



ClieNFarms
Climate Neutral Farms

ClieNFarms Scaling Toolbox

The LENs Process Flow Map

Mobilizing Actors

The Landscape Enterprise Network is part a community and platform organising the buying and selling of Nature Based Solutions and part a convenor of people to ensure actions are considered systemically. Its process flow map is the game plan for all LENs stakeholders outlining tasks that supply, demand and coordinating stakeholders need to be implementing to successfully establish a place-based Nature Based Solutions trading community and to successfully realise envisaged NBS trades.

Purpose

The LENs process flow map is a tool that serves as a 'game plan' for all LENs stakeholders as it outlines the tasks that supply- and demand-side stakeholders and the entity responsible for coordinating the LENs need to implement to successfully establish a place-based, NbS trading community and successfully realise an envisaged trade.

Firstly, the tool enables demand-side stakeholders (e.g., agri-food businesses, water companies) to envisage how they can form a funder consortium; identify and map their common interests in assets and functions at a landscape level; and decide whether to individually fund or collaboratively, co-fund the implementation of agri-environmental measures by land managers.

Secondly, the tool enables supply-side stakeholders (e.g., supply aggregators, technical advisors) to build a coalition and develop technical guidance (i.e., a list of agri-environmental measures that can deliver desired outcomes) and engage with and support land managers in adopting these agri-environmental measures.

Thirdly, the tool enables the demand-side stakeholders and the entity responsible for coordinating the LENSs to work together towards identifying, developing, and implementing an appropriate monitoring, verification, and reporting (MRV) framework that ensures baseline data and ongoing project data is collected, and agri-environmental measures adopted by land managers deliver expected outcomes.

Finally, the tool enables the entity responsible for coordinating the LENSs to facilitate, from start to finish, the process by which a NbS trading community is established, and a trade is successfully initiated and concluded. This process encompasses all activities required during the preparatory phase until a tender is launched; all activities during the trading phase until proposal implementation contracts are signed; and all activities during the delivery phase until the end of the trading cycle.

Expected effects of the tool

The LENSs process flow map tool builds and/or strengthens existing relationships and fosters collective understanding among business sector stakeholders whose direct business interests might otherwise not overlap. Encouraging collaboration among supply- and demand-side stakeholders, the tool allows stakeholders to conceptualise and strategize how they can (co)-fund and implement NbS that positively impact the nature-based trading community at an agri-food supply chain level, as well as landscape level. Trades organised between land managers and private- and/or public-sector actors using the tool ensure that ecosystem functions are safeguarded and desired outcomes – such as water quality management, flood risk management, resilient supply of crops, soil carbon sequestration, and increased biodiversity – are realised.

Preparation

Successful application of the LENSs process flow map tool hinges on the entity responsible for coordinating the LENSs identifying and engaging with business sector stakeholders to determine their interest in and willingness to commit to buying and selling NbS, as well as supply- and demand-side aggregators who can facilitate this trading aimed at safeguarding strategic landscape assets. It is recommended that the LENSs coordinating entity builds on existing relationships with business sector stakeholders and supply- and demand-side aggregators. If such relationships do not already exist, these relationships must be established as they are key to defining an MRV framework, brokering a trade and negotiating contracts, and ensuring that the LENSs process is smoothly and successfully implemented.

and the demand-side aggregator develops a technical guidance document that outlines a list of measures that consortium partners are willing to fund at an individual and collective level, and an MRV protocol is additionally specified and agreed upon by all consortium partners. This paves the way for a tender to be launched and for an information manual regarding the expected trade to be made available to interested supply-side parties.

In the trading phase, the LENSs coordinating entity approaches potential supply-side aggregators and invites these aggregators to develop and submit proposals for review by the funder consortium. The supply-side aggregators (e.g., grain traders, and dairy cooperatives) consult and assist farmers and land managers in their operational areas who are interested in submitting funding proposals. These proposals outline their proposed adoption of measures specified in the technical guidance document developed by the demand-side aggregator, as well as innovative ideas to mitigate the business risks stemming from their land management strategies. The supply-side aggregator(s) submit the proposals to the demand-side aggregator for review by the funder consortium who decide which measures they are willing to (co)-fund. Contracts for the trade are drafted by the LENSs coordinating entity in collaboration with the demand- and supply-side aggregators and agreed upon by funders, farmers, and land managers.

In the delivery phase, the farmers and land managers implement measures and baseline data is collected. The MRV protocol is implemented, and the outcomes of measures are reported and verified by a third party. The funder consortium transfers funds to the LENSs entity and payments are triggered based on MRV findings.

There are three milestones in the process which mark the end of the preparatory phase (Milestone 1: Launch tender); the end of the trading phase (Milestone 2: Contracts signed); and the end of the trade cycle (Milestone 3: End of trade cycle). Data collection and reporting take place on an ongoing basis throughout the three phases and beyond the contract period in preparation for a subsequent trade.

How to measure effects

The effects of establishing and maintaining a LENSs, in line with the process flow map, can be assessed or monitored based on the successful completion of trades and feedback collected from all parties involved in the LENSs (i.e., LENSs entity; funding consortium; demand-side aggregator; supply-side aggregator; farmers and land managers; and independent third-party organisation(s) involved in the MRV process). Suggested follow-up steps (links to other tools)

The LENSs process flow map is related to the LENSs demand specification document.

Links and references

Website with information about LENSs

Building business partnerships for resilient landscapes

[<https://landscapeenterprisenetworks.com/>]

YouTube videos with information about LENSs

Landscape Enterprise Networks [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNm2hNI1qb0>]

Landscape Enterprise Networks, East Anglia

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6R-P8W8dw8>]