



# **N***andscape*

## **Building a Dutch Knowledge Platform on Landscape Approaches (final report)**

**September 2018**

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## 1. Introduction

In June 2016, around 20 Dutch and international organisations gathered for a one-day knowledge exchange workshop on landscape approaches. The workshop was organised in cooperation with the international Landscapes for People, Food and Nature network. During the event there was a general consensus on the value of this approach to the larger domain. An integrated landscape approach offers new opportunities for area-based development, through the generation of insights into spatial dynamics, the integration of sector-based policies, the emergence of novel public-private governance arrangements, and the development of sustainable entrepreneurship in business and finance. Together, these help in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in an integrated manner, especially the goals related to food security, sustainable business and inclusive governance.

There is a growing number of Dutch organisations practicing with a variety of landscape approaches, yet without much alignment, exchange of knowledge and experiences, or collaborative learning. This makes the Dutch contribution to globally oriented knowledge networks on landscape approaches fragmented and ineffective: a missed opportunity, as the Netherlands have much experience in landscape approaches, and could substantially contribute to the global debate. In order to realize the potential of Dutch landscape knowledge, and get the integrated landscape approach to a higher level of policy uptake and implementation, NLandscape, the Dutch knowledge platform on landscape approaches, was established.

The NLandscape platform was set up to strengthen collaboration between Dutch development partners and to generate more knowledge on the contribution of an integrated landscape approach. This could include – amongst others – addressing the environmental and social impacts of global production chains, local food security, the need for stronger spatial planning mechanisms, and stronger business engagement in all these matters. Constructing a coherent body of landscape knowledge will help Dutch-based organisations to better position themselves in the international debate, to leverage existing investments and to open up new funding opportunities for NL-based organisations and their overseas partners.

Now, more than a year later, we can reflect on what has been achieved so far and express the future ambitions of NLandscape. This report reflects on the objectives that were set-up initially, and synthesises the key learnings from the knowledge sessions that were organized around the five themes of finance, gender, food & nutrition security (FNS), governance and water. A tool package is presented which can be used to analyse the topics above and function as starting point for any integrated landscape approach.

### 1.1. About NLandscape

NLandscape is hosted by the Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University (WCDI) and is run in partnership with Beagle Sustainable Solutions (BSS). It was already created by its members, in an informal manner, and informally facilitated by WCDI and BSS. However, the formal funding provided by the Food & Business Knowledge Platform, which in itself is financed by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowed NLandscape to grow, and to institutionalise through the establishment of a secretariat, and organise a series of meetings in a more coordinated manner. The overall aim of NLandscape grew from an informal exchange of ideas into the sharing of knowledge, learning from each other's expertise, and jointly promote landscape approaches as a means to solve landscape related issues in an integrated manner.

### 1.2. Objectives

Before its onset, the objectives of the platform were formulated as follows:



1. Dutch development partners are mobilised and interconnected through an active knowledge network around the integrated landscape approach
2. The collective knowledge of Dutch development partners generates new insights on how the landscape approach can lead to innovations in the field of food and nutrition security, governance, spatial planning, business and finance
3. The collective knowledge of Dutch development partners provides input to capacity development on the landscape approach, by integrating the outcome in ongoing capacity development activities of network members
4. The collective knowledge generated contributes directly to the international landscape debate, by a clever embeddedness in global landscape networks, providing valuable knowledge, allowing for a leverage of investments and a strong positioning of NL in the international landscape debate

## 2. NLandscape activities

Even before the official launch of the platform and ever since, we have undertaken several activities to achieve the objectives. After the first meeting in June 2016, a learning event on business engagement was held in Indonesia and a seminar on landscape approaches was organised. In October 2017, fifteen organisations decided to formalise their collaboration by setting up the knowledge platform NLandscape. The website [www.nlandscape.nl](http://www.nlandscape.nl) was launched, which is still in use to announce updates and upcoming events, to share reports of past events and to share network updates and requests. This website was a first step to connect our members and give them the opportunity to exchange knowledge and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

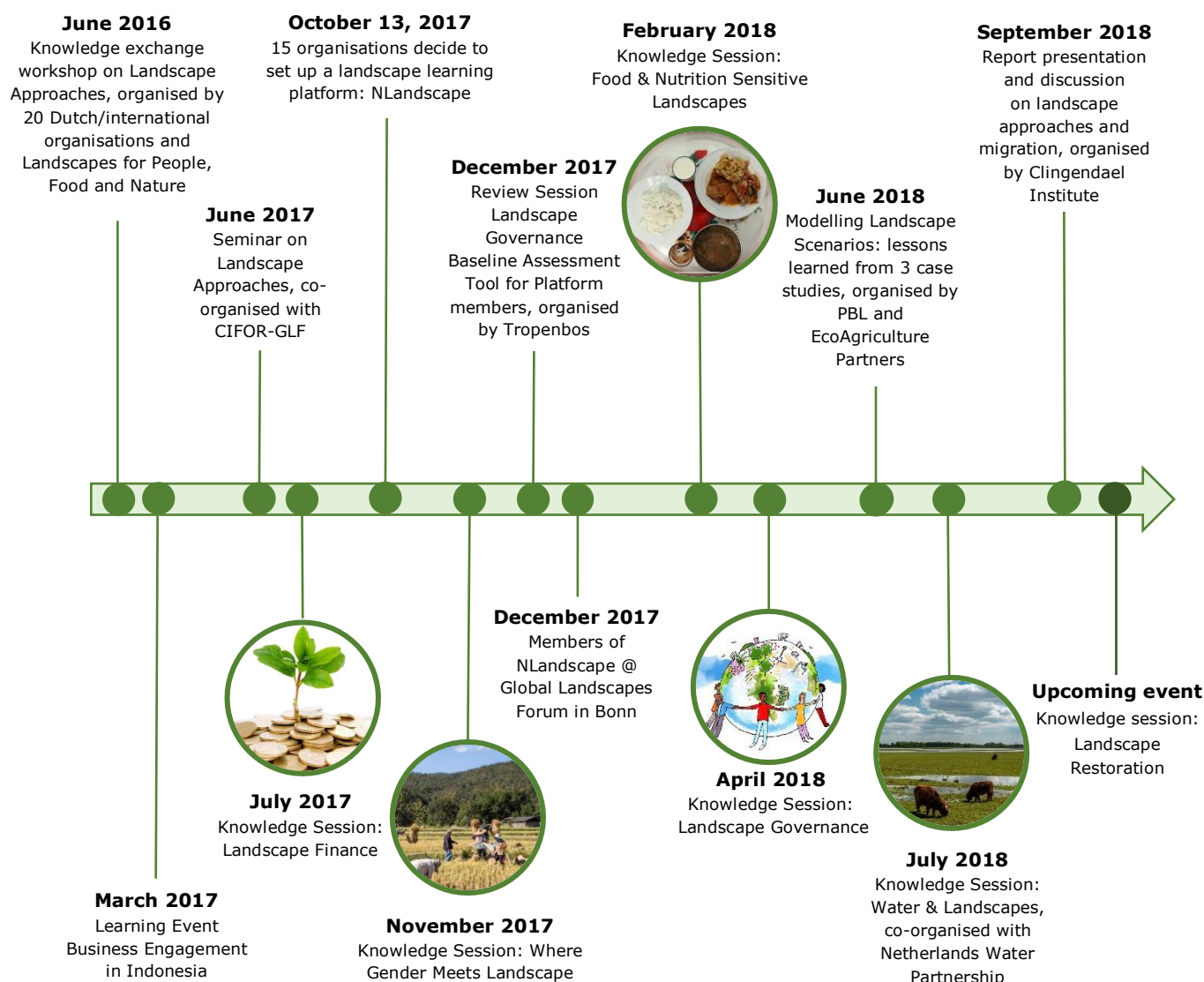
More than interconnecting our members, NLandscape aims to create a synergy in which knowledge and insights on how to apply an integrated landscape approach are generated, and the applicability of such an approach is analysed in addressing global issues such as food and nutrition security, governance, spatial planning, business and finance. In order to achieve this, we organised a series of knowledge sessions around the following topics: landscape finance, landscape and gender, food & nutrition sensitive landscapes, landscape governance, and water & landscapes. Another session on landscape restoration is planned for the fall of 2018, funded by third parties.



In addition, a delegation of NLandscape members visited the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) in Bonn in December 2017. The members took part in the GLF in various manners and shared their experiences afterwards on the NLandscape website. On behalf of the platform, we hosted a booth at the Sustainable Landscape Finance Pavilion and organized a curriculum design session on landscape finance, in collaboration with the international Landscapes for People, Food and Nature network. Afterwards we synthesised the learnings that had taken place over the two days to be shared with members that could not be there.

Finally, we hosted sessions organised by our platform members themselves. These self-organised sessions included a review session on the Landscape Governance Baseline Assessment tool by Tropenbos, a session on modelling landscape scenarios by PBL and EcoAgriculture partners, and a report presentation on addressing migration and security risks by means of landscape restoration in Africa by Clingendael Institute.

## An overview of key events since June 2016:



## 3. Output and outcomes

Below, a general overview of the development of NLandscape is presented including the outcomes from the knowledge sessions and a tool package. On the one hand the sessions provided an opportunity to the network itself, to promote itself as an advocate on landscape approaches and their multiple areas of implementation. On the other hand the sessions provided an opportunity for networking, during which the members could learn from each other's experiences and explore opportunities for collaboration.

### 3.1. Platform development

In a relatively short time, NLandscape grew from a group of dedicated organisations to an organised knowledge network with a more clearly defined purpose. With the objectives explicitly formulated, knowledge sessions around particular themes were organised and tools and cases were selected to support mutual learning around these themes. The sessions were outlined by a 'petit comité', existing of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IDH, WWF, Hivos, Ecosystem Management Fund (EMF), Beagle Solutions and WCDI. The meetings themselves were organised by different working groups

in various compositions, and were organised on different locations. Each of the sessions was attended by around 40 participants.



### 3.2. Overall appreciation of our knowledge sessions

Each of the knowledge sessions was set up in an interactive manner and included case studies, presentations, discussions and group work. These elements were overall appreciated by the participants (see quotes below). The presentation of the cases was valued as learning opportunity and could have been even longer and more in-depth. The discussions in small groups (roundtable or world café) were appreciated as well, but more structure would be needed to take a deep-dive and achieve the full potential of such small groups discussions and the plenary discussion afterwards. In general, it was found that landscape approaches are more complicated than they seem and in many cases truly integrated landscape approaches were not applied. The knowledge sessions were therefore considered to be eye-openers to many, who realised that applying an integrated landscape approach is more than 'just' adopting a spatial focus. It also implies strong stakeholder involvement, participatory spatial planning and policy integration to break through sectoral silos and come to a more integrated spatialised approach.

*"We found the WWF case on Gender in Aceh very interesting, as we have a landscape program in that region. So we contacted them and got additional insights into their program, which we used as material for an internal workshop."*

*"The nutrition and gender sessions in particular helped us further reflect on what we should do to collect best practices internally/externally, and continue mainstreaming these topics into our landscape programs"*

### 3.3. Results from the knowledge sessions

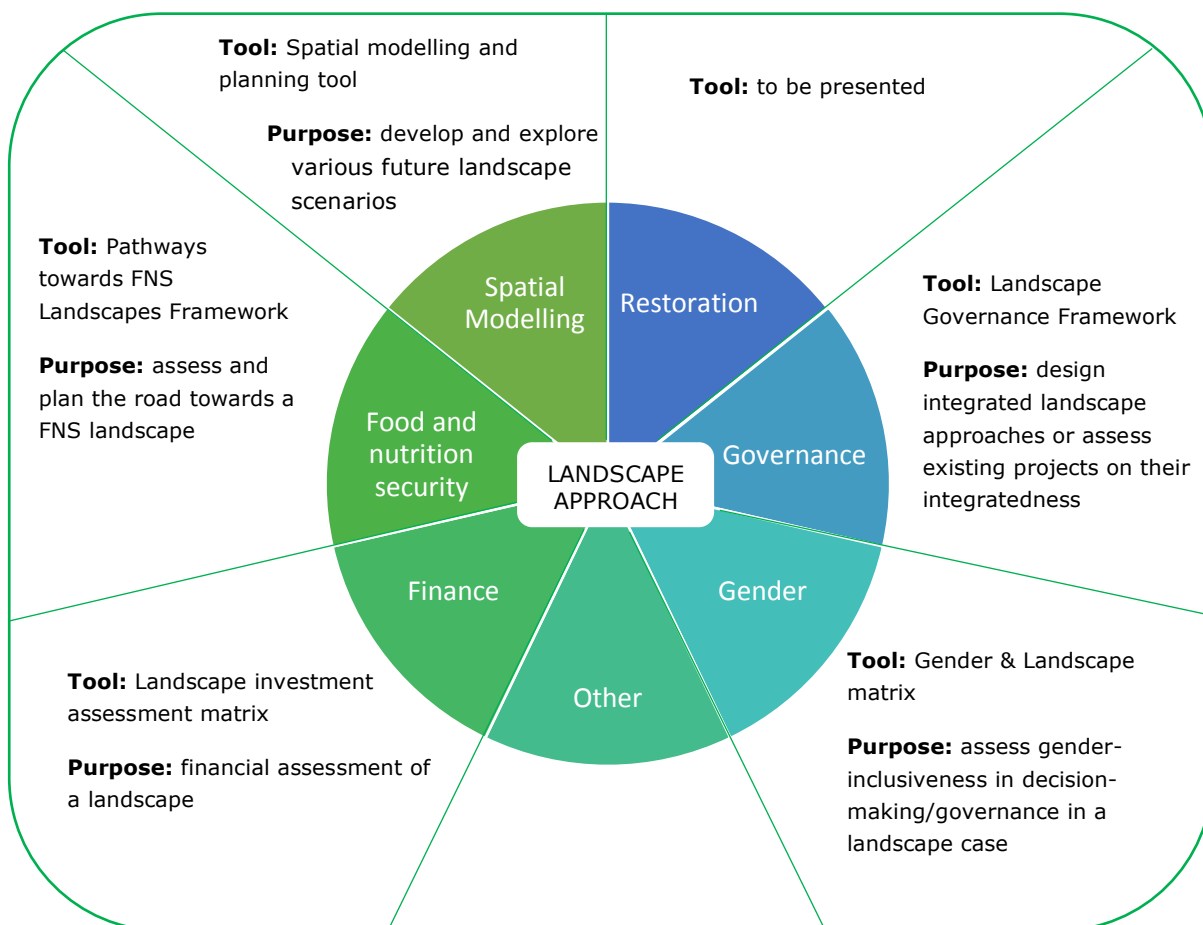
An overview of the themes and key learnings is presented on the next page. Full reports of each of the sessions and accompanying documents can be found on [www.nlandscape.nl](http://www.nlandscape.nl).



| Overall key learnings from the knowledge sessions   | NLandscape Knowledge Sessions                          |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>-----</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder approaches are key: listen to those involved, especially the ones most affected by a certain problem. In this, a right-based approach is essential.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Women often play a crucial role in landscapes; they must be involved in landscape approaches but not at the cost of other relevant stakeholders</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Leverage what's already there: resources, role figures, institutions etc.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Start small, grow big and share experiences and findings</p> <p>-----</p> <p>In-depth analysis of the context and stakeholders involved is equally important as monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Before starting any landscape program, start by developing a shared vision, together with key stakeholders</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Tools such as the LIFT and SEA can be useful to analyse your landscape and identify steps to move forward</p> | Theme  | Key Question  | Lesson Learned   |
|   | <b>Landscape Finance</b>                               | What is meant by landscape finance; and how can landscape programmes access to larger investments?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge on finance is generally low.</li> <li>• There are well-managed, commercially attractive opportunities to invest in landscapes. Learn from these.</li> <li>• Collaboration with local NGOs/CBOs and other local stakeholders is crucial for success</li> <li>• Blended financial structures (public + private) should be considered by all parties</li> <li>• Analyse your landscape before taking any steps on investment: what is the appropriate investment strategy, by whom, what are the risks and how does it fit in the landscape's business model?</li> </ul>   |
|   | <b>Where Gender Meets Landscape</b>                    | How to make food and nutrition, natural resources provisioning and other landscape functions benefit from gender equality? And the other way round. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More literature is needed on gender and landscape approaches: document and share findings and experiences</li> <li>• Always look at the context to define how gender issues should be defined, approached and addressed.</li> <li>• TALK with women: listen to their stories and learn about their knowledge and perspectives and their role in the landscape.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <b>Food &amp; Nutrition Sensitive (FNS) Landscapes</b> | How can we strengthen our approaches towards food and nutrition sensitive landscapes?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although there are many programs on FNS, they are often not well-aligned and a leading role from the government, which is crucial, is often lacking.</li> <li>• The political economy of FNS is of the utmost importance, so involvement of embassies and multilateral investors/ organisations is key to achieving FNS landscapes.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <b>Landscape Governance</b>                            | How can we learn from cases for which a landscape arrangement has been developed  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link landscape interventions to different institutional scales and across administrative boundaries.</li> <li>• How to involve stakeholders? Analyse their incentives!</li> <li>• As a landscape entrepreneur you facilitate the connection between those resources, institutions and stakeholders that are needed to achieve sustainable change.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <b>Water and Landscapes</b>                            | What could be a promising way to move forward with the connection between water resource management and landscapes?                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a shared vision, developed together with key stakeholders – including local residents – is key to create support and a sense of responsibility for landscape plans.</li> <li>• Opportunities to partner with the integrated country programmes of the Dutch embassies, country platforms of NWP and landscape programs are there but need to be consolidated.</li> <li>• Always explore how a landscape plan can be embedded in existing structures</li> <li>• Select specific landscapes that could function as showcase in which the landscape experts and water resource management experts combine forces in applying a landscape approach.</li> </ul> |

## Overview of tool package

A detailed overview of the applied tools, what purpose they serve and how they can be applied can be found in the tool package for landscape assessment in the appendix.



## 4. Synthesis of platform achievements

Through the various knowledge sessions and through the website, the platform managed to mobilise and interconnect Dutch development partners around the topic of integrated landscape approaches and their implementation. Members have had the opportunity to expand their network, and collectively reflect on the latest knowledge and insights. The knowledge sessions were highly appreciated, and attended by many. The platform succeeded in connecting learners, practitioners, managers and policy makers, raised the general levels of understanding on how to apply integrated landscape approaches in practice, and identified the knowledge gaps and capacity needs.

In practice, it was mostly junior colleagues who participated in the knowledge sessions, which formed an excellent opportunity for them to learn about landscape approaches and engage in case analyses. Apparently, organisations do not have the capacity to train their junior staff, and NLandscape has provided them with the opportunity to do so. Links have been created around key themes, forming a first step towards several communities of practice, in which stakeholders organised themselves, collaborate around a particular theme, and translate the latest knowledge and insights into practice. This was widely acknowledged and appreciated by our participants as was reflected by the evaluations.

The use of a variety of analytical tools during the knowledge sessions allowed the participants to take different perspectives on a landscape, practice how to analyse a landscape, how to approach particular problems in a landscape, and how to solve these in an integrated manner. In this way,



NLandscape has helped its members to learn what a landscape perspective entails, and what it means to 'think landscape' and act upon it. It was acknowledged that there is a great variety in how to define an integrated landscape approach, and how to implement it in a practical manner. This sometimes led to confusion on what a landscape approach really is. This confusion was emphasised by the diversity of cases that were brought in by the platform members. This contributed to the collective insight that more knowledge is needed on integrated landscape approaches in general: when do these work and how can these be successful?

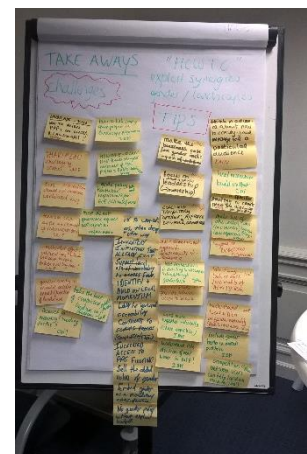
A few obstacles in successfully applying a landscape approach were found to be a lack of knowledge, most importantly on how to finance a landscape approach, how to integrate the approach in already existing structures and institutions, and how to align ongoing projects initiated by different stakeholders and maximise government involvement. Simultaneously, insights in the potential role of the private sector in landscape financing was obtained, as well as the importance of including investors from the beginning. Involvement of all stakeholders has been highlighted as particularly



important, especially local residents, community based organisations and NGOs. The role of women in a landscape was highlighted as often being key in making landscape approaches successful, as they play an important role in local economies and decision-making at the household level. The acknowledgement of the importance of building relations across levels and scales are considered to be crucial to arrive at landscape level change. This is at the same time however recognised as a complex issue which is hard to be addressed.

Therefore, key to all the above is that documentation and sharing should be done in a more consistent and open manner. This means that network members have to learn to properly analyse their own cases, monitor progress and evaluate impact. Sharing findings and experiences is then crucial to build up collective knowledge and capacity to apply landscape approaches. These findings reinforce the reason for NLandscape's existence but also emphasize the importance of linking NLandscape experiences to a larger and global network such as the Global Landscape Forum. This was also expressed as one of the major objectives of NLandscape in the future. A more formal connection to the Global Landscape Forum would be a crucial step in upscaling the Netherlands-

based learnings to an international level. The presence of our member at the



GLF 2017 (Bonn) and our collective presentation was a clear milestone of a joint positioning of Netherlands based organisations to present the state-of-the-art thinking on landscapes and landscape finance in an international forum. Since then, the relations with GLF have been intensified and more joint action is planned for, to start with the Global Landscape Forum 2018 in Bonn.



## 5. Follow-up and future plans

Throughout the discussions and debates organised by NLandscape, finance was a re-emerging theme. Financing of landscape level action often creates a bottleneck, and technical knowledge on how to attract investors and develop financial models was considered to be limited. The role of private sector engagement in landscape approaches and landscape finance therefore need more attention. To this end, the topic of landscape finance has been included in the Landscape Academy, which is an online curriculum on landscape approaches which is currently in the making. Two additional courses are under development as well: Landscape Governance and Landscape Leadership, as these were

considered a priority for further advancing the knowledge on landscape approaches. The input generated by the knowledge sessions has served as important input for the development of these learning modules, and can therefore be seen as an important contributor to existing capacity needs of global partners, particularly those in the Global South.

The efforts of NLandscape has not remained unnoticed by the international landscape scene. NLandscape has become a contributor to the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), which is a growing global network on landscape approaches, launched by CIFOR, UN Environment and the World Bank. NLandscape has become a recurrent contributor to the Forum, by participating in its activities. For 2018, NLandscape will be represented during the GLF event in Bonn (1-2 December), through its participation in the Learning Pavilion, and collectively sharing a booth. In this way, NLandscape has become a serious player in the international debate on landscape approaches, and is widely recognised as such.

## 6. Conclusions

NLandscapes has successfully connected the most important partners operating in the area of landscapes. We have also managed to reach out to more specific sectors such as the water sector. Even though members are now more aware of each other's landscape projects and possible opportunities for collaboration, NLandscape was mostly considered as a network to meet others and learn from their work. It was highly appreciated by the members and the knowledge sessions formed important learning opportunities for the participants. Therefore, creating the network was an important first step in bringing Dutch players together, and forming a community of practice on landscape approaches and their applications.

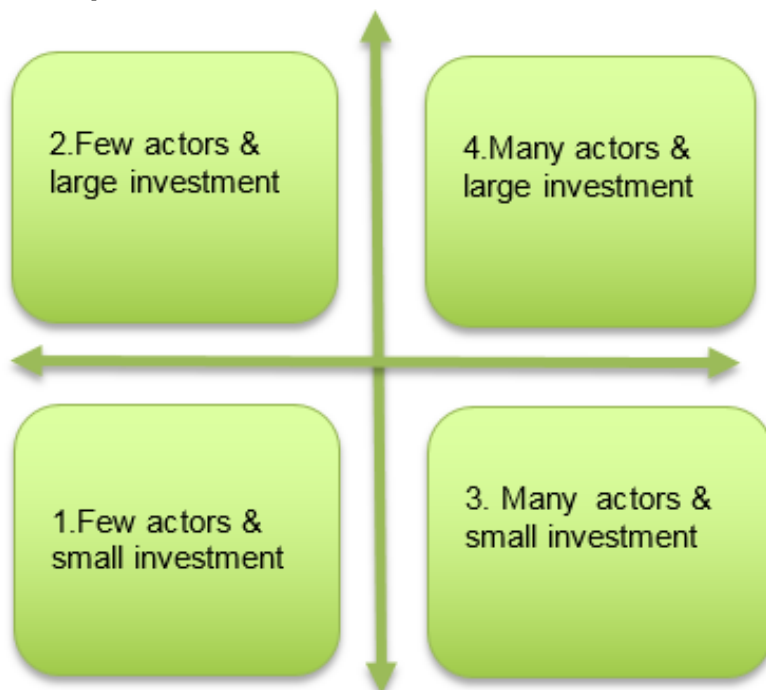
The knowledge sessions have contributed to the creation of more general insights on what an integrated landscape approach entails and how this approach can be utilized to address global issues such as food and nutrition security, social and environmental impacts of global production chains and the role of gender and finance. It was generally acknowledged that a truly integrated landscape approach is invaluable yet complex to apply in practice. Lacking consensus on the definition of a landscape approach, limited knowledge on landscape financing and the difficulty of fully integrating a landscape approach in existing structures are but a few barriers experienced by the participants.

NLandscape has illustrates the importance of having real life case studies, bring in evidence, and generate lessons learned on landscape approaches in its widest interpretation. Together, we explored how landscape approaches can be operationalised within various sectoral and geographic contexts, and how they contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. This successful work has however just started, and there is a widely shared desire for NLandscapes to be continued. This, because it is widely recognised that through networking, we keep sharing, and learning from our experiences. It helps us to better understand the meaning of landscape approaches, and how these can be applied effectively and sustainably. We have learned how strategic partnerships can be created, how we can find smart investment opportunities, and how we can position ourselves in the international debate on landscapes. Therefore, NLandscape forms an essential instrument which has facilitated this process, and should therefore be continued.



## Appendix: landscape assessment tool package

### Landscape investment assessment matrix



**Use:** assess a landscape finance case

#### What does it say?

The tool consists of a matrix with four quadrants, representing four types of investment cases, representing an increasing level of complexity:

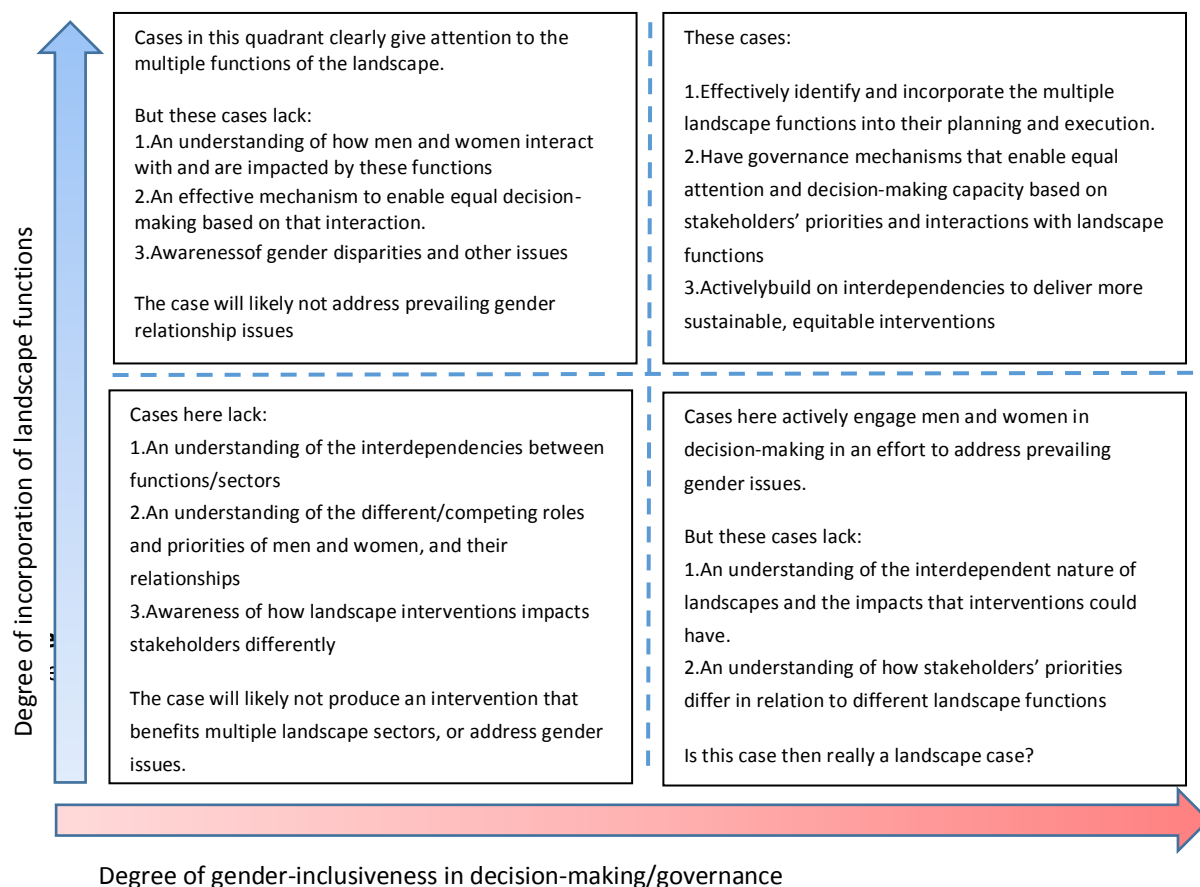
1. A case with few actors, and relatively small investment required (e.g. traditional and small-scale development projects led by NGOs)
2. A case with few actors, and large investment required (e.g. large scale re-greening programme, restoring agricultural lands)
3. A case with many actors, and relatively small investment required (e.g. mosaic landscape with many smallholders having small projects only)
4. A case with many actors, and large investment required (e.g. upscaling smaller activities in a mosaic landscape to a much higher scale)

#### How to apply the tool?

This matrix serves to gain more grip on a landscape investment case. After plotting the case in the matrix, three guiding questions can be asked to further strengthen the case:

1. What exactly has to be financed (what is your business case)?
2. Who do you think could/should finance that need?
3. Why would they be interested to step in, and which are the incentives that will help them step in?

## Gender & landscape matrix



**Use:** assess gender-inclusiveness in decision-making/governance in a landscape case

### What does it say?

This matrix visualises the relationship between gender and landscapes and illustrates the mutual-reinforcement between gender inclusivity in decision making/governance and the incorporation of multiple landscape functions into a 'landscape initiative'. The matrix forms a quadrant that is based on two hypotheses that need to be verified:

1. Increased gender inclusivity in governance enables the incorporation of plural landscape functions, increasing the likelihood of wider socio-environmental benefits in the landscape
2. High recognition of landscape multifunctionality in landscapes initiatives enable the addressing of gender issues to generate more equitable landscape based interventions.

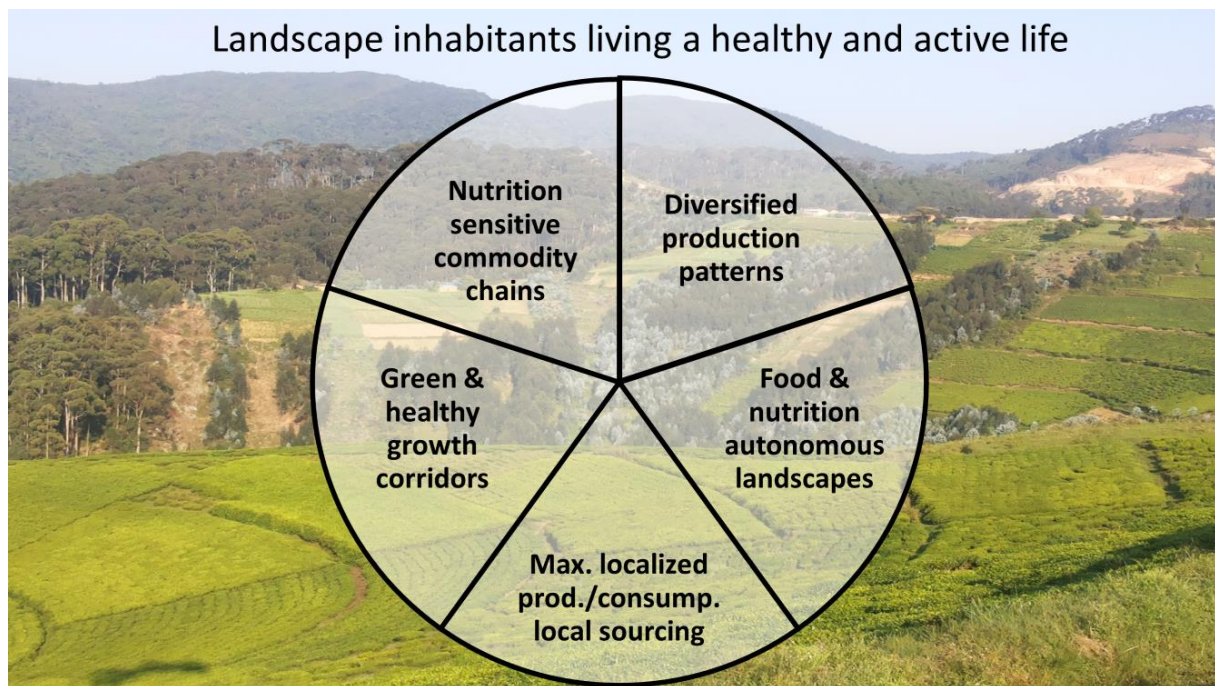
### How to apply the tool?

By plotting a case in the matrix, both the landscape case itself and the gender-inclusiveness can be assessed, highlighting needs to further strengthen the case in terms of gender sensitivity and inclusiveness. Questions that accompany the matrix to discuss the case:

1. In what way is gender integrated in the programme design and implementation?
2. Is there any indication that incorporates gender considerations in the programme resulted in an increase in awareness about the difference functions of the landscape?
3. What were the most important challenges to overcome?



## Pathways towards FNS landscapes framework



**Use:** assess and plan the road towards a FNS landscape

### What does it say?

This framework represents five potential pathways towards achieving FNS landscapes. There is not one method and this chart sheds light onto the various options and allows one plot which pathway a landscape approach is currently following and which pathway one might wish to follow.

### How to apply the tool?

By plotting one's landscape into this framework insight can be obtained in the pathway that is currently followed, the core of the chart being a completely FNS landscape and becoming less so towards the outer rim. This tool is particularly helpful to compare one's own landscape with others and exchange knowledge and lessons learned on how to arrive onto a different pathway that might be more suitable for a particular landscape. Guiding questions to discuss each case:

1. What is needed to arrive at a food & nutrition sensitive landscape?
2. What are the prerequisites for getting there?
3. What are enabling factors for getting there?

## Landscape governance framework



**Uses:** design integrated landscape approaches or assess existing projects on their integratedness

### What does it say?

In this framework, five basic competences of a landscape entrepreneur are shown. Ideally, a landscape entrepreneur acts like a spider in a web, connecting all stakeholders, disciplines and administrative levels that are involved in a landscape issue. In order to do so successfully, five key competences need to be in place. These competences form the key elements that together define the concept 'landscape governance':

- always think and act from a landscape perspective
- seek and try to create coherence in the many different stakeholders (stakes) involved
- identify how existing structures and institutions can be used for a landscape arrangement
- think of how the landscape can be sustainably financed
- think of how to sustainably use the resources in the landscape

### How to apply the tool?

This framework provides a frame of references for a landscape intervention and makes the various elements of a landscape approach more tangible. The framework can be used as a starting point for the development of an intervention or to assess the current situation in a landscape and identify needs for strengthening of existing landscape projects.