

Better forests, better lives

The Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy realizing local visions for the best possible use of resources across landscapes



Sablogo Forest landscape, Burkina Faso. ©IUCN



Miyun watershed, outside Beijing, China. ©IUCN



Landscape in Bururi, Burundi. ©IUCN



Mt. Elgon landscape, Uganda. ©IUCN

The Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS) is a global IUCN programme working in 23 countries and funded by the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It seeks to address human and environmental needs simultaneously in large areas of land, so as to deliver environmentally friendly, financially sustainable and socially equitable outcomes. This is being done through restoring the functionality and diversity of forested landscapes, promoting reforms in local rights and tenure, improving local governance and developing marketing chains to deliver benefits to local communities. In achieving such multiple aims, planning decisions of different uses in different parts of a landscape often result in trade-offs that are negotiated between various groups that have interests in the landscape. In doing so LLS engages with broader policy process, using learning from landscapes to influence national, regional and global change.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America, LLS works in landscapes that display great diversity. Each landscape strategy is unique; from the Miyun watershed that supplies Beijing with water, to community forest management in Burkina Faso and Tanzania, to addressing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) issues in Africa, and to supporting enhanced market and value chains for important products (Gum Arabic, Shea Butter, Honey, Allanblackia).

LLS works with many partners including local communities, non-government organizations, university and research institutions, and local, regional and national governments, and the private sector. As such, LLS adds value to existing activities of IUCN members and partners, and leverages additional support to create a greater impact than any one partner could on their own. This brief for the Poverty Environment Partnership meeting in Malawi, demonstrates some of the progress and success of this initiative to date.



Training Trainers in CEAP, Sudan.
©IUCN



Community participating in Poverty Toolkit, Sablogo Forest. ©IUCN



CEAP in Action in Fariq Elbagar in Kodofan, Sudan. ©IUCN

a). Implementing participatory forest management is empowering: IUCN built on existing work in the locally protected Sablogo forest area in the Central Eastern Region of Burkina Faso, where the three districts adjacent to the forest have organised themselves to conserve the forest. *“If IUCN had not come with this program we would have had to invent it”* (Governor of one of the Central Eastern Region). The value added of this is manifold, as the Ministry of Environment chose this forest as a pilot project to test the 2006 National Action Plan for Decentralised Management of Forest Resources. Sudan is revising its forestry policy to embrace greater collaborative and participatory forest management and LLS has brought lessons and experiences in eastern Sudan to this process. As a result participatory forest management is more firmly embedded in Sudanese forest policy and implementation.

b). Securing rights to on-farm trees – a great incentive: In the LLS landscape of Wassa Amenfi West in West Ghana, IUCN, in partnership with the Forestry Commission, has been piloting “Farmer Tree Certification” so that farmers who plant and look after trees on their farms have security of rights of use and disposal over those trees. Hitherto such rights were vested in Government. This tree certification is now spreading to the LLS landscape in Mali, as the result of a recent study tour to Ghana from Mali.

c). There are a wide variety of important forest goods and services: LLS work on the importance of sustainable chain-sawing in Liberia is making logging more sustainable, especially by local people. In Mount Elgon (Uganda),

sustainable financing (for honey and other Non Timber Forest Product – NTFP processing) is being built into landscape management, where over 200 households are engaged in commercial honey production. In Lachua (Guatemala), the technical, economical and social information needed for sustainable market chains with direct links to the private sector have been developed. This has resulted in the price paid for pineapples being 20% above the national average, and honey production increasing by over 350% in 2 years.

d). Participatory watershed and forest management: In Doi Maw Salong (Thailand) there has been a major change in the way the Royal Thai Armed Forces undertakes watershed rehabilitation in a pilot area of 640 ha where people have no formal tenure. Participatory forest management approaches are used, and over 800,000 trees have been planted. The Army has the mandate to manage the watershed and implements a participatory process that provides access to agricultural land, improved land use planning, and the development of agroforestry within the watershed. Soil and water conservation contours have been constructed on over 80 ha in areas most subjected to erosion, while over 200 check dams have been built to slow down creek water flow to prevent heavy erosion. The Miyun watershed that supplies Beijing in China is generating sustainable finance for conservation at the community and government levels. LLS is supporting the transition from a state payment-based system which did little to provide concrete financial and economic incentives for watershed protection to a more market-based system of payments for environmental services that rewards conservation at the individual and community level.

e). Local planning and action enhances ecosystems: Through Multi Stakeholder Dialogues between Kapchorwa (Uganda) and its neighbouring districts, there is now increased interest in the use of Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) approaches that LLS is using in the Benet landscape of Mt. Elgon. This enhances local ownership and responsibility for local action. As a result the districts are considering how to integrate some of these tools into their extension approaches.

f). Community based restoration enhances ownership: In Guatemala, forest restoration has enabled the forest sector to work with the private sector to improve marketing of economically important products, and approximately 500 ha of forest are restored per year in the Tacaná watershed. This has provided jobs for women, and helps improve their family diet, together with a reduction in the amount of fuelwood consumed locally (by up to 60%).

g). Learning from landscape modelling: Modelling of the Tri-National Sangha Protected Area Landscape (boundary between Cameroun, Congo-Brazzaville, and the Central African Republic) has produced clear evidence of positive impacts on local biodiversity and livelihoods. The indicators for livelihoods and the environment also showed the negative impact of the global economic downturn on the livelihoods of Ba'ka (Pygmies) and Bantu peoples.

h). Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) is an important over-arching process: IUCN is involved in FLEG related activities in over ten countries in Africa and through a number of regional bodies, with funding from DfID, EC, the Embassy of Finland. LLS support in Uganda and Tanzania has enabled IUCN to work with the five East Africa Community (EAC) member states on a regional FLEG process based on national studies and multi-stakeholder dialogues, and to embed FLEG in the EAC. This process is on-going and expected to result in a binding EAC Ministerial declaration on FLEG.

i). Expanding CEAP: LLS has been working with the Sudan Forest National Corporation and State Government Authorities, and UNHCR in the environmental restoration

of refugee hosting areas in the eastern Sudan, CEAP process. As a result, LLS has provided support for CEAP training to a large Government of Sudan, project with IFAD in North and South Kordofan (the most important States of the Gum Arabic belt in Sudan), and expanded the CEAP process to over 400 villages.

j). Markets and engagement with the private sector is a growing potential: The partnership with Unilever to develop Allanblackia (a natural oil which is solid at room temperature) markets moves from research and development (mainly in Ghana) to developing supply chains, and setting industry wide standards for sustainability and equity. Work is extending to Tanzania, Nigeria, Cameroun and Liberia. Other private sector partners, including Cadbury's are now showing interest in Allanblackia oil, and how the species integrates with Cocoa production. In China, Nokia is supporting participatory watershed management the Miyun watershed, and is discussing novel means of distributing Payments for Environmental Services using mobile telephony. While IUCN is exploring opportunities with Nedbank Capital on sustainable forest restoration, micro-finance and carbon payments for a number of LLS landscapes in Africa.

LLS poised for greater impact: LLS balances and integrates economic, environmental, political and social aspects in its four outcomes so as to have the best management options for natural resources that improve local livelihoods. The LLS model offers the opportunity for comparative analysis between multiple sites, with the result that conclusions have a potentially much broader significance than would be the case from single landscapes. The design of LLS makes use of the unique comparative advantage of IUCN as a trusted convener and of its extended network of members and partners. Success at one site can be quickly replicated to other sites, for example from Guatemala to Honduras, Acre to Pará (Brazil), Central Eastern District in Burkina Faso to 3 neighbouring districts and nationally, and Federations of CBOs in Orissa in India that now cover 800 villages. There is greater inter-regional sharing of lessons and approaches with, for example, interaction between China and Africa in relation to the issues surrounding FLEG and timber trade.



Batwa women and their pottery in Burundi. ©IUCN



Gum arabic in Sudan. ©IUCN



NTFPs in Mali. ©IUCN



Bush mangoes in Ghana. ©IUCN



Fuelwood marketing near Sablogo, Burkina Faso. ©IUCN



Helping to ensure legal timber trade, Vietnam. ©IUCN

Box 1: Using Landscapes to set the policy agenda

Removing barriers opens up opportunities: Removing barriers to local forest control has been shown to be crucial to LLS interventions. Local communities in Kapchorwa District (Mount Elgon), Uganda agreed to remove a policy barrier (free range grazing of livestock in the dry season) through a locally developed and agreed by-law. This resulted in 705 households (4 villages) planting 200 tree per household on their lands (over 1,500 Ha), and constructing over 27 km of soil conservation terracing. Neighbouring districts now want to use a similar approach. Multiple examples of such barrier removal, supported by global level analysis, have created powerful arguments for enhanced local control that is being advocated in various regional and international fora.

Understanding and accounting for poverty: LLS has carried out ground breaking work on understanding the spatial relationships between forests and poverty, and is advocating for a greater appreciation of the role of forest resources in the livelihoods of rural communities. FAO has asked LLS to assist in pilot studies for livelihood data collection for its Forest Resource Assessment (FRA). This would be the first time the incorporation of such data had been attempted for the FRA.

LLS learning has driven the IUCN approach to REDD: In addressing degradation LLS has promoted forest landscape restoration, both in its landscapes and in policy processes. An assessment of the global potential for restoration, where 1 billion hectares with potential for restoration were identified, has stimulated funding from the World Bank for national level assessments in Ghana and Mexico. IUCN successfully advocated for a rights based approach to *degradation* in REDD at UNFCCC. The LLS landscape in Ghana has been recommended by Ghana as one of its REDD sites for testing the national REDD strategy. Likewise the LLS landscape in Lachuá (Guatemala) will be a pilot site for testing REDD for community advocacy.



IUCN Eastern & Southern Africa Regional Office

Mukoma Road

P. O. Box 68200-00200

NAIROBI, Kenya

T: +254 20 890605-12

W: +254 20 249 3561/65/70

M: +254 724 256 804
+ 254 734 768 770

F: +254 20 890615

www.iucn.org/esaro.org

Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale

UICN - Union internationale pour la
conservation de la nature

01 BP 1618

Ouagadougou - BURKINA FASO

Tél : (226) 50 36 49 76

Fax : (226) 50 36 49 84

www.iucn.org

IUCN Forest Conservation Programme

Rue Mauverney 28

CH-1196 Gland

Switzerland

Tel : +41 (22) 999 0261/3

Fax : + 41 (22) 364 9720

forests@iucn.org

www.iucn.org/forest/lls



Allanblackia fruits, Ghana. ©IUCN