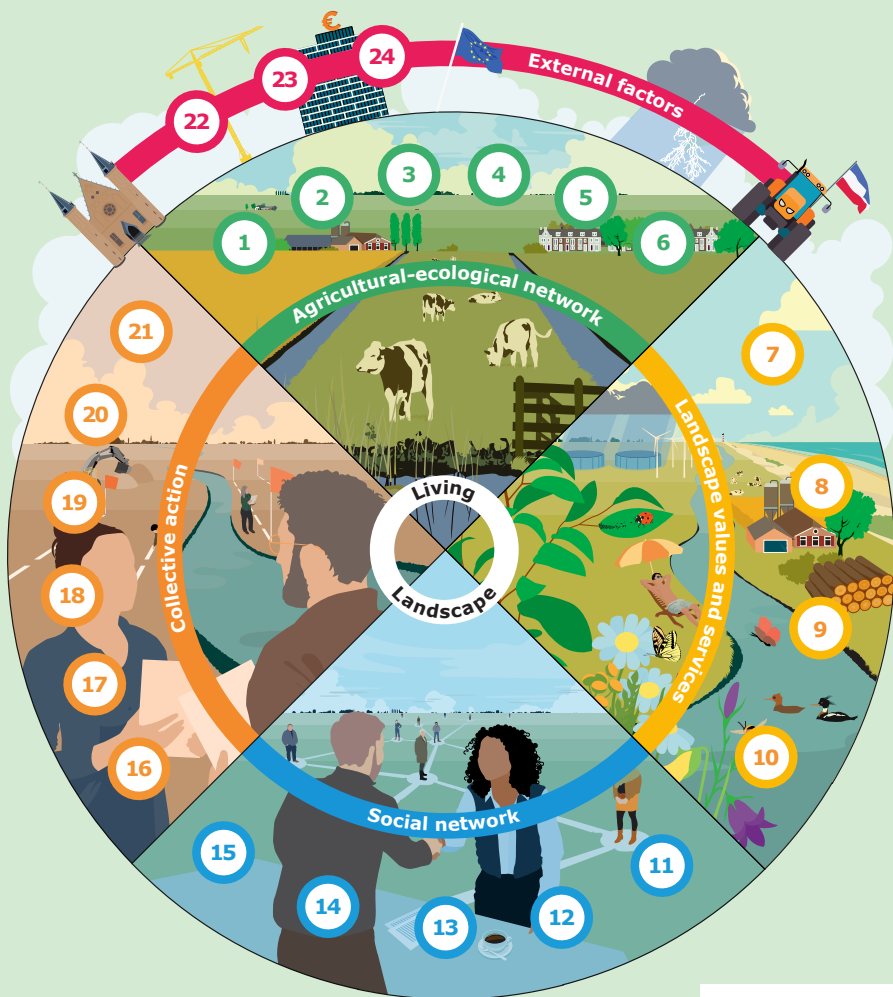




What is it?

Living landscape

Tool for reflection on landscape and area processes

For groups collaborating on a future-proof landscape

Tool for reflection

Collaborating to create a future-proof landscape is often a complex process. Therefore, a tool has been developed to help groups reflect on landscape and area processes. This is done using reflection questions about important factors for achieving sustainable landscapes.

The Living Landscape tool enables reflection on various aspects of landscape and area processes in a single workshop. Customization is possible; the setup and questions can vary depending on the landscape and process.

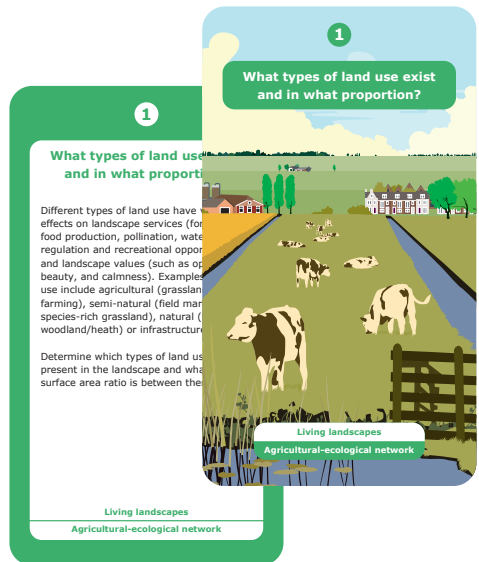
The tool includes a user guide with tips for the facilitator, question cards, an action agenda, and an overview board. These can be downloaded here:
<https://edepot.wur.nl/676947>

Target audience and purpose of the tool

The tool can be used by groups involved in area processes in agricultural regions who wish to evaluate their groups' progress. These groups include stakeholders such as local communities, government agencies, nature conservation organizations, businesses, landowners, and experts in fields such as ecology, spatial planning, or cultural heritage.

The goal is to reflect on the current state of the landscape with all stakeholders, each bringing their own interests, and to formulate concrete steps for improving

the landscape. This is done while considering the diverse interests of stakeholders and possible goals that may be present in area processes.



Overview of the tool

To improve a landscape, it is necessary to examine various aspects within that landscape. The key aspects for the development of a future-proof landscape are divided into four interconnected components:

1. The agricultural-ecological network,
2. Landscape services and values,
3. The social network, and
4. Collective action.

These four components are collectively regarded as 'the landscape'. In addition, there are external factors that influence the landscape.



Agricultural-ecological network

The physical living environment in the landscape includes agricultural plots and natural elements, such as thickets, road verges, and ditches, existing animal and plant populations, as well as roads and buildings. These have a certain quality based on how they are managed. The design and management influence biodiversity in the landscape and the provision of landscape services.



Landscape values and services

The agricultural-ecological network has various values and provides different services to the social network. Services such as food production, pollination, water regulation, and recreational opportunities, as well as values experienced by people in the landscape, such as openness, beauty, and tranquility.



Social network

The social network consists of stakeholders in the form of people and organizations in the landscape. The size, interrelationships, and trust within this group influence how effectively they can achieve common goals.



Collective action

The social network organizes itself into collective action to improve the landscape. Stakeholders collaboratively determine which values and services are needed in the desired future landscape, set goals, and make agreements for this collaboration to realize those values and services.



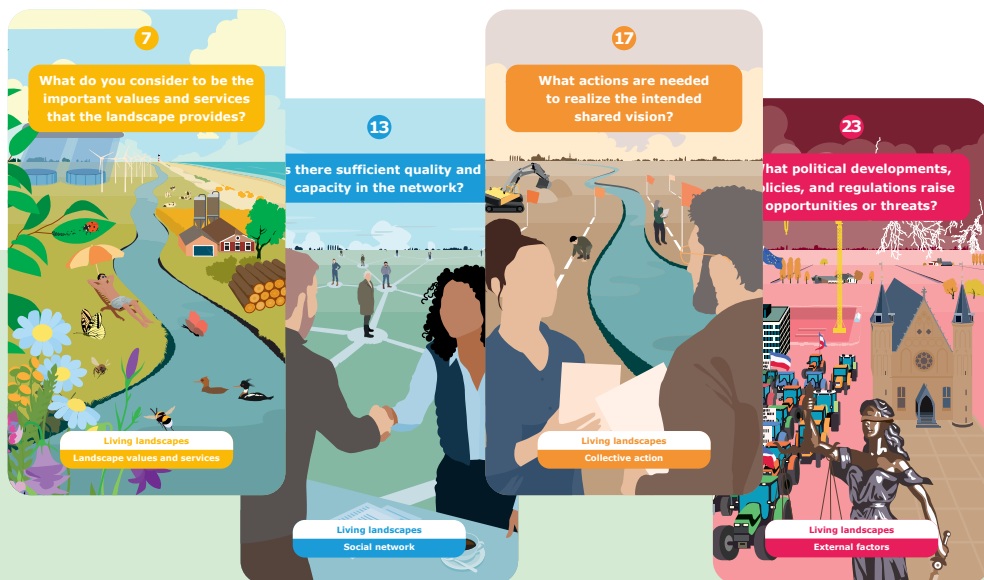
External factors

External factors influence the landscape but cannot be changed in the short term by the social network, such as laws and regulations and technological developments.

Getting started with the tool

In a workshop, question cards for each component of the tool are discussed with the participants. The focus is not to provide 'right' or 'wrong' answers, but on encouraging reflection: (how) are we working on this topic, and are we satisfied as a group with our approach?

For each card, participants evaluate whether follow-up action is necessary. This results in an action list to guide their further work after the workshop.



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