Water for Productive and Multifunctional Landscapes: Findings from the SWH/SIWI Cluster Group

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Swedish Water House

Connects Swedish water stakeholders from different sectors with each other and with international processes and discussions. It provides meeting places for innovative thinking on emerging issues, concerning the global water situation.

From Water and Forest to Water and Landscapes



Water and Landscape Cluster Group Objectives

- How does hydrology affect the productivity of landscapes, and what hydrological aspects need to be considered when rehabilitating/restoring a landscape?
- Which governance arrangements and management approaches enable and support the productivity of the landscape?



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Participating institutions in seminars and workshops organised by the Cluster Group

- Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)
- County Board of Västra Götaland
- DHI Group
- Ecoloop
- Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Forest, climate and livelihood research network (Focali)
- Hermanssons & Co
- ICA
- ICRAF World Agroforestry Centre
- Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL)
- Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)
- NIRAS
- SSC Forestry

- Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC)
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- Sveaskog AB
- Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Swedish Forestry Agency (SFA)
- Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Thematic workplan for the cluster group 2017/2018





1. The Landscape Approach

There are many different definitions of the landscape approach. We use the 10 principles for a landscape approach adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to reconciling agriculture, conservation, and other competing land uses:

- 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



2. Landscape restoration and water flows

- Specific landscapes are at risk for becoming more degraded, or remain in degrade states, unless proactive management is done.
- There is a need to regulate and manage our use of water much more than we are doing today, especially when it comes to degraded landscape.
- Management strategies are knowledge and capacity intensive, and context specific, but good experiences from Sweden and elsewhere exist and can be shared.
- There are many opportunities for forest landscape restoration linked to international commitments. A successful restoration process generally includes a clear motivation, a conducive enabling environment, and capacity and resources for sustained implementation.





Tipping points, regional risks due to water overuse

- Groundwater collapse
- River basin closure/river depletion

Tipping points, regional risks due to land management issues

- Deforestation moisture feedback
- Land mismanagement (e.g. soil loss, land degradation)
- Salinization

Tipping points, global change pressures

- Regional processes
- Sea level rise and saltwater intrusion
- Drastic rainfall regime change
- Glacler melt

Figure 2. Water, and and climate change creates critical pressures on important production systems (Rocksubm et al., 2014).

3. Forest, agriculture and water

- There is a need to widen the geographical perspective from watersheds to whole continents and cross-regional perspectives to understand where precipitation originates from to better integrate forest-driven water and energy cycles into regional, national, continental and global decision-making.
- For water flows, it is sometimes better to focus on density and types of trees than forests as such, taking into consideration different species, age of trees, spacing/density, etc.
- Local-level forest management initiatives often face a mix of issues ranging from governance challenges at national level to technical issues and problems at local level. A key- success factor is to work with participatory processes and partnerships.





Figure 7: Groundwater recharge was maximized in small gaps among trees in an agroforestry parkland in Burkira Faso. Under trees and in large gaps, groundwater recharge was lower due to high transpiration and interception losses from trees, and low capacity for soil infit ration in large gaps between trees. Figure courtesy: Aida Bargues-Tobella and Ulrik itsteft.

4. Management of impacts of climate change on landscapes

- Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for managing climate risks are promising and cost effective, but there is also a need to consider potential conflicts of interests.
- Rainfall monitoring can be improved using microwaves from telephone masts and can help inform management of landscapes in a changing climate.
- Geographical water balance models can be used to assist in the planning of water adaptation measures.
- Bottom-up and participatory approaches to monitoring and modelling, such as Citizen Science (CS) lead to inclusion of more perspectives and scenarios and more informed and comprehensive solutions.



Figure to. Traditional pastures in Kyrgyzsian where climate change has impacted water flows and communities need to a daipt. Photo: Anna Tengberg.



Box 10: SIWI Swedish Water House's Cluster Group on Food and Water



5. Good water governance in landscapes

- Need to work with **nested governance arrangements**, from multilateral environmental agreements to local level customary or statutory law and take gender and power relations into consideration.
- Public participation in landscape governance has evolved over time and become more inclusive and participative in e.g. Swedish institutions and in the EU Water Framework Directive, as well as in many developing countries.
- Wetlands are threatened in many parts of the world where the ultimate drivers are linked to poor governance. The Ramsar Convention is important for the governance of wetlands, but its implementation needs to be strengthened through, for example, linking it to emission reductions under the UNFCCC as well as S2S management governance frameworks.
- Private sector companies are important actors in landscape approaches and can play a positive role through different tools and instruments, including water stewardship to reduce waterrelated impacts of internal operations and value chains.

How to manage water for productive and multifunctional landscapes?



Next steps

- Inspire Swedish stakeholders to engage increasingly in international water and landscape dialogues and processes
- Initiate bilateral and multilateral activities to build resilient landscapes, with resulting benefits for water resources and productive landscapes
- World Water Week event to develop policy recommendations together with stakeholders

SIWI's Sida-financed project around Lake Awassa in Ethiopia will strengthen water and landscape governance through capacity building and training of stakeholders from the local to national level.

Water in the Landscape @ swedishwaterhouse.se



