

Landscape Monitoring Framework of the socio-economic dimension



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Executive Summary

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Valid from: 15/07/2022

This project was possible thanks to a grant from the ISEAL Innovations Fund, which is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the ISEAL Secretariat, ISEAL members or donor entities to the ISEAL Innovations Fund. This project was realised in collaboration with the Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing Landscape Project in Peru, facilitated by Helvetas and supported by the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa and SECO.



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Executive summary

The Landscape Monitoring Framework of the socio-economic dimension (LMS) is a tool that provides practical guidance to assess the socio-economic status of a landscape to monitor progress and facilitates action for development. The LMS targets the stakeholders of the landscape initiative, and in particular the initiators of the initiative, as the main user group. It was developed to meet the growing needs for landscape assessments to look deeper into socio-economic matters in a structural manner and give the socio-economic dimension the same attention as environmental and economic dimensions.

The LMS consists of the two following documents:

- 1) **The LMS Library of Indicators** provides a set of widely used and widely accepted socio-economic indicators, linked to 9 SDGs and 36 socio-economic topics. For each indicator, further information is provided, e.g. whether it is assessed as a core or complementary indicator, what the data source is (for global country-level data), type of indicator (output, outcome, impact), its responsiveness to change, how practical it is to collect at the landscape level, and whether new innovative assessment tools are emerging. Overall, the LMS Library of Indicators offers the flexibility to choose the topics and indicators that are most relevant in the local context. Doing this together with partners and local stakeholders ensures local relevance and inclusivity of the initiative.

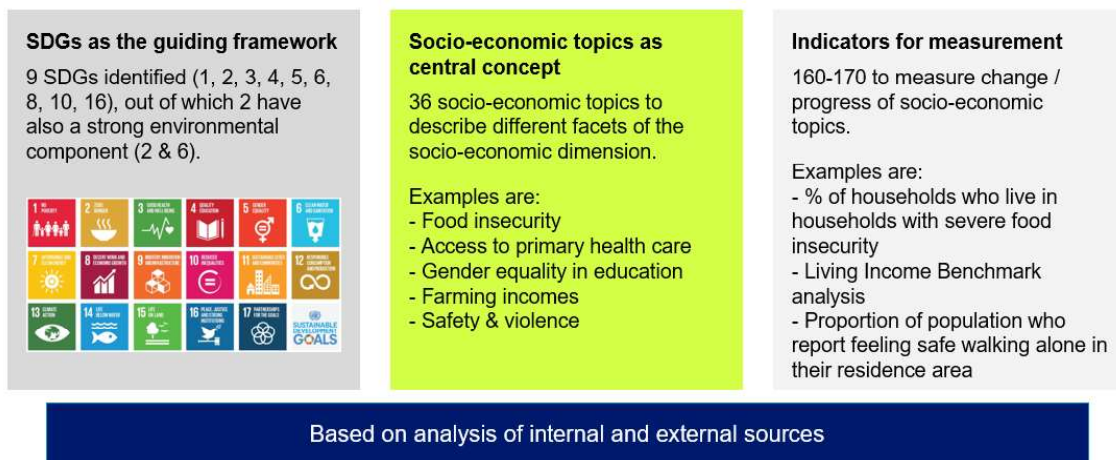


Figure 1: Structure of the Library of Indicators

- 2) **The LMS Guidance Document** guides through an inclusive and stepwise approach to assessing and monitoring landscape interventions along three application areas:
 1. **Initial assessment of the landscape:** The LMS provides resources and guidance to conduct a systematic analysis of the landscape. This includes gathering relevant data and information for learning, for further decision-making such as collaborative planning, as well as reporting for accountability.
 2. **Prioritisation of socio-economic topics to focus on:** The LMS facilitates a process of identifying the most relevant socio-economic topics and helps identifying overall goals for the landscape initiative for these topics. This is done by providing both a list of relevant socio-economic topics and practical guidance on how to select the relevant ones based on specific criteria.

Customisation of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system: The LMS provides support for the design of a customized MEL system, which can include a Theory of Change, the definition of relevant indicators and data sources as well as a baseline assessment.

The overall process of applying the LMS is represented in the visual below, including its more detailed process steps:



Figure 2: Visualization of the overall LMS process

Step 1-3: Design of the landscape initiative

The LMS supports an initial landscape assessment and the engagement with key stakeholders, which provides a first picture of the socio-economic conditions in which a landscape initiative is embedded in. The subsequent prioritization of socio-economic goals allows clarity on goals and internal alignment amongst stakeholders how these goals will be achieved, and how each stakeholder will contribute.

Step 4-9: Customisation and implementation of the MEL system

The Library of Indicators presents a variety of socioeconomic topics and corresponding indicators for the customisation of the MEL system (steps 4-7) that allow monitoring of the stated goals. The Guidance Document includes instructions for selecting methods and tools for data collection and conducting a baseline assessment. Further guidance on continuous landscape monitoring and learning, and truthful communication is outlined in the Guidance Document (steps 8-9).

Ultimately, the Guidance Document provides support for deriving truthful claims at landscape-level that report on efforts and progress made or results achieved.

- 1. Commitment claims: Aspirational statement of what the initiative aims to achieve
- 2. Performance claims: Factual statement of specific performance levels, based on baseline data
- 3. Improvement claims: Progress statement about the change that has resulted