

# A Guide for Co-Designing an Inclusive Landscape Management Plan

## Summary

- This technical note outlines a framework for the co-design of inclusive landscape management plans (ILMPs) by local governments and other implementers.
- The co-design process is iterative, incorporating the perspectives of all stakeholders, piloting, and learning through monitoring, and evaluation.
- The framework ensures that the co-signed ILMPs are adaptive, one health-sensitive, promote sustainable intensification, and are embedded in local and national governance systems.

## Introduction

Landscape management in Sub-Saharan Africa faces increasing pressure from deforestation, land degradation, poor water management, poor agricultural practices unsustainable mining, wildlife poaching, and climate change. The agrifood system struggles to utilize the landscape's potential. Misconceptions in landscape management practices, such as neglecting socio-ecological and participatory approaches, hinder sustainable development. Socio-ecological landscape management (Karrasch et al., 2017), which integrates social and ecological systems and promotes collaboration among stakeholders, innovation, resilience to risks, resource sustainability, and community satisfaction, is gaining acceptance.

## Co-Design Pathway

The ultimate aim is to develop adaptive, inclusive landscape management plans that are sensitive to both ecological and health metrics and are incorporated into governmental frameworks. The design process is iterative, incorporating the perspectives of local stakeholders, governance bodies, researchers, and local experts. The pathway culminates in a comprehensive Inclusive Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) that is both actionable and reflective of community needs.

### Step 1: Narrative Development

Initiate the process by establishing a shared vision, the “development narrative”, for sustainable landscapemanagement. Information for this stage will be drawn from existing frameworks like the Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) ([Atampugre et al., 2022](#)) model and citizen science initiatives by defining the situation. A series of stakeholder meetings and interviews will be organized to refine this narrative.

### Step 2: Resource Unit Assessment

Local experts will create inventories of critical land use elements and ecosystem services. Indicators for subsequent evaluations will also be established during this phase.

### Step 3: Visualization and documentation

The final ILMP will incorporate implementation milestones, partnerships, financial sources, and capacity-building strategies through co-creation meetings. Artistic renderings of proposed landscape plans will also be generated to facilitate understanding.

### Step 4: Pilot and Validation

Some technological and innovation bundles identified during the co-design planning in step-3 will undergo pilot testing, followed by a comprehensive co-validation process to assess applicability and effectiveness.

## Step 5: Impact Evaluation

Systematic evaluations of the ILMP and/or individual implementations will be carried out using the Sustainable Intensification Framework (Musumba et al., 2017), supplemented by feedback mechanisms like multi-stakeholder groups and field visits.

## Step 6: Scaling out

The final phase focuses on extending the process of ILMP implementation and/or successful interventions, requiring multi-sectoral cooperation and adaptive strategies to integrate these into existing governmental plans.

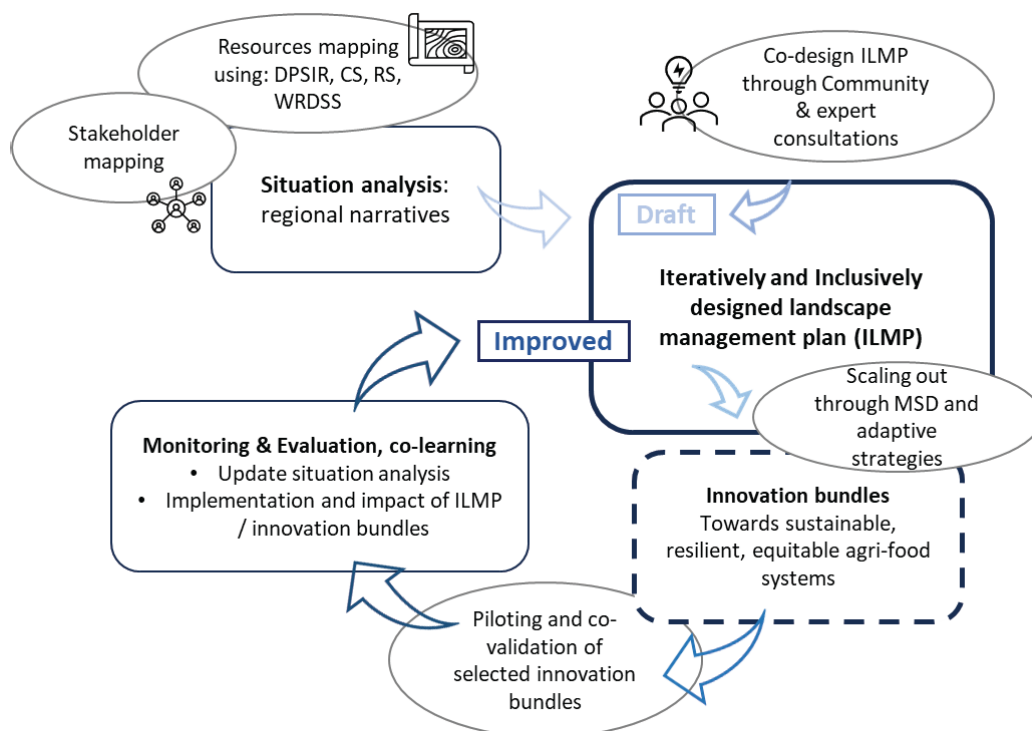


Figure 1: Iterative Landscape Management Plan Development Process for Inclusive Co-Design

## Conclusion

This framework aims to offer a cohesive and actionable roadmap for the inclusive, adaptive management of socio-ecological landscapes, aligning with TAFS-WCA's overarching goals of sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

## Glossary

**Inclusive landscape management:** The integration of social and ecological systems, local participation, and sustainable resource use within landscapes by the local government and/or other implementers.

**Resource Systems:** The combination of environmental assets and land management practices within a designated territory, such as farmland or agroforestry zones.

**Resource Units:** These are specific components within a resource system, like individual crops, livestock, or water bodies, and their spatial-temporal availability.

**Governance System:** The institutional structure overseeing resource management, involving government agencies and traditional bodies.

**Users:** Individuals or entities utilizing land and water resources for livelihoods or other purposes.

**Local Experts:** Stakeholders and user representatives skilled in fostering collaborative landscape planning.

**Researchers:** Act as knowledge brokers, disseminating valuable information on land management, indigenous wisdom, and ecosystem services to support evidence-based decision making by local and national actors.

## References

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## Source

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