



Land resources planning (LRP)

to address land degradation and promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM)

Land resources planning (also called land-use planning) is the systematic assessment of land potential and land-use alternatives. It supports practitioners and decision makers to put in practice optimal land uses, and improve socio-economic conditions through a participatory multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and scale-dependent process. LRP provide tools to achieve sustainable and efficient resources use, increase productivity, build resilient agriculture and food systems, conserve biodiversity and environmental functions, combat land degradation, and promote improved governance of land and water resources.



LRP aims to support decision-makers and land users in selecting and putting into practice land uses that best meet the needs of people while safeguarding natural resources and ecosystem services

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Why do we need land resources planning?

Land is a finite resource

Desertification and land degradation, exacerbated by climate change, rapid population growth, rising demand for food, urban sprawl and competition of diverse land users and sectors puts enormous pressure on land-use systems and imposes significant challenges in achieving sustainable food and agriculture.

The tools and methods used in land resource planning should assist the diverse and often competing users of land resources

Proper land use and sustainable land management can reverse land degradation and restore productivity



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People and Environment are at the heart of the land resources planning process

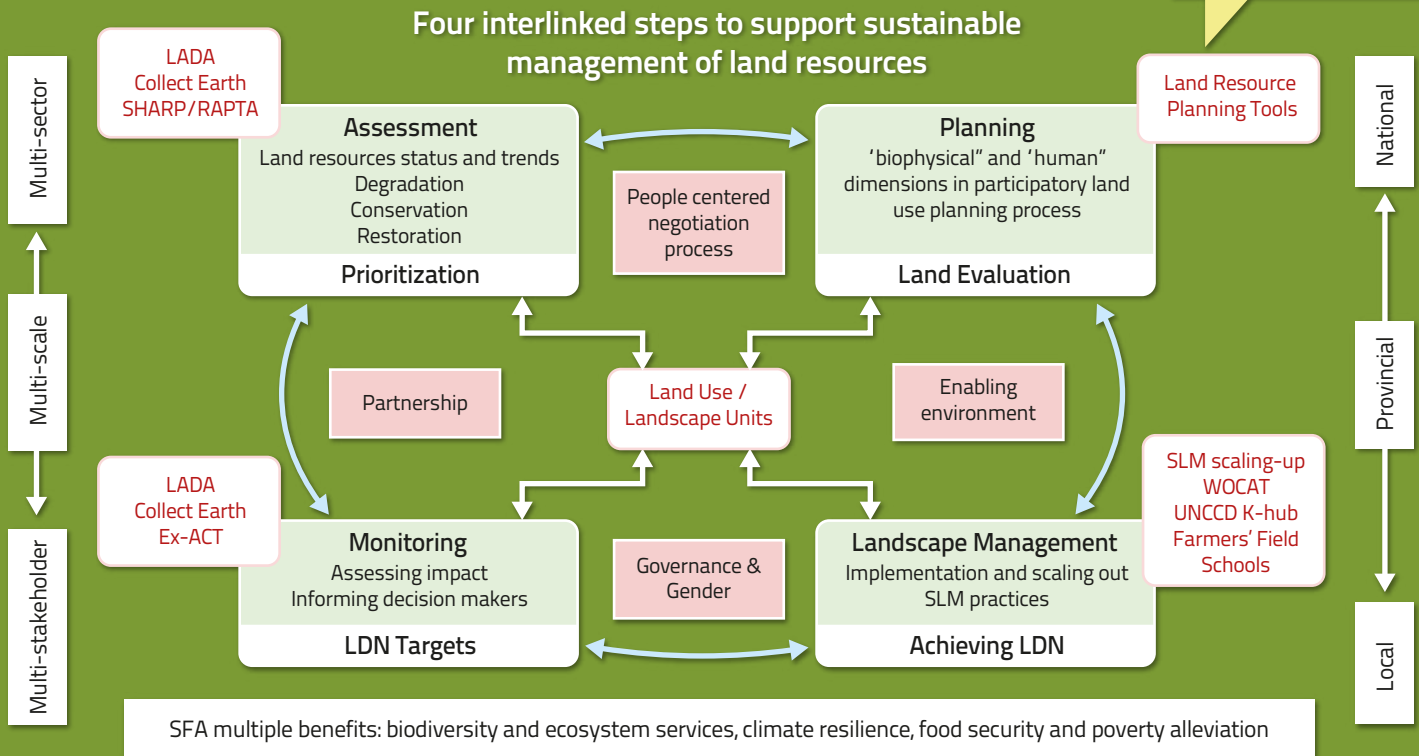


Land resources planning is a tool that can respond to societal needs by promoting sustainable land management practices and improving the enabling environment. Participatory Land Use Planning consists of: (a) systematic assessment of biophysical, social and economic factors, and (b) facilitated negotiation process to support the dialogue among decision makers, farmers and land users.

How FAO can contribute to addressing land degradation and promote SLM?

We promote four interlinked steps to support sustainable land management: Assessment, Planning, Landscape Management through SLM Implementation, and Monitoring. These are indispensable components to scaling-out SLM practices, which generate tangible positive impacts and support the achievement of sustainable management of natural resources and combating land degradation.

Four interlinked steps for land resources planning and management supported by examples of relevant tools/ approaches



Tools to support land resources planning

A wide range of tools and approaches have been developed and adapted to various contexts and scales to support achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, a globally implemented FAO survey reported constraints regarding the access to such tools by decision makers in different contexts. In response to these demands, FAO developed a freely accessible online "Land Resources Planning Toolbox"

www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning-toolbox/en

The LRP Toolbox aims to reach users, enhance visibility and facilitate access to the tools they need. The "Toolbox" assist users in selecting and using "tools" that meet the requirements of different stakeholders, operating at different levels, or in different regions, or sectors



Participatory land use planning as a key component of the Kagera TAMP project using the LADA-WOCAT method, and the Decision Support for Sustainable Land Management project (DS-SLM) are selected examples

What we do at global, regional and national level

At global level, we maintain a repository of methodologies and tools that enable stakeholders to foster active participation and to find a consensus among land-users and amongst a range of land use scenarios.

At regional and national level, we offer professional support to help stakeholders making the best use of the available resources, both in the interest of achieving sustainability and finding effective compromises and solutions with available funds and capacities.

For more information: www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning/en/

Read the FAO publication on Land Resources Planning for SLM: www.fao.org/3/a-i5937e.pdf

For enquiries, please contact us at LRP-Secretariat@fao.org