



APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RESEARCH IN THE CGIAR

Meine van Noordwijk



WORLD AGROFORESTRY CENTRE

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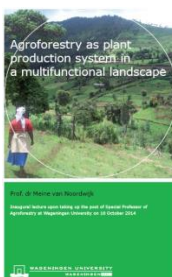
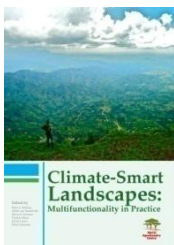
Intact upper watershed of the Konawehea river in SE Sulawesi with a complex political history, and recent re-settlement of villages soon to be flooded if plans for a reservoir come through (Meine van Noordwijk) and crossing a river in Buol district where the bridge has been repeatedly washed out by floods (Sacha Amaruzaman)

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However, final responsibility for this selection of ideas and remaining (potentially supra-optimal) confusion rests with me.

Summary

As an introduction to a discussion by the International Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) of the CGIAR, basic concepts of ecosystem and environmental services are here related to the current Sustainable Development Goals debate, the positioning of the CGIAR in that debate and ongoing efforts by CGIAR research programs. The argument is developed in ten steps:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals try to reconcile the unfinished business of the human development deficit at the bottom of the pyramid, with the realization of planetary boundaries and the need for substantial gains in the efficiency of enhancing human wellbeing per unit resource use. Agriculture, still over a third of global employment, will need to transform towards greater productivity per unit land and labour but will also need to minimize direct negative external environmental effects. These issues involve five scales of economics (giga-, macro-, meso-, micro- and pico-) and the three temporal scales of efficiency, persistence and sustainability. The SDGs can be understood to cater for all layers of a 'human well-being' pyramid that relates physical security and shelter as fundament and issues of identity and self-realization as top.
2. A better understanding, appreciation and management of ecosystem services, the human well-being derived from 'natural capital', is key to SDG attainment. Unfortunately, negative impacts on these services have historically been an externality of decisions about land-use intensification. The externality argument applies especially to the 'environmental services' subset ecosystem services. Regulating, supporting and cultural services tend to be treated as externalities while 'provisioning' services generally do have markets that allow them to be directly valued, even if current use stays outside of the formal economy. A basic scheme of how effects on (agro)ecosystem structure and function leads to loss of environmental services, which can affect both the lower and upper strata of a human well-being pyramid, suggests that there are multiple potential feedback loops that can internalize the externalities of land-use decisions. However, the cross-scale relations involved in, for example, the water cycle, need to be better understood. The recently recognized 'rainbow water' (40% of rainfall derives from terrestrial recycling, with large variation between positions on the globe) is a missing piece of the puzzle with 'water policy' currently dominated by blue, grey and green water issues.
3. In the revised Strategic Results Framework of the CGIAR, environmental services issues are part of the third 'pillar'. Compared with the more holistic SDG framework, the CGIAR still identifies primarily with increases in productivity and rural income but the need for better management of the trade-offs at the macro-

to- giga-scale—by protecting and restoring forests—have been included in the agenda. The primary challenge remains to find the appropriate scales for combining the concepts of multifunctionality of land ('sharing') with the 'necessary but not sufficient' condition of productivity increase ('sparing') and addressing the lack of valuation and recognition ('caring'). Within that discussion, agroforestry and forests have historically played complementary roles.

4. Current science-based theories of change in this domain usually refer to socio-ecological systems with multiple feedbacks contributing to complexity and emergent behaviour. Theories of place complement the generic theories of change in clarifying the strength of pressures, the current condition and trends, and the political agency that can influence drivers. Combining theories of place and change, context-specific theories of agency for change can be constructed. Current development parlance describes the derived planned agency as 'theories of change' but is often lacking in credibility as well as legitimacy.
5. Recent recognition of parts of the globe that are primary sources and sinks for terrestrial recycling of rainfall may help understand why previous generalizations in the forest-water debate failed. The relative importance of environmental services' impacts on land use and land-use change vary along a 'forest transition curve'. This framework provides a further 'theory of place' that can be applied at national to subnational scales as a basis of typologies but the recently recognized prominence of trees outside forests (43% of agricultural land with at least 10% tree cover) shows significant variation between regions. Further, theories of place include more information on the forest-agriculture relationship in terms of spatial pattern and institutional constellation.
6. The various 'theories of place' and associated typologies can be combined with the 'issue cycle' concept to understand the emergence of multiple governance responses ('carrots, sticks and sermons') that aim at internalizing externalities. The past decade of discussion and learning on 'payment for environmental services' (PES) can be seen in this light, with the emerging need to combine (perceived) fairness and results-based efficiency.
7. New insights in socio-ecological systems at local 'learning landscape' scale have emerged from various efforts to enhance and create incentives for environmental service-friendly land use. Multiple roles for researchers are needed in boundary work between three complementary and often competing knowledge domains: local, public/policy and scientific (modellers') knowledge. The emerging theories of boundary objects point to the importance of legitimacy, next to salience and credibility, as a quality criterion in this type of work, often at landscape scale.
8. Globally, many institutions have picked up on the interdisciplinary challenges of 'green' accounting, valuation of ecosystem services, and the assessment of global

and regional patterns of change. Various CGIAR scientists and parts of CRPs are currently connected to global leaders in these fields

9. A closer look at current CGIAR involvement with the ecosystem/environmental services cutting edge shows that a more coherent representation and communication of this part of the CG agenda may be possible and desirable.
10. A number of specific suggestions are presented as a contribution to the debate on how to take this forward as part of 'theories of agency for change' for place-based integrative work, as well as at thematic level, across centres and CRPs:
 - Position the CGIAR to address the trade-offs and intersection of 'agricultural production' with the wider set of SDGs
 - Contribute to, and interact with, global system thinking that explores the wider interactions of various pathways towards 'agricultural intensification'
 - Ensure that the negative consequences of agriculture and its intensification are recognized in early stages of technology development
 - Connect with the primary international movers on the 'ecosystem services' and 'environmental governance' agenda, through a globally representative network of sentinel and learning landscapes (with the sentinel function focused on 'monitoring', the learning on action research to find solutions)
 - Ensure that environmental service 'boundary work' is done in all types of landscapes and land use with which the CGIAR engages, and that it is connected in a global community of practice, linked with academic and governance circles
 - Focus on the interface of rights-based approaches (clarification of state vs community rights, community vs household, household vs individual), spatial planning, macro-economic policy and the use of performance-based economic instruments ('PES'), to better understand the type of governance response that can best facilitate sustainable development at local, national and global scales.

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1. Why? What's the giga-issue in terms of Sustainable Development Goals?

The historical increase in global food production has been achieved at considerable cost to environmental integrity (Fig. 1.1; Van Noordwijk et al 2014a). With increasing concerns over 'planetary boundaries' (Rockström et al 2009), there is widespread support for a perspective on 'futures we want' that involves further increases in agriculture (incl. livestock and forestry) having to include a partial recovery of global environmental integrity, while 'futures we fear' may hit thresholds that lead to a crash, as discussed in the context of global climate change. Current discussions on sustainable development goals (SDGs) set objectives to move into the desirable quadrant (Table 1.1).

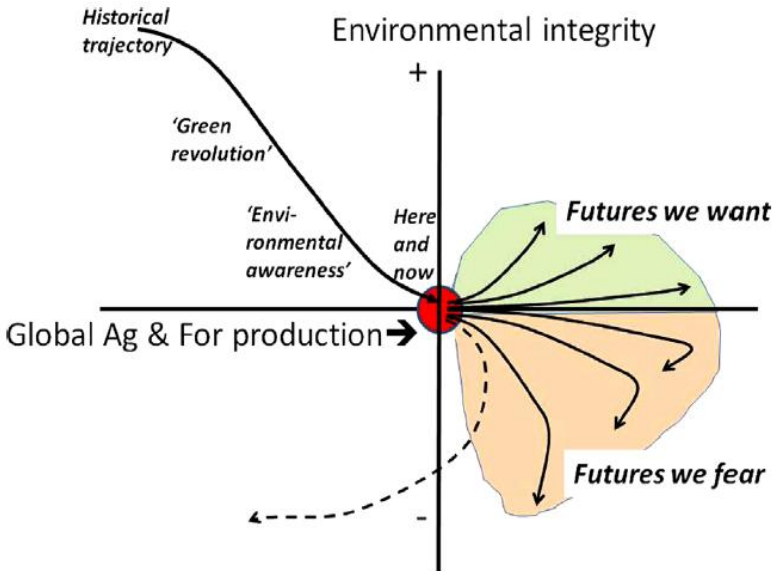


Fig. 1.1 Historical trajectory of humanity and its future options in the trade-off between environmental services and agricultural and forest production that enhances income, food supply and food security (Van Noordwijk et al 2014a)

Table 1.1 Tentative classification of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as issues along both X and Y axes of the sustainable development quadrant (Fig. 1.1); compare with attachment 1, Mbow et al (2014) and Mbow et al (2015)

Maps mostly on X	Equally linked to X and Y	Maps mostly on Y
SDG1 'End <u>poverty</u> '	SDG3 ' <u>healthy</u> lives'	SDG6 ' <u>water</u> , sanitation'
	SDG4 ' <u>education</u> '	SDG11 ' <u>cities</u> '
SDG2 'End <u>hunger</u> , <u>sustainable agriculture</u> '	SDG5 ' <u>gender</u> equality'	SDG13 ' <u>climate change</u> '
	SDG7 ' <u>energy</u> '	SDG14 ' <u>oceans</u> '
	SDG8 'economic growth and <u>employment</u> '	SDG15 'Protect <u>terrestrial ecosystems</u> , forests, reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss'
	SDG9 ' <u>infrastructure</u> , innovation'	
	SDG10 'reduce inequality'	
	SDG12 'sustainable <u>consumption</u> '	
	SDG16 ' <u>peace</u> , accountable and inclusive institutions'	
	SDG17 ' <u>means of implementation</u> '	

The real challenge for agriculture at global scale and across all major regions is thus to increase yields alongside environmental restoration aligned with the targets of 'ecological intensification'. For example, land-use systems that integrate trees and crops and/or livestock are well-placed to combine progress along both the Y (restoration) and the positive X (productivity) axes in an 'integrated' way.

Box 1. Externalities in giga-, macro-, meso-, micro- and pico-economics; sustainability

Externalities are understood to be attributable impacts that are not fully considered or valued in a decision-making process. For example, effects on environmental services at landscape level may be externalities of farm-level decisions. Global environmental impacts still tend to be externalities for national-scale decision making. The attributable impact may (but doesn't have to) involve 'lateral flows' or 'teleconnections', or effects that occur external to the location of the decision maker. In this context, we may deal with five scales of economics (van Noordwijk et al 2012a):

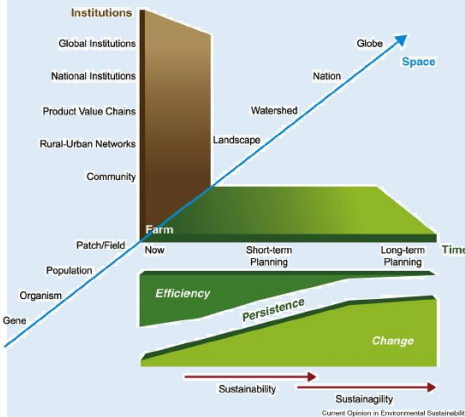
Giga-economics or 'ecological economics' starts from planetary boundaries in which human livelihoods have to fit

Macro-economics deals primarily with the way nation states can, in interaction with the (trans-) national private sector, manage scarce resources; it can go beyond the conventional focus on GDP and include a 'human development' or 'social progress' index

Meso-economics or 'environmental economics' tries to fit environmental issues into a mainstream economic frame, through concepts such as price and markets, to interact with intangible 'value', targeting internalization of 'social externalities' of private decision making

Micro-economics deals with decision making on the use of scarce resources at the individual, household, farm or small/medium enterprise level where prices tend to be exogenous (externally determined)

Pico-economics or 'behavioural economics' deals with actual decision making by *humans* rather than the *econs* studied under conventionally implicit 'rationality' assumptions



Jackson et al 2010 recognized three time scales: 1) the here-and-now scale of efficiency considerations; 2) the sustainability and social capital scale of persistence of current livelihoods' options, protected from negative externalities that feed back to the decision maker; and 3) the continued change or **sustainability** scale of maintaining a resource base for future adaptation to deal with as-yet unpredictable challenges and options.

Fig. 1.2 Scales involved in sustainability of agriculture (Jackson et al 2011)

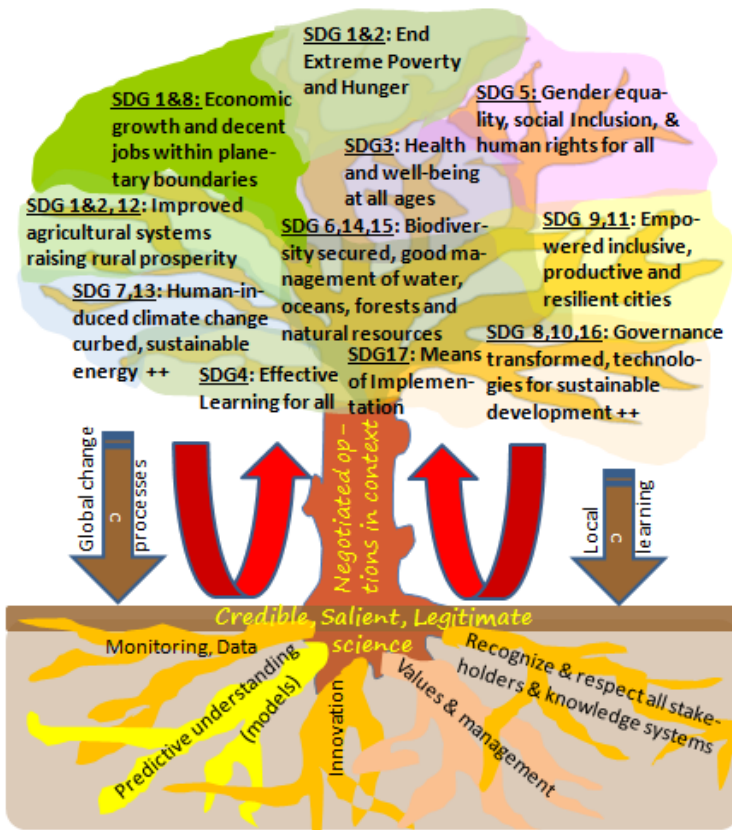


Fig. 1.3 Portrayal of SDGs as the intertwining canopy of a knowledge tree, rooted in local wisdom and science (inspired by IIED colleagues)

The SDGs can be represented as fruits borne on a tree with intertwined branches, which is borne on a stem of negotiated solutions and managed trade-offs at nested scales, rooted in knowledge that is salient, credible and legitimate, combining globally consistent science and locally attuned knowledge systems.

Following the tradition to represent the 'human well-being' concept as a modified Maslow pyramid (Costanza et al 2007; van Noordwijk et al 2014c) we can see SDGs address a broad scale of needs (Fig. 1.4).

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) address all levels of a 'human well-being' or Maslow pyramid*

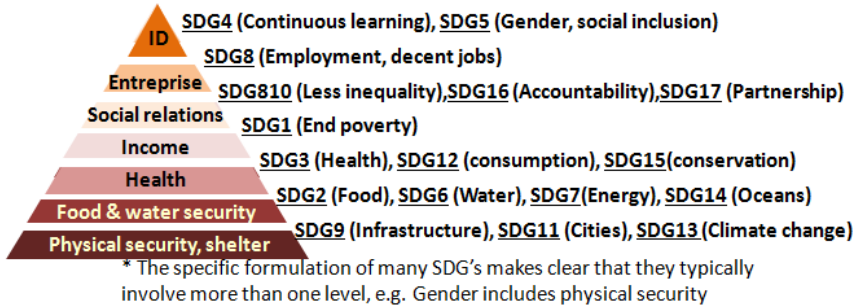
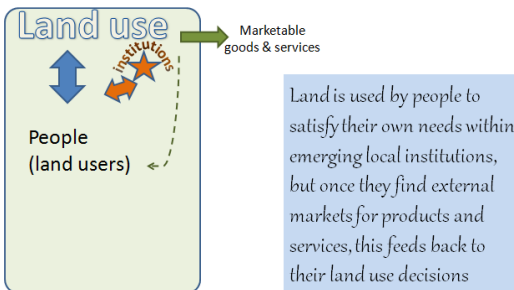
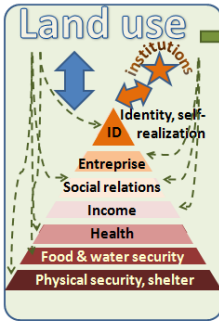


Fig. 1.4 Tentative grouping of the SDGs as associated with the various layers of a human-wellbeing pyramid

Pico-economics (Box 1) studies the way all these levels influence decisions, beyond 'income centrality'. The SDG's are by nature anthropocentric and focused on human well-being, but the underpinning Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) leaves space for 'intrinsic value' of nature, plants and animals, in 'existence value' beyond direct utility to humans.

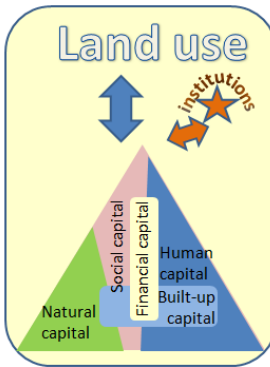
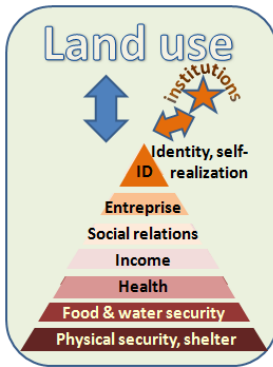
Intermezzo: build-up of a complex socio-ecological system in schematic form



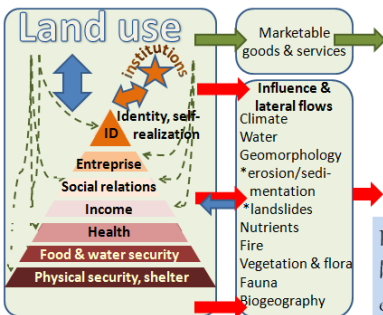


Marketable goods & services

People are complex entities... Their decisions are influenced by many aspects of a 'well-being' or Maslow pyramid, representing their 'basic needs', their social relations within evolving local institutions, and human capital.



The 'well-being' or Maslow pyramid relates to all of the five asset (capital) types of the 'livelihoods analysis'. It can help us understand the multiple dimensions of 'poverty'. Financial capital (and lack of income definitions of poverty) focus on the middle of the diagram.



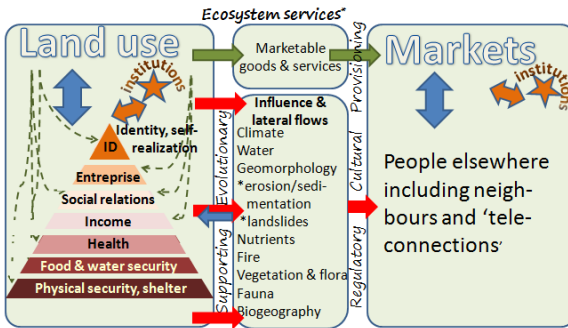
People elsewhere including neighbours and 'teleconnections'

Land use, however, has environmental effects that affect the land users directly, but also impact on people elsewhere

People elsewhere can 'outsource' their food production and other needs, as long as they have terms of trade that allow them to do so.

Outsourcing, however, implies a loss of control.

→ Externality of decision making

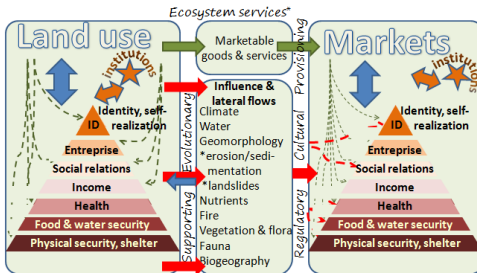


Markets have replaced primary Land Use as the proximate provider of (nearly) all goods and services for a majority of the human population, even though ultimately these still depend on land use elsewhere.

The terminology of ecosystem and environmental services reflect these impacts on others, as externalities of LU decision making

* Environmental Services (ES) equals ecosystem services (ES*) minus market-based provisioning
 → Externality of decision making

People are potentially affected at all levels of the well-being pyramid by the impacts of land use, whether in their neighbourhood or globally.



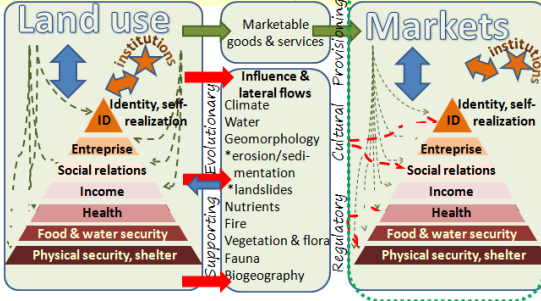
The various ES affect people at all levels of their well-being pyramid. To deal with negative effects of declining ES, they have 6 options:

→ Externality of decision making*

Where a lack of environmental services (ES) becomes an issue, people have a choice between:

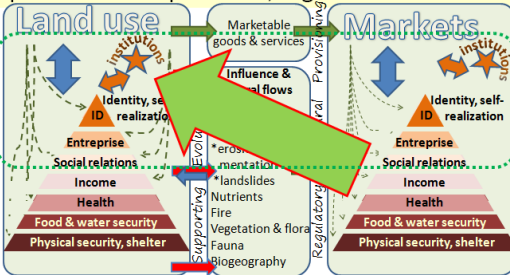
1. Moving on, starting afresh elsewhere
2. Trying to control those who damage the ES
3. Use engineering of the landscape (e.g. reservoirs in rivers)
4. Use economic incentives to change their behaviour
5. Boycott uncertified products
6. Try to convince those who damage the ES to change their behaviour

Option 1: move to a clean place elsewhere



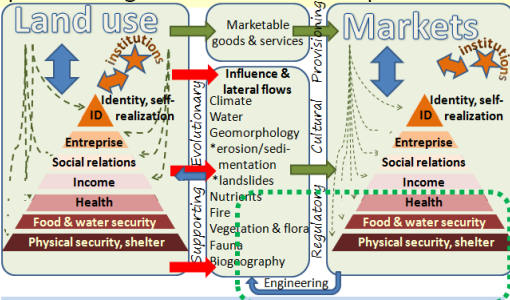
Human history is full of shifting loci of culture, but now there's nowhere left to go; global impacts affect any place on this planet

Option 2: forbid pollution, regulate land use



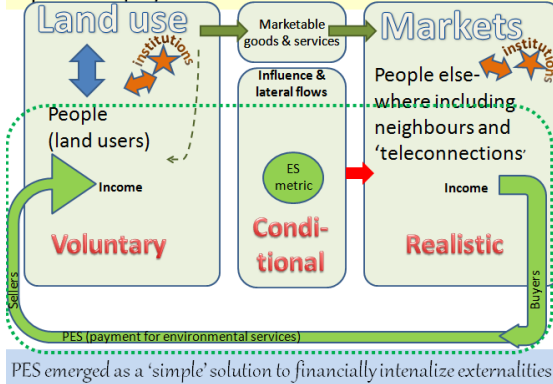
This option depends on power relation and may require strong enforcement; it breaks down under more democratic governance

Option 3: engineer to reduce ES dependence



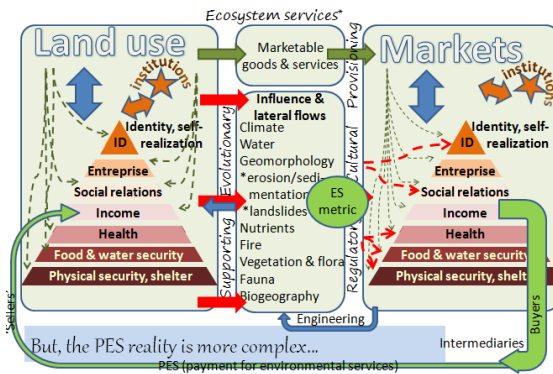
Engineering can help with e.g. water and water-related issues (floods, landslides), but tends to be high-cost and rigid (sunk costs)

Option 4: payments for environmental services



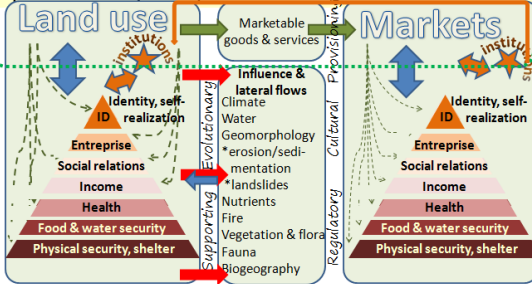
PES can be micro-economically rational for the 'sellers' of ES if it provides benefits in excess of the real (and legal) opportunity costs of ES-friendly land uses.

ES (option 4) can be micro-economically rational for the 'buyers' of ES if the costs are lower than what engineering (option 3) would cost, and if it can synergize with options 2 and 5 and 6. It may be 'efficient' for both 'buyers' and 'sellers'...



However, the PES reality is more complex, and only part of what the 'PES buyers' pay will actually end up in the 'PES sellers' pockets. Transaction costs of various categories are substantial. Who has the right to receive, and who has the power to enforce, payments? Who monitors compliance and has the right to do so? As collective action is needed on both sides, what does 'voluntary' mean?

Option 5: boycott products without certification

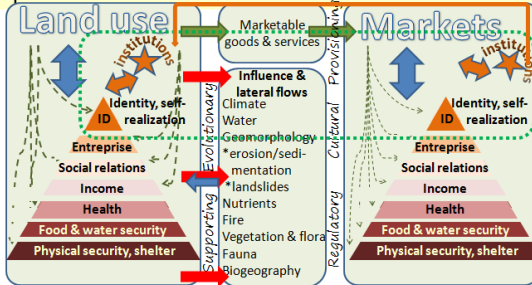


Boycotts help to increase awareness and can lead to 'ecocertification' as response, but this may have high transaction costs for all

* Environmental Services (ES) equals ecosystem services (ES*) minus market-based provisioning
 → Externality of decision making

Negative economic incentives may be easier. Boycotts can be effective means, early in an 'issue cycle' to raise awareness with a broader public that there are valid concerns with status quo. Typically a phase of 'denial' is followed by acceptance that there is in fact a 'management swing potential' (Davis et al 2013), and an associated opportunity to differentiate the top end from the average and bottom parts: ecocertification tries to gain trust from consumers to 'not boycott' and may even offer some price premium.

Option 6: Link the institutions and identities



Creating a shared sense of identity, moral standards of acceptable behaviours can internalize externalities of LU decisionmaking

* Environmental Services (ES) equals ecosystem services (ES*) minus market-based provisioning
 → Externality of decision making

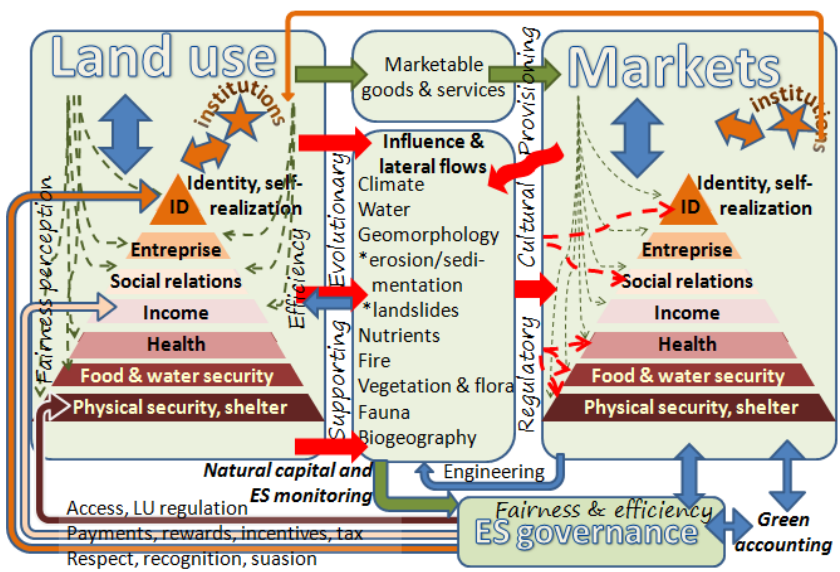
Where PES (option 4) emphasized 'efficiency', primarily from the perspective of those who pay, in the landscapes that influence ES the sense of 'fairness', of being recognized and respected is at least as important. More mutualistic institutional relationships can play a large role in 'internalizing' externalities at the 'top of the pyramid' level.



Three PES-related paradigms

- **Commodification** of environmental services
 - A. packages of ES become tradable commodities,
 - B. *ecocertification* of existing commodities;
- **Compensation** for foregone ES-unfriendly but legal opportunities;
- **Coinvestment** in environmental *stewardship*.

The 'simple' PES concept of option 4 has been broadened to include elements of the other options. We now recognize three 'paradigms' as part of the broader 'economic incentives' family of ES-enhancing instruments.



* Environmental Services (ES) equals ecosystem services (ES*) minus market-based provisioning
 → Externality of decision making

2. Ecosystem and environmental services: externalities of land-use intensification?

Costanza et al (2014) estimated the cost of the loss of ecological services from 1997 to 2011 due to land-use change at USD 4.3–20.2 trillion/yr, depending on details of the assessment method. They estimated that environmental services contributed more than twice as much to human well-being as global GDP. Various aspects of these calculations deserve further analysis but it may be clear that negative effects on ecological services owing to agriculture cannot be ignored if we want to enhance human wellbeing at large. This supports argument for conservation that go beyond utilitarian ones (Baudron and Giller 2014)

‘Ecosystem’ services are, since the MA in 2005 (Capistrano et al 2005), commonly grouped under provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services. Reasonable arguments have been made to distinguish ‘evolutionary’ services related to continued processes of genetic adaptation and innovation) as a subset of the MA category of ‘supporting services’. As the provisioning services generally have established markets, they are generally not part of the ‘externality’ argument. ‘Environmental’ services (ES) are understood as ecosystem services (ES*) beyond ‘provisioning’ (van Noordwijk et al 2012a).

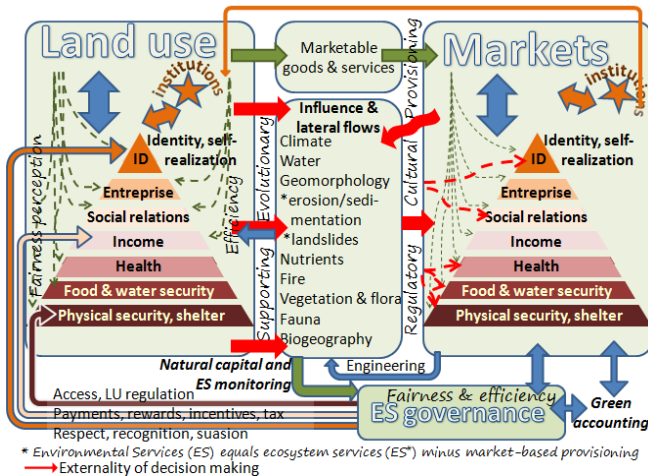


Fig. 2.1 The main system components that relate to an ‘environmental services’ (ES) supply–demand situation, with pico-economic agents as land users and as ES beneficiaries

ES can be further understood on the basis of the climate (macro-, meso- and micro-) and associated global cycles of water, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus and other nutrients that they interact with, as well as the active surface of the land (geomorphology) that is shaped by erosion, landslides, sedimentation and soil formation, and the dynamics of vegetation, fire, flora and fauna.

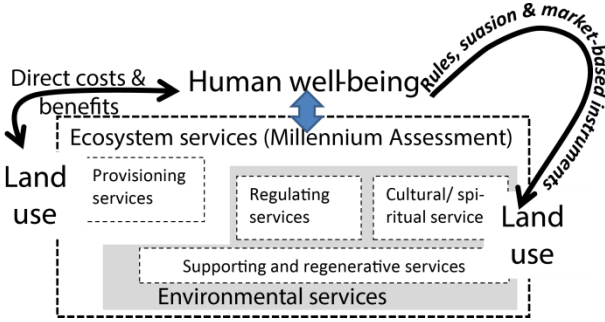


Fig. 2.2 Environmental services as a subset of ecosystem services (van Noordwijk et al 2012a)

A more radical perspective applies the ‘segregate vs integrate’ framing to the way urban, agricultural and natural circles interact, with the rural poor squeezed in between (Fig. 2.3)

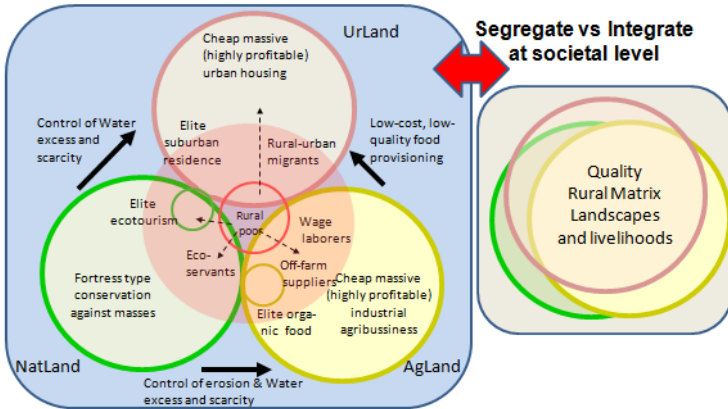


Fig. 2.3 Social segregation in perceived value and attractiveness of the natural, agricultural and urban parts of the landscape (modified from Garcia-Barrios et al 2009)

Box 2A. The full hydrological cycle as basis of various ecosystem services

Various classification systems exist. In the important domain of water a language of colours (blue, green, grey, rainbow) is in use that can help to describe the ES involved.

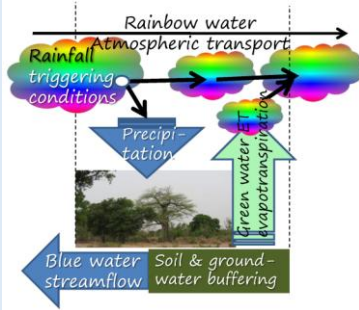


Fig. 2.4 The hydrological cycle can be seen as a series of interlinked cycles across an ocean–land gradient (Van Noordwijk et al 2014e)

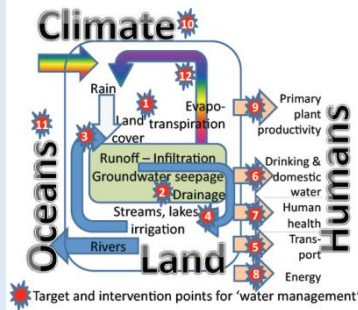


Fig. 2.5. The water cycle in relation to blue, green and rainbow water, and the various aspects that have over time been included in integrated water(shed) management (van Noordwijk et al 2015a)

Table 2.1 Tentative classification of water-related environmental services (Leimona et al 2015b, modified from van Noordwijk 2006)

Primary issue	Payment for Watershed Services prototypes: plausible actions by land users to enhance hydrological function
Water yield	
Green	<u>WY1</u> : Restoring vegetation-level water use and hence subsurface and surface flows to that of natural vegetation from values that are lower (less or more-open vegetation) or higher (fast-growing trees)
Blue	<u>WY2</u> : Maintaining ecological flows that support aquatic life forms (and associated fisheries etc.)
Rainbow	<u>WY3</u> : Maintaining green water use as contribution to atmospheric recycling for downwind rainfall
Regular flows	
Green/blue	<u>WF4</u> : Increasing rainfall infiltration, maximizing use of slow-release groundwater pathways, reducing flood volume and duration (increased flow persistence)
Blue	<u>WF5</u> : Modifying operating rules for reservoirs and hydropower schemes
Sedimentation	
Blue	<u>WS6</u> : Enhancing sediment filter strips in fields and across the landscape matrix
Green/blue	<u>WS7</u> : Protecting river banks, riparian zones and landslide-prone slopes
Water quality	
Blue/green	<u>WQ8</u> : Protecting springs and sources of domestic water use
Blue	<u>WQ9</u> : Reducing point and distributed (nonpoint) sources of pollution
Grey	<u>WQ10</u> : Waste water treatment to match biological recovery from (organic) pollutants

Box 2B. Intensification effects on landscape-level ES

In practice, intensification applies to landscapes as a whole rather than to agriculture and forests as separate components, with lateral flows of various types as the primary connection between ecosystem structure and function.

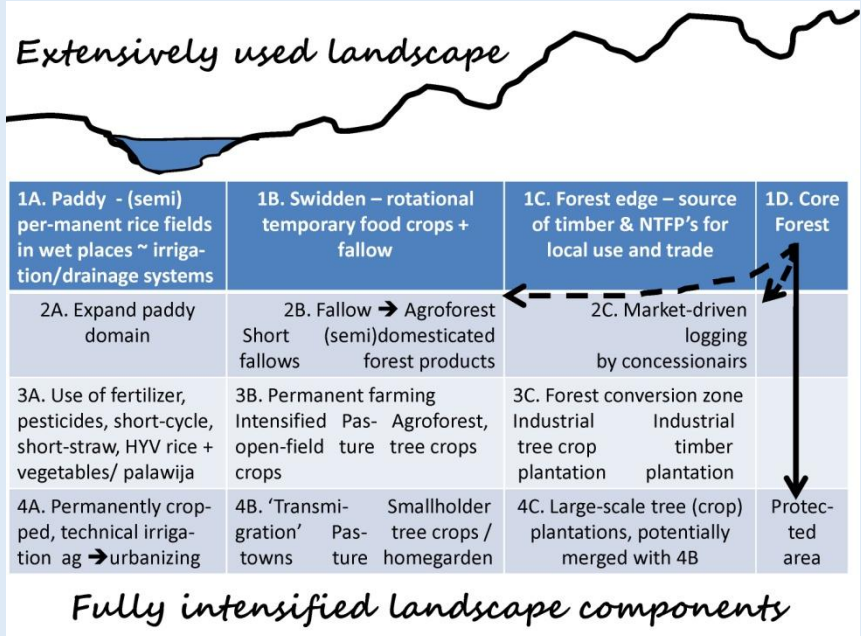


Fig. 2.6 Schematic of four stages of landscape intensification (1...4) across four parts (A...D) of a toposequence, connected by surface and subsurface water flows, as well as human livelihoods’ strategies, all influencing (perceptions of) environmental services (van Noordwijk et al 2015c)

Intensification of land use is often based on replacing existing lateral resource flows by external inputs, with tradeoffs between productivity and conservation (Klapwijk et al., 2014), and negative spillover to adjacent areas (van Noordwijk et al. 2004; Baudron and Giller 2014). The financial cost of external inputs provide some rational to maintain financially acceptable resource use efficiencies, but the ‘efficiency gap’ will generally widen in last steps to close the ‘yield gap’ (van Noordwijk and Brussaard 2014). Input price policy for fertilizer and pesticides is a coarse policy instrument, where fine control is needed.

3. Where are environmental services in the CGIAR Strategic Results Framework?

The Strategic Results Framework (SRF) is, in line with historical strengths of the CGIAR, primarily targeting the agenda globally captured in SDG2, with elements of SDG1 for the rural segments of population and SDG5 on gender, in a focus on ‘provisioning’ and ‘primary production value chains’. The aim is to meet, rather than question, rising demand for food, fibre and (bio)energy. Other organizations opened up to issues of distribution, dietary choices and waste. The agenda of the other SDGs is lumped in the CGIAR under a general ‘natural resource management’ or ‘environmental services’ heading, with specific points of interaction with agricultural productivity through agrochemicals, water, land degradation and forests. In the Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs), as currently articulated, the interface of the X and Y axes is fairly well represented but the Y-axis as such only explicitly in terms of climate-change mitigation (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Tentative association of the 11 CGIAR IDOs with the X and Y axis of Fig. 1.1

Maps mostly on X	Equally linked to X and Y	Maps mostly on Y
(IDO 1). Productivity – Improved productivity in pro-poor food systems	(IDO 4). Income – Increased and more equitable income from agricultural and natural resources management and environmental services earned by low-income value chain actors	(IDO 11). Climate – Increased carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gases through improved agriculture and natural resources management
(IDO 2). Food security – Increased and stable access to food commodities by rural and urban poor	(IDO 5). Gender and empowerment – Increased control over resources and participation in decision-making by women and other marginalized groups	
(IDO 3). Nutrition – Improved diet quality of nutritionally vulnerable populations, especially women and children	(IDO 6). Capacity to innovate – Increased capacity for innovation within low-income and vulnerable rural communities, allowing them to improve livelihoods	
	(IDO 7). Adaptive capacity – Increased capacity in low-income communities to adapt to environmental and economic variability, shocks and longer-term changes	
	(IDO 8). Policies – More effective policies supporting sustainable, resilient and	

Maps mostly on X	Equally linked to X and Y	Maps mostly on Y
	<p>equitable agricultural and natural resources management developed and adopted by agricultural, conservation and development organizations, national governments and international bodies</p> <p>(IDO 9). Environment – Minimized adverse environmental effects of increased production intensification</p> <p>(IDO 10). Future options – Greater resilience of agricultural/forest/water-based/ mixed-crop, livestock and aquatic systems for enhanced ecosystem services</p>	

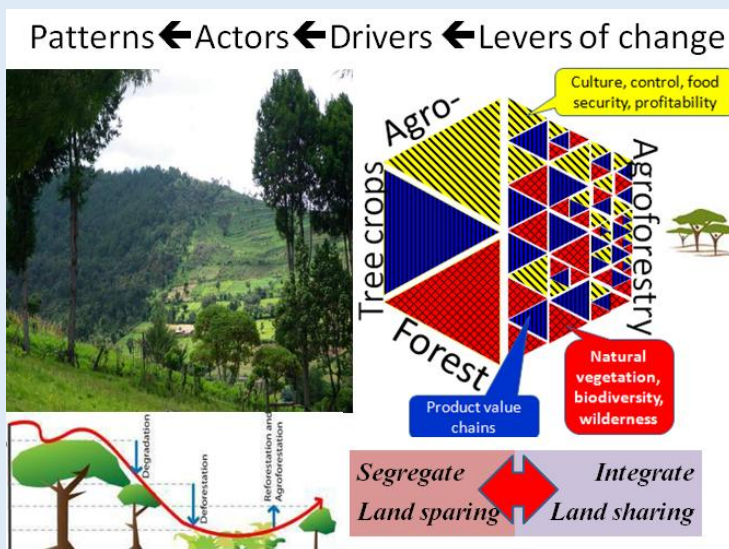
In the first generation of CRPs, a number dealt directly with aspects of the environmental services' agenda, while in others it was more diffuse or focussed on a small part of the broader agenda (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 ES aspects as part of first generation CRPs

CRP	ES aspects	Visibility of ES agenda
WLE	Water, wetlands, land health, agrobiodiversity	++
FTA	Forests and trees, management, land-use change drivers and (institutional) response options	++
CCAFS	Mitigation and adaptation of ag and food systems	(+)
PIM	Institutional aspects	(+)
AN4H	Interest in landscape-based nutrition and health	0
System-level CRPs	Little explicit articulation of ES aspects in initial work, importance varies with local context	0
Commodity-focussed CRPs	Interactions with pest, disease and weed control, pollination for pulses; some concerns on avoiding pollution with agrochemicals; efficient fertilization	0
Genebanks	<i>In situ</i> and <i>peri situ</i> conservation	0

Box 3. Borlaug hypothesis, land (sh)(p)(c)aring and segregation vs integration

As discussed elsewhere, the primary comfort zone for the CGIAR is the Borlaug hypothesis that intensifying agriculture supports conservation through ‘land sparing’. Empirical results of ASB research in the early 1990s challenged this ‘segregation’ hypothesis and framed an ‘integration’ hypothesis of ‘land sharing’ as alternative (van Noordwijk et al 2012b). The middle ground implies that ‘land caring’ is needed for either idea to work (Baudron and Giller 2014).



A new perspective on both views considers the wider class of ‘efficiency gaps’, in which area-based ‘yield gaps’ are only one of several relevant performance criteria (van Noordwijk and Brussaard 2014).

Over time, agroforestry concepts have evolved (van Noordwijk 2014) from

1. specific technologies dealing with tree-soil-crop-livestock interactions; to
2. landscape-level attention on all trees-on-farms (major part of all trees outside forests) and farmers in the forests as agriculture/forestry interface; to
3. the agro⁺forestry policy domain that manages a gradient rather than discrete entities.

4. Theory of place * theory of change

Current use of the words ‘*theory of change*’ can mean either or both of two things:

- A) A theory of how things tend to change in systems of interest
- B) A theory of how desirable change can be brought about through planned agency

Scientists prefer the first (Costanza 2014), development agencies the second (<http://www.theoryofchange.org/what-is-theory-of-change/#4>) but may agree that the first is needed, if only as counterfactual for impact studies of the interventions funded.

Generic ‘theories of change’ of the first type, their means of implementation (tending towards the second) and the positive and negative lessons learned in the application of the second type have long since been recognized as International Public Goods (IPGs) (Clark et al 2011; Sayer et al 2013). Place-based work, in all those locations where generic theories of change do not appear to easily apply has long been seen as only local in relevance, even if that relevance exceeded the local value of non-generic IPGs. We now recognize the need for explicit ‘theories of place’ to interact with ‘theories of change’, as a basis for empirically grounded extrapolation and domains for exchanging experience.

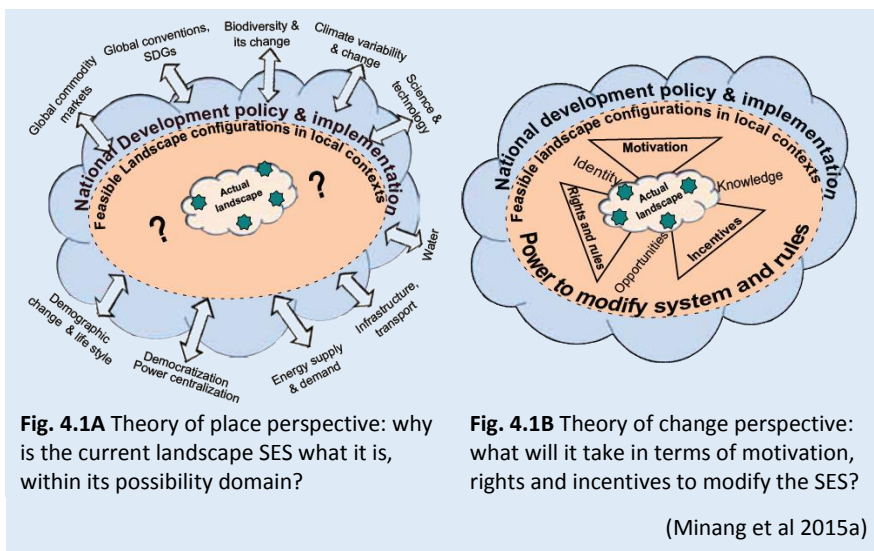


Table 4.1 Ten INRM principles from Sayer et al (2013)

- 1: Continual learning and adaptive management
- 2: Common concern entry point
- 3: Multiple scales
- 4: Multifunctionality
- 5: Multiple stakeholders
- 6: Negotiated and transparent change logic
- 7: Clarification of rights and responsibilities
- 8: Participatory and user-friendly monitoring.
- 9: Resilience
- 10: Strengthened stakeholder capacity

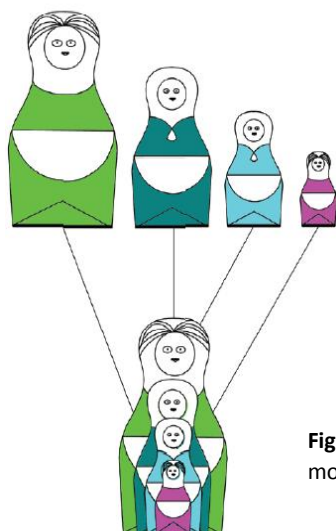
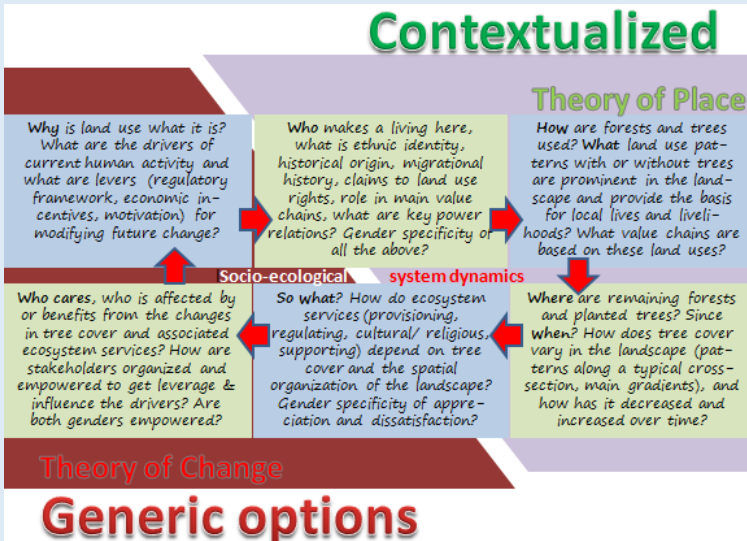


Fig. 4.2 Polycentric governance: scale-dependent morphs, same principles (Minang et al 2015b)

As exemplified by efforts to reduce emissions from tropical peatlands (van Noordwijk et al 2014d), we deal with three interactive knowledge-to-action chains:

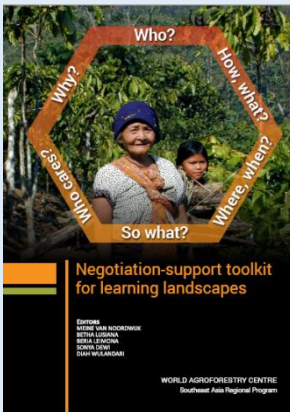
- A. from basic understanding and measurement to accepted accountability systems for ES;
- B. from denial to 'willingness' to act and 'ability to act' in governance; and
- C. identification of locally appropriate alternative land uses that are acceptable from ES perspective.

Box 4. Six questions for understanding landscapes as socio-ecological systems

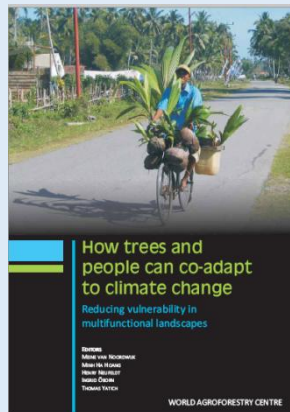


Toolbox:

Concepts:



Van Noordwijk et al 2013



Van Noordwijk et al 2011b

5. Typology of issues*place

Building on lessons learned with the forest (tree-cover) transition hypothesis, a number of different ‘typologies’ are currently in development and are tested in ‘environmental services’ context:

1) Precipitationsheds (all areas of land and ocean that contribute to precipitation over a specified area, just as watersheds are all the land area that contributes blue water to a river) have started to become recognized as the basis of teleconnections for specific types of hydrological functions.

The relative contributions of terrestrial evapotranspiration to ‘downwind’ rainfall depend strongly on location, as does the percentage of rainfall derived from evapotranspiration elsewhere (the ‘rainbow water service provisioning’ as ES), around the global average of 40%.

Continental precipitation recycling ratio ρ_c

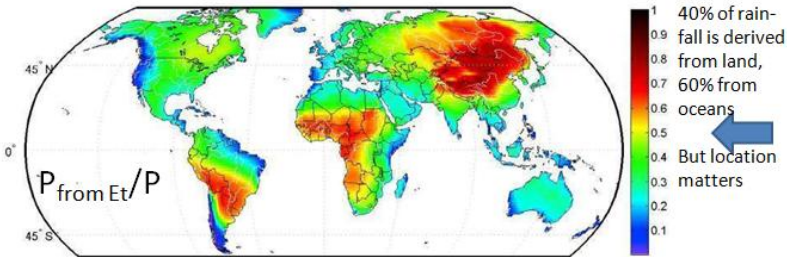


Figure 3. Average continental precipitation recycling ratio ρ_c (1999–2008).

van der Ent RJ, Savenije HHG, Schaefli B, Steele-Dunne SC, 2010. Origin and fate of atmospheric moisture over continents. Water Resources Research 46, W09525,

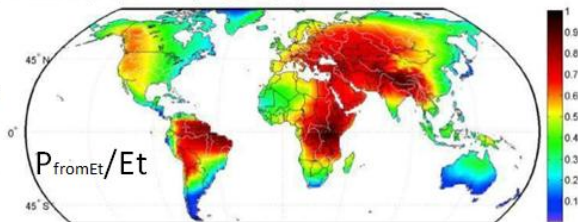


Figure 4. Average continental evaporation recycling ratio ϵ_c (1999–2008).

Fig. 5.1 Climatic teleconnections related to ‘rainbow water’ (Van der Ent et al 2010)

2) Hypotheses of environmental services and poverty dynamics alongside a 'forest transition curve'

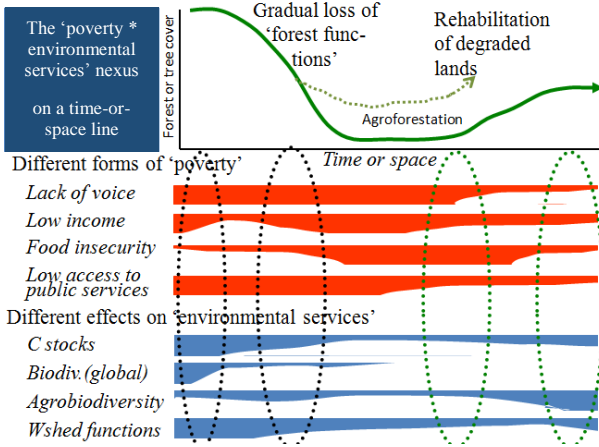


Fig. 5.2 Hypothesis of the way poverty and environmental services' dimensions vary along a forest or tree-cover transition curve (van Noordwijk 2006)

3) Using national statistics of (natural) forest cover and human population density

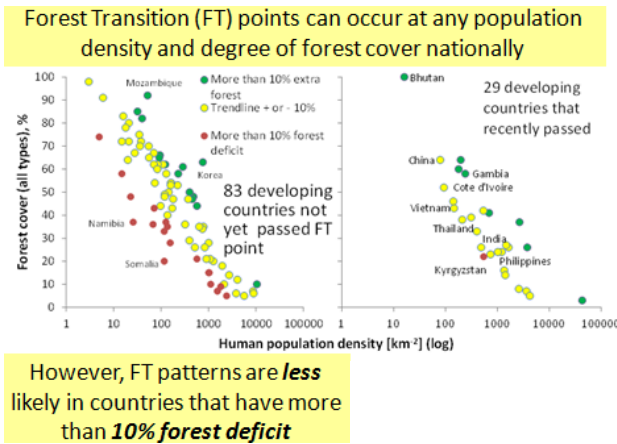


Fig. 5.3 Forest transition data at national scale in relation to the human population density ~ forest cover trade-off (van Noordwijk and Villamor 2014)

4) Empirical multi-criteria clusters of districts

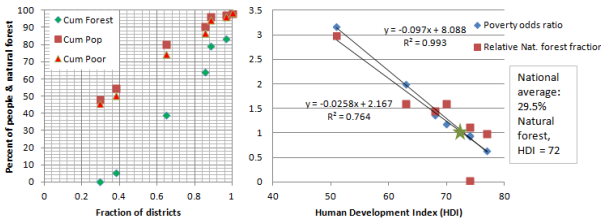
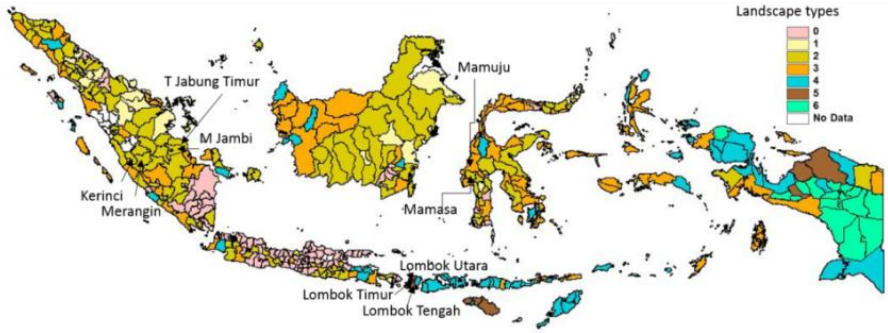


Fig. 5.4 Subnational landscape types based on forest and land use/cover, climate regime, HDI and population density (example for Indonesia in Dewi et al. in prep.)

Within Indonesia, both the prominence of natural forests (relative to national average) and poverty rate are strongly correlated with HDI (and with each other): ‘rich forests and poor people’ still correlate with consequences for environmental services, the way they are perceived and can be managed.

5) ToF = Trees outside Forest = Trees on Farm: Tree canopy cover in agricultural areas:

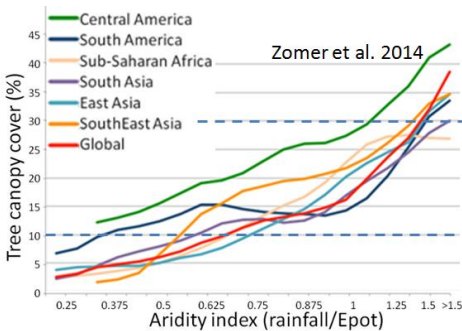


Fig. 5.5 Tree canopy cover in agricultural lands (Zomer et al 2014)

Globally more than 43% of agricultural land (with 30% of global rural population) has at least 10% tree cover but the fraction varies with climate and between regions.

6) Landscape configuration (incl. spatial and institutional aspects)



I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.
Low-intensity swidden-forest mosaics	Institutionally segregated forest and agriculture, medium-intensity	Gradient-based forest-agroforestry-agriculture landscape of medium intensity	Forested land-scape mosaic at high-intensity	Grassland-agriculture mosaic
For consequences for 'food security' transitions see van Noordwijk et al 2014a				
For contextualized boundary work to establish payments for watershed services: Leimona et al 2015b				

Fig. 5.6 Five-step typology based on forest-agriculture gradient versus dichotomy

7) The predicted impacts of climate change on climate variability, uncertainty and trends vary around the globe, with more correspondence between models on the temperature trajectories than those for rainfall. The degree to which this climate variability translates to local human vulnerability depends on the (remaining) buffer and filter functions of the (agro-)ecosystem, as well as the buffering of the social and human capitals (van Noordwijk et al 2011b; Herrero et al 2010). Avoiding the expected increase in vulnerability that will be the consequence of loss of buffering and ES with certain forms of land-use intensification (Swift et al 2004) should be a valid target but is beyond currently perceived synergy of climate-change mitigation and adaptation options (Duguma et al 2014). Quantification of the micro- and meso-climatic effects of tree cover (van Noordwijk et al 2014b) can help in managing trees as part of a CC vulnerability theory of place. Poverty traps (Swallow 2009b) due to lack of ES can be mapped.

Box 5. Gender, tenure and environmental services

The appreciation of changes in tree cover depends in part on the specific roles in productive and reproductive functions that culture, religion and tradition have assigned to men and women. If responsibility for domestic water provisioning as well as firewood for cooking is in the hands of women, as it is in many situations, impacts of landscape and policy change on water and fuelwood availability are primarily felt by women, for example.

Empirical work to explore perceptions of space, in gradients from the homestead or village outwards towards ‘forest’ or ‘wildlands’ shows that the degree of gender-based difference in perceptions and preferences varies with cultural (often ethnically defined) context. Gender-based norms in the Jambi sentinel landscape are shifting on multiple axes of Fig. 5.7 (Villamor et al 2015b; Suyanto et al *in prep.*).

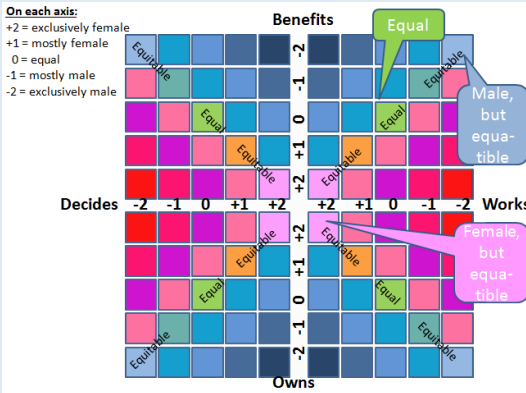


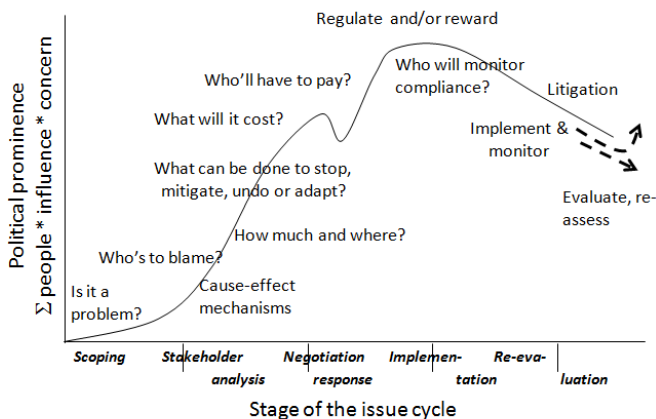
Fig. 5.7 Diagrammatic representation of gender differentiation of land uses based on four characteristics

Current work tests hypotheses that gendered rules for land tenure and inheritance (with variation, gradients and transitions between ‘matrilineal’ and ‘patrilineal’ extremes) relate to environmental services’ perceptions and to the likelihood of engaging with external agents who propose options to ‘develop’. One of the tools used in current research, the RUPES Role Play Game, was first developed for a training course in 2003. It describes a set of villages positioned in a landscape with rubber agroforests, a few rice-fields along the river and forests, some intensified rubber patches and remaining forest. Villagers make their livings from these resources but are approached by four types of agents who offer them money for logging the forest, conversion contracts to oil palm, government watershed protection funding or money for voluntary conservation through a ‘save the tiger’ foundation. Key to the game is that PES and other transactions are not regulated or constrained and negotiations and cheating are only limited by the time available. The game proved to be usable, with some simplifications, in the village setting itself, with separate rounds played by men, mixed gender groups and women. As some of the empirical results (Villamor et al 2014a) contradict, or at least challenge, widespread views, this is a fertile area for further applied research.

6. Interventions in coupled socio-ecological systems

For much of our human history, the easiest way (option 1) to deal with negative environmental effects was to move on but now there is no place left that is not affected by human activity. The next most attractive way for those affected by loss of environmental services due to the activities of land users elsewhere is to try to stop (option 2) the actors involved or, even better, have others enforce regulations that forbid such activities. If that is not feasible in the given political context and power relations, technical interventions to alleviate the negative effects on environmental services (option 3), such as engineering of river systems to reduce flooding risks, may cost money but can be economically justified. Where such costs are high, however, it may become attractive to offer economic incentives to the land users (option 4) who have the 'right to pollute' to get them to forgo their opportunities to negatively affect environmental services. Such relations became known as 'payments for environmental services', with the Catskills watershed supplying drinking water to New York City as a prime example. Payments to farmers were less than the engineering costs the company would otherwise face within the existing legal framework. From the land-users' side, this may be a way to micro-economically 'internalize externalities' and make it more attractive to not pollute, even where land users have the right to do so. Option 5 is to apply negative incentives by boycotting products that have been produced in ES-unfriendly ways, with (eco-) certification emerging as a prerequisite for market acceptability and an industry of intermediaries controlling the certification process. A sixth option is to try and shift the value system and associated pico-economic decision making of the land users towards more ES-friendly land uses. These six options to (try and) deal with ES-unfriendly land uses will interact where, as is often the case, they are tried in conjunction. The regulatory and suasion-based approaches are not easily combined, as the perceived fairness (or lack thereof) of regulation undermines the credibility of the 'suasion'.

The emergence of these options, which can be grouped under the 'carrots, sticks and sermons' of policy instruments, in response to situations where concerns over loss of environmental services becomes an 'issue' in public debate, typically follow a sequence of events as shown schematically in Fig. 6.1 (Tomich et al 2004a). For multistakeholder environments, 'negotiation support' replaced the concept of 'decision support' (van Noordwijk et al 2003), while 'sustainability' is increasingly determined through social relations (Bernard et al 2014).



Tomich et al. 2004

Fig. 6.1 Schematic stages of an 'issue cycle' in public debate, triggering a negotiated response

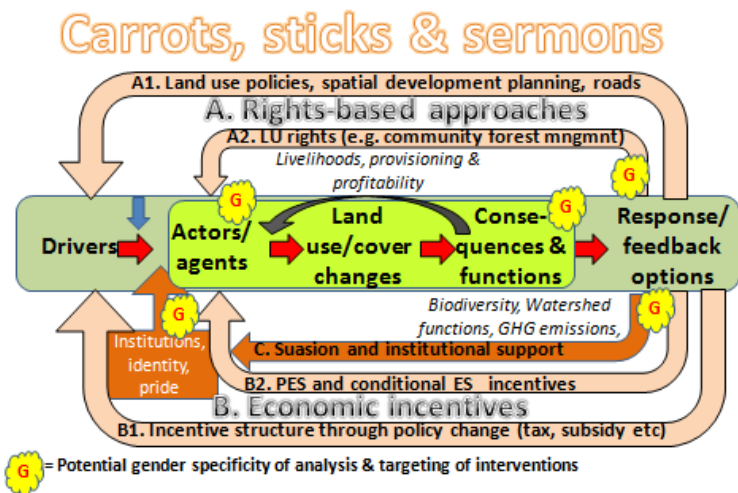


Fig. 6.2 Response options based on rights, economic incentives and suasion at driver and actor levels (modified from van Noordwijk et al 2011a)



Fig. 6.3 Schematic of the dual two-way exchange in many ‘payment for environmental services’ contexts: an exchange of respect, recognition and commitment in the upper part of the happiness motivation triangle characterized as ‘fairness’, and a more material one (‘efficiency’) in the lower part of the triangle (van Noordwijk et al 2013)

Box 6. Definitions of PES and its relatives

Trade-off analysis suggested that economic instruments may be needed to internalize externalities but that they have a chance as opportunity costs of ES protection are modest (Tomich et al 2004b). This opened the search for implementation mechanisms that can be effective, efficient and equitable. Wunder (2015) recently revisited the issue of PES definitions (Wunder 2005, 2007, 2013), with conditionality of voluntary contracts as key criterion. Swallow et al (2009a) compared compensation and rewards as PES concepts. Van Noordwijk and Leimona (2010) distinguished three paradigms within the PES continuum: commodification, compensation and co-investment in stewardship. The latter is the most successful entry point in Asia and Africa, according to Leimona et al (2009, 2015a), Lopa et al (2012) and Namirembe et al (2014).

7. Issues * place * interventions

Combining the insights on the type of environmental services' issues that are most likely to be affected by intensifying land use, depending on context, with the institutional context and proven effectiveness of policy instruments is the holy grail of this field of research (Swallow and Swallow, 2015). Meaningful progress has been made in the past decade but much remains to be done. Table 2.1 provides a tentative classification of how interventions and institutions might relate to specific watershed services in spatial context but a broader systematic review of experience is needed. Yet, we understand that local settings are linked to national and global scales through at least three pathways: natural capital, human and social capital and the financial plus infrastructural capitals (Fig. 7.3). REDD+ has shown some of the many feedbacks involved and the implications for 'readiness' and applications at scale (Minang et al 2014).

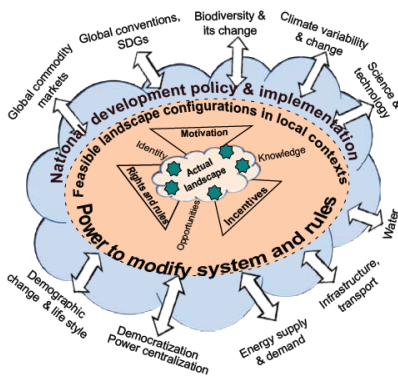


Fig. 7.1 Integrating the perspectives of theories of place and change of fig. 4.1 (van Noordwijk et al 2015b)

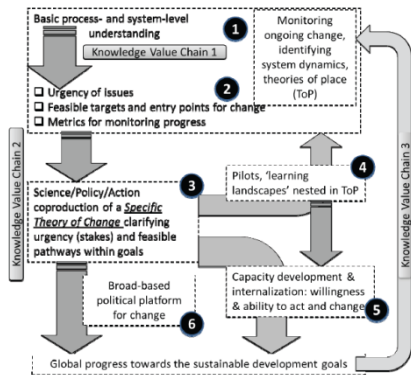


Fig. 7.2 Effective change may depend on synergy in six roles of scientists and boundary work (van Noordwijk et al 2015b)

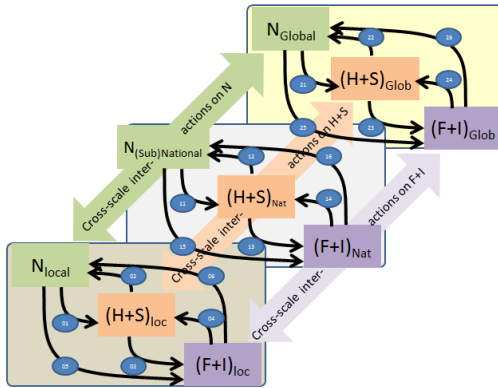


Fig. 7.3 Nested scale perspective on the way three main classes of capitals (assets) interact at local, (sub-) national and global scales, with cross-scale interactions of the capitals and within-scale interactions among them; the 3-capitals * 3-scale version may be the minimum structure needed to represent the complexity of global change science in support of a desirable future Earth

The choice of interventions needs to take the cross-scale interactions into account but first of all seeks to achieve coherence and synergy between generic economic policies (e.g. those that stimulate ‘development’ and those that aim to protect environmental integrity) and the need for specific, actor-level targeting, with instruments such as PES (Tomich et al 2004a,b; Jackson et al 2012; Lambin et al 2014).

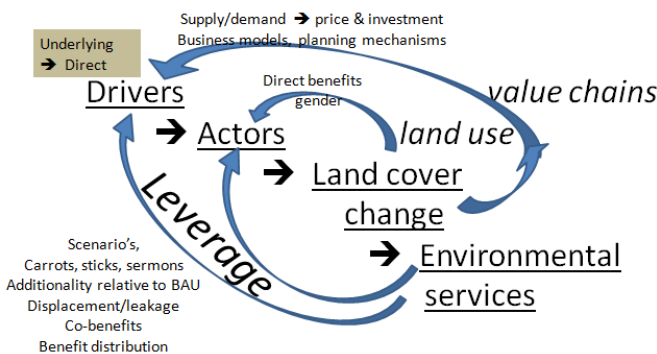
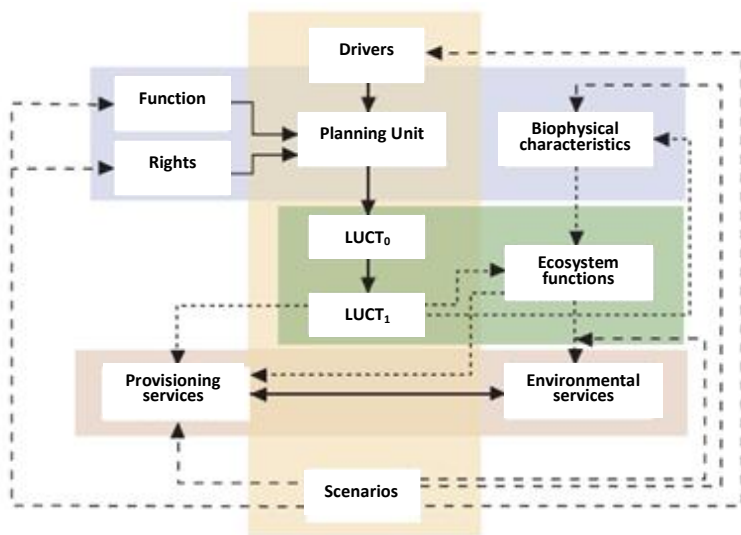


Fig. 7.4 Relevance of seeking synergy between the generic and specific leverage on drivers and actors to increase land use that is favourable for environmental services (compare Fig. 6.2)

Progress is being made on our understanding of auctions as mechanisms to a) deal with information asymmetry and derive local opportunity cost estimates; b) provide socially legitimate targeting of contracts to farmers most likely to implement; and c) as pico-economic learning opportunities that lead to commitments, beyond micro-economically agreed prices, that influence chances of implementation (Jack et al 2009; Leimona and Carrasco 2015).

At the local government level, spatial planning processes are key to reducing conflicts between functions, even though they at first may make trade-offs and conflicts more clear and apparent. New tools, such as LUMENS (Dewi et al 2014) try to reconcile the various types of spatial information with the ways multiple goals can best be achieved according to various stakeholders: supporting a local negotiation process (Fig. 7.5). These tools become ‘boundary objects’ for a learning-by-doing exploration in the context of local negotiation platforms, rather than sources of ‘expert advice’.

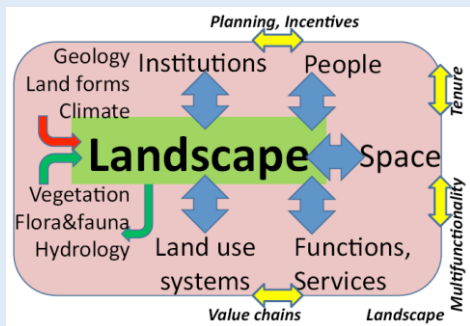


LUCT = Land Use Change Trajectory

Fig. 7.5 Analytical frame for the ‘Land use for multiple environmental services’ (LUMENS) scenario evaluation tool (Dewi et al 2014)

Box 7. Options for place-based integration of ecological intensification efforts

as summarized for 'Climate-Smart Landscapes' (Minang et al 2015a):



Aspects on which we know enough to act

Critical uncertainties

A. Current landscapes are a suboptimal member of a set of locally feasible landscape configurations:

A1. Bottom-up collective action supported by jurisdictional reform is key to success for multi-stakeholder, multiple-objective, contested-rights landscapes.

A2. Legal pluralism in multilevel governance needs attention; further metrics (operational indicators) for multifunctionality are needed.

B. Actors and interactions can nudge landscapes towards better managed trade-offs within the set of feasible configurations, through engagement, investment and interventions:

B1. As incentive systems for better landscape management, 'co-investment in stewardship' may be more effective than direct performance-based payments. Polycentric governance can use multiple, nested incentive paradigms with attention to transparency requirements.

B2. Integrative planning tools at the community level need to more effectively link diverse knowledge systems; proximate and ultimate motivation for individuals to engage in collective action needs to shape effective use of various types of incentives.

C. Climate is one of many boundary conditions for landscape functioning:

C1. Operational synergy is feasible at the landscape scale between climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and enhancing effective ecological and socio-economic buffer functions.

C2. Better metrics are needed for loss and gain of buffering of livelihoods, combining climate and other boundary conditions. There is need to pay attention to the way public-private partnerships and integrative policies can achieve mitigation co-benefits from adaptation.

D. Theories of change must be built within theories of place for effective location-specific engagement:

D1. Theories of place, including issues of identity and rights, will inform theories of change where there is early and strong involvement of local voices in any change process.

D2. Domains of similarity that include modes of decision-making need to be recognized to facilitate cross-site learning. Existing ecological stratification needs social counterparts.

8. Who's doing what globally

Internationally a number of institutions, communities of practice and networks are actively engaged in the research and development agenda for environmental services, including relations with agricultural intensification and forest conversion. Key ones among these are:

[Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\)](#): a community of practice of (applied) scientists, combining ecologists, economists, policy and social scientists.

[Landscapes for People, Food and Nature \(LPFN\)](#): Learning network where agriculture, development and conservation organizations, big and small, share experience and research with a network of local landscape initiatives.

[Global Land Project \(GLP\)](#): geographers and land-use scientists from many disciplinary starting points share interest in drivers, patterns and consequences of land-use change.

[Future Earth](#): a new 10-year international research initiative of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) that brings together thousands of the world's leading researchers to develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global change.

[The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity \(TEEB\)](#): a United Nations Environment Programme-related effort to systematically assign economic value to ecosystem services at global and sub-global scales.

[Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services \(WAVES\)](#), a global partnership that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts.

[System of Environmental Economic Accounting \(SEEA\)](#): contains the internationally agreed standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy.

[Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#): established in April 2012 as an independent intergovernmental body open to all member countries of the United Nations. The members are committed to building IPBES as the leading body for assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society.

[United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(UN-SDSN\)](#): indicators and a monitoring framework for the SDGs: launching a data revolution for the SDGs in its February 2015 agreement on 100 indicators for global monitoring.

[Rights and Resources Institute \(RRI\)](#): boundary work on policies for tenure reform, transitions of forest and agrarian institutional regimes.

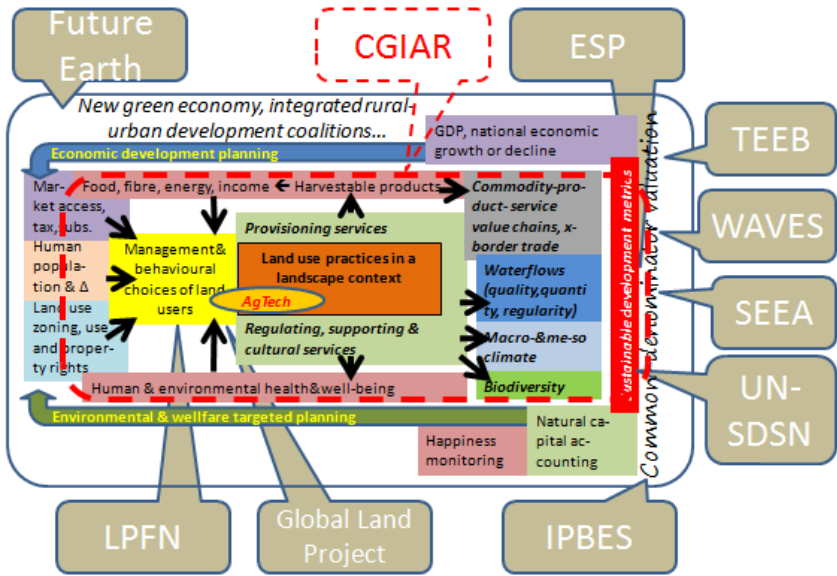


Fig. 8.1 Tentative institutional map of major international players involved in subsets or the totality of the agenda of the way land use influences both the X and the Y axis of Fig. 1.1 and the way feedback loops that try to protect public interests influence the drivers, agents/actors and consequences of land use. The red subdomain indicates proposed direct responsibility of CGIAR on the environmental services' agenda, in partnership with institutions mentioned and similar others

Box 8. Green Accounting and Green Growth at national scale

One of the two first Noble Prize winners in economics (1969: [Jan Tinbergen](#), ‘for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes’) was keen to extend macro-economic models to a better inclusion of human development and environmental protection agendas. Some of his students pioneered in operationalizing ‘green accounting’, starting in the 1970s.

De Groot et al (2012) and Costanza et al (2014) recently summarized current estimates of economic value derived from natural capital. The accounting methods, however, are not yet watertight.

Currently, SEEA builds on efforts to broaden the systems that were set up to capture the dynamics, properties and size of the ‘domestic product’ and relate it more explicitly to human well-being and to the ecosystem services that underpin the human economy, based on natural capital. SEEA-conform accounting at national scale can give insights into the part of GDP growth that has been achieved at the direct cost of natural capital destruction. Taking SEEA to subnational scales introduces many challenges on how to deal with the increasing complexity of lateral flows.

On further analysis, however, there are remaining inconsistencies between a ‘flow-’ (such as ES) and ‘stock-’ (or asset, capitals) based accounting. Although these concepts can conceptually be reconciled, implications for accounting systems still deserve further work.

It was widely acknowledged that Millennium Development Goal 7 that was supposed to cover sustainability was the weakest in terms of measurable indicators, based on the state of knowledge around 2000. Yet the broadening to 17 Sustainable Development Goals has not been matched by a fully satisfactory set of statistics that can be monitored for progress. The current lists need further attention.

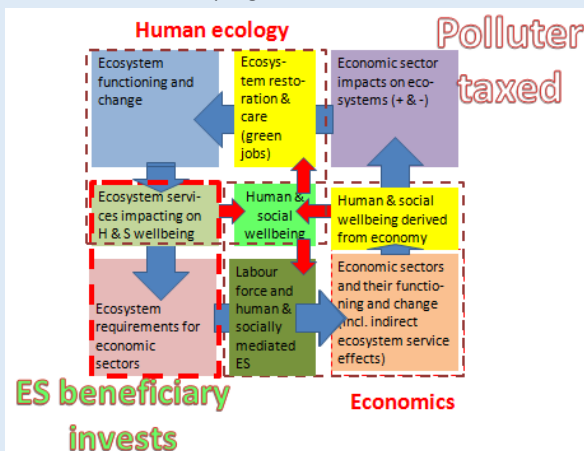


Fig. 8.2 Schematic representation of interactions between three capital types at any given scale (compare Fig. 7.3 for the cross-scale version), with direct and indirect ecosystem services, in the sense of human benefits derived from existence of natural capital

9. Who’s doing what within CGIAR, interacting globally?

9.1 Segregating rather than integrating ES concerns?

The February 2015 draft (post-Berne meeting) of the CGIAR Strategic Results Framework acknowledges the relevance of the ES agenda for SLO 3: Improved natural resource systems and ecosystem services:

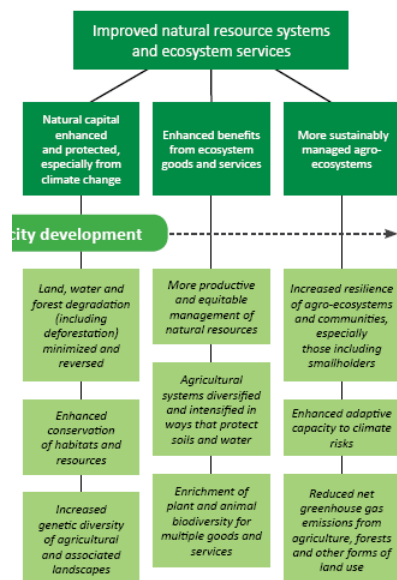
“The great gains made in food production over the past 50 years have often come at a high environmental cost: degraded lands/soils, polluted water, depleted marine fisheries and forest cover, and greatly reduced biodiversity.

This is an immense challenge that calls for new approaches, including payment for ecosystem services, the certification and effective marketing of specialized products that meet environmental standards.

The multi-functionality of agriculture will be an important concept here, involving the *Enrichment of plant and animal biodiversity for multiple good and services*, including pollination. The result will be **Enhanced benefits from ecosystem goods and services** and a more productive agricultural sector in the long run.”

Yet, the diagram presents SLO3 as a standalone pillar, not interacting with any

element of SLO1 and SLO2. It still appears as an afterthought (Fig. 9.1).



It can be noted that the SDG articulation calls for a stronger link, with SDG2 calling for a restriction of productivity increase to ‘sustainable agriculture’, SDG12 for ensuring sustainable consumption patterns and SDG15 protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Fig. 9.1 The third ‘column’ of the proposed CGIAR Strategic Results Framework, in the version of March 2015

The 'Sub-IDs' are defined mostly as biophysical outcomes, rather than as strengthened capacities to recognize, evaluate and address ES issues that emerge in parallel with the agricultural intensification efforts described under IDs 1 and 2. In all this the question of metrics and monitoring drives the selection of questions that can be addressed and targets that can be set (ISPC, 2014).

9.2 Questions to be addressed

Specific to the CGIAR portfolio, the following questions may need to be considered and/or answered for

- a. all place-based integration (climate-smart, humid tropics/dryland, benchmark, pilot, action, learning or sentinel sites and landscapes);
- b. national-scale monitoring of SDG baselines and achievement of targets; and
- c. international negotiations (incl. UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, WTO, SDGs).

Key questions can be grouped as:

A. Theory of place:

1. a. How are current agricultural systems, given their landscape positions, interacting with (depending on and influencing) local environmental quality and the provisioning, regulating, cultural and supportive services related to that through their interactions with **water** flows and cycling, **nutrient** flows and cycling, **biotic** interactions (incl. ecosystem engineers, symbionts, pest and disease organisms and their control agents, pollinators and seed dispersal agents), **micro-** and **meso-climatic** effects of vegetation, risk of initiation and spread of **fire**, integrity of aquatic systems, local ecological knowledge systems and cultural/religious appreciation of landscape elements and overall integrity?
- b. How does the local system interact with natural capital and ES at national and global scales, incl. national water balance, global climate and national/international biodiversity agendas?
2. How are current trends in agricultural intensification interacting with the issues of question 1?
3. What options for ES-friendly ecological intensification emerge when local ecological knowledge and scientists/modellers knowledge are combined?

A, B, C. Theory of change:

4. What are the drivers of the current patterns of land use, and what are the trends in drivers and actor responses?

5. Who cares about the ES impacts of current and projected land-use change, and what pathways do they have to influence decisions at generic driver or specific actor levels?
6. How do ES-friendly ecological intensification options (see question 3) relate to public/policy knowledge, existing national legal frameworks and development planning, and how could a political platform for change, if required, be reached?
7. How can international negotiations and the new institutions that emerge from them remove institutional bottlenecks identified and support changes towards ecological intensification?

Across all:

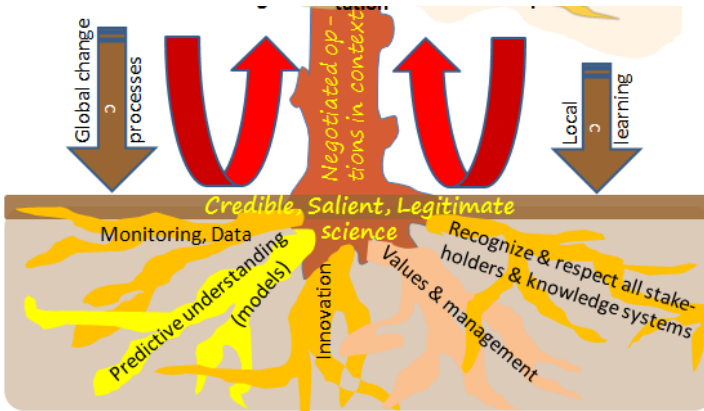


Fig.9.2 Perspective on the way the SDG tree can be rooted in scientific understanding, adding value to the way public/policy SDG-indicators and evolving local wisdom evolve (~ Fig. 1.3)

How can local wisdom, public/policy perceptions/knowledge and the various aspects of scientific understanding be effectively combined in a comprehensive ‘theory of change’? Four key steps in a management/negotiation cycle at any scale are: better data, better evaluation of consequences, more innovation and consideration of options in context, better scenario analysis, negotiations and political platforms for change (Fig. 9.3).

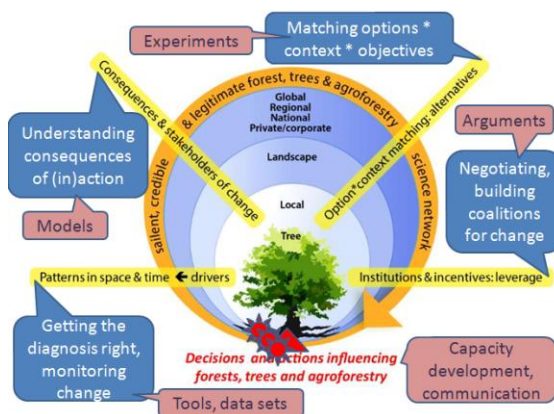


Fig. 9.3 Possible cross-scale synergy in polycentric governance, sharing aspects of decision/negotiation cycles that operate at any scale: data, models, experiments, arguments for change and capacity to negotiate and communicate

9.3 Current effort

Explicit work on ‘ecosystem services’ has emerged in a number of CRPs and can be related to the seven types of question in 9.2.

Question	FTA ¹	WLE ²	CCAFS ³	Humid Tropics ⁴	Dryland Systems ⁵	PIM ⁶
1a	FTA.3.1		7.1, 7.2	SRT2	**	
1b	FTA.3.2		(7.1)	SRT1,SRT2		
2	FTA.3.2/4		7.1	SRT2		
3	FTA.1, FTA.2		7.1	SRT2		PIM.5
4	FTA.5		7.1-4	SRT1, SRT2		PIM.5
5	FTA.3.2		7.1-4	SRT2, SRT3		PIM.5
6	FTA.3.3/4		7.3, 7.4	SRT1,SRT2,SRT3		PIM.5
7	FTA.4		7.3, 7.4	SRT1, SRT3		

1. The ES research in FTA is organized as one of the five ‘flagships’, with four clusters of activities:

- FTA.3.1 Patterns and drivers of tree-cover change, incl. baseline characterization of ‘sentinel landscapes’ (see e.g. van Noordwijk and Villamor 2014; Lusiana et al 2014)
- FTA.3.2 ES metrics, perceptions, preferences and consequences of tree-cover change (quantity, quality, pattern) for direct and indirect human well-being, along with governance options and use of economic instruments (see e.g. Ordonez et al 2014; van Noordwijk and Sunderland 2014; Reed et al 2015; Minang et al 2015)
- FTA.3.3 Learning landscapes, with specific attention to experiments at scale of use of economic instruments (see e.g. Leimona et al 2015)
- FTA.3.4 Specific attention to food security, nutritional diversity and human health in relation to changing forest and tree cover (see e.g. Ickowitz et al 2014)

Adjacent work in the four other flagships (FTA.1 focus on provisioning functions, FTA.2 on forest conservation and restoration, FTA.4 on climate-change mitigation and adaptation and FTA.5 on investment and governance) has direct bearing on the ES dynamics as well.

2. WLE

- 5.1. Ecosystem services and resilience
- 5.2. Gender, poverty and institutions
- 5.3. Decision analysis and information systems
- 5.4. Integrating ecosystem solutions into policy and investments
- 5.5. Sustainably increasing land and water productivity
- 5.6. Regenerating degraded agricultural ecosystems
- 5.7. Recovering and reusing resources in urbanized ecosystems
- 5.8. Managing resource variability and competing use

3. CCAFS

- 7.1 Climate-smart agricultural practices
- 7.2 Climate information services and climate-informed safety nets
- 7.3 Low-emissions agricultural development
- 7.4 Policies and institutions for climate-resilient food systems

5. Humidtropics Strategic Research Themes (SRTs):

SRT1: Systems Analysis and Global Synthesis;

SRT2: Integrated Systems Improvement (SRT2.1 Markets, institutions and policies, SRT2.2 Systems productivity, SRT2.3 Natural resource management);

SRT3: Scaling and Institutional Innovation

4. Drylands

5. PIM.5 Property Rights Regimes for Management of Natural Resources and Assets

CG centre	FTA	WLE	CCAFS	Humidtropics	Drylands	PIM
BIOVERSITY	X	X	X	X	X	X
CIAT	X	X	X	X		X
CIFOR	X		X			
ICRAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
IFPRI		X	X	X	X	X
IWMI		X	X			
IITA			X	X		
ICARDA			X		X	
ICRISAT			X		X	

Box 9. ES governance, democracy, transparency, FPIC and CDDR

Comparative studies reveal large differences between the ways different countries have so far approached issues of ES governance, with opportunities for learning from neighbours and (distant) cousins that go beyond the way knowledge travels in its academic abstraction. The first country to explicitly use the PES concept, and repackage its forest subsidy program in innovative language, was Costa Rica. Mexico may well be the largest current implementer of similar schemes, with various degrees of targeting, conditionality and voluntariness in the way decentralized implementation bodies are evolving. China has operated by far the largest investment scheme to restore ES through its Sloping Land Conversion Program (SLCP; also called 'grain to green'), inspired by the disastrous Yang Tse floods of the early 1990s. Top-down in nature, space for local adjustments proved to exist, which lead to regional differences in mode of implementation and opportunities to learn by comparison between these. As part of existing cooperation with the academic world, new insights on ES governance are emerging from this SLCP program (Sikor et al 2014; Jun and Sikor 2015). They relate to the fairness vs efficiency debates in PES (Leimona et al 2009, 2015a) and landscape democracy (Minang et al 2015a) concepts that emerge from work in 'learning landscapes'. Landscapes with complex migration histories (Galudra et al 2014) offer a further challenge.

Globally, the REDD+ 'theory of change' has sparked considerable learning of the nested challenges involved in linking local action to global benefits, with only partial success so far (Matthews et al 2014). An aspect that may not have received enough attention (Minang and van Noordwijk 2014) is the opportunity to combine the three main PES paradigms, by relying on 'commoditization' (of C credits) at the international borders of a country, compensation at subnational scale and co-investment at local scales.

Two concepts that have emerged in the context of the climate change and specific REDD+ discussions are: Free and Prior Informed Consent, and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. The first translates to a desire, from the international level, to have social safeguards in the design and implementation of programs that otherwise might be top-down or favouring specific non-local interests. The second is mostly used by negotiators for developing countries as a plea for increased resource flow in return for expressions of moral commitment.

10. Outcome/impact perspectives on further CGIAR involvement with ES

10.1 Vision of agenda

Combining elements of all preceding tables and diagrams, an ambitious agenda might focus on ten types of ‘boundary objects’, which can be co-developed with stakeholders at local, national and global scales (Table 10.1). The list has some similarity with the 12 types of interventions that Meadows (1999) listed as entry points of systemic change.

Table 10.1 Potential elements of a Theory of Agency for Change (ToA4C) for CGIAR involvement in the environmental services arena

	Local	National	Global
	Water Land health (Agro-) biodiversity Nutrients, C, GHG Meso-climate Landscape beauty & spirituality High biodiversity value land	Water Land health (Agro-) biodiversity C, GHG, nutrient cycling Meso-/macro-climate Biodiversity conservation	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 5 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 13 SDG 13
Boundary work	10. Data, observation methods for M&E of change	Sentinel sites, benchmarks, target areas	(sub)national SDG indicators, bias corrections
	9. Recognition of consequences for ES and all SDGs of business-as-usual land-use change from multi-stakeholder perspectives	Comparing, contrasting and synergizing local, public/policy and science-based knowledge systems; diagnostic stage of negotiation support	Contribute to ‘green accounting’ methods, their use and scrutiny to make assumptions explicit
	8. ES-friendly land-use alternatives	Perennial/annual/livestock combinations	Operationalize Climate-smart-

		Local	National	Global
	ves: technologies, new value chains, outsourcing staples	tions, integrated pest, nutrient, water management; market integration	agriculture and similar frameworks	
	7. Scenarios for land-use change in local context, valuation	LUMENS or similar spatially explicit tradeoff tools	Green economy and related (sub)national planning tools	
	6. Negotiation platforms to form coalitions for desirable change	LUMENS as process tool in 'learning landscapes'	Policy analysis, civil society networks, communication channels	NAMA, INDC; LPFN; CSA-alliance
Economic instruments	5. Co-investment in environmental stewardship	Spatial planning, co-management contracts; local REDD+ implementation;	Removing perverse subsidies & policies; clarifying land tenure	
	4. Compensation for legal ES-unfriendly options foregone	Auction of ES stewardship contracts	REDD+ and green economy at subnational scale	
	3. Commodification of ES through eco-certification of products		Voluntary standards, public rules of the game	Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) in WTO as minimum, avoid subsidy from natural capital
	2. Commodification of ES as such		Requires strong regulation of all rights involved	REDD+ at international scale
	1. Dynamic polycentric governance for integral SDG achievement	The ultimate target, approachable by stepwise strengthening of all relevant feedback loops		

10.2 Suggested way forward for the CGIAR

1. Position the CGIAR to address the trade-offs and intersection of ‘agricultural production’ with the wider set of SDGs
2. Contribute to, and interact with, global system thinking that explores the wider interactions of various pathways towards ‘agricultural intensification’
3. Ensure that the negative consequences of agriculture and its intensification are recognized in early stages of technology development
4. Connect with the primary international movers on the ‘ecosystem services’ and ‘environmental governance’ agenda, through a globally representative network of sentinel and learning landscapes (with the sentinel function focused on ‘monitoring’, the learning on action research to find solutions)
5. Ensure that environmental service ‘boundary work’ is done in all types of landscapes and land use with which the CGIAR engages, and that it is connected in a global community of practice, linked with academic and governance circles.
6. Focus on the interface of rights-based approaches (clarification of state vs community rights, community vs household, household vs individual), spatial planning, macro-economic policy and the use of performance-based economic instruments (‘PES’), to better understand the type of governance response that can best facilitate sustainable development at local, national and global scales.

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Attachment 1. Sustainable Development Goals

The SDG's can be classified by relation with X and Y axis in Fig. 1.1:

Mostly related to X-axis	Equally linked to X and Y	Mostly related to Y-axis
<p>SDG1 “End <u>poverty</u> in all its forms everywhere”</p> <p>SDG2 “End <u>hunger</u>, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote <u>sustainable agriculture</u>”</p>	<p>SDG3 “Ensure <u>healthy</u> lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”</p> <p>SDG4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality <u>education</u> and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”</p> <p>SDG5 “Achieve <u>gender</u> equality and empower all women and girls ”</p> <p>SDG7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern <u>energy</u> for all”</p> <p>SDG8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive <u>employment</u> and decent work for all”</p> <p>SDG9 “Build resilient <u>infrastructure</u>, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”</p> <p>SDG10 “Reduce inequality within and among countries”</p> <p>SDG12 “Ensure sustainable <u>consumption</u> and production patterns”</p> <p>SDG16 “Promote <u>peaceful</u> and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</p> <p>SDG17 “Strengthen the <u>means of implementation</u> and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”</p>	<p>SDG6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of <u>water</u> and sanitation for all”</p> <p>SDG13 “Take urgent action to combat <u>climate change</u> and its impacts”</p> <p>SDG15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of <u>terrestrial ecosystems</u>, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”</p> <p>SDG11 “Make <u>cities</u> and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”</p> <p>SDG14 “Conserve and sustainably use the <u>oceans</u>, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”</p>

Attachment 2. Typology of environmental services

Van Noordwijk (2006) provided a typology; for updated watershed services see Table 2.1

Biodiversity-related

- B1. Protecting the integrity of conservation areas by preventing loss of habitat and threats at population level in the areas directly around core protection areas,
- B2. Providing habitat for a sub-set of the original fauna and flora inside agriculturally used landscapes (this increases in relevance with the increasing loss of more natural habitat; it will only allow the conservation of part of the original species pool – with losers among the organisms that few people wants to have in their backyard (tigers, elephants) or as direct neighbours, and those that cannot tolerate people as neighbours from their side),
- B3. Maintaining connectivity between protected areas via corridors,
- B4. Creating opportunities for local-level ‘restoration’, in landscapes where connectivity is still maintained,
- B5. Various forms of *ex situ* conservation,
- L1. Landscape beauty as basis for ecotourism.

Carbon stocks, greenhouse gasses and air pollutants

- C1. Protecting forest area
- C2. Protecting above- and/or belowground carbon stocks in areas used for forestry and/or agriculture
- C3. Restoration, increase in tree cover (in a ‘sustainable harvest’ regime the time-averaged C stock does not depend on the growth rate, but on maximum stock at time of harvest)
- C4. Accumulating wood and other products derived from recent plant production in, for example, the form of houses, furniture, paper, organic waste dumps.
- C5. Reducing emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gasses (CH₄, N₂O)
- C5. Clean air, absence of haze

Attachment 3. Key messages derived from PIM/WLE/FTA workshop, November 2014

Key Messages

- We need institutions to deal with ES that cross scales and boundaries.
- Provision of ES at scale requires collective action.
 - Raise awareness on ES at implementation level.
 - Understanding of the ES context is fundamental.
- ES is about good governance (accountability, equity, transparency, negotiation).
- Supportive role by the state (institutions) is critical for ES.
- Information is as important as process in managing the benefits of ES
- Need for methods to understand and negotiate trade-offs and synergies
 - Recognition of community and the commons
 - Greater Inclusion of the State
 - Greater engagement with the Private Sector
 - Capacity of ES/CPR management to deal with conflict



Research Questions

- **Measurement** and **valuation** of ES themselves
 - What difference does an ES approach make?
 - Multi- versus single (Systems Approaches)
 - Including tools for negotiating trade-offs and synergies
 - Across space, time (generations), and society
 - Strong meso-scale work linking ES to Value -> weak above and below.
 - Questions of equity – whose values?
 - Lack of research in the livelihood values of ES (food security, risk reduction, resource sharing)
 - Does landscape (biophysical, socio-ecological, institution) provide a common language for ES management.
- Role of institutions in delivering those benefits
 - What is the responsibility of institutions recognizing/verbalizing indirect values?
 - Critical role of institutions in negotiation of trade-offs (strong equity element here)
 - What is the range of modalities?
 - PES, Markets, extension, rules

- Under what conditions are these modalities effective (Latin America: strong state; Africa: weak state).
 - Contextualising institutional arrangements.
- Benefits to institutional actors?
- What are the implications for how institutions operate and interact?
- Strong emphasis on co-production/trust -> how does this translate to national scales and up?
- Is the role of (P)ES service delivery, or creating an institutional space? (ecology vs. society).
- Can you deliver on an ES agenda where institutions are weak or does this necessitate a resilience approach.
- How do we intervene.
 - Need for systems thinking within institutions.
 - Action research, monitoring of process, awareness of the role of research (Mode 2: Engaged research)
 - Awareness raising -> risk management, livelihood improvements?
 - Engaging with policy, politics and power?
 - Identifying policy windows and opportunities.

The Sustainable Development Goals try to reconcile the unfinished business of the human development deficit at the bottom of the pyramid, with the realization of planetary boundaries and the need for substantial gains in the efficiency of enhancing human wellbeing per unit resource use. Agriculture, still over a third of global employment, will need to transform towards greater productivity per unit land and labour but will also need to minimize direct negative external environmental effects. The transformative change needed cannot be achieved by following sectoral approaches and the institutional landscape that have brought us to where we are. Beyond building on past strengths of crop genetic improvement and associated technology for intensifying agriculture, the international agricultural research of the CGIAR has picked up the challenge of contributing to the more integral perspectives of sustainable development goals. As contribution to the wider debate this booklet introduces and reviews underlying concepts of environmental services, takes stock of ongoing work in a number of CGIAR research programs, suggesting ways forward that will combine place-based analysis and support for 'learning landscapes', with national policy reform and emergence of international institutions that link beneficiaries and providers of such services, combining fairness and efficiency.