

Template for setting up a 4 Returns Landscape Plan

The Landscape Plan is an overview of the landscape, the restoration priorities/needs, stakeholders, challenges and situational context that can be used to have conversations with external stakeholders. It is generally a ~30-page document (excl. tables, graphs, images). You can use this outline as a basis for your landscape plan, but your landscape plan can also have its own structure.

1. Executive summary (max 1 page)

- Context, purpose, and goals
- Site situation/history
- Future vision
- Implementation/restoration strategies
- Overview of future scenarios

2. Introduction (max 1 page)

- Land degradation problem
- Describe the link to Sustainable Development Goals
- General introduction to the 4 Returns Framework (incl. Theory-U, MEL, 4 Returns Landscape Valuation tooling) and activities (incl. partnerships/cooperatives)
- General introduction of the organizations writing the landscape plan, and their vision and mission

3. Landscape description (max 3 pages)

- Description of the landscape:
 - Where: include a map of the area
 - Geology
 - Ecological context: ecosystem(s), vegetation, soil, water(sheds) (incl. flagship species)
 - Local climate and weather patterns
 - Include trends – climate change projections
- People and culture, land use and development (past and present)
- Analysis of landscape challenges (max 2 pages)
- Description of social, environmental, and economic problems and link with land degradation
- Degradation problems, root causes, and future impact of climate change

4. Restoration opportunities (max 2 pages)

- Analysis of opportunities:
 - General: solutions to mitigate root causes of degradation problems
 - Specific: activities/interventions and business-related activities
 - Per zone (Natural, Combined, Economic)
 - General description and opportunities

5. The future vision for the landscape (1 page)

- High-level long-term vision based on (and specified for) 4 returns

6. 4 Returns restoration strategy (max 2 pages)

- 4 Returns approach and zoning specifically for the landscape (**Place: 3 Zones**)
- Include a map of the current situation with different zones
- High-level description of 4 different returns (qualitative and quantitative) and time horizon (**Impact: 4 Returns / Period: 20+ years**)
- Brief description of how the 5 process elements will be implemented (**Process: 5 Elements**)
- Roadmap to realize those improvements

7. Overview of restoration achievements in the landscape until today (max 2 pages)

- Activities and results until today:
 - Based on 5 process elements
 - Per zone and including results related to 4 returns
 - Incl. setup and overview partnerships/cooperatives
- Lessons learned of those activities

8. Roadmap going forward (max 7 pages)

- High-level description of roadmap to achieve the future vision (1 page)
 - Include process steps (based on 5 elements) and high-level planning per zone including:
 - Activities/interventions
 - Business related activities
- A more detailed description of the roadmap (max 5 pages), including:
 - Main starting points/assumptions intervention (e.g. shown in graph)
 - Planned interventions and activities per zone (over time) including speed of interventions (e.g., 'conversion' of Natural and Combined Zone)
 - High-level description of intervention and activities per zone
 - Include a graph showing transition of natural and combined zone over 20 years (e.g., in a graph)
 - Future maps with zones: current situation and after 10, 20, 30 years
 - High-level description of 4 returns (qualitative and quantitative) over time (year 5, 10, 15, 20)
 - KPIs of business activities in each zone (forecast per year over time; perhaps including some actual data of historical years if available) (year 5, 10, 15, 20)

9. Overview funding requirements (max 2 pages)

- Include a graph of landscape blended funding needs (*see figure 2 appendix*)
- [Perhaps include a graph of actual realized blended financing mix (aligned with a graph of indication blended financing needs)]
- Overview and description of required funding per activity/type in total and per year (and breakdown of required funding in the first 5-7 years per scenario)