



Background

The landscape-level approach is increasingly being recognized and used to ensure integrated natural resource planning that links grass-roots and community based initiatives with wider national or regional perspectives. The approach encompasses a diverse range of innovative practices involving sustainable natural resource management, and attempts to merge ecosystem thinking with multi-stakeholder processes and good natural resource governance.



As a planning approach, it 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.

A range of influences are increasingly affecting decision-making and planning approaches in the natural resource sector. As managers and planners concerned with natural resources, we need to adapt and develop our practice in order to respond to these issues.

Decentralisation and adoption of the principle of subsidiarity in planning and resource allocation is increasingly being seen as part of an appropriate response to tackling poverty and ensuring good governance. Community (or site-based) planning approaches however successful, cannot readily cope with environmental and socio-economic issues and opportunities beyond the community's immediate sphere of interest or 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 underlain by a set of guiding principles for best practice. These require inter-sectoral coordination and decision making at different levels – including at the landscape level, and by different stakeholders – implying a complex, multi-stakeholder process.

The practical implementation of landscape-level approaches involves using integrative processes adapted for specific, local contexts. To do this, we require new skills and planning tools that may differ significantly from our conventional practices. The underlying principles, processes and tools for implementing landscape-level approaches form the basis of this course.

Objectives

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

Through attending the course, participants will be able to:

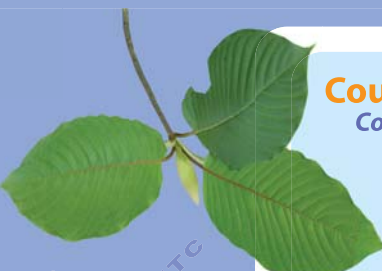
- Understand the context, principles and relevance of landscape-level approaches for natural resource governance in today's world;
- Understand how landscape-level planning processes can be developed and how they can be facilitated;
- Become familiar with a variety of "tools" for landscape-level approaches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

Course Design and Process

A variety of participatory training approaches will be used, including case studies, interactive lectures and a field visit to highlight the practicalities of landscape level-approaches. Course facilitators will encourage an atmosphere of "learning by doing". Participants are expected to bring along their own material to the course allowing them to share their experiences with others and to contribute to enhancing their own practice.

Using a web based learning platform with distance learning facilities and facilitated forum discussions, course participants are supported to apply their individual action plan and course learning in their work situation. The platform, with up to date course information, resources and linkages, can be visited at www.iac.wur.nl/landscapes

Landscape Functions and People: Applying Strategic Planning Approaches for Good Natural Resource Governance



Course Contents

Course Pre-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 develop 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
- Studies and reflection on the application of landscape-level approaches for natural resource management

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
- adaptive management
- scenario planning

Implementation

- Decision-making and resource allocation in a multi-stakeholder setting
- Crafting institutional arrangements for effective implementation and good governance
- Adaptive learning approaches
- Monitoring for landscape-level impact
- The policy-practice cycle

RECOFTC and IAC reserve the right to change the programme.

Who Should Attend

The course is designed for planners, managers and administrators from decentralised administrations especially those involved with natural resource management; project and NGO staff working on good natural resource governance and decentralised decision-making approaches; technical staff from natural resources and social development sectors including: agriculturalists, foresters, conservationists, water resources specialists, soil scientists, geographers, sociologists, and planners; and academics and researchers seeking to become familiar with current practice in landscape-level planning.

Participants should be experienced professionals with several years of working experience in their subject matter area as well as competent in written and spoken English.

This course programme is jointly developed and implemented by IAC and the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) in Bangkok and will give specific attention to issues and developments in the socio-economic context of Asia.

Venue: RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand.

Date: April 20 – May 3, 2006

Deadline for submitting applications is:
Wednesday, 15 March, 2006

Costs: The tuition fee is **US\$2800** 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 at RECOFTC (standard room with air-conditioning) for the duration of the course. IAC/RECOFTC recommends that participants budget **US\$12** per day while in Thailand to cover meals and incidentals.

Note: Costs of visas and transportation to and from Bangkok are not included.

To Apply: Please complete the on-line application form, or download and complete the application form available from the RECOFTC or IAC websites and return to the contact details below. For further information or an application form please contact:



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