

Summary of Mia Crawford speech, March 17

Landscape approaches versus sectorial approaches

For decades, we have been managing our lands by dividing the landscapes in different sectors, but the results have not always been satisfactory. The pieces simply don't add up. There is something wrong with the equation on land. The landscape approach has grown out of this problem and seeks to optimize people and the natural environments in living landscapes across the world.

However, both sectorial and landscape approaches have some pros and cons. Key strengths of the sectorial approach are, amongst others, the clear strong identity and shared frame of reference within a particular sector. Strategic information on the assets, demand and use of the sector are often readily available. However, the sectorial approach run the risk of missing targets since many threats may indeed lie outside the sector's sphere of influence. Moreover, sectorial approaches are often weak on addressing social concerns.

The landscape approach, on the other hand, is an approach that puts reconciliation in the center. The key strengths are the emphasis on reconciliation of the multifunctionality and optimization of different land uses at the landscape scale. The weaknesses include the lack of clear frame and communication and negotiations between many different stakeholders are difficult.

In the future there is room for both sectorial and landscape approaches on land, they can mutually support each other. In 2015 the UN will establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and negotiations are well under its way to secure a new climate agreement in Paris. In both these processes specific sector targets are being set. However, when it comes to the implementation of these global commitments there is a growing interest in applying the landscape approach to foster cross-sectoral cooperation and synergies. The landscape approach could offer a creative and innovative way of breaking down the silos and foster stronger cross-sectoral cooperation for the benefits of living landscapes throughout the world.