

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT BASED ON THE ECOLOGICAL CEILING

It is common for different groups of stakeholders in an area to have divergent and sometimes even conflicting interests. In the case of integrated landscape management, we harmonise those interests and work towards plans and solutions, via dialogue and knowledge sharing. Our efforts are based on the carrying capacity of nature while ensuring that the various interests also take biodiversity into account. After all, biodiversity is the basis for the stability of any ecosystem.

BIODIVERSITY GUARANTEES ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Together with local civil society organisations, IUCN NL brings the various stakeholders in a landscape together, to help achieve sustainable social and economic development. By unifying the interests of the various stakeholders and adapting those interests to the carrying capacity of nature, we work towards improved landscape management. In this way, we contribute to futureproof management structures in which biodiversity is preserved and nature is given the space and recovery time it needs to continue to fulfil essential ecosystem services such as water supply, food security and climate resilience.

GREATER SAY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

IUCN NL works alongside civil society organisations that represent the interests of local communities to help them gain a greater say in the management of nature and the natural resources in their environment. This is achieved through a combination of activities: we strengthen the organisational and negotiation skills of local interest groups and we exchange knowledge of ecosystem management.

BALANCING INTERESTS

We are in search of means of balancing the interests of local communities and the carrying capacity of nature, in line with the local, national and international economy. We bring together the stakeholders in a landscape, such as governments, businesses and local communities, to join forces in bringing about sustainable social and economic development. These parties examine the

“The impact of international value chains is also visible in landscapes. We view the situation from local to global, and vice versa. On the one hand we try to carefully harmonise the interests in an area and to arrive at the best balance between economy, society and ecology. On the other hand, our aim is for Dutch and EU politicians and businesses to include landscape thinking in relevant policies, and on that basis to encourage trading practice that helps preserve the socioecological carrying capacity of landscapes.”

Sander van Andel, expert nature conservation at IUCN NL

various scenarios for both protecting nature and guaranteeing production and subsistence, while also preserving their culture. This can for example be achieved by creating space for rivers in a landscape and establishing biological corridors, to allow wild animals to migrate from one area to another.

FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH

Five elements come together in our method for the landscape approach. For each situation, we join local stakeholders in deciding which combination will receive the most attention.

- By bringing together stakeholders in a multi stakeholder platform, we improve dialogue.

- We offer local communities knowledge of legal issues and decision making processes that influence the landscape, so that they join the negotiating table better prepared.
- The participants determine together how problems will be solved, based on a joint vision, shared objectives and responsibilities.
- We facilitate policy implementation and administrative structures at landscape level. We focus on quick wins, include research partners and provide leadership and a communication strategy.
- Via practical and transparent monitoring systems, we supervise compliance with agreements and undertakings.

Example of our work

Protecting a fragile ecosystem in Paraguay

In the Paraguayan municipality of Bahia Negra, extensive livestock farming and deforestation are two sides of the same coin. As a consequence, the regulatory function of the forest is under ever growing pressure. Together with stakeholders in the landscape, we worked on a futureproof spatial plan, that will allow nature to continue to fulfil its vital role as a climate buffer.

Together with our local partner organisations Guyra, IDEA and WWF Paraguay, we brought together as many parties with an interest in the landscape as possible, in order to develop a futureproof landscape plan. Local governments and Ministries joined nature organisations, organisations of indigenous communities, major land owners and the cattle sector, at the negotiating table.

And with excellent results: at the end of 2019, a spatial plan for the region was proposed, that guarantees sufficient space for nature, and is supported by all parties.



“Thanks to cooperation with our partners in Pantanal-Chaco, vulnerable groups such as the indigenous Yshir communities in Bahia Negra are more involved in vital decisions about the future of their local habitat. Now that they are in a position to advise cattle farmers and other stakeholders, they can have a say in decision-making about their natural resources.”

Fabiana María Benitez Popoff
Guyra, partner of IUCN NL in Paraguay

Do you want to help IUCN NL bring about integrated nature conservation via the landscape approach? Visit our [website](#) for detailed information and more example projects, or contact our expert [Sander den Andel](#).