

An initiative to support natural resource management that contributes to the livelihood resilience of refugees and host communities

Guidelines for a Landscape Approach in Displacement Settings (GLADS) is a European Union-funded initiative, led by CIFOR-ICRAF in partnership with key stakeholders, to develop guidelines on implementing an integrated landscape approach in displacement settings. These guidelines will assist humanitarian actors and local stakeholders in targeting landscape-level planning, implementation and rehabilitation that contribute to livelihood resilience of refugees and host communities.

These guidelines will be based on the review of available tools, case studies of three selected refugee-hosting landscapes and co-design with key stakeholders at global, national and landscape levels.



Refugee settlement in Arua district, Uganda.
Photo: EU/ECHO/Edward Echwalu



Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement.
Photo: UNHCR

The environmental impacts of displacement

Refugee influxes and their dependence on natural resources for construction materials, fuelwood and livelihood activities frequently exceed the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystem. This can lead to forest, land and soil degradation, and biodiversity losses, which can cause tensions with host communities. With refugees often staying for long periods, long-term support to livelihoods for both refugees and host communities has increasingly been recognized as critical during humanitarian interventions.

Case study landscapes



1. Garoua Boulai , East Cameroon

The border city of Garoua Boulai, together with the nearby Gado Refugee Camp, has been an important centre for hosting refugees from the Central African Republic since 2012. Landscape fragmentation is a major issue in Cameroon's forest-savanna transition zone.

2. Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya

These two sites in north-western Kenya have hosted refugees from South Sudan and Ethiopia since 1992. They have seen several clashes with Turkana locals over the use of wood resources.

3. Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Madi-Okollo and Terego Districts, Uganda

Established in 1980, Rhino Refugee Camp hosts a substantial number of refugees from South Sudan. Degradation of soils is a major preoccupation for both refugees and host communities in this landscape.



Firewood bundles in Gado-Badzéré Refugee Camp, Cameroon.
Photo: Emily Pinna/CIFOR

Why an Integrated Landscape Approach?

Targeting sustainable development and resilience at the level of a landscape through an Integrated Landscape Approach (ILA) is increasingly being recognized as a viable way to overcome sectorial gaps and find solutions through dialogue with actors at multiple levels. Guiding principles and frameworks exist, but operationalizing ILA is still a work-in-progress. The ability of ILA to address sustainability, competing claims and a myriad of actors in landscapes seems particularly relevant for refugee-hosting landscapes. There is growing consensus on a broader approach like ILA that involves stakeholders, the institutional landscape and management of agro-forest landscapes. However, the actual evidence on 'how to do this' and potential outcomes are unclear. The proposed work will build on existing tools and offer overall guidelines to target landscape-level planning, implementation and restoration.

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-being for all. CIFOR-ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.

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