



Applying strategic planning approaches for good natural resource governance

Course focus

The landscape approach seeks to link site-level actions at farm or forest levels, to the broader landscape or ecosystem level. Building on the successes and failures of sector-based strategic planning approaches, it provides a more robust cross-sectoral and integrated approach that can be used to contribute directly towards agreed development goals for tackling poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Why landscape-level approaches?

As managers and planners concerned with natural resources, we need to take into account larger scale developments and trends such as decentralisation, market development in for example tourism, and adapt and develop our practice. Besides, community (or site-based) planning approaches, however successful, can not readily cope with environmental and socio-economic issues and opportunities beyond the community's immediate sphere of influence. This has highlighted the need for landscape-level approaches through which potentially conflicting resource functions can be addressed.

Similarly, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which most countries have now ratified, has called on governments to implement an Ecosystem Approach to planning for natural resource management that is underpinned by a set of guiding principles for best practice.

These principles require inter-sectoral coordination and decision making at different levels – including at the landscape level – and by different stakeholders implying a complex, multistakeholder process.

The practical implementation of landscape approaches involves using iterative processes adapted for specific, local contexts. To do this, we require new skills and combine various planning tools that may differ significantly from our conventional practices.

Aims and objectives

The course offers participants an opportunity to familiarise themselves with current practices for landscape approaches and will provide opportunities to develop practical skills and experience in the use of tools applicable for landscape-level planning, monitoring, and implementation.

The course will equip participants to:

- Understand the context, principles and relevance of landscape approaches for natural resources governance in today's world
- Understand how landscape-level planning processes can be developed and how they can be facilitated
- Become familiar with a variety of tools for landscape-level strategic planning and gain experience in applying and adapting these in real-life situations
- Understand how landscape approaches can contribute to improved decision-making, sustainable management, and monitoring of natural resources.

Training methods

A variety of training approaches will be used. As with all our courses, the style will be participatory and hands-on. Course facilitators will encourage 'learning by doing'. Participants are expected to bring along their own material to the course allowing them to share their experiences with others. A web-based learning platform is maintained to support participants in applying their individual action plan and learning in their work situation.

(<http://portals.wi.wur.nl/landscapes/>)

Requirements for admission

Participants should be experienced professionals with several years of working experience in their subject matter area as well as competency in the English language.



Programme

Pre-Course Module

A CD-Rom-based pre-course module will be sent to participants 4 weeks before the course. This self-study training material will introduce course concepts and assist in developing participants' learning objectives for the course.

Course Programme

The training programme is spread over two weeks and includes four days of field work in Thailand to gain practical experience and skills. The main themes covered during the course will include:

Concepts

- Principles and evolution of landscape-level planning
- Social learning principles for landscape-level approaches

Processes

- Design and facilitation of iterative landscape-level planning processes
- Defining and valuing landscape functions
- Multi-stakeholder concepts and processes

Field Practice

Opportunities to learn about, practice using, and adapt a range of tools and skills relevant for landscape-level approaches including:

- Action-learning
- Scenario planning.

Implementation

- Decision-making and resource allocation in a multi-stakeholder setting
- Crafting institutional arrangements for effective implementation and good governance
- Monitoring for landscape-level impact

RECOFTC and Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation reserve the right to change the programme.

Partners

This course programme is jointly developed and implemented by Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation and RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests in Bangkok, and will give specific attention to issues and developments in the socio-economic context of Asia.

RECOFTC

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Certificate

Participants are granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees and accommodation

The tuition fee is € 2100 per participant. This covers all course materials and training expenses, health insurance while in Thailand and all costs incurred during the field visit (meals, accommodation and transport). An additional expense of US\$ 180 per participant will be charged for accommodation when staying at RECOFTC (standard room with air-conditioning) for the duration of the course. Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation/RECOFTC recommend that participants budget US\$ 12 per day while in Thailand to cover meals and incidentals.

Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships are available from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP). Applications for NFP fellowships should be submitted to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation before **1 June 2010**.

For additional information on fellowships, go to: www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/services/Courses/Fellowships/ www.nuffic.nl

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation can not provide any funds to finance the participants and is also unable to assist applicants in obtaining sponsorship.

Application

The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation, with funding other than a NFP fellowship, is **25 September 2010**.

For additional information and online application: www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/

Code: 88/10, Duration: 2 weeks, Period: 25 October – 5 November 2010

Application deadline for full programme: 25 September 2010

NFP Fellowship application deadline: 1 June 2010

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