

Factsheet Making landscape services tangible: Communication texts & images

Enable constructive landscape dialogue!

Differing landscape perceptions often make it difficult to facilitate constructive dialogue about future landscape development. The concept of landscape services can offer support here by helping to find a common language in a participatory approach. Together with researchers at the Universities of Zurich and Lausanne, the Forum Landscape, Alps, Parks (FoLAP) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences has produced a factsheet that introduces readers to the concept. Drawing on case studies, the factsheet shows how the landscape services approach can be used for local and regional landscape development and for implementation of the Swiss Landscape Concept.

Link to factsheet: landscape-alps-parks.scnat.ch/factsheet/landscape_services

((692 characters, incl. title))

Enable constructive landscape dialogue!

Landscapes mean a lot to us – for example as living, working, recreational, cultural, and economic spaces. But differing landscape perceptions often make it hard to facilitate constructive dialogue about the future development of our spaces for living. The concept of landscape services offers support here. In a participatory approach, it enables diverse stakeholders to find a common language for formulation of their interests and needs. Together with researchers at the universities of Zurich and Lausanne, the Forum Landscape, Alps, Parks (FoLAP) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences has produced a factsheet that introduces the concept and presents a cyclical model for practical application. Drawing on experiences from case studies, the factsheet illustrates with practical tips how the concept can be used for local and regional landscape development and implementation of the Swiss Landscape Concept. This provides an instrument to “ensure the services for humans and the environment resulting from ... landscape diversity, local character, and beauty”, as envisioned in the Federal Council’s dispatch of March 2022 concerning revision of Switzerland’s Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage.

Link to factsheet: landscape-alps-parks.scnat.ch/factsheet/landscape_services

((1258 characters, incl. title))

Promoting constructive dialogue on landscape qualities

Landscapes mean a lot to us – for example as living, working, recreational, cultural, and economic spaces. According to the Swiss Landscape Concept, this should hold true for both present and future generations. But differing landscape perceptions can make it hard to facilitate constructive dialogue about the future development of our spaces for living. The concept of landscape services offers support here. In a participatory approach, it enables stakeholders to find a common language for formulation of their interests and needs. Together with researchers at the universities of Zurich and Lausanne, the Forum Landscape, Alps, Parks (FoLAP) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences has produced the factsheet “Making landscape services tangible”. It introduces the concept of “landscape services” and presents a cyclical model for practical application.

“Landscape services” refer to functions and characteristics that provide direct economic, social, and ecological benefits to individuals and society. The concept enables clear indication of the qualities that landscapes provide to individuals – such as “identity and connectedness”, “aesthetic enjoyment”, “recreation and health”, and “location attractiveness” – and the added value they generate for local people. In this way, stakeholders can more easily exchange views about existing or desired landscape qualities. This helps to increase acceptance of measures for the protection and careful management of landscape qualities.

Drawing on case studies in different Swiss study regions and on international research results, the factsheet authors present a cyclical model for application of the landscape services approach in regional and local contexts. The aim is to encourage stakeholders to learn to “read” the natural and built qualities of their familiar landscape, as well as to identify existing and potential services. Additional landscape-relevant actors are incorporated in subsequent process steps, and formal structures are created to develop or continue landscape-oriented activities.

The landscape services approach vividly illustrates the services that landscapes provide to us. In this way, it differs from earlier participatory planning processes (e.g. landscape development concepts) that focus on evaluating and coordinating diverse claims and interests. The approach also helps to fulfill the mandate to “ensure the services for humans and the environment resulting from ... landscape diversity, local character, and beauty”, as envisioned in the Federal Council’s dispatch of March 2022 concerning revision of Switzerland’s Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage.

Link to factsheet: landscape-alps-parks.scnat.ch/factsheet/landscape_services

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Images and legends

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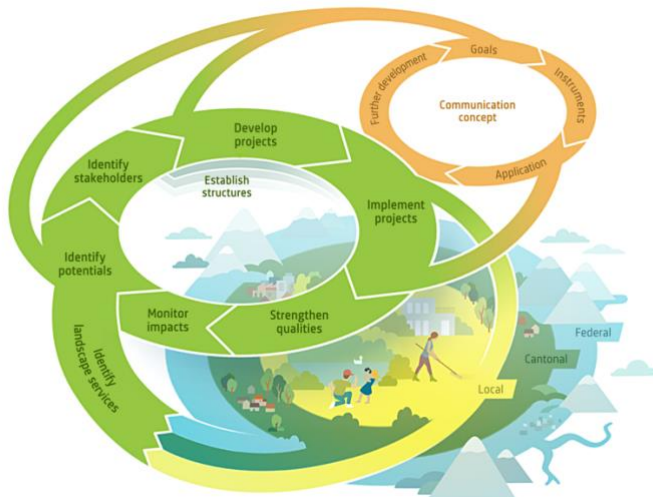


Fig. 1 Cyclical model of landscape services approach

The cyclical model shows how the landscape services approach can be successfully implemented in a landscape development process.

(Graphic: Ralph Sonderegger)

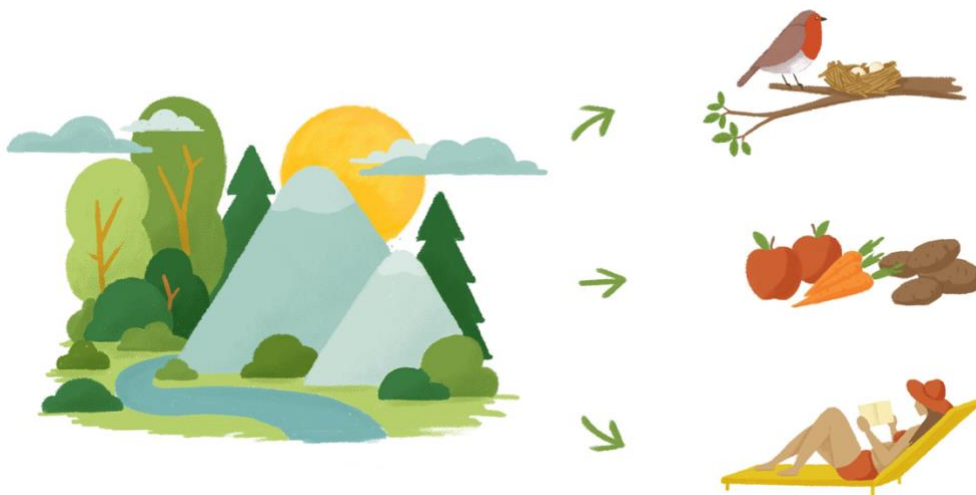


Fig. 2: Services of nature and landscapes

The services of nature, landscapes, and ecosystems can be divided into regulating (e.g. water retention), material (e.g. agricultural and forestry production), and non-material (e.g. aesthetic enjoyment and recreation) services

[Graphic: Nadja Baltensweiler (UZH)]




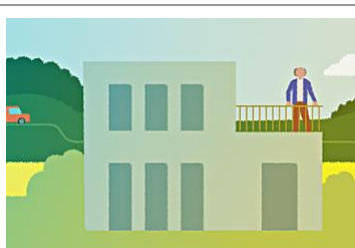
	<p>Aesthetic enjoyment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Aesthetic appreciation, including all the senses – Interplay between distinctiveness, beauty, and diversity – Comprises appealing landscape appearance, well-being, and landscape experience
	<p>Identity and connectedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feelings of connectedness and belonging – Landscape as a place shaped by history – Linking of landscape to personal identity
	<p>Recreation and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscapes enhance physical and mental well-being – Good recreational opportunities promote health – Exercise in the landscape often supports health
	<p>Location attractiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Attractive landscapes are preferred places to live and go on holiday – Beautiful views and closeness to recreational areas are desirable criteria when choosing a place to live – Landscapes are the natural capital of (Swiss) tourism

Fig. 3 Non-material landscape services

Main non-material landscape services include aesthetic enjoyment, identity and connectedness, recreation and health, and location attractiveness

[Graphic: Ralph Sonderegger]