On March 6–9, 2017, 140 ILM practitioners, farmers, researchers, policymakers, and finance, business, and community leaders – 113 from 16 African countries and 27 from the United States and Europe – convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the African Landscapes Dialogue to promote new ideas, expand networks, confront challenges, and share lessons and experiences among those who implement landscape initiatives. The goal: To inspire landscape leaders and strengthen their capacities to advance the African Landscapes Action Plan.

Outcomes from the Dialogue
A selection of the recommended actions from each conference theme

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
Recognize and support farmers’ – including women and youth – contributions to sustainable land management; improve coordination mechanisms within the landscape for greatest impact and ensure sustainability.

Policy
Clarify existing policies – at national and sub-national levels – to identify gaps; increase engagement of policy makers by regularly sharing ILM successes and innovations; mainstream landscape management into the broader development agenda, especially Sustainable Development Goals.

Business
Create evidence on diversity of “business” in landscapes, such as farmers, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), international supply chains, etc.; take stock of existing business learning networks to incorporate landscapes; bridge the learning communities on landscapes and business networks.

Finance
Support landscape initiatives to map existing financial resources that could be used for integrated investments; coordinate investments within their landscapes; engage African financial institutions and build landscape finance literacy.

Research – Building the Evidence
Encourage landscape stakeholders to define development problems and frame the solutions; develop standardized indicators so that progress can be evaluated within—and between—landscapes; build an evidence base that can be used to compare ILM with prior interventions and sectorial approaches.
Capacity Development
Use local knowledge to inform capacity development; promote cross landscape learning; cultivate and support community ownership and leadership within landscapes to ensure sustainability.

Enhancing coordination among regional landscape programs
Map African regional landscape initiatives so new efforts can build on and complement them; collaborate in knowledge management and knowledge-sharing; link and build on regional programs’ tools and indicators for land and resource status assessment.

Country-level strategies and opportunities
- Ethiopia – Institutionalize the national landscape learning network
- Kenya – Use forest and landscape restoration as an entry point for ALAP implementation
- Other actions from Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Horn of Africa (Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan), West and Central Africa.

Other actions recommended during the Dialogue:
- Establish a Working Group on pastoralists and rangeland management in ILM
- Recognize and support the role of women in ILM in all ALAP activities
- Consider population dynamics in landscapes (population growth, migration, and seasonal fluctuations) that are critical to ILM strategies and implementation
- Encourage national governments to support ILM as a means for effective and integrated implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Tools shared during the ‘Tool Bazaar’ included: Multi-stakeholder landscape partnership design; Evaluating Land Management Options (ELMO); Landscape management and planning tool; Verified Conservation Areas; Landscape Governance Capacity Framework & Assessment; LADA: Landscape Degradation Assessment in Drylands; Collaborative Action to Monitor Forest Landscape Restoration; Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM); Environmentally-sound Investment and Land use Decision Supporting Tool.

Trainings provided at the Dialogue included: Landscape Leadership; Assessing the Performance of Multi–Stakeholder Platforms in Integrated Landscape Initiatives; Incentives for Ecosystem Services to finance landscape approaches: What’s in it for farmers?; Learn how to use and apply LandPKS mobile apps; Mobilizing finance for landscape investments.

The African Landscapes Action Plan will be updated to include new information, recommendations for action and landscape partners by May 2017. Find the program agenda, PowerPoint presentations, digital posters, blogs, and photos from the Dialogue at peoplefoodandnature.org/ald2017.

The Dialogue was organized by the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative (LPFN), under the leadership of the African Model Forests Network (AMFN), EcoAgriculture Partners, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N), NEPAD-TerrAfrica, Solidaridad Network, and Water and Land Resources Centre (WLRC).

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