gallop initiative

LANDSCAPES FOR 1 BILLION PEOPLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES THROUGH INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES

A Vision for Public Policymakers

November 2025 [English]

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

Nations today stand at a crossroads

Crises are mounting and converging, from slowing economic growth, food and water insecurity and rising unemployment, to deepening inequality, climate impacts, and environmental degradation; and trust in institutions is eroding. Yet the answers every country needs lie within its national borders, with the communities threatened most directly by these challenges.

The renowned 2021 Dasgupta Review demonstrated that an economy is embedded in its living ecosystems (see figure 1). Still, too many countries continue to apply familiar approaches that ignore this reality, despite disappointing results. They launch economic development projects here and ecosystem-restoration plans there, in isolation. Their work is fragmented and fails to reflect the powerful interconnections and interdependencies across economic, environmental, and social dimensions that exist at the level of the local landscape, bioregion or territory. By instead embracing such interconnections, **leaders can unleash the power to transform such places into engines of renewal that drive sustainable, long-term economic development**.

Figure 1. The economy is embedded in the biosphere, not external to it.*

Nurturing whole landscapes yields high returns: a thriving economy, human well-being, healthy nature and inspiration for a better future. Integrated landscape strategies are being promoted globally by United Nations agencies and environmental conventions to advance sustainable economic growth, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to climate action. Local partnerships are forming in all regions; figure 2 shows just those working with partners of the 1000 Landscapes initiative. Countries across the globe, from Costa Rica to the United Kingdom, are pioneering national initiatives to address the ongoing polycrisis at its roots. Led at the highest levels of government, they provide institutional support for local partnerships, representing all sectors and groups, to develop integrated landscape strategies and action plans for sustainable development.

* Source: figure 17 (*The Economy is Embedded in the Biosphere*) from Dasgupta, P. (2021), *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*. (London: HM Treasury). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Policymakers can advance community-led, integrated landscape management (ILM) as a key solution to the polycrisis and economic revival. The "how" of this approach has emerged from decades of field experience (UNCCD, UNFAO):

- Locally-led ILM can unlock community energy and systemic solutions.
- Governments, in turn, can strategically deploy existing public budgets towards convergence on the ground, supporting local action plans directly.
- Aligning public investments can make funds work harder while rebuilding community trust. Government departments and sectors can work in synergy to support long-term, local strategies, and to engage all groups in society to participate in pursuing these goals.
- This public investment will attract aligned private and philanthropic capital to amplify local solutions to the polycrisis. Public policies and budgets can thus serve as a foundation for comprehensive, unified solutions.

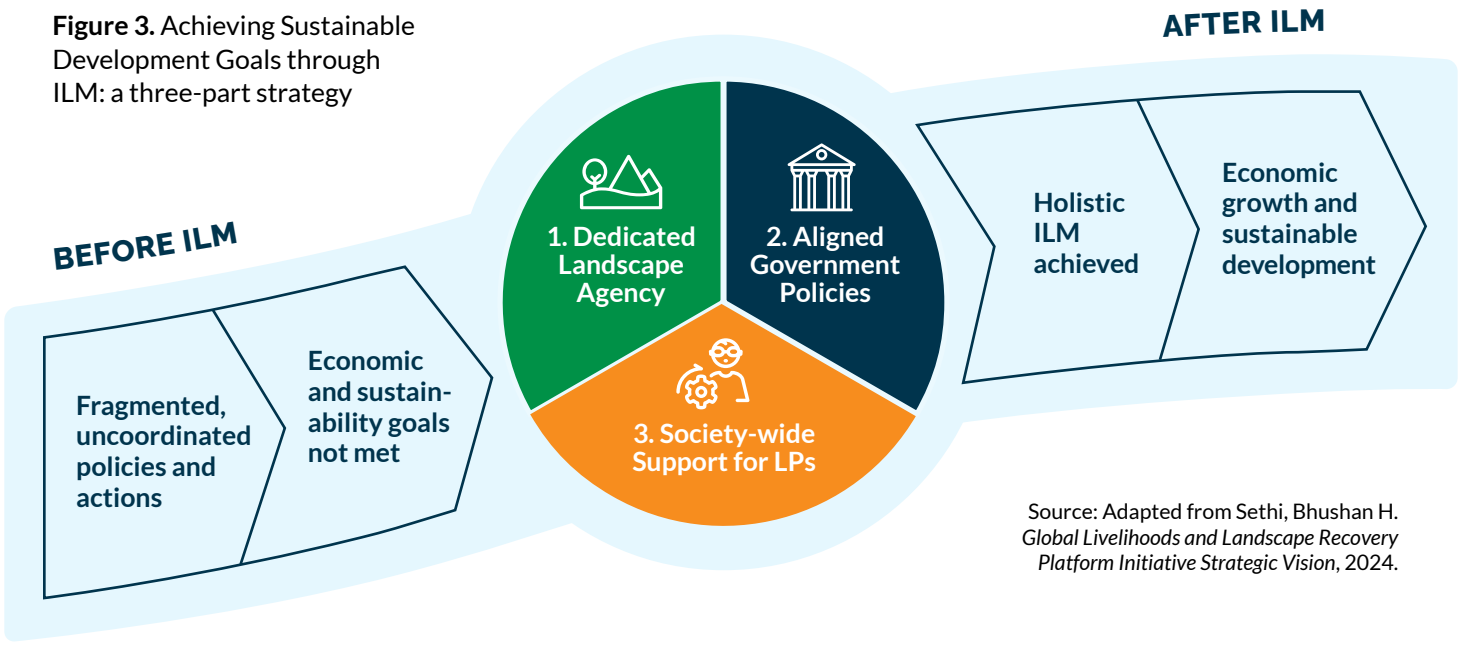
ILM promises to be one of the most efficient and effective ways to address the polycrisis.
A policy framework for advancing ILM has three elements at its heart (see figure 3 on next page):

1. **Designating a dedicated landscape agency** within the government to serve landscape partnerships (LPs) and advise public and civil society policies and programs;
2. **Ensuring government policies, programs and budgets** support LP-generated action and investment plans;
3. **Mobilizing support** for landscape strategies across society, including markets, finance, digital infrastructure and education.

Figure 2. Landscape partnerships collaborating with partners of the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People initiative, 2024

Source: www.landscapes.global

Figure 3. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through ILM: a three-part strategy



Source: Adapted from Sethi, Bhushan H. *Global Livelihoods and Landscape Recovery Platform Initiative Strategic Vision*, 2024.

This paper aims to inspire policymakers working at all levels of government to join hands with local actors on the front line of the polycrisis to **pursue this vision**. Leaders have the power to ensure all their **nation's landscapes and the economy thrive**. Now is the time for concerted action to support landscape solutions.

The full report may be found at www.landscapes.global.

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1000 LANDSCAPES FOR 1 BILLION PEOPLE

www.landscapes.global

GALLOP Initiative and 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People, November 2025

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Suggested Citation: Sethi, Bhushan H. and Scherr, Sara J. 2025. *Executive Summary, Thriving and Sustainable Economies through Integrated Landscape Strategies: A Vision for Public Policymakers.* GALLOP Initiative and 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People. November.

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