

Enrico Celio^{a,b}, Louise Buck^b, Jean-Christophe Castella^c, Louise Willemen^d, Sara Scherr^b

Landscape performance assessment: Lessons from Global Land Programme to Agroforestry Congress

Landscape performance assessment is key for a constant and sustainable development of landscapes. A session at the Global Land Programme (GLP) Open Science Meeting gathered state of the art methods and approaches. Key lessons are brought to Agroforestry landscapes.

01. Aims and questions

- The session aimed to gather approaches that
- Assess the performance of integrated landscape management initiatives
 - Include different, and often contradictory, perspectives among stakeholders
 - Address a variety of audiences for landscape scale indicators
 - Track a variety of landscape elements at once, while understanding interactions
 - Use the monitoring and evaluation in a constructive manner

The session inputs replied to the following questions:

- How can outcomes of integrated landscape management initiatives and the quality of their process be monitored and evaluated?
- How can landscapes' performance itself be monitored and evaluated?
- How do these efforts lead to an increased co-production of knowledge and better outcomes for the landscape, its stakeholders and to more equitable future pathways?

02. Cases presented

Louise Willemen, Trinidad Del Rio, et al. Remote Sensing & GIS for monitoring revegetation and low-impact agriculture success in an arid landscape in South Africa.

Kuang -Chung Lee, Shao -Yu Yan, Polina G. Karimova. Participatory planning and monitoring for integrated landscape management: A case study of eastern rural Taiwan.

Roderick Zagt, Maartje de Graaf, Louise Buck, Seth Shames. Assessing landscape governance: a participatory approach.

Jean-Christophe Castella, Pascal Lienhard, et al. Impact monitoring of transformative landscape approaches to agroecology in Northern Laos.

03. Framework proposed

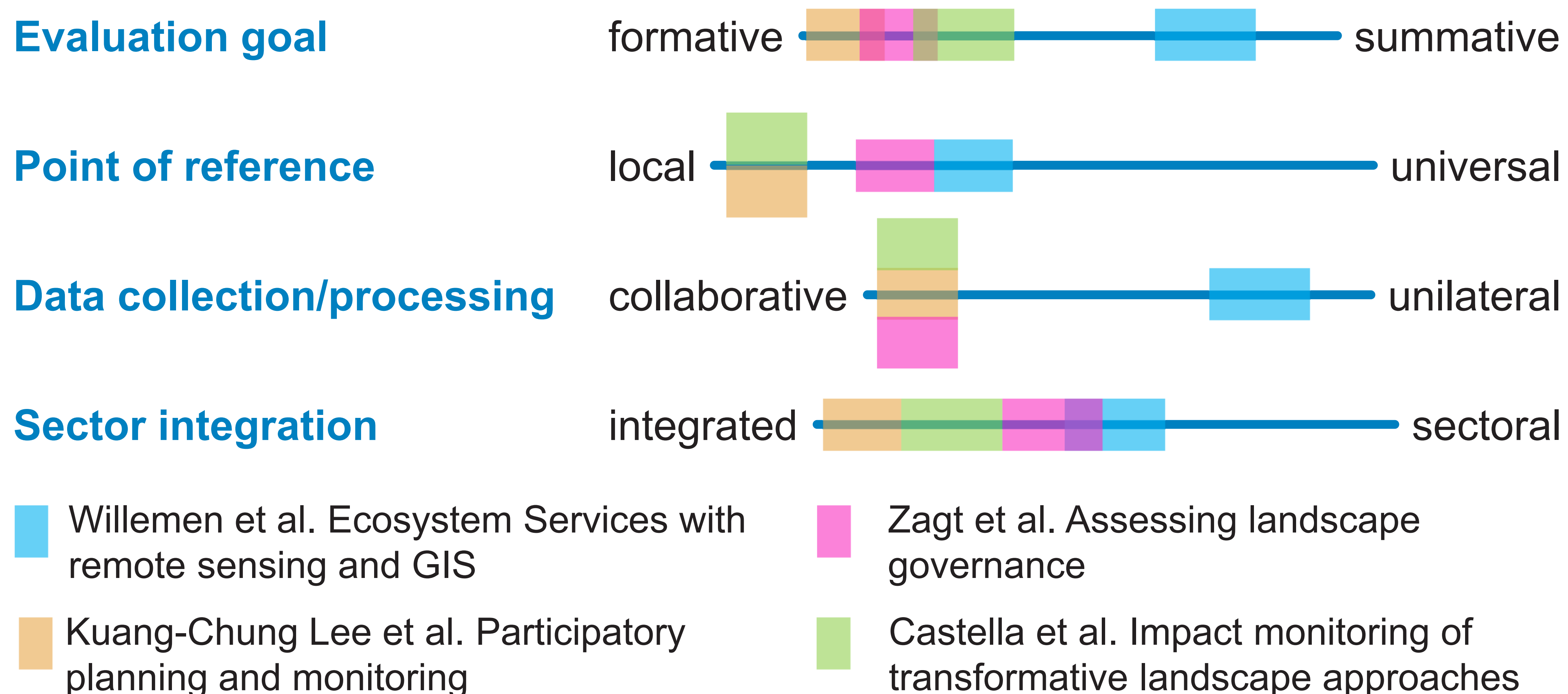
To create a structured overview of the presented approaches, we propose four contrasting pairs describing four dimensions that are important for assessing landscape performance.

1. Evaluation goal: Learning (formative) vs. concluding (summative).
2. Reference point: local values vs. universal values (e.g. SDGs).
3. Data collection: using data collected specifically for this purpose through collaborative processes vs. using existing data.
4. Sector integration: trade-offs between sectors explicit vs. focus on one sector.

04. Future research directions

From this session, subsequent discussions among contributors and existing literature, we propose four lines of discussion to guide future research:

- The evaluation goal, point of reference, methods of data collection, and the degree of sector-integration must be agreed upon and designed accordingly.
- Sector-integration and trade-off analysis between landscape services as well as analysis of stakeholder interests are key to trans-disciplinary approaches.
- A common understanding of «landscape performance assessment» must be elaborated to conduct evaluation studies of integrated landscape initiatives. We may illustrate the multiple goals of a «landscape performance assessment» with the help of this figure.
- The inclusion of a sound monitoring and evaluation assessment of landscape performance in integrated landscape management initiatives can be achieved only by demonstrating the added value for the process itself to stakeholders, donors, and investors.



Celio E., Buck L., Castella Jean-Christophe,
Willemen L., Scherr S.

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