRBE) in San Martin was developed through a multi-stakeholder process led by the regional government and key stakeholders over several years.

The ILF process began with identifying priority needs and sectors, conducting cost-benefit and costing analysis, designing and setting up financial mechanisms, and coordinating existing and potential resources through an integrated and iterative strategy. Businesses, government entities, and stakeholders from agriculture, forestry, and tourism actively participate in the ILF process, recognizing the impact of landscape sustainability on their operations and objectives.

Public and private investment programs, financial mechanisms, and partnerships are strategically connected. The ILF process systematically and iteratively mobilizes resources from local businesses, the financial sector, and external sources to support a landscape-scale agricultural transition, reducing deforestation and supporting the development goals of the landscape actors and regional government.

To learn more, see the case study by Juan Carlos Ramos in this report on Lessons Learned from Integrated Landscape Finance to Advance the Global Biodiversity Framework, Section 4, pp 36-43.

3.4 Learning and impact assessment

Reflecting on progress in implementing their landscape plans and changes in the landscape enables LPs to learn from their experience, measure impact, and share innovations. Based on these learnings, every few years they can revisit and refine their strategy and action plan.

Based on their shared vision and goals, LPs can select a strategic set of indicators that will help generate information for stakeholders to make decisions and inform progress. As partners work together to select, measure, and draw conclusions from their indicators, they will benefit from integrating their ideas and decisions into an adaptive MEL framework. This could describe the LPs' rationale for choosing what to measure, how, by whom, how often, and how to synthesize the data into meaningful information.

Select indicators that matter to key local stakeholders. Collaboratively choosing indicators can help align stakeholders' interests and explore joint questions; they are very context- and landscape-specific. Process indicators for the partnership are also important to monitor, as goal-oriented indicators alone cannot capture the partnership's progress in coordination and sense-making.

Various landscape frameworks and guidance resources can help LPs choose meaningful indicators to monitor and evaluate in their context. Box 3 (below) describes the Regen10 Outcomes Framework, which is under development to provide guidance on farm and landscape-level outcomes and indicators for farmers and landscape stewards transitioning to regenerative agriculture and food systems.

Box 3. Regen10 Outcomes Framework links farm and landscape level assessments

Regen10 partners are co-developing a holistic, farmer-centric Outcomes Framework that seeks to drive alignment on the outcomes of regenerative agrifood systems at both farm and landscape levels, informing decision-making and acting as a guiding star for what these systems can and should achieve. Recognizing that regeneration must happen both on farms and in the wider landscapes they are part of, the Outcomes Framework provides outcomes for both contexts.

It defines twelve shared dimensions that connect these outcomes, illustrating how farm-level efforts contribute to, and are influenced by, broader dynamics within landscapes. This approach helps stakeholders assess the reciprocal relationships between farms and landscapes, including:

1. How changes in the surrounding landscape affect farm-level practices and outcomes, both positively and negatively

2. How farm-level activities impact the surrounding landscape, both positively and negatively

By taking a holistic view and considering social, economic, and environmental dimensions, the Outcomes Framework aims to overcome narrow focuses like "carbon tunnel vision" and address the complexities and trade offs of regeneration. Regen10 invites all stakeholders to collaborate and share the responsibility for creating regenerative agrifood systems that deliver lasting positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate.

Source: Regen10 Outcomes Framework, 2024

Measure indicators using methods that stakeholders trust. Data collection benefits from the involvement of diverse stakeholders. Mixed qualitative and quantitative methods that are user-friendly and accessible for partners should be used. Partners may have access to data sets and monitoring programs that LPs can draw from. A spectrum of measurement tools from simple to complex is available, while the suite of offerings continues to grow as experience with landscape approaches expands. 1000L has developed tools for stimulating collaboration in measurement and/ or integration across sectors; some of which are included in Annex 1.

Reflect together on what is learned, then adapt the strategy and action plans. Making sense of the data collected requires a concerted effort to relate patterns of emerging information to the landscape context. 1000L has designed numerous tools to support the "social learning" needed to draw meaningful conclusions as a group; the tools may be found in Annex 1.

4 | Action Agenda to Build and Strengthen Regenerative Landscape Partnerships

Achieving global food system transformation goals requires dynamic action across thousands of landscapes in different contexts. LPs are critical components of the "social infrastructure for regeneration." However, LPs face many challenges to form, stay together, or be effective in some contexts. Internal challenges include building trust among stakeholders, securing funding, ensuring inclusive participation, designing solutions that adequately align competing interests, elite capture, managing conflict, and inadequate facilitation and technical skills to manage them. External challenges include conflict between local landscape plans and other overlapping development strategies, difficulties maneuvering siloed public and private agencies, public policies that ignore or undermine LPs, and undue power of large companies with competing vested interests in the landscape.

This section draws upon insights and experience to describe the support systems needed for landscape partnerships to catalyze regenerative agriculture and landscapes at scale. Table 1 proposes a five-part action agenda for food system leaders to help provide that support.

Action	Leadership needed for:
#1 Fund strong community-based partnerships for agricultural and landscape regeneration, capable of realizing their transformative vision over the long term	• Philanthropic support for LPs • Establishment of LP grant funds to support basic collaborative processes • Establishment of long-term endowment funds • Government funding for LPs adapted to scale and needs
#2. Strengthen regenerative landscape programs to support local partnership development and help them connect with landscape- friendly businesses and other actors.	• State and national government programs • Funding of NGO and farmer-led programs • Procurement contracting with local governments (i.e, school food programmes) • Extension or input service provision for farmers
#3. Promote learning networks to develop and disseminate knowledge, training, tools, technologies, resources, data, and software local leaders seek for landscape food system transformation	• 1000L/Regen10 landscape service network • Science and research addressing needs of LPs • Analyses of lessons from landscape programs • Terraso and other infotech developed for LPs
#4. Establish financial services for landscape partnerships to foster and align investment-ready projects and a coordinated finance strategy	• Private and non-profit consultancy services • Finance intermediation services for farmers and NGOs • Landscape finance accelerator services • Fit for purpose finance mechanisms designed • Regenerative enterprises/projects incubation
#5 Support national coalitions of LPs to accelerate knowledge- sharing and advocate for policy, financial and institutional support.	• Seed funding for coalition-building • Government endorsement and engagement linked to budgeting allocations • Cross-learning among national coalitions

Table 1.
Action agenda to build and strengthen regenerative landscape partnerships

4.1 Fund strong, long-term community-led partnerships for agricultural and landscape regeneration that are capable of realizing their transformative vision

LPs need sufficient funding to cover the basic costs of collaborative partnership development described in Sections 2 and 3. Lack of such sustained core funding has been identified as the single biggest constraint by local partnerships themselves as well as by the financial institutions seeking to collaborate with them.[36]

Most NGO, government, business, and international program funding of landscape initiatives operate under short-term funding cycles of three to five years, although some have provided sustained support over 10- to 20-year periods through sequential projects in the same landscapes. However, the typical cycle involves chronic disruptions. Having diverse and reliable sources of funding is important for long-term resilience.

LPs in formation usually access funds in an ad hoc way through local partners. Individual philanthropies supporting holistic place-based development have played critical roles. New types of place-based donor collaboratives are arising that support partnership processes and investment in aligned projects and businesses, as in several U.S. foodscapes. Local, state, or national governments may provide grants for convening and coordination as part of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, territorial development, biodiversity conservation, and watershed protection. International development and environmental projects increasingly include short-term resources for this function.

Short-term grant fund models for landscape partnerships that draw on philanthropic, government, and corporate social responsibility resources have also emerged. The transition to regenerative agriculture has been an important driver of many of these funds, particularly for reducing deforestation. However, institutional solutions are needed in the long term. 1000L landscape and financial partners are championing a new model of long-term "landscape development grant funds" that can provide targeted funding at different stages of partnership development and flexible entry and exit for funders (see Box 4).

Box 4. Grant funds to support landscape partnerships

Long-term catalytic grant funding for landscape partnership processes is a central piece of the integrated landscape finance puzzle. Grant facilities specifically geared toward supporting landscape partnerships and preparing investable landscape investment portfolios would help overcome limitations of the current ad hoc funding available for these activities. Current fund models are mostly short-term, stand-alone grant programs like the U.S. Catalyst Fund of the Network for Landscape Conservation or technical assistance funds for partnerships attached to commercial investment funds, such as the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development. The latter type tends to focus on project preparation and less on partnership institution-building and maintenance.

New funds could take various forms and operate globally, regionally, nationally, or locally. Crucially, these funds should be managed locally. These could take the form of endowment funds, modeled on conservation trust funds (CTFs), territorial and indigenous funds,[37] with the explicit mandate and governance to support regenerative landscape coordination and implementation. Regardless of form or scale, key design features should include 1) funding that directly supports landscape partnerships; 2) long-term funding commitments; 3) leading role of the partnership(s) in governance and decision-making within the fund; 4) technical support for the structuring of landscape investment portfolios; and 5) outcomes that include the strength and effectiveness of landscape partnerships.

With growing recognition of their importance, a number of such funds, such as the Climate Asset Management fund supported by the Green Climate Fund and Pollination for regenerative landscapes in Africa, are now under development. The GEF has pledged to massively increase funds directly to territorial, landscape and protected area management.

---

[36] This point is emphasized in the 11 Action Areas report of 1000L, based on consultations with LPs, financiers, and discussions of the three 1000 finance dialogues in 2023.
[37] For example, Conservation Trust Funds 2020: Global Vision, Local Action, by the Conservation Finance Alliance; an unpublished review of Indigenous trust funds in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado, from The Tenure Facility, by Aurelio Vianna, Jr. et al; and the 2024 Inclusive Conservation Initiative learning report by Conservation International and the Global Environment Facility.

4.2 Strengthen programs to support regenerative landscape partnership development and connect them with landscape-friendly businesses and other external actors

The promise of holistic landscape management has triggered the rise of numerous technical and financial assistance programs. Regenerative agriculture is a prominent focus in most of these initiatives to enhance food security and livelihoods and protect ecosystems. Some seek to build or strengthen long-term local partnerships. The challenges now are to synthesize lessons learned from this work to institutionalize support programs widely and to ensure that local landscape partners, including farmer organizations and food system actors, co-design and govern them.

Learn from and build from the rich diversity of landscape development programs. There is a rich experience to learn about what works or not. While in the 1970s and 1980s forest, biodiversity, and watershed goals shaped most of these programs, by the 1990s regenerative agriculture and food systems became prominent either as part of an effective environmental strategy or as priority goals.

NGO-led: Today's most prominent landscape development programs are organized by international NGOs or social enterprises with an environmental "entry point," though most have regenerative agriculture in local action plans. Examples are Climate-KIC, Commonland, Conservation International, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, Tropenbos International, and WWF. Many bioregional initiatives are also embracing action in agriculture. Yet increasingly active in landscape-related work are NGOs whose priority was historically agriculture, like IDH–Sustainable Trade Initiative, Rainforest Alliance, SNV, Rikolto, and Solidaridad. A small but growing number are farmer-led.

Government-led: A number of jurisdictional landscape models, such as those supported by the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force and IDH, focus on regenerative agriculture. Food systems–focused programs are prominent in territorial and city-region development programs, particularly those funded by European governments. U.S. national and state governments have large programs to support landscape work, often with an environmental entry point. It is notable that the recent spate of holistic climate programs has prioritized food systems, for example in Scotland's regional development program and Indonesia's Sustainable Landscape Management Program.

Many government landscape initiatives in Africa, Latin America, and Asia are supported by foreign aid programs, many of which incorporate regenerative agriculture. Notable sources have been the governments of Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S. UN and multilateral development agencies, especially FAO, UNDP, and UNESCO, support various types of landscape programs on the ground. International development, environment, and climate finance organizations like the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, and the Global Environment Facility are financing hundreds of landscape programs. The large GEF-funded Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact program of the World Bank FOLUR, includes major landscape components. The GEF-funded Sebapal Landscape project in Lesotho, described in Case 6, is an example.

Case 6. Connected programs catalyze integrated watershed management to benefit agricultural production and livelihoods in the Sebapala Landscape, Lesotho

The Integrated Watershed Management for Improved Agro-pastoral Livelihoods Program aims to enhance livelihoods and environmental sustainability in a major sub-catchment of the Sebapala Watershed of Lesotho. This project is executed by Lesotho's Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with a total project cost of $5.5 million.

This program focuses on developing and implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan, strengthening capacities in local institutions, promoting sustainable land management practices, and leveraging gender mainstreaming for broader sustainable rangeland management and restoration. The implementation approach emphasizes inclusive stakeholder engagement, harmonized planning processes, and utilizing existing government structures for effective project delivery. Project benefits so far include improved livelihoods with reduced environmental degradation, promotion of climate-smart agriculture, increased food production and agricultural productivity, and the restoration of 121,996 hectares of degraded land.

For more information, visit here.

Private sector focused: Private agribusiness and food companies also became interested in the 2010s in landscape approaches to sustainable sourcing, in the face of serious business risks from deforestation, natural resource degradation, and social conflicts that could not be addressed adequately within a single business or supply chain. Initiatives such as SourceUP, with IDH, promote "compacts" (landscape agreements) with companies. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) documented member experiences in

Agribusiness Partnerships for Sustainable Landscapes and has set up several landscape initiatives with member companies, including those around rice, cereals, and soy. The Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes launched in 2023 is being implemented now in Brazil.

The Tropical Forest Alliance, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform, supports companies to achieve deforestation-free supply chains for commodities, including palm oil, soy, beef, and paper/pulp, accelerating forest-positive collective action among their 170+ alliance members. UNDP's Good Growth Partnership, launched in 2017 to reduce deforestation, environmental degradation, and unsustainable production of soy, beef, and palm oil, worked with landscape collaboratives in four rainforest countries. Individual companies like Olam International and Nestlé have developed their own landscape programs. To track all this action, CDP has established a system for public company reporting of their landscape sustainability claims.

Synthesize lessons learned. Some programs have implemented internal reviews, generating lessons learned. CDP has synthesized key findings and recommendations from existing landscape initiatives, the challenges and how to overcome them for the acceleration that is needed. Resources to support jurisdictional landscape approaches have been compiled in the Jurisdictional Approaches Resource Hub. These and other learnings should be more widely disseminated. More analyses of program modalities, costs, and impacts on the landscape partnerships they support is needed. Synthesizing this knowledge, including the specific activities related to regenerative agriculture and food systems, is a high priority.

Case 7 describes how a recently started program that combines mentorship with training and seed grants can deepen regenerative management even in the highly experienced, community-driven LPs in the Latin American Model Forest Network.

Case 7. Latin American Model Forest Network works with EcoAgriculture Partners to deepen regenerative management in 15 Local Partnerships

The Latin American Model Forest Network (Red Latinoamericana de Bosques Modelos, RLABM) is a partnership between representatives of more than 30 cross-sector and voluntary landscape governance platforms, supported by government representatives in each of the 15 countries where they are located. The RLABM is part of the [International Model Forest Network](#) (IMFN) and for more than 20 years has allowed joint work and exchange of knowledge between leaders of collaborative governance of landscapes where forests and other land uses coexist. The RLABM facilitates joint learning between people from diverse cultures and countries about building sustainability in diverse landscapes.

The relationship between EcoAgriculture Partners and RLABM has been deeply transformational for both groups. While RLABM is a well-established partnership, EcoAgriculture Partners is filling specific gaps related to finance capacities, governance platforms, and ILM practice the network identified. Through action-oriented training, seed grants, and a Community of Practice supported by EcoAgriculture, Model Forests in the RLABM are identifying key stakeholders in their landscapes, developing landscape action plans, learning how to implement participatory governance structures, and have begun work on finance.

Participants have observed a shift in the Model Forests from project activities. There is now a renewed focus on ILM at the core of their partnerships, making the work more effective and inclusive. This experience has helped EcoAgriculture Partners to to refine its training and support methodologies.

To learn more, see this [case study](#) by Roger Villalobos, CATIE and RLABM; and this [blog post](#) by Brianna Van Matre.

Shift to long-term, locally driven processes. Externally driven landscape programs have spearheaded important innovations around regenerative landscape development. They are often positioned to mobilize key stakeholders and engage businesses and markets. Nonetheless, strategic directions and program design are usually set at the international program rather than local levels, in part due to imperatives of funding. Programs often find it easier to coordinate bilaterally with different stakeholder groups than to support the less controllable process of fostering a long-term local landscape partnership.

Landscape initiatives are grappling with how to adopt more locally driven approaches in their governance and partnership structure and how to institutionalize services and support for landscape partnerships in national or state institutions, whether public, private, or civic. For example, territorial food system initiatives across Europe promote locally (often municipally) driven programs within a framework of multi-level food systems and territorial governance.[38]

4.3 Promote learning networks to develop and disseminate the learning resources, tools, and software that local leaders seek for landscape food system transformation

LPs need ready access to learning resources, tools, and software that landscape and food system leaders can draw on or adapt for use with different groups of stakeholders in the landscape. Much more needs to be done. Such materials must be practical and adaptable and foster peer-to-peer learning over time.

Develop targeted resources, tools, and software. 1000L teams pooled their experience and resources to develop and test a set of ILM and ILF learning module packages that would be relevant for a wide range of LPs and provide a framework for others to contribute additional modules. These include "foundational" competencies like facilitation and fostering inclusion and others that explain and illustrate key elements in the ILM process. Many are already available, in both in-person and on-line modes. Additional learning resources are needed in particular for farmers to better understand ecological processes in landscapes that affect and are affected by agricultural production and for environmental actors to better understand the needs of farmers (see Annex 1).

LPs value easily accessible and user-friendly tools and software for effective and efficient planning and collaboration. 1000L teams reviewed 450 existing tools to identify the 100 deemed most useful for each of the ILM

[38] See, for example: [EU Coach Project; IPES Food 2024 Report on Food from Somewhere; Urbact's 2022, Public Policies and Governance for Territorial Food Systems;](#) and [Forster and Escudero. 2014/ City-Regions as Landscapes for People, Food and Nature.](#)

elements and to identify gaps, which partners are working to fill. Other landscape innovators are producing specialized tools. New information technology can also greatly enhance the productivity, speed, and inclusion of landscape processes. The Terraso digital platform, specially designed for LPs, offers a suite of user-designed tools and an open source platform for others' contributions (Box 5). Artificial intelligence is also an arena with the potential to speed up and facilitate many processes of LP partner communications, data management, landscape assessments, and impact tracking.

Box 5. Tailoring software to power landscape partnerships: Example of Terraso

Accessible software tailored to the needs and priorities of landscape partnerships is a crucial part of empowering communities to implement ILM in their landscapes, but few software developers are serving this audience. Tech Matters is filling this gap with Terraso, a collection of open source applications and services to help landscapes get the knowledge, tools, and funding they need. In addition to being open source, the power of Terraso is that it is developed with the users at the center of the process. By co-designing the software with continuous feedback and interactions with local leaders, the Terraso team prioritizes the most urgent and essential needs of landscape partnerships.

The Terraso digital platform made software, tools, and data available to landscape partnerships to work more efficiently, effectively, and inclusively. One of the most powerful tools is the Story Map, which can combine text, data, maps, and more into a compelling narrative of the landscape in just a few hours instead of weeks. Landscape actors and community members use it not only to showcase communities' ILM work but also stories to capture previously unrecorded spoken lore. Other tools include data collection, storage, and sharing as well as mapping this data spatially onto the landscape.

In feedback surveys, users have referred to Terraso as "life-changing," "the best thing we ever did," and "a tool that will help greatly in the dissemination of information to our communities." Landscapes and organizations have invited and paid for team members to give onsite training on Terraso to community members. Funding is needed to expand the offerings and to facilitate user navigation on the platform. 1000L is exploring opportunities to expand the Terraso platform to attract software developers to address ILM needs and to assume broad-based learning platform functions that can host learning modules, facilitate peer learning at scale, and offer certificate programs.

Landscape leaders in Lari, Kenya test StoryMaps on the Terraso platform
Credit: Tech Matters

To learn more, see here.

Collaborate for learning. Scaling regenerative agriculture and food system transformation will be a slow process if we depend only on farm-by-farm, market-by-market or landscape-by-landscape actions. An essential part of the scaling process will be more systematic, nimble collaboration for learning. A transition to regenerative agriculture and food systems at scale requires that landscape and farming leaders have easy access to the resources, data, tools, methodologies, and frameworks they need to facilitate change. Over the long term, access to such resources must be institutionalized in government agencies, farmer organizations, educational institutions, private consultants, local NGOs and businesses. Communities of practice and learning need to develop around these topics.

There are already some collaborative learning networks to learn from. Examples include the Latin America Model Forest Network led by CATIE (Case 7), the Satoyama initiative led by the United Nations University, the Tropical Forest Alliance for companies sourcing from rainforests, and FOLUR through the World Bank and the GEF. UNDP and the CGIAR have relevant learning networks around food and landscape systems. The Global Landscapes Forum can amplify all these efforts with its huge global outreach network.

Finding ways to link all of these in a "network of networks" could create a knowledge infrastructure where groups that are diverse but aligned on goals can foster more systemic change. 1000L is designing a platform to enable such sharing of best practices and resources (see Box 6).

Box 6. Supporting landscape partnerships at scale through a Landscape Service Network

1000L, in collaboration with Regen10, is designing a landscape learning and service network that aims to empower landscape partnerships with the tools, knowledge, and connections needed to drive long-term regenerative impact. This network of networks aims to mobilize peer-to-peer learning and exchange of innovations, while also connecting landscape networks, landscape service providers, and landscape experts globally. Through this network, the rich resources developed by 1000L, as well as by other regenerative agriculture and food system networks, can be adapted by LPs to strengthen their work, and also encouraged to share their own innovations with the network.

The service network aims to institutionalize these resources and build decentralized expertise of farmer and landscape organizations, landscape coalitions, government agencies, NGOs, and businesses. 1000L has begun developing networks of service providers who can supply specialized expertise, help LPs and their members get started in the work, or provide coaching services to LPs or programs. This could foster and support diverse pathways of LP engagement with trusted agroecology, landscape, and finance "master facilitators," coaches, trainers, and mentors worldwide rather than providing services centrally. Building a community of practice for service providers in the network would require a sustainable incentive structure and mechanisms to assure values alignment and quality standards.

Collaborate for research. The above peer-to-peer learning networks can draw from and contribute to a collaborative research community focused on their interests and needs. The international research community has made strides over the past 30 years in developing or documenting a broad range of regenerative agriculture practices and understanding socio-ecological trends and processes in landscapes. The results have been used to design interventions for specific goals—such as regenerative agricultural transition and watershed or biodiversity management—and to identify greenhouse gas emissions or vulnerabilities to climate change. Groups like the CGIAR and CABI provide extensive data resources on regenerative agricultural practices, agrobiodiversity, and ecosystem management.

A growing body of research seeks to inform a more productive interface between regenerative agriculture and landscape management. [The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature initiative](#) (2011-2020) commissioned 27 comparative studies about ILM and landscape partnerships. CIFOR-ICRAF's COLANDS project "Collaborating to Operationalise Landscape Approaches for Nature, Development and Sustainability" organized in-depth comparative research across landscapes in four countries. The CGIAR-supported [EU Living Landscapes program](#) is documenting change processes across landscapes linked to nature parks in 22 countries, supported by the UK-DFID.

Tropenbos International has also done comparative research on governance among landscape partnerships in tropical forest regions. [Collaborating for Resilience](#) is advancing innovations in landscape governance and EcoAgriculture Partners in landscape management, finance, and policy. Many universities and research centers have set up programs on landscapes,[39] agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and agroforestry and watershed management programs. Ways to connect these efforts more systematically would be fruitful.

Meanwhile, CDP, Evidensia, ISEAL, and others are doing comparative analyses of corporate activities with landscape partnerships. The RLABM has begun working with younger researchers from member landscape partnerships to address their own priority research questions. The CGIAR has just launched a new flagship research program on [Multifunctional Landscapes](#). 1000L and Regen10 are exploring the idea of a Focal Landscape Network for long-term research on landscape partnerships and their impacts.

Experts can design "negotiation support research" developed by CGIAR to generate data to assist local landscape actors in landscape assessment and to develop joint transformation strategies, theories of change, and action plans.[40] By forging partnerships with local universities, LPs can access learning partners and identify research topics that will help their work.

4.4 Establish financial services for landscape partnerships to foster and align investment-ready projects and a coordinated finance strategy

As discussed in Section 3.4, LPs and their members need the knowledge and capacities—as well as access to specialized experts—to organize landscape investment portfolios, nurture landscape-friendly business design, and implement integrated landscape finance in their local contexts.

This strong demand is beginning to generate new financial intermediaries to meet their needs: nonprofit and for-profit service providers, finance advisors in landscape networks, landscape-friendly business incubators, and technical assistance arms of investment funds. Finance guidance resources are more available, like Landscape Investment and Finance Toolkit (LIFT), the Landscape Assessment of Financial Flows (LAFF), [IDH's guidance](#) for LPs to attract private investments, and investment blueprints for landscape projects from the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC).

The 1000L team built from these and other innovations to develop and test the Landscape Finance Accelerator (LFA), designed as a targeted short-term expert coaching service (see Box 7). Scaling regenerative landscapes will require establishing and backstopping a network of such finance service providers with the necessary tools and expertise. These service providers can be embedded within landscape networks or support programs or independent of any particular network but can be interconnected for collective learning, client connections, and back-up. 1000L is prototyping a system to scale such services while further developing the LFA Toolkit.

---

39 Examples include the African Centre for a Green Economy, Gottingen University, Hohenheim University, Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, UCLA's Congo Basin Institute, the University of British Columbia, and Wageningen University.
40 See CIFOR-ICRAF work led by Meine van Noordwijk on the "[negotiation support research](#)" approach in landscape planning. To do impact assessment well requires that LPs invest in developing a theory of change behind their transformation strategy and investment portfolios; see [Measuring the effectiveness of landscape approaches.](#)

Box 7. Supporting landscape partnerships to mobilize finance: the Landscape Finance Accelerator

Landscape partnerships identified as a high priority have the need for relevant tools, capacities, resources, and access to specialized experts to implement integrated landscape finance effectively in their contexts. A high priority of 1000L partners is to build the institutional infrastructure that will make such services widely available. 1000L partners developed the Landscape Finance Accelerator (LFA) as a structured approach to help LPs do so. The LFA also advances innovations, practices and tools, and methodologies that the sustainable finance community can adapt, scale, and replicate.

Customized and adapted to a variety of landscape contexts, the LFA is an iterative process with the following components:

1. **Landscape finance assessment.** The landscape finance assessment is a stock-taking phase that includes baselining activities; mapping financial flows, gaps, and needs; and prioritizing major activities in need of financing in light of the landscape partnership's transformation goals and strategy.

2. **Landscape finance strategy.** Based on the desirability and feasibility of financial flows, the landscape finance strategy translates needs into priority strategies and actions designed to accelerate capital mobilization from existing sources of capital or the design and development of new financial instruments.

3. **Design and development of financial instruments.** Sustainable finance comprises a rich and evolving toolbox of financial and investment models, each uniquely suited to meet different needs. The LFA supports the design and development of demand-driven instruments that leverage the full financial continuum (grants, loans, equity investments, impact investments, insurance, payments for ecosystem services, et al.).

4. **Fundraising and capital mobilization support.** Based on needs, readiness, and financial instruments, the LFA supports landscape initiatives and actors in fundraising and capital mobilization activities and connects landscape initiatives with funds, investment vehicles, funders, and investors with potential to finance their activities.

To scale landscape finance, in the next phase, 1000L will add accessible digitized assessment tools, strategy development tools, and investment portfolio mapping while also partnering with Indigenous-led initiatives. The Landscape Finance Accelerator will also develop guidance resources for landscape partners to help assess the alignment of ecosystem service payment opportunities with their goals.[41]

---

[41] This overview of ILF explains how it enables place-based investments that sustain and restore the natural resources that livelihoods and economies depend on long term. Mobilizing finance across sectors and projects to achieve sustainable landscapes: Emerging models (2020) lays out a framework for much of the ILF work that has come since. Pricing The Planet: Can Valuing Nature As An Asset Save Our Ecosystems?, published in Forbes, provides a succinct and easily accessible explanation of ILF and its value to nature and the economy.

4.5 Support national coalitions of landscape partnerships to accelerate knowledge-sharing and advocate for policy, financial, and institutional support

A promising institutional development for advancing integrated landscape approaches has been the formation of coalitions and networks of LPs in countries or regions. Some of them have a shared thematic focus, such as biodiversity conservation, promotion of regenerative production (e.g., the network of Regenerative Production Landscape Collaboratives working in cotton-producing landscapes), protection of land rights, and food systems (e.g., the European Network of Living Labs).[42] Still other landscape alliances are promoting city-region food systems and territorial development networks. Most of these networks have an aim of knowledge-sharing among peers, using a mix of in-person workshops, field cross-visits, and on-line exchanges.

These networks generally have small secretariats, often rely on voluntary personnel, and have modest grant funding, constraining the scale of activities. They have diverse models of network governance, recruitment, and service to members. Some formed organically and were then institutionalized, as in the case of Landcare-Australia, which originated in the state of Victoria in 1986 with farmers, landholders, and conservationists coming together to respond to the impacts of soil erosion and salinity. Landcare grew into a nationwide publicly supported program working in diverse ecosystems (see Case 1), later spreading to the Philippines, Africa, and the U.S. through national NGOs.

Other coalitions were fostered externally, such as the International Model Forest Network launched in 1992 by the Government of Canada, which evolved into a decentralized set of regional self-governed networks that today encompass more than 60 LPs in 35 countries working on over 73 mln hectares. A cluster of five model forests in Brazil launched its own national network in 2023 to promote knowledge-sharing and policy advocacy, and a cluster in Peru, learning from the experience in Brazil, is currently considering doing the same. Another example is the Aland Foundation, which was launched in 2021 to promote land regeneration initiatives in the Iberian Peninsula, with support from Commonland.

Case 8 (next page) highlights the Kenya Landscape Actors Platform (KenLAP), which was formed in 2023 by landscape leaders who already had a history of informal collaboration. Now KenLAP has been approached by landscape leaders from Malawi and Tanzania to help facilitate similar networks in those countries.

[42] Buck and Scherr (2009) discuss building innovation systems for managing complex landscapes as a function of facilitating social (collaborative) learning. A recent review article by da Silva-Jean and Kneipp (2024) demonstrated that operationalizing social learning theory has been essential to promoting sustainability and innovation; social learning stimulates innovation because it motivates change and questions rules and norms.

Case 8. Kenya Landscape Actors Platform (KenLAP) coalition coordinates local partnerships to secure national policy support for regenerative agriculture and landscapes

KenLAP was developed by leaders of some 35 landscape partnerships in Kenya—with some support from 1000L—to address issues that were perceived to limit their potential to address what FAO (2023) calls the "triple challenge" of food insecurity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. As a national coalition of LPs, KenLAP employs a shared leadership approach, facilitating co-learning among different actors and sectors by reflecting on lessons learned and success stories. KenLAP aligns its ambitions with national commitments to climate action, land degradation neutrality, and biodiversity conservation and with Kenya's Vision 2030 to facilitate policy dialogue and secure financial support for its activities.

Already-documented KenLAP outcomes include enhanced collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen landscape management in similar agroecological zones of mountain/hills, forestlands, rangelands, farmlands, and water bodies and greater inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized communities in landscape

activities. The most notable achievement is promotion of co-learning across different actors and sectors through the sharing of lessons learned and success stories. The impact has built a collaborative environment where stakeholders can learn from one another's experiences, leading to improved practices and innovations in landscape management. KenLAP emphasizes food insecurity and farm practices as core concerns of a landscape partnership, fostering the transition to regenerative agriculture practices across Kenya.
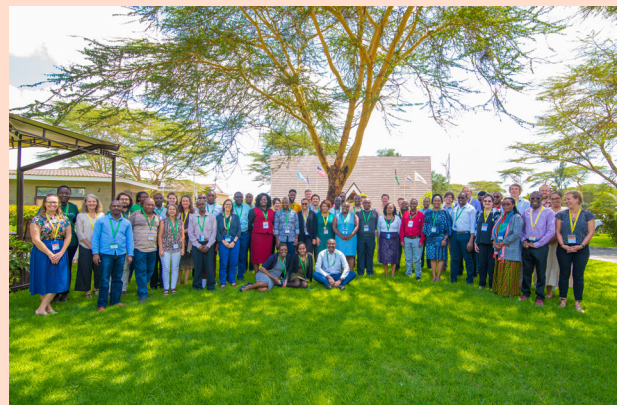
A collective of government officials, students and NGO leaders at a landscape event in Lari, Kenya, 2022
Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners

To learn more, see (here) by John Recha, SANREM.

Some of these coalitions are also joining forces to raise the visibility of their initiatives with policymakers and to advocate for policies supporting their objectives. The Network for Landscape Conservation in the U.S., with more than 100 members and affiliates, has advocated for national government programs and financial support for landscape partnerships. Common Ground, a coalition formed in 2022 by local leaders from across India, is promoting

not only decentralized landscape action but also the development of supportive policy, finance, and markets. Meanwhile, alliances of Indigenous territories in the Amazon, Indonesia, Mesoamerica, Australia, and North America have formed to defend their land and resource rights and influence national government and international policies. Philanthropic and government support for such coalitions can be low-cost and highly strategic.

5 | Action Agenda to Mobilize Key Levers for Landscape Partnerships to Succeed

Directly building and strengthening landscape partnerships' capacity to transform regenerative agriculture and food systems is foundational, but a more enabling environment is also needed for them to widely succeed.

Global and national food system leaders can be instrumental in achieving this, working together with landscape champions, as summarized in Table 2.

Action	Leadership needed for:
1. Strengthen farmer organizations as landscape leaders	• Secondary and tertiary farmer/producer organizations to empower members to co-lead landscape initiatives • Government agriculture/development departments and NGOs support to farmer organizations
2. Mobilize businesses to source agricultural products from, and invest for the long term, in regenerating landscapes	• Agribusiness/food industry coalitions to engage with LPs • Developing resources for businesses to invest effectively • Focusing corporate social responsibility programs • Business schools and consultants to serve landscape investment
3. Shift financial flows to regenerative landscape investment	• Building finance infrastructure for regenerative landscapes • Mobilizing innovation in finance instruments • Coordinating sectoral financial flows to invest in locally-endorsed landscape portfolios • Finance regulatory system to incentivize regenerative landscapes
4. Promote public policy and planning that enable LPs to be effective	• Decentralizing policy and strengthening rights • Built environment aligned to holistic strategies • Establishing policy frameworks supporting LPs • Establishing programs and services for LPs • Coordinating the planning and design across sector investments • Aligning international agreements setting rules around land use
5. Promote outreach and advocacy to raise awareness and spark action	• Coordinating outreach on regenerative agriculture and landscapes • Empowering LPs to tell their own stories • Collaborating for strong policy advocacy

Table 2. Action agenda to mobilize key levers for landscape partnerships to succeed

5.1 Strengthen farmer organizations as landscape leaders

If landscape partnerships and initiatives are to be successful in mobilizing regenerative agriculture transitions at scale, farmers, other producer groups, and Indigenous peoples need to have a much stronger voice than currently. They play crucial roles in assessing landscape risks and opportunities, in setting goals, and in designing action plans and the specific design of projects that will have impacts on farmers, the economy, and the environment. Engaging in landscape partnerships can also help farmers to navigate new European trade rules on deforestation and science-based targets for climate and nature. Regenerative agriculture/ agroecology and food system leaders need to lend their support and funding to enable farmers and their organizations to assume these roles.

Enhance farmer roles in landscape partnerships. Farming has been a central feature of landscape initiatives for a long time. A survey of 357 landscape initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South and Southeast Asia, in the period 2014–17, found that 82% included local farmer/ producer organizations and 55% Indigenous groups among their members. Even a decade ago, when most landscape initiatives had an environment or climate entry point, for 19% of initiatives, increasing farmer incomes was a primary motivation, and for 81% it was one of the motivations. For 18%, food security was a primary motivation (72% one motivation) while for 12% the primary motivation was improved crop productivity (73%) and for 25% increased livestock productivity (73%).[43] With increasing focus since that time on agriculture in landscape development, the numbers are certainly higher now. Still, only 4% of these initiatives were convened by farmer organizations.

Strengthen farmer capacities to co-design landscape action plans. Farmers and their organizations need to become more engaged and prepared landscape leaders who can work effectively with other stakeholders groups. Farmer organizations must have a much stronger voice in policy around landscapes and be actively involved in program design and landscape strategy. For example, Solutions from the Land has mobilized farmer leaders to co-develop landscape development programs integrating agriculture, environment, climate, nutrition, and economic development in various U.S. states.

Farmer organizations should be contributing modules on farm planning, production, and marketing into landscape capacity-building programs to better inform non-farm actors. They should be taking a lead in designing support services (see Section 5.4). At the same time, farmer organizations need to have the skills and networks to actively co-design landscape interventions, including green and built infrastructure that will support agricultural and landscape regeneration. It is important to defend farmers against landscape approaches that exacerbate power imbalances and give external actors excessive control.

---

[43] These data were compiled in the Little Sustainable Landscapes Book.

Case 9. The Sacred Sierra Initiative in Colombia transforms from a farmer co-op to a landscape partnership

The Sacred Sierra initiative, led by the ANEI (Asociación de Productores Agroecológicos Indígenas y Campesinos) cooperative, embodies a transformative shift from a traditional farming co-op to a comprehensive landscape partnership. ANEI was founded in 1995 as a farmer co-operative in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, a sacred homeland to four Indigenous groups. As such, ANEI initially focused on sustainable coffee and cocoa production rooted in ancestral practices. Although it was a strong farmer co-operative, members wanted to become even stronger, scaling their production for better incomes and livelihoods in a way that would be environmentally sustainable and still align with their values and belief systems.

So ANEI connected with 1000L to codesign the transition from a sustainable farmer co-op to a landscape partnership. Through this collaboration, ANEI developed a map of its landscape and key stakeholders, a narrative of its partnership through a Terraso storymap, and a new business and governance model. This transition required farmers to expand their roles beyond agricultural productivity, embracing leadership in resource management, conservation, and community development. As an Indigenous-led initiative, ANEI offers crucial lessons in regenerative practices and a sustainable way of life. Their stewardship of their sacred homeland demonstrates genuine sustainability that integrates cultural wisdom, ecological knowledge, and shared responsibility—a model that challenges extractive approaches and offers a pathway toward regenerative economies globally.

A shepherd installs a solar panel in Mexico's Sacred Sierra
Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners

To learn more, see here.

5.2 Mobilize businesses to source agricultural products from, and invest for the long term, in regenerating landscapes

Value chains are networks of actors that structure the production, transformation, and marketing of commodities internal to landscapes and with the rest of the world. To achieve regenerative landscapes requires that value chains consider the systemic risks in the polycrisis across landscapes and work with holistic landscape management. This calls for accelerated innovation in the agribusiness, food industry, and businesses in other sectors of the landscape economy to align incentives and actions.

Align business and landscape interests.
Value chains have long had a logic dictated by market-driven competition, while landscapes are governed by socio-political processes and power dynamics often apart from market forces.[44] A lot of the value of business activity in a landscape may be generated beyond the boundaries of the landscape and there is often a plethora of actors participating in the value chain. Thus it can be difficult for them to see an interest in landscape stewardship.

However all these companies face increasing systemic business risks from climate change, watershed degradation, biodiversity loss, and community relations that they cannot manage effectively within their own value chains. Businesses that depend on land-based products or raw materials are increasingly required to demonstrate that they do indeed benefit the environment, workers, and communities in their sourcing districts. Many raw materials and commodities are projected to be severely impacted by changes in climate and degradation. Landscape-level action and investment can help companies and farmers to address these challenges, as well as to navigate new sustainability regulations like European Union Deforestation Regulation and Science-Based Targets for Nature and Climate.[45]

[44] See 2024 memo of 1000L contributed by Daniel Zimmer of Climate-KIC, Monique Ewerton of CDP, Seth Shames and Juan Ramos of EcoAgriculture Partners.
[45] See this Roadmap to Nature-positive Foundations for the Agri-Food-System Row Crop Commodities Sub-sector and this from the Science Based Target Network specifically on landscape engagement.

Grow business collaboration with landscape partnerships. Thus businesses are becoming interested in working with or promoting LPs to reduce these risks. While LPFN data 2014–17 found that only 25% of LPs included any business members, interest has since risen sharply on both sides. As described in section 4.5, international business associations are promoting landscape programs, especially to address deforestation. An example is the [Consumer Goods Forum's Forest-Positive Coalition](). Meanwhile, major environmental NGOs like Conservation International, IDH, and WWF are facilitating business connections. By 2023 company disclosure data collected by [CDP]() documented ~235 companies engaged with landscape or jurisdictional initiatives, with 309 unique engagements (as some companies disclosed engaging with multiple landscape and jurisdictional initiatives); ~152 companies disclosed that they plan such engagements within the next two years.

Business participation faces challenges. Effective participation of businesses, especially national and international corporations, in local LPs is still a challenge. Local partners express concerns about power dynamics in negotiating with companies and about potential corporate greenwashing. Value chain actors cannot always assess risks they are facing or creating, or monitor their impacts; they may not have full control over the sourcing of their products. There remain important questions about their role in landscape governance, value chain impacts, appropriate monetary contributions, and corporate claims.

Even frontrunner companies are still experimenting with landscape work, committing only a small portion of their total sourcing. There are potential conflicts to navigate between competitive business models within the regenerative agriculture and food system space and collaborative landscape partnerships. There is little guidance for companies on, for example, best practices for collaborating in LPs or designing sourcing contracts. Thus a tailored approach is needed for agriculture and sourcing companies to understand their risk exposure in a given territory and navigate landscape collaboration across that value chain in a competitive market environment. See the example in Madhya Pradesh, India, Case 10.

Case 10. Businesses invest in regenerative production landscapes in Madhya Pradesh, India

Regenerative Production Landscape Collaborative ([RPLC]()) is an innovative jurisdictional (local government-led) model being implemented in 10 cotton-growing areas of Madhya Pradesh, India, to foster agricultural ecosystems that conserve and enhance natural resources and build community resilience while enabling businesses to source responsibly. RPLC co-finances on-ground interventions that support the transition to regenerative farming and create market linkages for the landscape to produce cotton and food crops including wheat, soy, pulses, spices, vegetables, and fruits by engaging different actors along the value chain. It further builds the enabling environment necessary for the transition to regenerative farming across policy, finance, and technology.

A key aspect of RPLC's success is how it fosters partner voices and stakeholder engagement. By establishing governance structures at various levels, from state to local, it was able to incorporate local input into its shared vision, action plan, and interventions. Furthermore, RPLC encouraged collaboration across sectors, including government, civil society, and corporations as well as prominent involvement of farmers through organizations such as COFE.

To learn more, see this [case study]() by Helen Bulcken, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative.

Address challenges. Leadership is needed from business leaders to mainstream and sustain business engagement in LPs and more dialogue between the actors of the two systems. In 2017, the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative action plan to advance [Business for Sustainable Landscapes]() called for businesses to build their own internal capacities to engage with LPs, evaluate strategically the roles they wish to play, modify business practices to incentivize landscape stewardship, enhance tools and services to address business challenges, and find new ways of financing these efforts.[46] A 1000L [convening]() in 2022 of 17 business leaders with deep experience in landscape collaboration identified actions of greatest tangible value to businesses. These were: cross-commodity discussions; sharing case studies and best practices of working models on the ground; M&E to generate lessons learned from working with

different stakeholders; mapping established landscape initiatives with good governance and raw materials that can be sourced; and mapping the system to provide an overview of existing projects, financial products/mechanisms, and funding sources for landscape initiatives.

5.3 Shift financial flows to regenerative landscape investment

A critical element of the enabling environment for regenerative agriculture and landscapes is a finance system that is well structured for the coordinated investments needed for landscape-scale transformations. Such a system can potentially bridge the gap between high-level financial commitments for nature conservation, climate action, and food system transformation and their practical deployment across territories and contexts.

Landscape Finance faces challenges. The roadmap to financing farmers and other food system actors in the transition requires coordination, data, investment, and alignment. New regenerative business models and innovation must emerge for solutions like bio-inputs for crops, adapted equipment for new production methods, cold-chain facilities, processing facilities, road infrastructure, transport infrastructure, financial products, insurance policies, product aggregation, market access, certifications, and regulatory compliance. Their design must be aligned with good ecosystem management.

Landscape partnerships serve as essential social infrastructure, enabling the prioritization and sequencing needed for effective implementation. They ensure that initiatives resonate authentically within their respective communities, which is reflected in sustainable development investment and implementation strategies and portfolios of activities and projects. Funneling resources toward sustained landscape initiatives rather than stand-alone projects can address these complex challenges while fostering participatory management and investment frameworks.

Yet today, landscape partnerships often cannot build project pipelines, assess current and potential finance flows, or develop strategies and fit-for-purpose mechanisms to mobilize them. Financiers do not have the tools and models to evaluate and invest in landscapes. There is a chronic lack of inclusion of marginalized groups in investment planning, finance governance and management, and finance mechanisms.

Mobilize landscape finance innovation. Fortunately, finance innovations are emerging that focus on maximizing funding flows for landscape-scale transformation. Moreover, there is promising potential to integrate these efforts with the new financial flows for regenerative agriculture and food systems—public, private, and philanthropic. This is already starting to happen in initiatives like the Regenerative Agroecological Food Systems Transformation (RAFT) initiative of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. In addition to the grant funds described in section 4.1, new blended finance funds are being developed to finance the component project in landscape investment portfolios such as the Landscape Resilience Fund.

Commonland, Climate-KIC, EcoAgriculture Partners, the 20X20 Initiative, and other partners have led analyses and advocacy for the EU, Towards financing large-scale landscape restoration in Europe, and for Latin America Towards financing large-scale landscape restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDH-PCI (produce, conserve, include) network is mobilizing private sector investment. The BioFi project recently formed a collective to support bioregions (landscapes) to design, build, and implement Bioregional Financing Facilities that connect financial resources and regenerators.[47] Climate finance will potentially become an important source of funding for regenerative landscapes.

46 See analysis and recommendations in the report of EcoAgriculture Partners, IUCN-SUSTAIN Africa, SAI Platform and the Sustainable Food Lab, for the Landscapes for People, Food, and Nature initiative on Business for Sustainable Landscapes: An Action Agenda.
47 See Samantha Powers and Leon Seefeld. 2024. Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet.

Promoters of regenerative landscapes can also draw ideas and inspiration from a larger finance movement for system transformation. Climate-KIC promotes place-based systemic change through its [Deep Demonstrations of a Net-Zero Emissions, Resilient Future](#), as does the [TransCap Initiative](#). [Financial Ecosystems for Systemic Transformation](#) brings together thinkers for study and to promote place-based systematic investing, including around landscapes.

Innovative finance mechanisms are emerging to ensure that financial flows align with the needs and priorities of local farmers, communities, and businesses. Case 11 illustrates how one LP designed a new type of carbon credit for smallholder farmers and grazers in Mexico that aligned with their landscape goals and strategy.

Case 11. The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve Alliance in Querétaro, Mexico developed a climate finance instrument for farmers that is aligned with local values

The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, UN-designated in 1997, is an ecologically unique Indigenous region of 648 communities with 383,567 ha in the state of Querétaro, Mexico. Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda I.A.P. (GESG) leads an Alliance for the Conservation of the Sierra Gorda, with community groups in farming, forest, water, and tourism. The landscape transformation strategy focuses on entrepreneurship and social participation for a holistic vision aligning regenerative agriculture and economic development activities with biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, and watershed protection. The group invests heavily in strengthening the skills of local farmers and land managers.

The community is building a "soil culture," using locally designed agroecological practices to regenerate soils and improve production for staple crops, vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, and agroforestry as well as using natural regeneration to revegetate rangelands. Seeking to finance this work, the community explored, and then rejected, existing carbon payment models that did not align. The group developed its own "Biodiverse Carbon Initiative" that pays farmers and grazers for carbon sequestration and storage using these practices. After many years of trials this was registered by the Mexican government under Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA).

Querétaro's state government finances the rural communities' land investments through the State Planning Fund for Sustainable Development, paid for by a tax on vehicle ownership. So far, the group has regenerated over 30,000 hectares, benefitting the local economy and community livelihoods as well as achieving mitigation and biodiversity goals. In 2022, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Querétaro State and GESG jointly issued a national declaration—*[Climate Action to Recover Mexico's Natural Heritage](#)*—seeking greater collaboration for climate action between local governments and local landscape organizations to meet the country's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement.

A spinach farm in Sierra Gorda Mexico Photo *Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners*

To learn more, see [here](#).

Build a landscape finance system. Systemic change requires collaborative action across the finance system, between public, private, and philanthropic funders, and across the capital continuum to understand and manage the systemic risks brought on by the polycrisis. The 1000L initiative has convened actors from across the globe to better understand systemic challenges. In 2021–22, the 1000L team consulted more than 80 financiers involved in commercial landscape investments and organized in 2023 a dialogue series for financial and landscape leaders on accelerating finance for thriving landscapes with 175 participants. 1000L convened a workshop with international companies leading in landscape collaboration and another with philanthropic donors active in this space.

Learnings from these dialogues informed an Action Agenda for Landscape Finance System Transformation, both to address systemic barriers to the broad uptake of integrated landscape finance and to shift major financial flows to landscape investment portfolios. In 2024, 21 1000L partners jointly developed a collaborative work plan to advance this agenda, most directly relevant to regenerative agriculture.

ALIGN AND MOBILIZE KEY FINANCIAL ACTORS

1. Develop collaboration among key actors and initiatives with similar or converging objectives by developing a common framework and understanding of landscape-related approaches and their financing needs.

2. Collaborate for international advocacy and awareness of landscape-related finance.

DEEPEN, SYNTHESIZE, AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LANDSCAPE FINANCE

3. Build peer-to-peer learning and innovation platforms to support the design and development of strategies and mechanisms for financing bottom-up, territorial, and integrated landscape finance portfolios.

4. Develop a landscape finance risk framework, associated de-risking tools, and a strategy for disseminating them.

5. Prepare and disseminate guidelines and lessons learned about aligning market, value chain, and enterprise development with sustainable landscape objectives.

6. Translate and incorporate knowledge about landscape finance into capacity-strengthening programs.

DEVELOP THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LANDSCAPE FINANCE

7. Improve collaboration among funders working in a single landscape or across multiple landscapes to better align and coordinate their investments in landscape portfolios.

8. Design and develop mechanisms for flexible, long-term catalytic grant funding for landscape partnership processes.

9. Establish networks of landscape finance service providers with effective tools to support landscape partnerships to devise integrated portfolios of actions, financing strategies, and instruments/mechanisms.

10. Design and establish "marketplaces" to link investors and landscape partnerships.

11. Embed finance for landscapes into the institutional architecture of national governments and international organizations and programs so that they explicitly address landscape investment issues and dedicate funding to address them.

Box 8:
11 Areas for Collaborative Action Toward Systemic Change in Landscape Finance

5.4 Promote public policy and planning that enable LPs to be effective

National and state policies strongly affect the dynamics of power and politics within a landscape and between landscape stewards and outside interest groups. Food system policy leaders can make a big difference to the success of landscape partnerships by championing supportive policies.

Landscape partnerships can help advance and ground state and national policies. Policymakers face serious difficulties translating their policy goals into practical action on the ground by local farmers, communities, and businesses that use, manage, and steward the natural resources they all rely upon. LPs with agreed long-term objectives can provide a common planning and negotiation platform for coordinating the local implementation of public programs for employment livelihoods and regenerative agriculture. The efforts of LPs may complement, reinforce, or link with territorial or jurisdictional governance.

Multi-stakeholder representation and governance can confer greater legitimacy and local commitments to these programs. They can bring the voices of all those affected by policies (or lack of them) to the table. LPs can help design and locally implement national policies such as ecological fiscal transfers, debt for nature swaps, or payment for ecosystem services. Advancing sustainable development at the scale of territories and landscapes requires strong public policy and program support.

Key issues summarized below are addressed in a 2022 white paper on national public policies to support landscape partnerships generated by EcoAgriculture Partners, Cornell University, Columbia University, and GALLOP[48] and a 2024 white paper from the TP4D coalition of development organizations promoting a territorial policy agenda to achieve the SDGs through a multi-level, multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, and whole-of-government approach to governance.[49]

Decentralize policy and planning and strengthen local rights. Holistic ILM requires that local stakeholders have the authority and agency to make decisions about directions for land use change and development. In a system of multi-level governance, decision making needs to sit at the lowest level feasible. LPs have the greatest latitude for action when there are policy-mandated incentives for decentralization and territorial development.

Meanwhile, the national system of land and resource rights also makes a huge difference to the types of negotiations and innovations that an LP can facilitate. Clear rights for farmers, Indigenous peoples, and communities need to be established and enforced, with local flexibility to adapt how these are applied in the context of agreed landscape plans. The design of built (gray) infrastructure plays a crucial role in this economic organization. Government agencies also can help balance the power dynamic between actors within LPs and between the local stakeholders and powerful outside companies and investors.

Collaborating for Resilience, for example, is developing dialogue processes, institutional innovations, and methods to facilitate these processes.

Foster supportive government policy frameworks. National governments should recognize territorial-level collaborative landscape action as an essential operational mechanism to implement local and national policy priorities toward food security, other SDGs, and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Policies that encourage coordination and policy coherence among sectoral agencies greatly facilitate integrated landscape planning, action, and monitoring. There are strategic policies such as protecting rights to land and forest and ecosystem services and formalizing multi-level participatory governance critical to their success and scope of action. Sectoral policy analysts need to adapt their tools and models to explicitly incorporate cross-sector interactions and inter-dependencies, e.g., incorporating landscape variables in value chain analyses.

---

48 Scherr, S. J., J. Ramos, S. Shames, L. Buck, B. H. Sethi, R. DeFries. 2022. Public Policy to Support Landscape and Seascape Partnerships: Meeting Sustainable Development Goals through Collaborative Territorial Action (White Paper), Washington, D.C., USA: EcoAgriculture Partners, GALLOP initiative, Cornell University, and Columbia University.

49 Territorial Approaches for Sustainable Development: White Paper for Policy Formulation and Project Implementation. TP4D is an informal group of international partners working on issues of territorial development, including OECD, European Commission (INTPA), UNCDF, AFD, UN-HABITAT, CIRAD, FAO, UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity, and Sustainability Studies, ICLEI, EcoAgriculture Partners, and GIZ, supported by BMZ.

International policymaking also has a strategic role to play. Commonland, jointly with another 19 partner organizations, produced a report in 2022 on [Delivering the European Union Green Deal through Landscape Restoration](#) to become the first climate-neutral continent and put nature on track to recovery. Landscape strategies, including regenerative agriculture, need to be incorporated in international climate and biodiversity agreements that set the rules for nature-based climate solutions, National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans, et al. The African Union has taken a leadership role in supporting regenerative agriculture and landscapes through its Green Recovery Action Plan (2021–2027), specifically sections on biodiversity and nature-based solutions (3.2.3) and climate-resilient agriculture (3.2.4), as well as the AU Biodiversity strategy and action plan (2023–2030).[50] The "One-UN" strategy can use a landscape framework to integrate action under the three environmental conventions as well as among UN agencies.

Establish programs and services for landscape partnerships. Landscape planning requires access to technical data and advisory services to understand landscape processes and analyze socio-economic and ecological interactions. Partnerships need guidance on landscape governance, laws, inclusive and nature-positive business practices, market mechanisms, and integrated landscape monitoring systems design. Developing strategies and practices for sustainable landscape management requires research specific to the landscape. Programs are needed to strengthen and sustain local capacities for facilitating and implementing LPs. Governments can provide services directly or facilitate NGOs, businesses, and other actors to do so. Designating a national or state office to mobilize and coordinate government, civil society, businesses, and other actors supporting LPs can prove valuable. Landscape-scale impact assessments, such as LandScale, 4 Returns, and the Regen10 Outcomes Framework, can be used to track the integrated impacts of these programs.

National and sub-national governments can also provide or catalyze financial services for LPs. They can structure the flow of public funds from different sectoral agencies so that they feed into landscape investment priorities. This is becoming official policy in several counties (states) in Kenya. Public funding flows can incentivize the inclusion of projects of smallholder farmers, Indigenous peoples, women, and other marginalized groups in landscape investment portfolios and ensure that public finance and new financial instruments are structured to reach them.

Governments have also begun to set up their own national landscape programs. Examples include Australia (Landcare), Ethiopia (Climate and Forest landscape programs), The Netherlands (in collaboration with the Council of Europe Landscape Convention), Rwanda (border-to-border landscape restoration), and the U.S. (climate resilience and conservation landscape programs). Many of these are organized under ministries of the environment, even though they include major investments in regenerative agriculture.

Coordinate the planning and design of sector investments. LPs can operate far more efficiently when governments have clear processes for integrated sector planning across agriculture, food systems, green infrastructure, biodiversity, and development. It is likely that these can align with LP strategy and mobilize public financing to support the landscape investment portfolio. Such processes then make it easier, for example, to mobilize inputs both from farmers into green infrastructure design and from environmentalists and nutrition advocates into agricultural plans. Case 12 describes how territorial planning processes in Madagascar jointly addressed urban food security and environmental degradation.

---

[50] [African Union Green Recovery Action Plan](#); and [Biodiversity Strategy](#).

Case 12. Territorial Planning Addresses Urban and Peri-urban Food Insecurity and Environmental Degradation through Agroforestry in Antananarivo, Madagascar

Planners in Antananarivo, Madagascar, recognized the need for a territorial, multi-sectoral approach to contribute to the fight against poverty and bolster producers' income while maintaining the health of the natural ecosystems. A multi-sector group of planners also sought to ensure that the population had access to secure and sustainable food and wood energy supplies and developed a five-year plan to benefit producers, fishers, and forest managers. This planning group represented five ministries from three regions and was able to secure financial support for their territorial plan from external public agencies.

The objective was to promote agroecological farming methods and to develop more secure access to markets for food and wood products. They included market gardening, fruit tree farming, improved poultry production, fuelwood harvesting and reforestation, milk production, and support for secure tenure. The group attracted technical support from several Malagasy institutions. The combined effort in implementing the agro-forestry support plan resulted in direct benefits to all regions including nine districts and 102 communes, reaching some 50,000 households and therefore 250,000 people and indirectly the entire Malagasy population with the support of the National Land Program.

To learn more see this article by T. Forester, et al., 2021, pp 89–90.

5.5 Promote outreach and advocacy to raise awareness and spark action

Building awareness and inspiration to action for regenerative landscapes requires thoughtful, strategic communications and policy advocacy campaigns. These involve the creation of shared messaging, community storytelling, and outreach about the value and efficacy of locally led, multisector landscape approaches for regenerative food systems. Collectively implemented advocacy campaigns can leverage influential actors and institutions to reach key audiences like national and local policymakers, thought leaders in agriculture and environment, agribusiness and financial actors, teachers and professors, youth leaders, and activists in underrepresented communities. Communications, outreach, and advocacy for regenerative landscapes must intellectually and emotionally resonate while helping audiences quickly understand the power, value, and uniqueness this approach represents on the ground.

Network communication and advocacy. Outreach will be most effective through a network of partners focused on joint communications while working across media channels to showcase the collective reach of the landscape community. The Global Landscapes Forum and The Agroecology Coalition are networks with extensive global reach and a commitment to landscape action, well positioned to accelerate these messages around regenerative agriculture and landscape partnerships. 1000L partners have already begun collaborating on communications.

Networks of communication and outreach and advocacy experts can jointly implement campaigns to influence others and raise recognition and awareness for the potential of landscape approaches. An example is this open letter to global leaders, Funding a Better Future: An Urgent Plea and Plan to Remake the Financial System to Support Holistic Landscape Development Led by Local People, collaboratively organized by 1000L, that has provided a tool that many partners can use in communicating with financial leaders.

Another example is this series on landscape management, business, and finance in Forbes. The world's hunger for solutions that account for the complexities of the relationship between people and nature was evident in the Forbes campaign's success—the series earned more than 106,000 reads of landscape-focused articles in three short months. Such joint actions have also helped landscape ideas gain traction in international policy circles. Focused messaging and partner inclusion in events at the various UN conferences of the parties covering climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation have embedded landscape solutions at the center of conversations to solve today's existential polycrisis.

Amplify local voices. Farmers, landscape stewards, and Indigenous peoples are at the forefront of this transformative movement. There are opportunities for them to tell their stories about locally led partnerships leading the way in sustainability, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, rural development, and much more. It is critical to raise their visibility and amplify their voices in national and international dialogue. Landscape partnerships can foster local partners telling their unique stories to highlight regenerative agriculture and regenerative landscapes for communities, businesses, and nature.

1000L, Regen10, and others can empower bottom-up communications from landscape partnerships and leaders through tools, media training, and services. LPs can advocate for their needs much more effectively and genuinely in ways that are likely to resonate with broader audiences. Examples include the multimedia landscapes in action series of 1000L and the "how to make a storymap" software on Terraso.

Box 9. Landscape Voices Project aims to empower local storytellers

Landscape partnerships are pivotal in transforming food systems yet they often struggle to reach wider audiences due to limited resources and expertise. To bridge this gap, 1000L partners have designed The Landscape Voices Initiative: Advancing Livelihoods and Ecosystems through Grassroots Media.

This multi-year, global project will empower local storytellers in rural, marginalized, and Indigenous communities across the Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa. By strengthening their journalism, communications, and monitoring skills, the initiative aims to elevate community-driven narratives that influence policy, attract funding, and advance sustainable development. Landscape Voices will offer tools and training to ensure authentic representation, including:
- Training: In-person and virtual sessions on storytelling, participatory video to document their experiences and monitor landscape impacts, communications strategy, and fundraising, and enhanced capacities to tackle complex environmental and development issues.
- Networking: Regional committees and social media platforms to connect storytellers across landscapes.

- Amplification: Participants' stories shared globally through 1000L networks and social media.
- Ongoing Support: A help desk, financial assistance, a storytelling prize program, and a community of practice to sustain efforts.

By empowering local voices, Landscape Voices will foster advocacy, inspire global audiences, strengthen landscape partnerships, and catalyze systemic change by driving policy reform, securing resources, and amplifying the reach and impact of landscape management worldwide.

Interviewing a local agricultural extension officer in Lari, Kenya
Credit: EcoAgriculture Partners

6 | Call to Action: Support the Global Movement to Transform Agriculture and Food Systems through Regenerative Landscapes

Today we are at a pivotal moment in our journey toward a world of regenerative agriculture and food systems. This is a multi-generational endeavor, requiring ambitious action across many scales by many institutions. Because of the deep interdependence of food systems with place-specific environment, infrastructure, economic, social, health and climate factors, the landscape scale of action will be central to influence and link regenerative global food systems with sustainable local development. Local stewardship and leadership will be key to sustain these efforts over time.

Influential leaders who are committed to regenerative agriculture and food system transformation can play strategic roles in accelerating the development of regenerative landscapes. This paper demonstrates that there is a rich foundation of experience on which to build more systematic direct support to landscape partnerships as well as shifting key levers in the enabling environment (Figure 9).

Whether you are a leader in policy, business, finance, philanthropy, farming, civil society, or science, you can be a strong ally and collaborator with landscape leaders and become part of this global movement to create sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems. We urge leaders to seize this moment to lead, inspire, and transform. By embracing regenerative landscapes, you can accelerate the transformation to regenerative agriculture and agroecology, shaping a future that nourishes people and the planet.
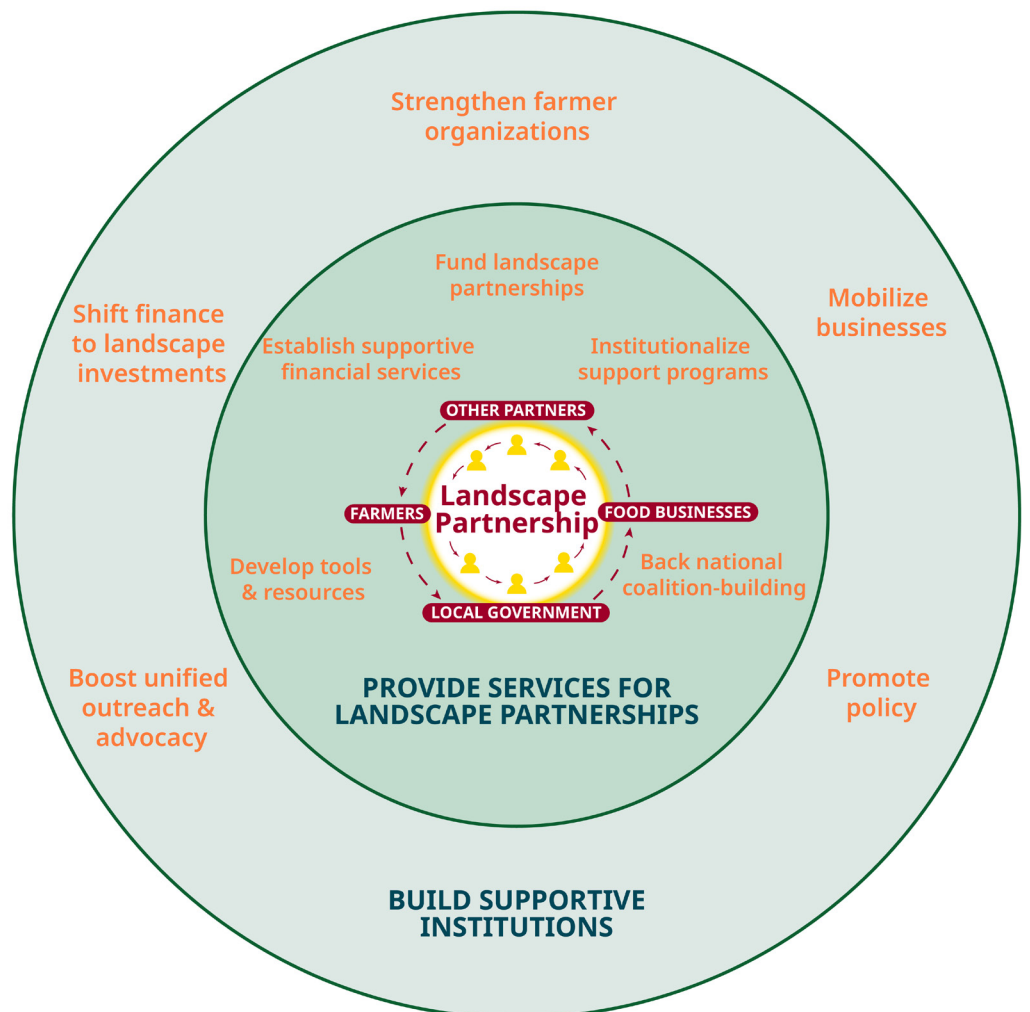

Figure 9.
A strategy for agriculture and food system transformation through regenerative landscapes

Annex 1 | Tools and Resources for Landscape Partnerships from 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People

For readers seeking more detail on resources for strengthening landscape partnerships, this Annex provides selected tools, guidance materials, and resources to "get started" that have been curated or developed by 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People. All of these include processes relevant for integrating regenerative agriculture and agroecology into landscape stewardship, though at this time lack more elaborated resources.

Practical Guide for Integrated Landscape Management
This tool from 1000L offers LPs and their supporters a roadmap for understanding and implementing ILM and guidance for adapting the five key elements of ILM to LPs' local and regional contexts.

ILM Tool Guide
This guide from 1000L describes tools and resources that 1000L curated for LPs. Strategies and tools for developing and facilitating a robust and long-lasting coalition of stakeholders in the landscape. This webinar explains ways to use the Practical Guide and Tool Guide.

1000L Offerings
This is a guide to the suite of capacity strengthening, finance, coalition building, and digital tools, methodologies, and frameworks to strengthen LPs and their impact. 1000L developed this portfolio recently to make the landscape management process more manageable, effective, and inclusive. Many resources described in the Guide are accessible through 1000L's capacity-strengthening landing page, the Terraso digital platform, or the 1000L website.

Terraso
A digital platform specifically for landscape partnerships that was developed through 1000L. Terraso offers a suite of tools that LPs can use to share information about their landscape, implement landscape assessments, develop story maps, collect and share data, and more.

1000L Landscape Learning Platform
This digital platform hosts all of the learning modules developed by 1000L, including facilitation guides, slide decks, and more. Topics include introduction to ILM, Stakeholder Mapping, Analysis, and Engagement, Landscape Action Plans, and more.