LANDSCALE

Grant Proposal Toolkit

Guidance for including LandScale in grant proposals

LANDSCALE

Welcome to the LandScale Grant Proposal Toolkit.

This toolkit provides guidance and content for including LandScale in grant applications as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tool for your landscape initiative.

Contents

Section 1

Introducing LandScale

LandScale is a user-friendly assessment tool developed by the Rainforest Alliance, Verra, and Conservation International that generates landscape-level sustainability insights.

By measuring the combined impact of all activities within rural landscapes – from ecosystem health and human well-being to governance and production – LandScale helps organizations deliver and credibly communicate sustainability at scale.

The LandScale system comprises an online platform, assessment framework, assessment methodology and validation and claims mechanism. The platform guides practitioners through the process of building an assessment report and facilitates the provision of technical support and validation of results by LandScale.

Once results have been validated, reports can be published, providing a hub of credible information about landscape sustainability performance for decision-makers.

We will use LandScale to track our sustainability performance as well as to guide and support policies, projects, and investments to improve sustainability in our landscape.

LandScale brings greater rigour, consistency, and efficiency to the measurement and reporting of performance and impact in relation to this decade's main drivers of sustainability action, such as nature-based climate solutions, investment in regenerative production systems, ESG-based investment and disclosure, and jurisdictional sourcing.

A baseline assessment of the landscape will be conducted at [insert year] of the project. The assessment will be conducted in the LandScale platform, which enables the assessment team to seamlessly collaborate and build a report that can later be shared with different stakeholders to demonstrate trends and impact at the landscape level, showcase projects and help drive investment in the landscape. LandScale offers the possibility of validating individual indicators flexibly, according to the project's needs.

We have selected LandScale as our monitoring, evaluation and learning tool because of its holistic framework, validation mechanism and methodology, and the ability to use the platform for reporting and communicating results.

The LandScale Assessment Framework

Section 2

LandScale features

Feature	Description
Framework	The LandScale framework includes indicators divided into four pillars (Ecosystem, Human well-being, Governance, and Production), enabling a holistic assessment of landscape sustainability. LandScale users can also create custom pillars, goals, indicators and metrics in the LandScale platform, and include them as part of their assessment. The framework was developed as a result of two rounds of field testing in landscapes around the world, public consultation and extensive input from the developmental partners and advisory group.
Platform	The platform offers a space for seamless collaboration and detailed guidance and resources for generating landscape assessments, making conducting assessments intuitive and efficient. It also provides a space where validated assessment results can be shared, connecting landscape stakeholders to a global audience.
Guidelines and support	Detailed guidelines are provided which answer most questions that assessment teams will encounter. If additional support is needed, users also have access to: **Training** Pre-recorded training materials covering the entire LandScale assessment process are available on the platform. Live, interactive training is also available on request. **The LandScale Community of Practice** A group managed by the LandScale team where users can ask question and share knowledge and best practices. **Helpdesk** If the assessment team has technical issues operating the platform or questions regarding the LandScale guidelines that cannot be answered through the training modules and Community of Practice, support can be requested via the platform.
Validation	LandScale validation enables users of results to place a high degree of trust in the quality of LandScale assessments. Validation is required to publish assessment results on the LandScale platform and to make claims. This process ensures that the assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines and the quality of the data supports the production of credible results. The LandScale team validates each of the five steps of the assessment process. This is supplemented by a local review of the results, which adds perspectives from people knowledgeable about the sustainability topics being assessed in the landscape.

Section 3

Budget requirements

The following two tables outline the resources required to conduct a LandScale assessment. This includes the fee for the Validated by LandScale service (table 1) and other associated costs (table 2). The other associated costs are provided as guidance to the assessment team. Some costs will be dependant on landscape factors, so the applicant will need to estimate the required final budget for their specific situation to fully reflect the implicated costs of the assessment in their grant proposal.

Table 1: LandScale fee

Validated by LandScale service	Fees in USD
Includes: • Access to LandScale's online platform • Use of the full LandScale assessment framework • Ability to add custom indicators and metrics • Ability to download results at any time • Access to LandScale's assessment resources • Access to online learning content • Access to community of practice • Step-by-step validation from LandScale on methodology • Landscape profile and report • Use of the LandScale logo when making claims on validated results	$15,000

Table 2: Additional costs to the assessment lead (not included in the Validated by LandScale service)

Additional costs	Amount
Assessment team	This includes staff or consultant time to conduct the LandScale assessment, the daily cost of which will vary. Pilot experience suggests that between 75 and 150 person-days are needed to conduct a holistic baseline assessment. The key factors which influence the level of effort required to conduct a LandScale assessment are as follows: • The number of Indicators that will be included in the assessment • The extent of existing stakeholder relations and access to data in the landscape The expertise required by the team conducting the assessment is outlined in the Appendix
Data procurement	There may be a fee associated with accessing some relevant datasets, so it is advisable to include a budget for this. It may also be necessary for the assessment team to travel and/or hold meetings with stakeholders as part of the data procurement process.
Stipends for local reviewers	Engaging local reviewers to review assessment results. At least one person is required to review each metric result, although the same person may have the necessary expertise to review multiple metrics. The local review is a prerequisite for publication of results on the platform. It may be necessary to provide some local reviewers with a stipend.

Section 4

What LandScale means for donors

Using LandScale results enables companies, governments, financial institutions and landscape actors to scale up effective action, investment, and incentives for sustainability at landscape scale. This in turn delivers tangible benefits and helps to prevent key risks for people, nature, climate, and sustainable development.

Examples of landscape-level benefits include reducing deforestation and conversion, expanding restoration of ecosystems and production systems, improving watershed health, enhancing livelihoods and respect for human rights, increasing resilience and improving the sustainability of supply for soft commodities, and strengthening governance and collective action across key actors and sectors.

Appendix

Expertise required by the team conducting a LandScale assessment

Conducting a LandScale assessment requires a team of people with a wide range of skills and expertise, which are outlined in detail below.

Subject Matter Expertise

The team needs to have technical expertise in the sustainability topics covered by the LandScale assessment framework (Focused on the Indicators that will be included in the assessment). This may include interdisciplinary expertise in issues related to land use, natural resource management, commodity production, social development, and governance, as well as agriculture or forestry if these are significant sectors in the landscape. The assessment team must have the relevant expertise across all pillars of the LandScale framework.

Ecosystems

- Natural ecosystem's protection, conversion, and degradation
- Restoration of converted and degraded ecosystems (optional)
- Connectivity and fragmentation of natural ecosystems (optional)
- Biodiversity habitat protection, conversion, degradation, and restoration
- Water resources measurements (optional)
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (sources) & sequestration (sinks) associated with AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use) (optional)
- Ecosystem services measurements (optional)

Governance

- Land and resources tenure
- Land and resources conflicts 10
- Transparency, participation, inclusion, and coordination in land-use policy, planning, and management
- Illegality and corruption related to land and resources (optional)

Production

- Productivity of agricultural (crop and livestock), agroforestry & tree (optional) production systems for major production systems in the landscape (optional)
- Efficiency of input use in agricultural, agroforestry and tree production systems for major production systems in the landscape (optional)
- Adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) and waste management practices in agricultural and forest plantation operations for major production systems in the landscape (optional)
- Expertise in other natural resource-based production sectors (optional)

Human wellbeing

- Multidimensional poverty assessments (education, sanitation, health, nutrition, etc.)
- Human rights impact assessments (child labour, forced labour, workers' rights) (optional).

Additionally, given the sensitive nature of human rights issues covered in the assessment framework, LandScale requires the assessment team to fulfil the following qualifications for human rights:

- Human Rights Specialist(s): The assessment team must have expertise specifically related to the human rights issues covered in the LandScale framework (child labour, women's rights, indigenous peoples,' and other marginalized groups' rights, forced labour, and workers' rights).

The team should include, at a minimum, an expert with the following qualifications who can lead the assessment of human rights indicators in a rigorous and objective manner:

- Speak the local language(s) of the landscape;
- Be committed to an objective and inclusive assessment, including willingness to engage separately with marginalized or vulnerable groups to the extent necessary to properly understand their perspectives;
- Demonstrate at least 3 years of experience related to human rights issues and impact assessments;
- Understand the key human rights issues affecting local people and communities;
- Have experience conducting household surveys, interviews, focus groups, and other types of engagements with workers, households, and local communities;
- Have a general understanding and knowledge of local culture, context, and politics.

Appendix

Expertise required by the team conducting a LandScale assessment

Data and Analysis Expertise

The team should have expertise in social and environmental data and data analysis so that it will be able to identify data sources, assess data quality, and calculate metrics based on secondary and primary data.

GIS and Data manipulation and Management

Spatial information is a key component of a LandScale assessment. For this reason, the team should include one or more people experienced in collecting and managing spatial data and deriving metric results from these data, including proficiency in spatial analysis using geographic information systems (GIS). Mapping abilities are also required to complete the landscape overview in Step 2 of the assessment process.

Preferred Qualifications

Writing skills

The landscape report must be written in English (reporting of results to local audiences in locally suitable languages and formats is also encouraged, where appropriate). It is recommended that the team includes a skilled writer and editor to support the production of the assessment report.

Data visualization skills

The landscape profile and report will be enhanced by visualizations of the data including maps, charts, and other graphics. Assessment leads are encouraged to include team member(s) who can have the skills to produce these types of data visualizations.

LANDSCALE

Measuring Performance. Powering Sustainability.

www.landscale.org

Steering group

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL