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**Climate Smart Landscapes**

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*Executive Summary*

The world’s agricultural land, forests, hydrological cycles and atmosphere are sick and under threat. Several studies have highlighted that human activities have exceeded the planet’s abilities to cope. Humankind’s future prosperity and food security as well as earth’s ecological integrity are in an unhealthy position. Attempts to address these complicated and interdependent problems have typically taken narrow sectoral approaches. Climate Smart Agriculture will face similar weaknesses if agriculture is partitioned by ministry, by (sub)sector or by perspective (environment or development). Accordingly, we recommend taking a whole landscape approach to create ***Climate Smart Landscapes***.

Whilst there is no single definition of a landscape this should not restrict us. Originally, the word was derived over 1500 years ago to describe jurisdictional areas of land. A group of 16th Century Flemish painters used it to convey those artists who created topographical vistas. Later in the 20th Century geographers embraced it as part of their profession. Enigmatically, notwithstanding the lack of a single definition of landscapes, there has been much recent interest in the “landscape approach”, most notably at Rio +20. And yet we still partition the mechanisms being designed to address these connected problems. In the environmental sector we have payments for environmental services (PES); in the forestry sector REDD is underway; and now for agriculture “climate smart agriculture (CSA)” is being promoted. These silos need to be amalgamated under a broader climate smart landscape programme for beneficial and productive adaptation to climate change.

We contend that the landscape approach can work in diverse locations for competing stakeholders and multiple objectives. We describe the landscape approach as one that includes four principles of:

1. Making sense and operating across nested and interacting social and political scales
2. Making sense and operating across nested and overlapping biophysical scales
3. Involving multiple and defined sectors and stakeholders
4. Seeking synergies and reducing tradeoffs

To make this happen though we need to learn from the REDD experiences where the opportunity cost dimension of forest clearance and the market price of carbon were simplistically proposed to solve deforestation. In addition, we need: (i) to develop better conceptual frameworks; (ii) more robust data sources; (iii) modeling of different scenarios and interventions; (iv) to include better M&E systems; (v) to develop and employ trade-off analyses (methods and units); (vi) to agree on key indicators, metrics and indices; (vii) to frame the priority decision processes, choices and perspectives.

In essence, the climate smart landscape approach combines people, place and purpose. Simply put it is about:

***the right practices for the right people in the right places for the right reasons.***

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