

Introduction to landscape or jurisdictional initiatives in commodity agriculture

Companies, governments and NGOs are recognizing that implementing commitments to responsible sourcing and production in commodity agriculture is complex and that working with individual producers in individual supply chains is not always effective. Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives are emerging as ways of achieving various objectives – including responsible production of agricultural and forest commodities – at a larger scale.

Support for these approaches is growing fast, but it is sometimes unclear what these initiatives are and how they can transform commodity supply chains. Different landscape or jurisdictional initiatives involve different stakeholders, objectives and activities, and therefore may achieve different outcomes. There is no ‘correct’ approach, but it is important to be clear what an initiative is likely to deliver.

This briefing (Briefing 02) introduces the concept of landscape or jurisdictional initiatives and describes some of the approaches that are underway. Briefing 03 looks at how these initiatives can help deliver responsible sourcing and production commitments.



Key points

- A variety of landscape and jurisdictional initiatives are being developed: they are all slightly different, but overlap considerably in their aims and approaches.
- Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives can support the delivery of a variety of goals, including responsible sourcing commitments.
- Different approaches have different stakeholders, goals, alignment of activities, and accountability measures and these differences determine the outcomes of the approach.

What are 'landscape or jurisdictional initiatives'?

Several terms are being used to describe a variety of similar, but not identical, approaches. These include landscape initiatives, jurisdictional approaches, territorial approaches, green municipalities and produce–conserve–include compacts.

These initiatives all aim to bring together the relevant

stakeholders in a particular region, at the scale of a jurisdiction or landscape, to agree goals, align their activities and share monitoring and verification.

In these briefings we use the phrase 'landscape or jurisdictional initiatives' to include the full range of approaches.

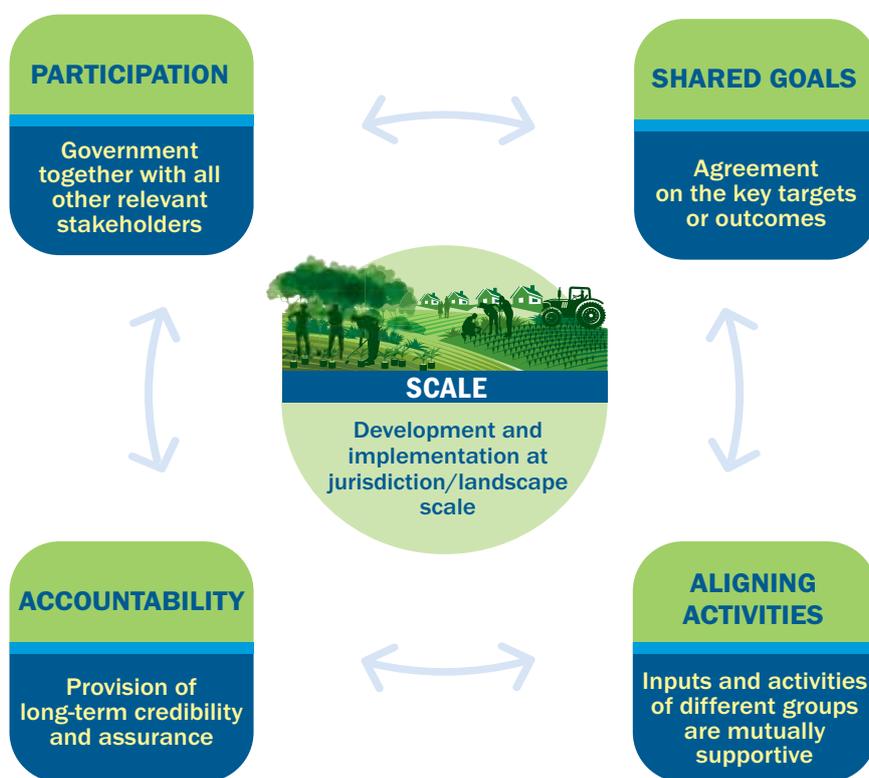


Figure 1: Schematic overview of the elements of most landscape or jurisdictional initiatives

What are the elements of landscape or jurisdictional initiatives?

A variety of different landscape and jurisdictional initiatives are being developed. They generally combine most or all of the following elements:

- **Development and implementation at the scale** of a jurisdiction (ie. local or national government) with a focus on the performance of the whole landscape.
- **Participation of government** together with other stakeholders such as civil society groups, communities, private sector companies and farmers.
- **One or more shared goals** that support sustainable development (eg. reducing deforestation, eliminating child labour or supporting smallholders).

- **Alignment of the activities** and inputs of different stakeholders (eg. incentives, enforcement and planning) to increase effectiveness.
- **Accountability** to provide credibility and assurance including long-term governance, monitoring, transparency, communication and verification.

Clearly, combining all these elements is not easy. Such approaches are necessarily complex, because they require multiple stakeholders to collaborate in innovative ways to address difficult issues grounded in law, politics, governance, culture and business practice. However, there is a growing consensus that despite the challenges there is huge potential for this more integrated approach to have significant positive impacts.

Why the interest in landscape or jurisdictional initiatives?

Approaches to responsible sourcing and production through individual supply chains and producers are very important, but they can also be costly, complex and sometimes ineffective. Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives that work with a range of partners including governments, align activities at scale, and combine various types of support have potential to contribute to more responsible commodity production in a number of ways:

Delivering commitments: landscape or jurisdictional initiatives may offer buyers a practical way to reduce the risk that their responsible sourcing commitments are not met by all producers in a landscape. At the same time, they provide a potential solution to the challenge of implementing commitments that are outside the control of individual producers (eg. protecting conservation areas or recognizing community rights).

Making certification more achievable: most companies rely on certification as one of the main tools for delivering their commitments. Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives may offer a way to make certification cheaper, more efficient and – importantly – more inclusive of small producers.

Sourcing with positive impact: there is growing enthusiasm in many companies to go beyond compliance with commitments and to look for ways to have positive, long-term impacts. Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives offer a platform for public-private partnerships, which can provide support and incentives for change, achieve transformation at scale and improve long-term governance.

This is discussed in more detail in **Briefing 03: Implementing responsible sourcing - using landscape or jurisdictional initiatives**

What are the differences between approaches?

Landscape or jurisdictional initiatives are being developed by different groups for different purposes. This is important because it affects the goals, direction and outcomes of the initiative. The specific characteristics of participation, goals, alignment of activities and accountability all determine what an initiative is likely to deliver. Outcomes will depend, for example, on:

Which stakeholders participate and their roles: this is likely to influence the effectiveness of the approach and its credibility with internal and external stakeholders. The degree of government engagement, and inclusion and empowerment of other stakeholders are particularly important.

The goals of the approach: these may vary from a very specific goal, such as reducing deforestation or eliminating child labour, to wider goals like delivering a range of responsible sourcing commitments, and even very broad goals such as accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The alignment of activities and inputs: this may vary from a loose association, where different groups work individually towards a common goal, to a genuinely integrated approach where issues identified through one activity or group are addressed by another.

The type and extent of accountability: this depends on what the initiative is used for. In general, more robust and credible accountability is also more costly and complex, so it is important to be clear what is needed and why. Where a high threshold of credibility is necessary, higher costs are justified; in other cases, a lower threshold with much lower costs may be adequate.

Although there is much overlap, there is also considerable variation in the characteristics of different landscape and jurisdictional initiatives. There is no single 'correct' approach. However, the approach significantly affects the outcomes, so practitioners and users of these initiatives must be clear what they want to achieve and whether the characteristics of an approach will deliver their needs.



Below are some examples of landscape or jurisdictional initiatives developed for a variety of different purposes.

Commodity-focused



The recent focus on landscape or jurisdictional initiatives as a tool to transform commodity supply chains has led to the development of a variety of initiatives focused on making the link between supply chains and landscapes.

These include the IDH Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes; the EII Forests, Farms and Finance Initiative; the Protect- Produce Compact launched by two Consumer Goods Forum members and programmes of TNC, CI, WWF and others.

REDD+



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) was developed within the UNFCCC negotiations on climate change and aims to provide performance-based payments for protection of forest that would otherwise be cleared. The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the UN REDD Programme are the two main initiators of REDD+ projects with the UNFCCC, while many voluntary programmes also exist to provide incentives for forest protection outside this framework.

Government-led



The Green Municipalities Programme of the State Government of Pará in Brazil was one of the first jurisdictional programmes focused on reducing deforestation, followed by the Produce- Conserve- Include Programme of the Government of Mato Grosso.

The Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF) involves nearly 30 states and provinces working to advance jurisdictional programmes designed to promote low emissions rural development and reduced emissions from deforestation and land use (REDD+).

Legality and governance



Although not developed as 'jurisdictional initiatives', programmes such as the EU timber legality programme (FLEGT), which works with countries to introduce legality assurance systems and licensing, have many of the same characteristics. They are based on government engagement with other key actors including the private sector and civil society, build on processes to agree shared goals (related to legality), identify gaps, align activities and require robust monitoring.

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