



# INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH

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# FARM AFRICA

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# FARM AFRICA'S VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS RURAL AFRICA

Investing in smallholder farming is key to combating poverty in rural Africa. Prosperity depends on making agriculture work better, using natural resources well, creating strong markets for what farmers produce and facilitating access to finance to grow agri-businesses.

Almost half the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority work in agriculture in rural areas. But agricultural yields and profits are a fraction of their potential.

The region is full of opportunities for growth, including much fertile land and water, and millions of smallholder farmers who are eager for change.

Farm Africa works with smallholders to develop practical solutions that work locally and can be replicated elsewhere. Our approach papers set what we aim to deliver, and how, in support of our vision of a prosperous rural Africa.



# PREFACE

Farm Africa's approach papers set out what we aim to deliver, and how, in relation to:

## Agriculture



- technology
- climate-smart agriculture
- land, water and environment

## Environment



- forests
- rangelands
- landscapes

## Business



- business development
- trade
- finance



# PREFACE

Landscapes comprise interconnected **ecosystems and types of land-use** that are increasingly under pressure. What happens in one part of the landscape affects what happens elsewhere. Optimising the use of a landscape requires coordination based on agreed **land and watershed management plans** and **economic incentives**, so land users do the right thing.

The integrated landscape management paper outlines how Farm Africa assists the multiple stakeholders that use a particular landscape to understand the interconnections between their various uses of the land, identify opportunities for business development and manage potential conflicts.

The paper derives from Farm Africa's experience in managing complex landscapes in Ethiopia (Bale Eco-Region and the rangelands of Afar and Oromia) and northern Tanzania (Nou Forest).

Further details about how to manage local landscapes in the direct vicinity of smallholders' lands can be found in the approach paper on land, water and environment.

More information on how to manage forests and rangelands can be found in the papers on participatory forest management (PFM) and participatory rangelands management (PRM).

# WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- From land for agriculture to water catchments for irrigation, large landscapes provide diverse and **interconnected goods and services**.
- What happens in one place has **impacts on other parts of the landscape**. Conversion of forests in conservation areas can affect water supply and increase soil erosion. Such environmental effects can go beyond the confines of a given landscape, and are often of regional, national or global significance. Many landscapes are under increasing demographic and economic pressure, which can cause conflict between land users.
- Optimising land use and ecosystem management across a landscape requires pro-active coordination based on an accurate **knowledge** of the state of the environment and the interconnections between landscape units. This requires strong **institutional mechanisms** for coordination and conflict management and agreed land use plans.



# WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Watersheds, such as the Highlands of Ethiopia that supplies water to land north, east and south of the country, biodiversity hotspots and the “buffer-zones” around them are important parts of complex landscapes that require **protection**.
- There exist numerous **market opportunities** in addressing landscape management issues, such as eco-tourism around nature reserves, sustainable intensification of farming and participatory forest and rangelands management.
- **Payments for ecosystem services** represent a particular way to monetise the preservation of the natural world in a landscape. This includes payments by lowland water users to incentivise water conservation practices in upland areas, and receiving payments for reducing carbon emissions through reducing deforestation and forest degradation.



# THEORY OF CHANGE

## MISSION

To deliver sustainable economic and environmental benefits to smallholders, communities and agribusinesses across interconnected ecosystems in the landscape

## GOALS

High economic value

Healthy flow of ecosystem services

Multi-stakeholder collaboration

## STAKEHOLDERS

Communities

Private sector



Research & innovation centres

Government

## OUTCOMES

Improved and equitable incomes

Improved health and functioning of ecosystems

Enhanced institutional capacity

## OUTPUTS

Land use plans

Soil and water conservation

Conflict management

Observation networks

Business opportunities

# APPROACH

**We work with local communities, government, the private sector and scientists to construct a whole-landscape approach to natural resource and watershed management, identify and develop sustainable business opportunities and strengthen institutional coordination.**



# APPROACH

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We build strong institutions for community consultation, planning, trust building and conflict management

We elaborate and agree land and resource use plans that optimise community benefits and minimise damage

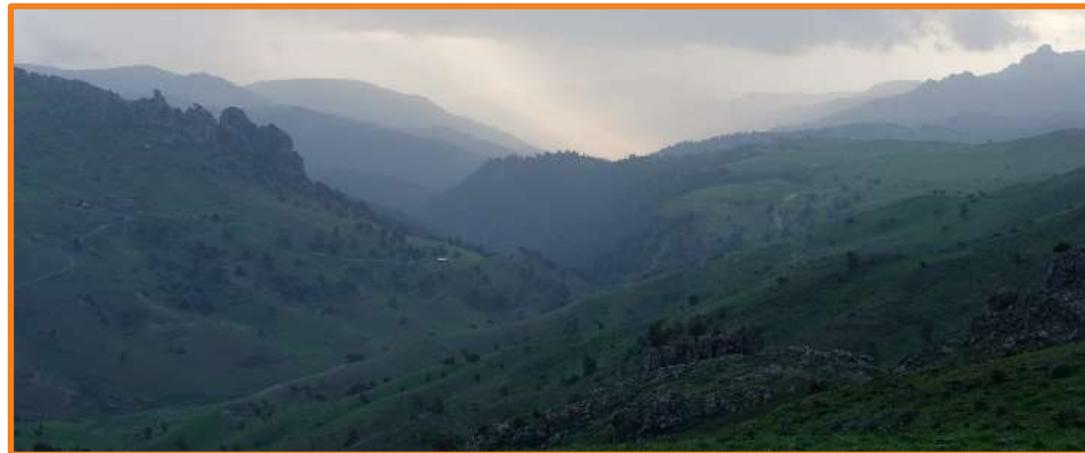
We build the institutional and physical capacity to monitor and manage the impact of agreed resource use plans

We construct robust evidence for ecosystem services and land use types, interconnections and impacts of policy

We identify, test, and demonstrate economically and environmentally sustainable activities and develop business opportunities

# METHODOLOGY

|                                                          |                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                          |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Phase 1.<br/>Mobilisation<br/>and<br/>assessments</b> | A. Initial identification, mobilisation and awareness raising of key stakeholders                                        |
|                                                          | B. Rapid rural appraisals: initial screenings of land, water and environment                                             |
|                                                          | C. Participatory technical and community landscape assessments and recommendations                                       |
|                                                          | D. Identification and prioritisation of potential business opportunities – including payments for environmental services |



# METHODOLOGY

| <b>Phase 2.<br/>Implementation</b> | A. Manage and monitor land use and ecosystem services, including woodlands, pastures and nature reserves according to agreed plans                                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    | B. Identify main sources of land and resource degradation and test, adapt and scale up new approaches and technologies to land husbandry                             |
|                                    | C. Identify main pressures on water catchment and manage and monitor rivers and streams according to agreed watershed management plans, including downstream impacts |
|                                    | D. Identify, assess, manage and monitor environmental impacts according to agreed plan                                                                               |
|                                    | E. Demarcate and manage buffer-zones around important conservation areas according to agreed plans                                                                   |

# METHODOLOGY

| <b>Phase 2.<br/>Implementation<br/>(continued)</b> | F. Identify opportunities for payments for ecosystem services, develop detailed plans and then pilot or scale up according to agreed plans, explore opportunities for incorporating reduced carbon emissions from deforestation (REDD+) into the project |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                    | G. Identify opportunities for business, develop business plans and make arrangements for piloting new opportunities                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                    | H. Identify needs for capacity development across stakeholders and develop and implement capacity development plans                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                    | I. Identify needs and make arrangements for data collection and in depth research to assess the impacts of human activity across the landscape                                                                                                           |

# METHODOLOGY

| <b>Phase 3.<br/>Learning and<br/>adapting</b> | A. Agree indicators of successful landscape management and progress review process  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                               | B. Collect and analyse data                                                         |
|                                               | C. Collate feedback to and from local communities and adjust approaches as required |
|                                               | D. Consolidate learning and share with public and private sector                    |



# HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPER

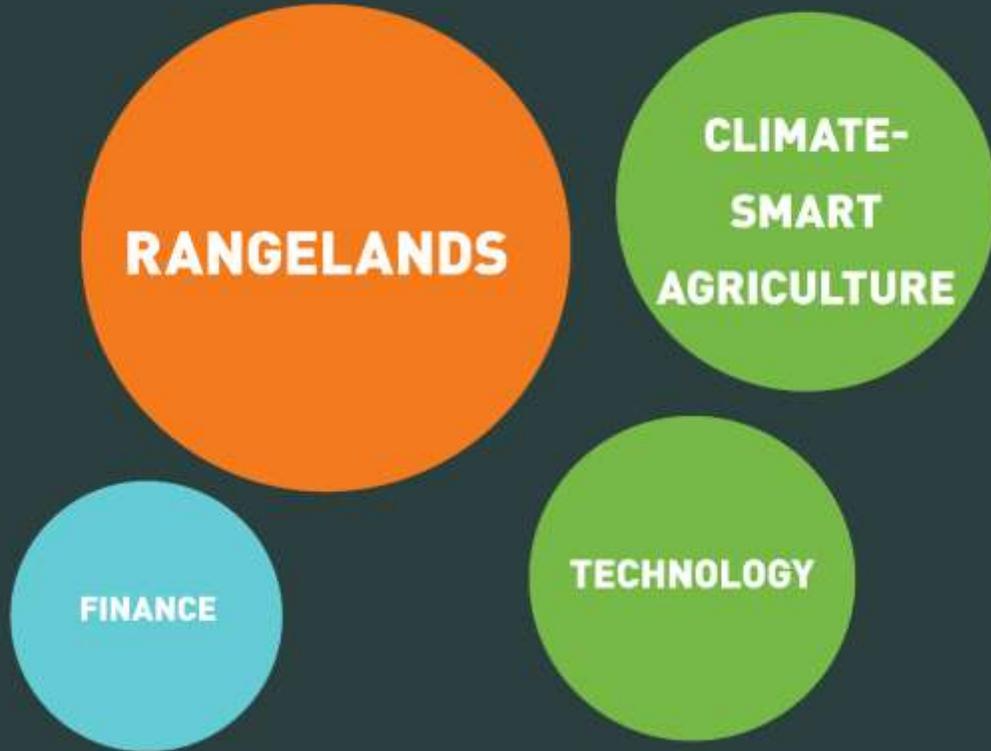


## What the approach papers are for:

- Provide clarity to the communities we work with and those who support us about what we do, and how
- Build coherence across our operations
- Ensure each project is based on our experiences, lessons learnt and consolidated knowledge

# HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPERS

A typical natural resource management project



## How to use the approach papers in project design:

- The structure of our approach does not mirror the organisation of our individual interventions. The latter are constructed by combining elements from the approach papers – as illustrated in the diagram to the left.
- While the approach papers give detailed guidance about how to do things, this will not always be followed to the letter in all projects. Local context and needs will continue to guide Farm Africa's project design and implementation.

**We continuously learn and adjust our approach. The approach papers are regularly updated to reflect the dynamic nature of our experience.**