

ADVANCING LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE RESTORATION:

# THE CASE FOR POLICY COHERENCE AND GOOD PRACTICE SHARING



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
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**COMMONLAND**  
4 Returns for Healthy Landscapes



**CLIMATE  
FOCUS**



*In today's complex global context, achieving coherence across climate, biodiversity, and food agendas is more challenging than ever – yet it is also more essential. This is why the insights and recommendations in this report are so important: they outline tangible practices for aligning policies across sectors, governance levels, and timeframes. It offers practical pathways to achieving collaboration and cohesion, showing that restoration can be a unifying force.*

*Achieving this alignment requires a shared commitment from policymakers, civil society, and the restoration community to champion long-term, evidence-based solutions. By fostering cross-sector collaboration and uniting diverse interests, we can turn challenges into opportunities, restore landscapes and seascapes, and build lasting resilience for people and nature alike.*

**Dr Grethel Aguilar**  
**Director General**  
**IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)**

Fragmented efforts are inadequate to address the systemic and highly interconnected challenges of our time. Responding effectively to runaway climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and the spiralling socioeconomic crisis requires transformative governance built on partnerships that operate across space and time and are guided by a long-term vision for the future. To transform governance, policy coherence is needed across scales and over time, at local, landscape and seascape, national, regional, and global levels. Landscape and seascape restoration approaches that embed shared understanding and partnership in their design and implementation can help to foster policy coherence and thereby enable transformative governance.

*This policy brief highlights the critical role of policy coherence in achieving effective, just, and lasting landscape and seascape restoration outcomes.*

The brief discusses why policy coherence is a prerequisite for effective landscape and seascape restoration and, in turn, how landscape and seascape restoration can increase coherence across sectors, scales and time by aligning ecological, social and economic goals. It highlights the importance of gathering and sharing good practices to support policy integration and effective governance in landscape and seascape restoration. The brief is intended for government actors, practitioners, researchers, financiers, and civil society actors engaged in landscape and seascape restoration, and offers targeted recommendations to enable more resilient, inclusive, and transformative outcomes.

## THE CASE FOR COHERENCE – ALIGNING POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES IN LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE RESTORATION

### KEY TERMS

**○ Landscape and seascape:** a socio-ecological system consisting of interconnected natural and/or human modified terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems that are shaped by distinct ecological, historical, economic, socio-cultural, regulatory, and political processes and activities.

**○ Restoration:** ecosystem restoration interventions can be considered as a restorative continuum that includes four main categories of restorative activities: 1) Reduction of negative impacts, such as pollution, use of invasive species, and unsustainable resource use and management; 2) Removal of contaminants, pollutants and other threats, often known as remediation; 3) Rehabilitation of ecosystem functions and services in highly modified areas such as former mining sites and degraded production ecosystems, which supports the recovery of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity; and 4) Ecological restoration, which aims to remove degradation and assists in recovering an ecosystem to the trajectory it would be on if degradation had not occurred, accounting for environmental shifts including climate change. Full recovery of natural ecosystems requires reaching a high integrity condition for six key ecological attributes: absence of threats, physical conditions, species composition, structural diversity, ecosystem function and external exchanges.<sup>1</sup>

**○ Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR):** a process that aims to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes. FLR is not an end in itself, but a means of regaining, improving, and maintaining vital ecological and social functions, in the long-term leading to more resilient and sustainable landscapes. FLR has been instrumental in shifting focus from localised restoration efforts to a comprehensive landscape approach.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Forest and Landscape Restoration, as defined by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)



○ **Policy coherence:** the result of systematically promoting mutually reinforcing policy goals and actions that create synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives. It systematically fosters synergies between sectors (horizontal coherence) or governance levels (vertical coherence), minimising fragmentation, misalignment or conflict. It can apply to any level of governance system and organisation (e.g., government departments and agencies, landscape and seascape partnerships) involved in landscape and seascape restoration initiatives. Policy coherence is achieved when interventions realise more synergies than conflict.<sup>2</sup>

○ **Policy integration:** entails the coordination of actors and the combination of instruments across policy subsystems and/or governance levels, as well as the arrangements for their consistent implementation and evaluation. It responds to complex problems that cannot be solved by a single policy sector, policy instrument, or actor group.<sup>3</sup> For example, integration occurs when the policy objectives of one policy subsystem are explicitly adopted and pursued within another.

#### Policy coherence encourages whole systems thinking.

The highly interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental pollution, land and ocean degradation, rising inequality, chronic poverty and food insecurity demand integrated responses that are commensurate with their scope and urgency. In landscapes, social, environmental, agricultural, forestry, energy, water, health, and development policies often operate in silos.<sup>4</sup> Without alignment, progress in one area may undermine gains in another. For example, in many forest-rich nations there are tensions between policies implemented to prevent deforestation and agricultural subsidies which, while designed to boost production and improve the livelihoods of agricultural producers, are also exacerbating deforestation and forest degradation by encouraging agricultural expansion.<sup>5</sup>

The Nexus Assessment report—developed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)—highlights that current decision-making processes in the fossil fuel, agriculture, and fisheries sectors do not adequately account for their full range of socio-cultural and environmental impacts. The report estimates that negative externalities—the unaddressed costs associated with these sectors, including their adverse effects on biodiversity, water resources, food production, public health, and climate stability—amount to between USD 10 trillion and USD 25

trillion annually.<sup>6</sup> Societal, economic and policy decisions that prioritise short-term benefits and financial returns for the few while ignoring their broader impacts on these critical ‘nexus areas’<sup>ii</sup> have significant, cumulative effects on human and planetary wellbeing.<sup>7</sup> Adopting whole systems approaches which help to align and unify objectives—while mitigating trade-offs—across sectors and governance levels can enable the creation of common solutions.

*Achieving policy coherence for landscape and seascape restoration requires a fundamental shift from viewing nature and people as separate to recognising their deep interdependence.*

A systems-based approach—grounded in integrated biodiversity and climate policy—emphasises that fragmented, sectoral responses are insufficient to address the complexity of socio-ecological systems. This shift calls for designing policies and governance structures that treat humans as part of ecosystems, prioritise inclusive and participatory processes, and ensure equitable benefit-sharing, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Strong, cross-sectoral governance and adaptive learning are essential for bridging nature–society divides, aligning ecological, social, and economic goals, and fostering resilience and innovation. Importantly, integrating inner dimensions—such as values, mindsets, and worldviews—into governance processes supports this relational transition and underpins more transformative and lasting restoration outcomes (see **Box 1**).



ii Nexus Areas, according to the IPBES report, are biodiversity, water, food, health and climate.





### BOX 1. EARTH LAW: A PATHWAY FOR LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Globally, landscapes requiring restoration face a critical gap: existing environmental laws often prioritise short-term economic impacts over long-term ecological recovery, resulting in fragmented protection.

**Earth Law offers a fundamentally different approach.** Rooted in ecocentric principles, this Rights of Nature movement grants ecosystems **legal personhood** to ensure protection, restoration and eventual regeneration of landscapes to become **Nature-positive systems**—where biodiversity thrives alongside meeting human needs.

**The Colombian Atrato River demonstrates this in practice.** In 2016, the Constitutional Court granted the river legal rights to protection and restoration. Within six months, government entities were mandated to eliminate illegal mining, restrict toxic chemicals, and develop monitoring indicators through a dedicated guardianship body.

**New Zealand's Te Urewera provides another example.** In 2014, this former national park became the world's first ecosystem granted legal personhood, managed by a board that prioritises the land's intrinsic value. Similar legislation for the Whanganui River created a \$30 million contestable fund for restoration. These place-based approaches honour both ecological and cultural boundaries, aligning with bioregioning principles that recognise the uniqueness of local ecosystems and human cultures.

**For restoration practitioners, Earth Law offers:**

- Long-term legal protection for restoration investments
- Clear government obligations for ecosystem recovery
- Accountability mechanisms through legal guardianship
- Policy coherence across bioregional sectors and jurisdictions

The Eco Jurisprudence Monitor provides a comprehensive global database tracking these Earth-centered laws that transcend anthropocentrism, documenting how ecocentric legal approaches—from local ordinances to constitutional amendments—represent the strongest measures to protect ecosystems. Earth Law provides time and place specific tested legal tools for embedding holistic, rights-based approaches into landscape restoration governance systems globally.

**Policy coherence yields synergistic outcomes.** Coherent restoration policies, by addressing the root causes of ecosystem degradation and social vulnerability, can support the achievement of goals in seemingly unrelated sectors, mitigate trade-offs and create new opportunities for synergies. For example, land-use planning that allocates suitable areas for sustainable food production—prioritising healthy diets—while conserving ecologically sensitive zones can help societies meet their food security goals while minimising biodiversity loss and achieving economic prosperity.<sup>iii,8</sup> Such areas can provide food, enhance resilience, and hold spiritual significance for some communities, serve as appealing recreational environments for others, and deliver multiple physical and mental health benefits for all.<sup>iv,9</sup> Synergistic interactions can amplify restoration and regenerative dynamics by creating positive feedback loops that enhance ecosystem health and resilience.

**Policy coherence delivers considerable economic advantages,** making restoration efforts more feasible and impactful at scale. For instance, a study found that the combined, coordinated implementation of landscape and seascape restoration activities—rather than undertaking them separately under different international conventions—can substantially reduce transaction costs and enhance overall effectiveness.<sup>10</sup> In their case study of Central Asia, coordinated restoration action across the Rio Conventions was shown to potentially lower transaction costs by USD 6.2 billion, out of an estimated USD 26 billion required for total investment—resulting in a 24% gain in implementation efficiency.

iii Research indicates that in almost all scenarios, economic and ecological multifunctionality – respectively, the ability of ecosystems to provide multiple functions and services simultaneously and the economic value of services to society at large – are higher under sustainable, rather than intensive land management practices.

iv The health benefits of exposure to nature are well documented, including improvements in affect, cognition, restoration, and well-being, and decreases in anxiety and depression symptoms. Exposure to restored landscapes enhances psychological well-being, reduces stress, and encourages physical activity, all of which support better overall health – particularly in urban and peri-urban areas.



### Policy coherence facilitates the creation of multistakeholder partnerships.

Transformative change is system-wide and requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach that engages all actors and sectors.<sup>11</sup> Collaborative processes help stakeholders to identify synergies, mediate conflict, and align goals to create a shared vision. In landscape and seascape restoration, policy coherence can allow government and non-governmental actors to simultaneously tackle overlapping problems and coordinate resources across a variety of sectors, including health, agriculture and fishery, sustainable harvesting, energy, tourism, investment, environment, education, and justice. Policy coherence enables the integration of governance approaches at multiple scales, from local to global, around the shared benefits of landscape and seascape restoration. Creating locally grounded, multistakeholder partnerships is a precondition for the landscape and seascape approach, including for securing robust financing arrangements (see **Box 2**). Evidence shows that creating trust through the early inclusion of stakeholders, open communication and the provision of long-term support can be key factors of success.<sup>12</sup>

One example of effective multistakeholder collaboration is the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR),<sup>v</sup> a global network that unites governments, organisations, and research institutes working to restore the world's degraded forests and other ecosystems in landscapes. The Partnership works to secure political and technical support for landscape restoration in national and international policy frameworks and establish synergies between activities across different institutions. It directly supports the achievement of the Bonn Challenge<sup>vi</sup> —and its regional offshoots AFR100<sup>vii</sup> and Initiative 20x20<sup>viii</sup> —to restore 350 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030.

## ACHIEVING POLICY COHERENCE FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL GOALS: A LONG-TERM, DYNAMIC PROCESS

### KEY TERMS

**○ Horizontal coherence/integration:** involves aligning policies across various sectors, such as environment, climate, agriculture and food, forestry, finance, socio-economic, water resources, to utilise synergies and minimise trade-offs.<sup>13</sup>

**○ Vertical coherence/integration:** involves aligning policies across governance levels - from local to landscape, national, regional, and global level - to ensure that higher-level policies address local needs.<sup>14</sup>

**○ Temporal coherence/integration:** implies long-term vision and continued commitments across social, political and economic cycles, including political alignment which supports the evolution of a policy decision from theory to action. It supports intergenerational justice by safeguarding resources and opportunities for the future while meeting present needs.

**○ Holistic Landscape Restoration (HLR):** an integrated approach to protecting and restoring degraded ecosystems at landscape scale. HLR takes a landscape approach that emphasises participatory processes and attention to a comprehensive range of impacts across natural, urban, and productive areas. This supports the inclusion of often overlooked dimensions such as inspirational or spiritual goals, alongside ecological, social and financial returns (see the 4 Returns Framework).<sup>15</sup>

v See Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration at [www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/](http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/).

vi See The Bonn Challenge at [www.bonnchallenge.org/](http://www.bonnchallenge.org/).

vii See AFR100 at [afr100.org/](http://afr100.org/).

viii See Initiative 20x20 at [initiative20x20.org/](http://initiative20x20.org/).





**Policy coherence is a prerequisite for progressing towards global goals on climate and nature.** This long-term objective is shared by the three Rio Conventions—the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)<sup>ix</sup> and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)—and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>x</sup> which aim to address interconnected global challenges in a coordinated way. For example, the term ‘Ecosystem Approach’ was coined in 1995 by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to reflect the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The description, guidance and 12 principles of the Ecosystem Approach were included in final decisions made at the Conference of the Parties (COP5, Amman) in 2000.<sup>xi</sup> Recent efforts by UN agencies have further emphasised the importance of policy coherence, cross-sectoral partnerships, and integrated approaches for tackling current crises. For example, the Parties to the CBD acknowledged the critical need to align actions across the Rio Conventions, sectors, stakeholders, and levels of governance to ensure the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Decision 16/22 specifically calls for enhanced cooperation and strengthened policy coherence as key enablers of transformative action.<sup>xii</sup> Alignment of the process for updating National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) offers an opportunity to implement synergies at a critical juncture.

**At regional and national levels, there is growing recognition of the need to build synergies across policies to maximise impacts and minimise trade-offs.**

At the regional level, the EU and its member countries have committed to Policy Coherence for Development (PCD),<sup>xiii</sup> a pledge to build synergies between different EU policies and to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation across the bloc. Similarly, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)<sup>xiv</sup> has made it a core objective to align national policies across different sectors in accordance with the SDGs. The Earth Charter,<sup>xv</sup> an international declaration of principles for building a just and sustainable global society, also advocates for integrated and holistic approaches to sustainability governance. Launched in 2000, it has since been endorsed by local and national governments, and organisations around the world.

*At the national level, there are calls to leverage existing frameworks such as NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and other national adaptation, restoration, and drought plans.*

These instruments often operate in silos, yet they share overlapping goals related to climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable land use. Enhancing alignment and integration between them can unlock synergies, reduce duplication, and accelerate progress toward national priorities. Given that the majority of future restoration funding will likely originate from national budgets, better alignment and integration of national strategies can significantly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of land restoration initiatives. This approach will not only optimise the use of domestic resources but also boost appeal to international investors by showcasing stronger impact and greater value per dollar spent.

A positive example of policy coherence at the national level comes from El Salvador, which has taken a leading role in promoting restoration policies. In 2022, the national government launched a programme to improve the coherence of environmental policy instruments and their coordination with agricultural policy, municipalities, and private sector.<sup>16</sup> The programme focuses on the creation of incentives for the conservation of natural resources and the environment. Components include a “Green Protocol” to scale up private credit for nature-related investments; a pilot Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanism; and a new compensation system aimed at discouraging environmental degradation. The programme provides a platform for consolidating all initiatives related to environmental incentives and disincentives, which facilitates internal and external coordination, resource management, and the achievement of national objectives and commitments. By 2020, El Salvador had achieved 28% of its 1-million-hectare restoration commitment, according to the Bonn Challenge Barometer.<sup>xvi</sup>

**At the landscape and seascape level, policy coherence is critical for aligning cross-sectoral objectives, avoiding duplication, and making efficient use of limited resources, while also preventing contradictory actions that may lead to unintended or harmful consequences (see Figure 1).** Coherence is especially impactful when grounded in robust, scale-sensitive governance that

ix See Convention on Biological Diversity: Principles of the Ecosystem Approach at [www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml).

x SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals – includes a specific indicator (17.14) on enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development. See SDG 17 at [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17#targets_and_indicators).

xi Decision V/6 adopted at the Conference of the parties (COP5) in Amman, Jordan, 2000.

xii Decision 16/22 adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 1 November 2024, Biodiversity and climate change.

xiii See European Commission: Policy coherence for development at [international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/european-development-policy/policy-coherence-development\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/european-development-policy/policy-coherence-development_en).

xiv See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at [www.cepal.org/en](http://www.cepal.org/en).

xv See Earth Charter at [earthcharter.org/](http://earthcharter.org/).

xvi See Bonn Challenge: Progress at [www.bonnchallenge.org/progress](http://www.bonnchallenge.org/progress).



enables multi-stakeholder participation, balances diverse interests, and negotiates necessary trade-offs. Integrated governance structures—those that intentionally connect actors across economic sectors and governance scales—are more likely to deliver balanced ecological, economic, and social outcomes while enhancing legitimacy and sustainability of restoration efforts. Moreover, governance arrangements that foster inclusive dialogue, clear institutional coordination, and shared decision-making empower landscape actors to overcome power imbalances and address context-specific restoration challenges. Together, policy coherence and inclusive governance arrangements form a foundational pillar for restoring multifunctional landscapes and seascapes.<sup>17</sup>

**Despite broad consensus on its importance, coherence remains difficult to achieve in practice.** Competing priorities, political instability, corruption, institutional silos, short-term planning, overlapping mandates, limited coordination mechanisms, fragmented funding mechanisms, differences in governance structures, and capacity gaps can all hinder efforts to align policies across sectors and jurisdictions. Siloed thinking which ignores the role of gender, culture, future generations, and social equity can also prevent effective, sustainable

governance. Ministries and government agencies frequently operate with competing priorities and few incentives to form partnerships. Government turnover, especially at the ministerial level, can drastically change political priorities and foster an environment of short-termism. These systemic barriers slow progress and make coherent implementation the exception rather than the norm.<sup>18</sup>

When the focus of governmental projects is limited, some sectors may suffer. Vietnam learned this lesson from the 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Program (1998-2010), a large-scale forestry program aimed at reversing deforestation. Government policies did reduce deforestation rates in the country,<sup>19</sup> but by prioritizing plantation forestry, local livelihoods and ecological diversity were ignored. Privatization of large areas of land reduced access to important non-timber forest products used by vulnerable communities, and created greater village inequality in reforestation areas.<sup>20</sup> The government of Vietnam now champions greater collaboration across national and provincial resource departments, universities, and NGOs to develop specific targets for ecosystem restoration and the enabling conditions to achieve them.



**Figure 1.** The multiple dimensions of policy coherence in landscape restoration. Landscape restoration both depends on and reinforces policy coherence by promoting multi-level governance, cross-sectoral, and long-term integration.





## BOX 2. TACKLING BARRIERS TO RESTORATION FINANCE THROUGH LANDSCAPE FINANCING FRAMEWORKS<sup>21</sup>

Landscape and seascape restoration delivers a wide range of public benefits. However, it typically requires high up-front investment and generates returns over long time horizons, making such projects unattractive to private investors who seek short-term, low-risk, high-yield opportunities within existing market frameworks.<sup>22</sup> Current market mechanisms and policy environments fail to mobilise private finance at the scale needed for landscape and seascape restoration to deliver substantial and consistent social benefits.

This lack of direct finance for restoration is compounded by the continued financing of harmful activities, such as public subsidies for agriculture, mining, and energy production practices that degrade natural ecosystems. These subsidies create perverse incentives that undermine climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development goals<sup>23</sup> and also distort markets, making it even more challenging for nature restoration activities to compete.

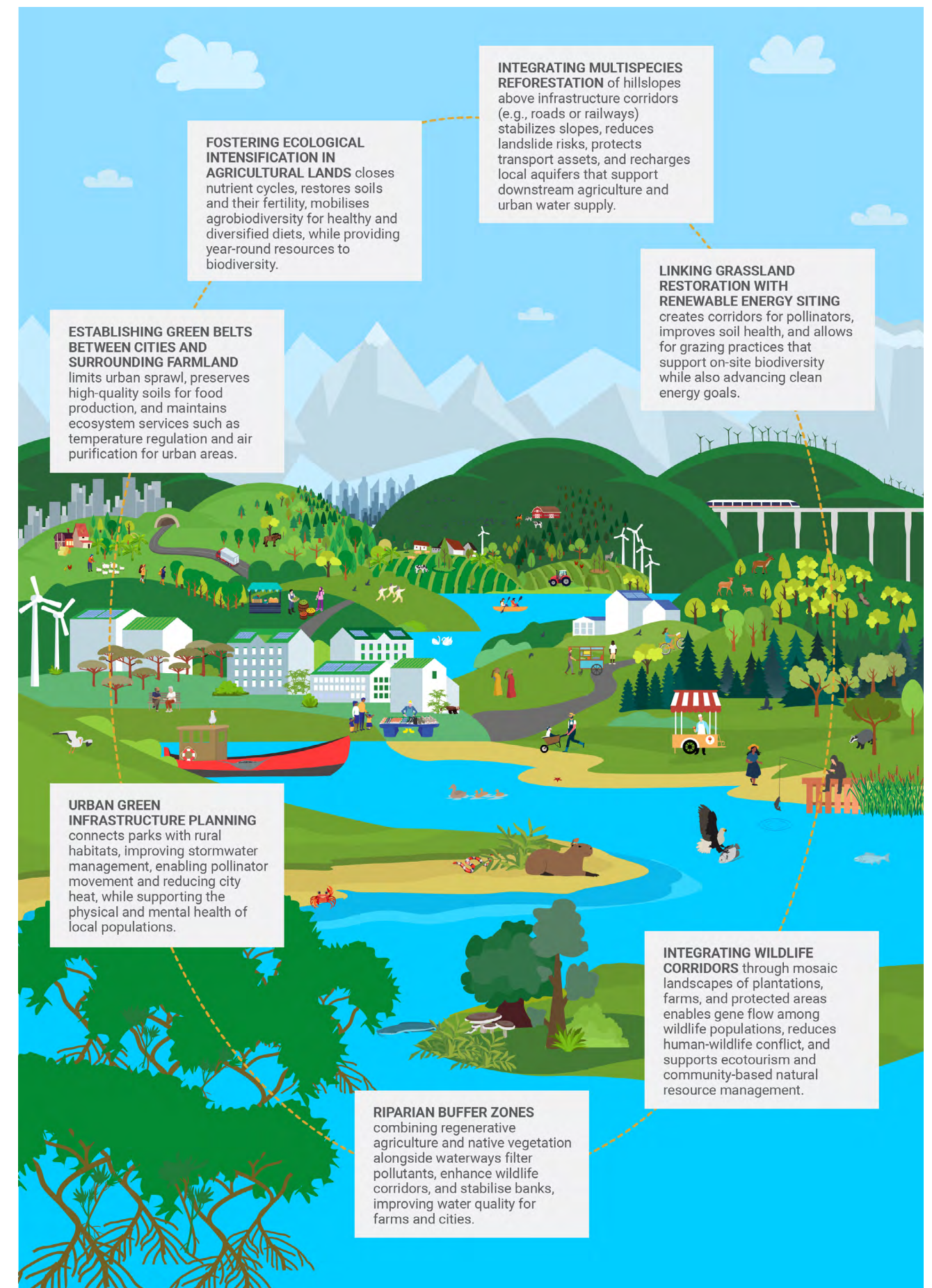
Increasing finance flows towards efforts to preserve and restore ecosystems, and to promote regenerative and fair businesses, is essential for meeting global climate and biodiversity targets. Landscape and seascape restoration financing approaches help to tackle chronic barriers to scaling restoration finance by creating diverse multistakeholder funding partnerships comprised of public, private and philanthropic sources. When operating in an integrated and synergistic way, these partnerships create significant investment opportunities and help to reduce risks for investors. By working across large-scale landscapes or seascapes and engaging in a wide range of restoration actions and processes with long infrastructure and investment horizons, they can facilitate systemic change. For example, innovative financial instruments such as equity-centred<sup>24</sup> PES which fosters agrobiodiversity conservation<sup>25</sup> can make restoration projects more attractive, investable, and viable for private actors. Taking a ‘mission-oriented’ financing approach<sup>26</sup> can also help to steer private capital towards activities that generate long-term public value and structural transformation (see **Recommendations**).

**Achieving policy coherence is a dynamic process requiring long-term effort, sustained political will, iterative planning, and continued, committed learning by all stakeholders.** A combination of incremental changes and transformative shifts are needed to build alignment and activate a self-reinforcing, virtuous cycle of positive outcomes.<sup>27</sup> This is especially important to mitigate any reversals or changes in policy adoption, implementation and funding that may occur with the changing of political cycles. Early progress can be achieved through improved cross-sectoral coordination, enhanced dialogue between ministries and other involved actors, and the development of joint planning or monitoring frameworks. Though apparently modest, these steps help establish the trust, capacity, and shared understanding necessary to lay the groundwork for deeper structural change. The multiple evidence base approach<sup>28</sup>—which proposes parallels across which Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge can be considered—is just one approach to integrating knowledge systems for effective biodiversity and landscape governance.

**Efforts to enhance policy coherence risk reinforcing existing inequalities unless they explicitly address issues of power and inclusion.**<sup>29</sup> The prevailing view treats policy coherence as a neutral, technical process aimed at improving implementation, often neglecting the underlying power dynamics and equity considerations that shape who benefits and which goals are prioritised.<sup>30</sup> This technocratic framing can obscure the reality that policy decisions are deeply political, reflecting the interests and influence of dominant actors while marginalising less powerful groups. In the global food system, for instance, efforts to “feed the world”—while driving profits and economic growth—prioritised maximising productivity and yields. This focus led to policies and practices that often sidelined social justice,<sup>31</sup> drove ecosystem conversion and soil degradation,<sup>32</sup> and overlooked both the root causes of hunger and the importance of healthy diets for human and planetary wellbeing.<sup>33</sup>

**Landscape and seascape multistakeholder partnerships can function as effective governance platforms that translate broad commitments into spatially targeted, locally relevant, actionable outcomes.** Landscape and seascape approaches are implemented in complex socio-ecological systems where diverse actors, sectors, governance levels—each with their own interests—interact and often compete. Although this complexity can pose challenges for advancing policy coherence, landscapes and seascapes are precisely where coherence is built and operationalised in all its dimensions: vertically, by aligning policies across governance levels; horizontally, by integrating sectors and actors; and temporally, by grounding decisions in intergenerational equity to safeguard the needs and rights of both present and future generations (see **Figure 2**).

**Figure 2.** Synergies created by holistic landscape restoration approaches. Through integrated governance, landscape restoration creates opportunities for synergistic interactions that generate positive feedback loops, enhance efficiency, and improve the effectiveness of restoration efforts.





**Holistic landscape restoration (HLR) provides an example of how all dimensions of policy coherence can be embedded within restoration efforts.** HLR, as defined under Commonland's 4 Returns Framework,<sup>34</sup> developed from the 12 principles of the UN-endorsed Ecosystem Approach, emphasises the importance of integrated spatial planning driven by multistakeholder partnerships for delivering natural, social, financial, and inspirational benefits.<sup>35</sup> The framework highlights how HLR must be a non-linear, dynamic process to effectively balance varying stakeholder demands. HLR has the potential to generate compounded, system-wide benefits that significantly surpass the impacts of uncoordinated, isolated interventions occurring within the subsystems of thriving landscapes (see **Figure 3**).

## GOOD AND PROMISING PRACTICES FOR ADVANCING POLICY COHERENCE IN RESTORATION: FROM PRINCIPLES TO REAL-WORLD APPLICATION

### KEY TERMS

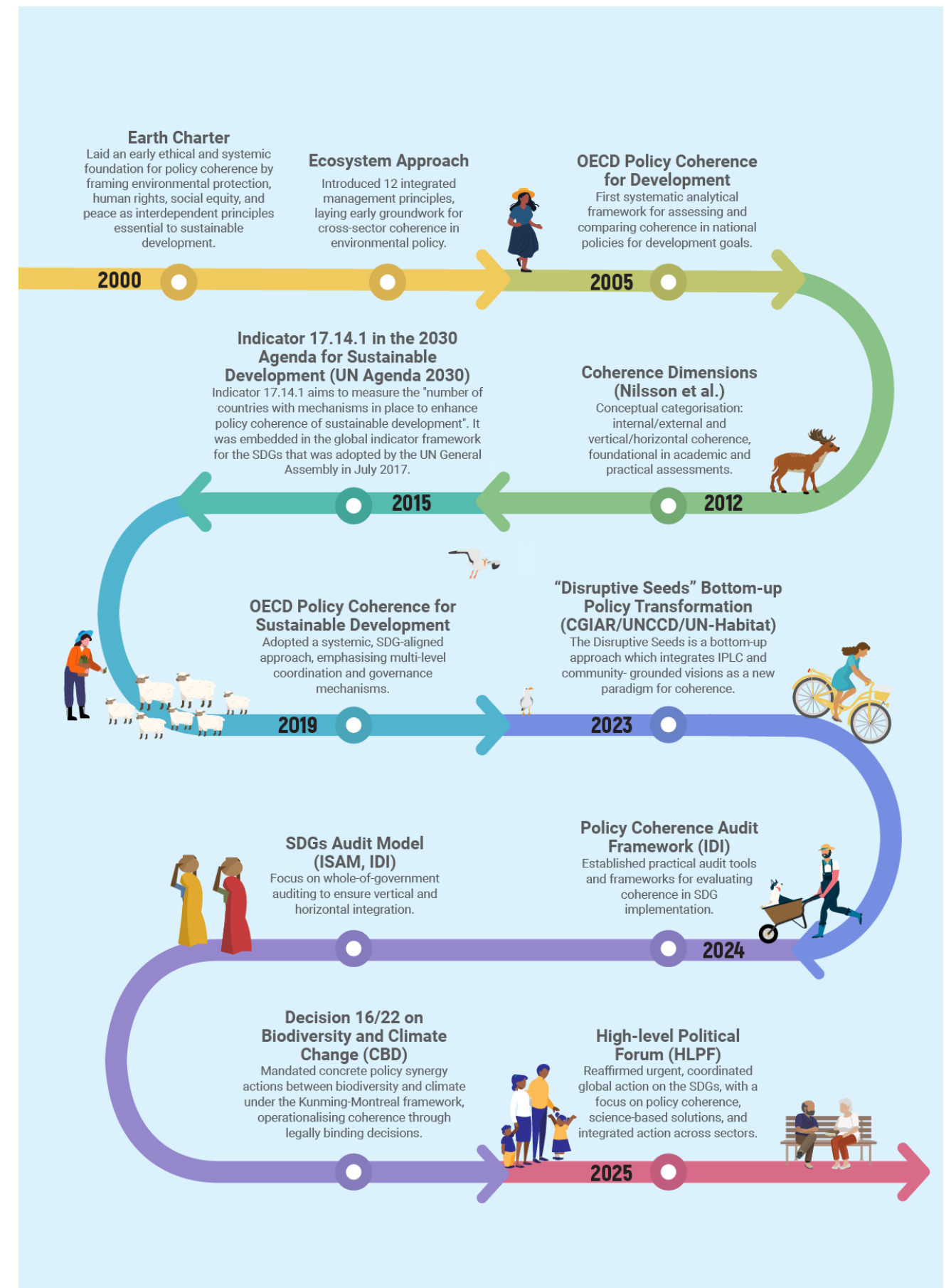
- **Good practices:** strategies and interventions that have already proven effective in aligning environmental, social, and economic objectives within real-world contexts. They are usually an evidence-based approach, technique or technology that contributes to achieving one or more objectives of a restoration initiative, maximising benefits for nature and people.<sup>xvii</sup>
- **Promising practices:** a practice that has been tested solely in a specific context, whose results need to be proven outside the current situation for replicability and adaptability to different contexts.<sup>xviii</sup>
- **Landscape governance:** has been defined as the process of multi-sector, multi-actor and multi-level interaction and decision making at the landscape level.<sup>36</sup>

In recent decades, various efforts have been made to define and structure the concept of policy coherence (see **Figure 4**). These include conceptual frameworks and documents, which clarify and categorise different types of policy coherence, and operational frameworks, which outline how policy coherence can be used to leverage synergies and minimise trade-offs.

*Building on existing foundations, the next critical step is practical implementation: translating principles into policies, alliances, budgets, incentives, partnerships, and institutional arrangements that deliver results on the ground.*



**Figure 3.** Defining policy coherence: key milestones. Efforts to advance policy coherence have produced conceptual and operational frameworks that define, categorise, and guide its application.



xvii Definition adopted by the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform, curated by FAO. See [ferm.fao.org/](http://ferm.fao.org/).

xviii Definition adopted by the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform, curated by FAO. See [ferm.fao.org/](http://ferm.fao.org/).



*Good practices provide actionable guidance for translating policy coherence from theory to practice—offering a roadmap for actors who may otherwise find the scale and scope of landscape and seascape restoration overwhelming.*

Whether through cross-sector coordination, inclusive governance mechanisms, or integrated funding instruments (horizontal coherence, **see case studies 2, 3 and 4**); linking local action to national policies and global commitments (vertical coherence, **see case study 1**); or through continued, consistent efforts (temporal coherence, **see case study 3**), good practices demonstrate how multiple objectives can be pursued simultaneously.

One compelling example of good practice is the Emscher Landscape Park (ELP)<sup>xix</sup> in the northern Ruhr area of Germany which, at approximately 45,000 hectares, is one of Europe's largest ecosystem restoration projects. The ELP brought together over 20 cities and two districts' administrations in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The project was deliberately designed and implemented to deliver multidimensional benefits including climate adaptation and mitigation, water management, access to green areas for urban and peri-urban communities, recovery of natural habitats as well as economic development and employment. The ELP acts as a "green connector" between the settlements of the Ruhr Valley, integrating green and grey infrastructures to repurpose abandoned industrial areas along the Emscher River into unique green spaces. The ELP has generated significant benefits for local ecosystems—including a visible increase in species of invertebrates and birds, and improved surface water quality.<sup>37</sup> It has also created over 55,000 green jobs and offers a wealth of recreation opportunities, which in turn contribute to a variety of health benefits.<sup>38</sup>

**Promising practices serve as test beds for innovation, where integrated approaches can be adapted, assessed, and gradually improved based on local ecological, cultural, and governance conditions.** While not yet widely scaled or fully validated, they offer valuable opportunities for experimentation and learning. By testing innovative arrangements and approaches in real-world settings, promising practices can contribute to a broader understanding of how integrated action can be pursued under different circumstances. Over time, promising practices may (or may not) evolve into good practices that can inform policy development, support the refinement

of strategies, and expand the range of tools available for advancing policy coherence.

One example of promising practice is the Volunteers for Inclusion and Resilience (KAVIR) programme in India's Kabirdham landscape. KAVIR was launched by the Central Highlands Restoration Program (CHiRP), a multistakeholder coalition<sup>xx</sup> working to restore degraded land and improve local livelihoods and community well-being. KAVIR was established to address the lack of youth engagement in restoration efforts. The programme trains and mobilises rural youth to become leaders in landscape restoration through a variety of hands-on experiences that include tree planting, collecting soil samples, distributing biofertiliser, and community health campaigns. The program enables participants to engage meaningfully in local decisions, while others are supported to turn their new skills such as biofertiliser production into small businesses. This helps to sustain youth engagement and offers income generation opportunities while equipping future leaders with the knowledge and skills to mainstream sustainable practices. However, the program's long-term impact, its scalability, and how youth integration in restoration contributes to temporal coherence have yet to be fully assessed.

**Documenting good and promising practices creates a repository of solutions that can be adapted and scaled across different restoration contexts.**<sup>39</sup> Since such a repository is not yet available, research to identify and understand which practices effectively foster policy coherence is of vital importance. Documenting and sharing these practices foster mutual learning, accelerates innovation, and reduces the time and resources needed to identify appropriate solutions for a given context. This knowledge base supports implementation and strengthens global cooperation, enhancing the coherence that characterises landscape and seascape restoration. Moreover, the systematic collection of practices is an invaluable resource for advancing research in the field of landscape and seascape restoration governance. As the landscape restoration community continues to evolve, this repository could serve as a practical compass for aligning vision, policy, and action in pursuit of resilient, inclusive, and thriving ecosystems and prosperous societies.

**Figure 4.** Good practices for promoting policy coherence serve as foundational building blocks for successful landscape and seascape restoration. Good practices must address not only policies and procedures but also the governance structures in which they operate. Monitoring promising practices will play a critical role in identifying what works and holds potential for replication.



xix For more information, see [www.rvr.ruhr/themen/oekologie-umwelt/startseite-emscher-landschaftspark/](http://www.rvr.ruhr/themen/oekologie-umwelt/startseite-emscher-landschaftspark/).

xx CHiRP is the work of a coalition which includes Commonland, The Nature Conservancy India (TNC India), Samerth Charitable Trust, PRADAN, the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti (AGRICON), and Network for Conserving Central India (NCCI).



## CASE STUDY 1

## GONDWANA LINK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**In Western Australia, inclusive governance approaches are helping to enhance vertical coherence that draws considerable external investment into locally-led transformative change.**

Gondwana Link<sup>xxi</sup> (Founding50 UN Decade of Restoration) has operated since 2002 achieving a consistent, inclusive, large landscape restoration vision and action programme for reconnecting Country<sup>xxii</sup> across over 1000 km of south-western Australia. Gondwana Link facilitates ecological protection, restoration and social connections by supporting groups, communities, landowners and First Nations people in their aspirations for restoration, land care and related enterprises.



Figure 1: Investors, carbon brokers, traditional custodians, the farms previous owners and the local community gathered to celebrate the start of the revegetation and hand back of Wilyun Pools Farm to the Wirlomin Language and Stories group. © Commonland

Gondwana Link has made up for a lack of long-term government policy coherence, where national and state policies fail to support integrated, large-scale landscape restoration. Existing policies tend to narrowly focus on the protection of individual rare species or ecological communities, without recognising the broader ecological, social, and economic benefits of restoring ecological connectivity at large scales. Planning policies have made it increasingly cumbersome to obtain approvals for large scale revegetation, while management approaches for “Unallocated Crown land” tenures are largely limited to wildfire mitigation, which ignores their potential for conservation and cultural management.

In response, Gondwana Link has supported strategies to reconnect ecological corridors, to restore bushland on degraded marginal farmland, and support community-led land management. This includes long-term commitment in supporting First Nations groups to secure land title and establishing opportunities for employment in land management, such as the Nowanup Rangers. Securing broad recognition of the ecological and cultural values of landscapes, such as the Great Western Woodlands, has been one important outcome. Gondwana Link facilitates many collaborative research programmes, such as those on fire management in the region.

Ecological connectivity across critical habitat gaps is increasing. Facilitating Indigenous-led restoration and land management for local family groups and ranger teams has generated meaningful employment and enterprise opportunities in regional areas, as well as provided opportunities to re-connect with Country and practice culture, and to improve management of environmental pressures damaging Country such as invasive plants, feral animals, and wildfires.

Emphasising operational flexibility, trust and reciprocity in working relationships is readily transferrable to replicate these good practices. As is supporting opportunities for Indigenous-led land management, including landscape restoration across a variety of tenures. Collaborations with investors, farmers and First Nations groups, via the carbon and nature-repair markets offer new long-term income streams for landscape restoration and management.

Gondwana Link’s success lies in identifying and holding space for community-led aspirations and engaging with wide and diverse networks to make them happen. Early information-gathering with local groups while respecting their long-term commitment to local areas helps to build trusted relationships and ensure that actions are tailored to the specific place and community. Experience also shows that tenacity and securing sustainable funding sources are key factors to success, particularly in the absence of public funding.

xxi Find out more about Gondwana Link at: [gondwanalink.org/](http://gondwanalink.org/)

xxii ‘Country’ is used in an Indigenous Australian sense of a ‘nourishing terrain’, a living entity, encompassing the physical and metaphysical, linking people to ecosystems in a holistic way. For Indigenous Peoples, Country is source of identity, culture and spirituality, and a repository of knowledge, stories and law.



## CASE STUDY 2

## OYSTER REEF RESTORATION IN THE NORTH SEA

**In Europe, the integration of environmental criteria to renewable energy development processes has potential to enhance horizontal and vertical policy coherence and create positive outcomes for biodiversity.**

Europe's renewable energy auctions, especially for offshore wind, are a key mechanism for accelerating the transition to clean energy. In 2025 alone, 37 GW of offshore wind capacity is expected to be tendered (surpassing the continent's current total installed capacity) with an additional 19 GW and 18 GW planned in subsequent years.<sup>40</sup> However, the climate crisis is mirrored by a parallel biodiversity crisis. To ensure that offshore wind deployment contributes positively to both, a growing number of EU Member States are embedding non-price criteria (NPCs) into their auction frameworks, which add environmental and social requirements to the bidding process. These criteria reward developers who minimise ecological impacts and deliver net-positive outcomes for biodiversity.



Bureau Waardenburg, Floor Driessen

Figure 2: Remnant native oyster reef in the Dutch Voordelta, by Floor Driessen, Waardenburg Ecology. © [Floor Driessen] / Waardenburg Ecology, Voordelta

A promising area for intervention is the restoration of oyster reefs, once dominant habitats in European marine ecosystems. These reefs, formed by generations of oysters, are biodiversity hotspots that enhance fishery productivity,<sup>41</sup> and support very high species biomass while reducing nutrient pollution.<sup>42</sup> Historical assessments reveal that at least 1.75 million hectares of oyster reef have been lost in the North Sea alone since the onset of industrial fishing, much of it in areas now targeted for offshore wind infrastructure.

This spatial overlap presents a unique opportunity for synergy between the offshore wind sector and marine restoration. With the policy of non-price criteria aligning energy development with habitat restoration, Member States can foster horizontal and vertical policy coherence, with the real possibility of temporal coherence.

As of December 2025, EU Member States are required to apply NPCs to at least 30% of their annually auctioned capacity.<sup>43,44</sup> This regulatory milestone offers a strategic window to mainstream biodiversity-positive practices and standardise their application across Europe.

A key challenge is the lack of standardised metrics for measuring net-positive contributions to biodiversity. While the term “nature-positive” is increasingly used in policy and investment frameworks, there is still no universally accepted definition or methodology. However, initiatives such as the Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables (GINGR)<sup>xxiii</sup> are actively working to close this gap. GINGR's metrics working group is helping build consensus on how to assess and quantify nature-positive contributions, a crucial step for credible implementation.

Case studies from Europe are being scrutinised globally, and can provide valuable insights into practical implementation, policy design, and governance supporting seascape restoration. These lessons can inform similarly ambitious approaches in other geographies and help lay the foundation for a more coherent, ecologically integrated energy transition.

xxiii Further details on GINGR at: [gingr.org](http://gingr.org)



## CASE STUDY 3

## DRIVING AGROBIODIVERSITY IN HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

**Planet friendly school meals (PFSM) help to embed school meals into landscapes. Pilot studies are revealing their broad benefits for nutrition and sustainable food systems, and show promise for advancing horizontal and temporal policy coherence across a variety of contexts.**

PFSM are a powerful lever for just and sustainable food systems.<sup>45,46</sup> Well designed PFSM programmes, mobilising agrobiodiversity and agroecological practices, generate multiple upstream benefits: restoring soil health (including below-ground biodiversity), enhancing ecological integrity and ecosystem services, while strengthening climate mitigation and adaptation.

PFSM could significantly contribute to the Rio Conventions and broader food system agendas, yet these remain underutilized and poorly integrated into voluntary and legally binding country commitments on biodiversity (NBSAPs), climate (NDCs, NAPs), land degradation neutrality (LDN), non communicable diseases (NCDs), and food systems pathways (UNFSSC). In addition, little coherence exists across these commitments in recognising the role of PFSM in meeting shared objectives.

This aspirational case study aims to evidence the potential for linking PFSM with sustainable farming that is grounded in agrobiodiversity for fostering policy coherence, generational justice, and children's right to food and a healthy environment. Current evidence is scattered, and multiple practices are being used, including well-established ones such as school gardens that serve as learning platforms and help supplement meals; food procurement guidelines that encourage agrobiodiversity and sustainable agriculture; or menu design reflecting local production systems. Multiple emerging and innovative practices also exist, such as aligning timing and needs between agroecology and regenerative agriculture with school meals; and incorporating ecological indicators such as carbon footprint and water use into menu planning and food procurement.

Evidence from diverse contexts demonstrates the transformative potential of school feeding programmes. In Brazil, the National School Feeding Program, through structured demand for diverse foods and price premiums for organic and agroecological produce, boosted farm-level agrobiodiversity and encouraged transitions to diversified, low-input farming systems.<sup>47</sup> In Nepal, a Home-Grown School Feeding model prioritising neglected and underutilised species was successfully scaled nationwide. In Nigeria, the HGSF programme currently benefits 10 million children and is being expanded to 20 million, integrating school and community gardens.<sup>48</sup> In Rwanda and Kenya, pilots linking regenerative agriculture with school meals elevated agrobiodiversity onto national policy agendas, as showcased during the UNFSS+4 convening. Together, these experiences highlight how PFSM can simultaneously advance nutrition, agrobiodiversity use and conservation, for sustainable food systems.

Replication relies on adapting promising approaches and practices, such as integrating agroecological farming into school meal programmes, to local political, ecological, and cultural contexts using standardised protocols. Evidence from resource-constrained settings, including Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, confirms feasibility and impact. Scaling pathways are emerging through the School Meals Coalition, the Agroecology Coalition, the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition, and the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes programme, providing platforms to extend these benefits globally.<sup>xxiv</sup>

xxiv Find out more about School Meals Coalition at: [schoolmealscoalition.org](https://schoolmealscoalition.org)

See Agroecology Coalition at: [agroecology-coalition.org](https://agroecology-coalition.org)

See Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition at: [unfoodsystemshub.org/food-systems-coalitions/indigenous-peoples'-food-systems-coalition/en](https://unfoodsystemshub.org/food-systems-coalitions/indigenous-peoples'-food-systems-coalition/en)

See CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes program at: [cgiar.org/cgiar-research-portfolio-2025-2030/multifunctional-landscapes/](https://cgiar.org/cgiar-research-portfolio-2025-2030/multifunctional-landscapes/)

School meals demonstrate that children can be the most powerful motivation for driving the policy coherence needed to ensure present and future well-being. When linked with agrobiodiversity and agroecology, these programmes not only improve diets and health but also restore landscapes, strengthen social cohesion, and influence lasting behavioural change. Local interventions show that such approaches spark coalitions, mobilise resources, and generate tangible results, from allocating land for school gardens to securing agricultural extension services. To sustain and scale these gains, countries need holistic, participatory monitoring systems, stronger cross-country learning, and further research to understand key drivers, constraints, and trade-offs, ensuring school meals become a cornerstone of resilient, child-centred food systems.





## THE IMARISHA NAIVASHA WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME, KENYA

**In the Lake Naivasha Basin, Kenya, community-based collaborative governance is helping to enhance horizontal policy coherence and support sustainable water management.**

The Imarisha Naivasha Water Stewardship Programme<sup>xxv</sup> used collaborative governance approaches to address growing environmental pressures on the Lake Naivasha Basin, Kenya, that were impacting the quality and availability of water for companies and business operating in the area.

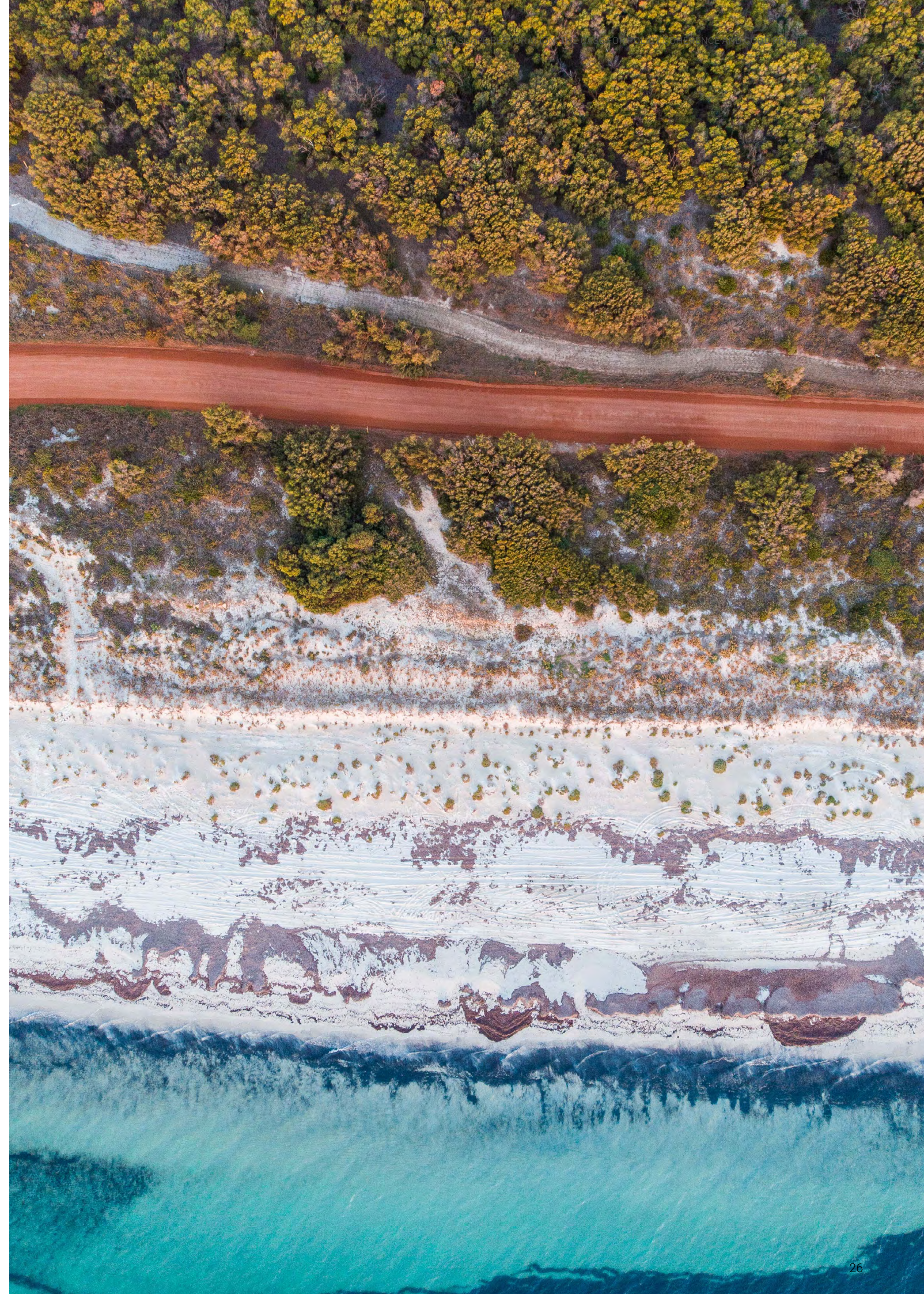
The Lake Naivasha landscape, spanning over 320,000 hectares, provides significant social, economic and ecological benefits to local populations, including a variety of vital ecosystem services, such as water regulation and biodiversity conservation; the provision of food and freshwater; and irrigation support for a variety of horticulture and pastoral activities. A lack of regulation and coordination by different actors around water use had, over time, led to overuse and reduced water availability, which in 2009, culminated in a devastating drought.

In 2011, the Imarisha Naivasha Water Stewardship Programme was established to address the over-exploitation of the Basin. Its core objective is to improve the quality and availability of water for companies and businesses operating in the Basin through a mix of water conservation activities and community water projects, enforcing compliance with regulations, and strengthening local institutions. The initiative facilitated the development of a multi-stakeholder partnership, comprised of half government actors, and half private stakeholders, including actors from the agriculture, tourism and energy industries.

As a result of the Programme, water levels in the Basin continue to be monitored and measured on a weekly basis. Potential future actions have also been proposed to better account for usage by different actors, including collecting water user fees. The governance arrangement used under the Programme led to the development of water use agreements by actors and, as a result, lower water use. While not without challenges, the Programme led to the creation of a Water Stewardship Standard in 2013 and improved water conservation governance and practices in Lake Naivasha basin.<sup>49</sup>

During the Programme's development process, identifying shared objectives and their significance to different stakeholder groups was key for creating partnerships between actors. Incentives have also helped to create a motivated stakeholder partnership: the legal mandate and visibility of the Programme incentivises stakeholder participation, and in return, engaged stakeholders are able to participate in coordination of the forum and receive feedback, as well as logistical support for its operation. The Programme built a robust financing arrangement by relying on a diverse pool of funders, including the government, stakeholders active in the Programme, and external donors, such as Sainsbury's.

<sup>xxv</sup> Further details on The Imarisha Naivasha Water Stewardship Programme available at: [ceowatermandate.org/resources/imarisha-naivasha-water-stewardship-partnership/](http://ceowatermandate.org/resources/imarisha-naivasha-water-stewardship-partnership/)





# RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of recent publications have highlighted the importance of policy coherence and offered recommendations for advancing it, but they have not focused explicitly on landscapes and seascapes. Given the complexity and interconnected nature of landscape and seascape restoration, long-term success depends heavily on improved coherence across policies and institutional arrangements. Coherent policies help to prevent duplication of efforts, reduce trade-offs and unintended negative impacts, and foster synergies that promote sustainability, equity, and social justice. We propose that identifying good practices which enhance policy coherence is critical for translating conceptual solutions into concrete action. Documenting good practices and lessons learned from diverse socio-

ecological and institutional contexts enables all actors to understand what works, adapt strategies to local realities, and scale up successful approaches across governance levels and stages of the restoration process –thereby supporting the long-term success of landscape and seascape restoration.

The following recommendations highlight good practices for improving policy coherence, drawn from real-world case studies. While not exhaustive, this selection is intended to highlight emerging lessons and call for additional contributions from across the restoration community. For each recommendation, the actors and governance level to which it is relevant is indicated.

Governance level	Recommendations	Actor(s)
Landscape & seascape	<b>All actors should ensure that restoration efforts are inclusive at every stage of the process.</b> Landscape and seascape restoration—spanning the entire process from assessment and planning through to implementation and monitoring—requires adopting co-creation approaches wherever possible. This means establishing partnerships and governance structures that ensure inclusion and representation for all, including marginalised and underrepresented local groups such as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples. Co-creation approaches consider power dynamics and involve recognising diverse types of knowledge and visions for the future, and remaining open to engaging with or bridging diverse forms of organisation and governance.	All
	<b>Public actors should take a ‘mission-oriented’ approach to landscape restoration finance.</b> This involves a) mobilising process or development funding to support the establishment, operation, and management of multistakeholder collaborations, b) building productive capacities by supporting the development of investable project pipelines and robust long-term governance structures, c) shaping markets through policy mandates and innovative financial instruments that make restoration projects more attractive, investable, and viable for private actors; and d) blending public and private finance in ways that reward long-term impact and public value creation, not just short-term financial returns.	Public actors
Subnational	<b>Subnational governments should create an enabling policy environment for the establishment of inclusive, long-lasting, multistakeholder platforms to coordinate landscape and seascape restoration initiatives.</b> Subnational policies should be grounded in local contexts and address issues such as structured, stable or accessible markets and commercialisation strategies for agroecological and regenerative agricultural practices delivering multidimensional benefits for both people, nature, and climate.	Governments

	<b>Civil society organisations operating at the subnational level should promote integrated and co-creation approaches to landscape and seascape restoration that combine ecological, social, and economic objectives.</b> They should support the early identification and negotiation of stakeholders’ needs and aspirations in landscapes and seascapes, ensuring that restoration priorities are guided by shared goals. Building trust among actors from the outset requires skilled facilitation to identify differing perspectives, ask the right questions, and foster open dialogue. By empowering local communities – including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples – facilitating collaborative processes, and fostering local knowledge exchange, civil society groups can strengthen holistic restoration outcomes and ensure that interventions are relevant and equitable.	Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
National	<b>Government officials should move beyond fragmented, sectoral responses to interconnected crises.</b> They should intentionally design policies, institutions, and governance mechanisms that recognise humans as part of a larger ecosystem. Cross-sectoral governance and adaptive learning are essential to bridge nature–society divides and recognise the interdependence of people and nature. Governments should institutionalise cross-sectoral policy dialogues between ministries and thematic policy alignment working groups to address national-level policy gaps or conflicts. Policy coherence monitoring frameworks, combined with regular reporting, could be used to track alignment and trade-offs.	Governments
	<b>Governments should embed landscape and seascape restoration targets into national reporting.</b> At a minimum, this should include aligning Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with commitments under the Rio Conventions, the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Commitments should be made a core component of national spatial planning and security frameworks, in recognition of the role of landscape and seascape restoration in climate change adaptation and associated disaster risk reduction. Legal mechanisms should be established to ensure continuity and coherence across election cycles and administration changes.	Governments
	<b>Governments should invest in establishing and operationalising integrated monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems.</b> These efforts should place strong emphasis on building institutional capacity among government officials. Integrated MRV systems are essential for tracking the multidimensional benefits produced by landscape and seascape restoration, for aligning public finance with national and international commitments, and meeting the reporting requirements of multilateral donors, development banks, and global frameworks. Governments should also provide technical and financial support to MRV efforts at the subnational level and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and data to continually improve monitoring approaches.	Governments
	<b>Governments should promote integrated policy instruments that align economic incentives with landscape and seascape restoration goals.</b> Primarily, this involves removing perverse incentives which drive environmental degradation. Governments should also engage private stakeholders—such as local businesses, corporates, investors, and landowners—through mechanisms like tax benefits, PES, or sustainability certifications. These tools should encourage long-term investment in all relevant actions and processes necessary for landscape and seascape restoration while ensuring that private sector actions meaningfully support public environmental and social objectives.	Governments



	<p><b>Governments should mandate that landscape and seascape restoration decision-making processes offer meaningful participation opportunities to all.</b> This includes representatives from any potentially impacted groups, including local governments, farmers associations, environmental groups and other civil society groups, and especially Indigenous Peoples, as original landowners and traditional knowledge holders. Governments, NGOs and intermediary organisations should work to ensure equity in engagement opportunities and provide tailored capacity building and training where necessary.</p>	CSOs
	<p><b>National industry associations should actively recognise and communicate the social, nature- and climate-related risks facing their members.</b> They should promote the prioritisation of long-term sector resilience over short-term gains for a limited few. By embracing practices that enable landscape and seascape approaches, these associations can help future-proof their members by safeguarding ecosystem health, securing livelihoods, and ensuring the long-term viability of the sector for generations to come.</p>	Private actors
	<p><b>Research institutions and academia should foster inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to ensure pluralistic and integrated approaches to inquiry and problem framing.</b> Research bridging knowledge systems, siloed departments, or industry sectors can make valuable contributions to landscape and seascape restoration by identifying good practices across contexts and accelerating coherence and widespread adoption of successful restoration approaches. Multiple evidence base approaches, for example, can help to ensure that Indigenous, local and scientific approaches to biodiversity and landscape governance are considered in parallel.</p>	Researchers
Supranational	<p><b>Multi-lateral and bilateral development agencies should foster understanding among stakeholders of how landscapes and seascapes function as interconnected social-ecological systems.</b> They should promote approaches that recognise the interdependence of ecological, political, economic, and social dimensions within landscapes and seascapes, and support initiatives that build policy coherence across sectors and governance levels. Such understanding is essential for designing and implementing aligned policies and interventions that collectively contribute to effective, long-term restoration and resilience.</p>	Public actors
	<p><b>Development banks should create financial products specifically designed to support landscape and seascape initiatives.</b> These could include loans with performance-based conditions, small grants, and innovative blended financing options that make funding accessible to a wide range of participants—such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and small-scale businesses. By adapting financial tools to the unique challenges and timelines of landscape and seascape restoration, development banks can help unlock investments that generate lasting environmental, social, and economic outcomes.</p>	Financiers and Funders
All governance levels	<p><b>Financiers and funders should support the creation, longevity and maturity of multistakeholder partnerships.</b> These partnerships should bring together public and private actors, local communities and businesses, Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented groups. These partnerships are essential for embedding social and economic safeguards, as well as cultural heritage protection, into landscape and seascape restoration efforts. They can help to secure diverse and resilient finance streams for long-term impact, and increase the likelihood that projects achieve their intended targets with minimal trade-offs. Financiers and funders should recognise the vital role that intermediaries play in establishing trust between stakeholders within a partnership and ensure that their needs are supported by sufficient and sustained resources and funding.</p>	Financiers and Funders





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