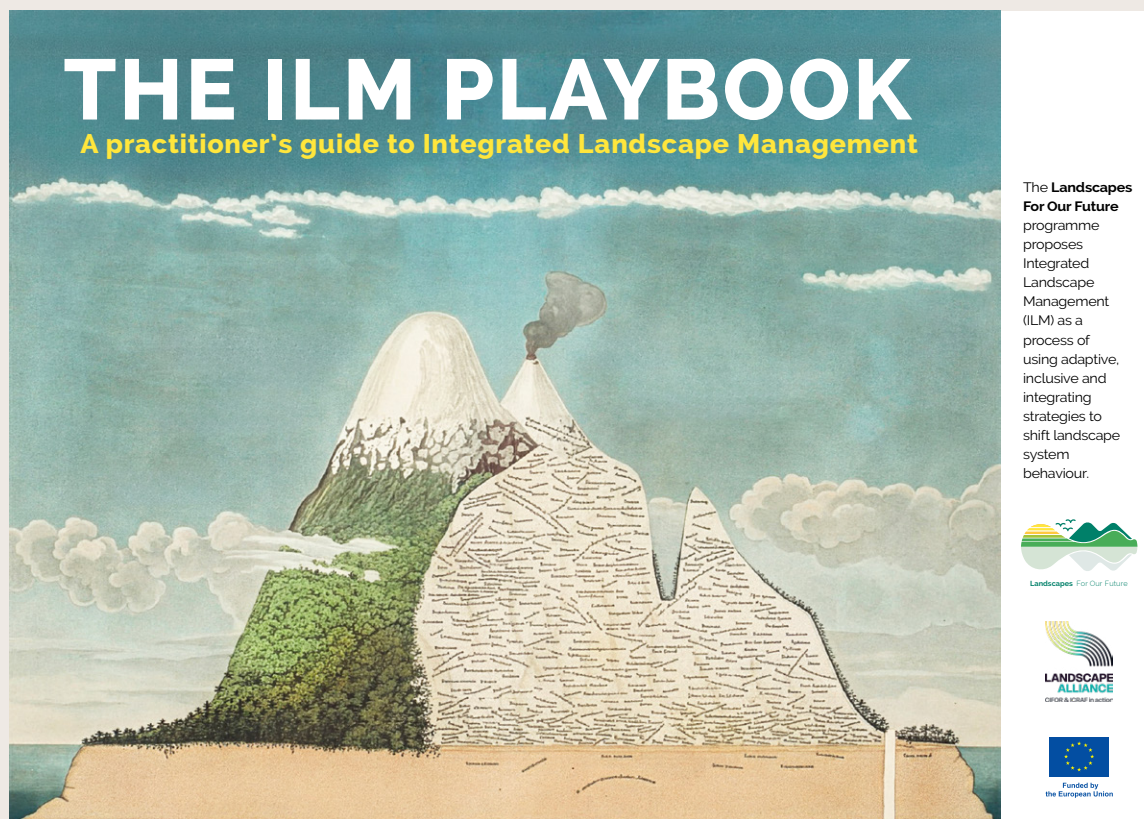


Extract from The ILM Playbook

The ILM Playbook is a practitioner curriculum developed through the EU-funded Landscapes For Our Future programme. Its **interactive web edition** provides a quick, non-linear route through the concepts and tools, while the **full-length PDF** provides the conceptual foundations, evidence and methodological depth behind them.

The concepts, methods and practical guidance were developed through the Central Component's work with project teams, partners and practitioners across the programme, and through the experience and learning generated in participating landscapes.



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Explore the full interactive ILM Playbook or access the complete reading edition at:
landscapesfuture.org/ilm-playbook



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Key take-aways

- A landscape is a complex system whose elements are entangled and co-produced: its condition is the outcome of power configurations and regulatory dynamics, not an inherent property of place.
- Landscapes have heading – a composite trajectory produced by the many strands of practice running through them – and ILM is the work of shifting that heading towards integrated social-ecological directions.
- The three-layered model – system contains power contains practices – is recursive: each layer patterns the others, so intervention in any one of them inevitably reaches into the others.
- The practitioner's task is not to change what people do but to change the conditions under which they act: behaviour in a complex system is generated by context, and context is what ILM intervenes in.
- The ILM practitioner reads a landscape through its power, practices and system dynamics to identify opportunity points where influence can shift heading – a reading made possible by sensing and positionality.

Introducing landscapes

Landscapes are *mosaic vistas of entangled ecological and human activity*. They are also complex systems whose elements – social, ecological, political, economic – are entangled and co-produced. Their areas are defined depending on scope, and their condition is produced by the power configurations and regulatory dynamics operating within and upon them. Landscapes have **heading** – a trajectory produced by the many movements within the system, each driven by specific actors and their practices, and whose composite effect determines the direction the system is moving in. We call these movements **strands**. All of these various concepts will be discussed later in the Playbook.

On what evidence do we base the arguments and perspectives in this section? If you're interested, check out the 'evidence page' for this section here.



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When we speak of 'scope', this refers to your intent in the landscape. Frequently, 'landscapes' are characterized as ecosystems, biomes, administrative boundaries, soil type, land use, agroecosystem, etc.

Ecological and social elements within a landscape system are entangled – not two separate domains in a relationship but co-constituted aspects of the same complex system. That said, it is not ecology that is driving its own degradation. The regulatory dynamics that shape landscape condition are overwhelmingly human: it is human practices, power configurations, and institutional arrangements that determine system heading. Our focus, therefore, is on the human drivers of ecological change – the power and regulation that dominate system **patterning**. Shifting these power configurations inevitably creates winners and losers – [trade-offs](#).

Landscapes are produced. We are concerned with how specific actors and power configurations have 'made' landscapes – not 'humanity' in the abstract, but particular constellations of power accumulators and sharers whose practices shape landscape condition. **Changing who produces the landscape means changing who benefits and who bears costs – again, trade-offs.** The global discussion on the Anthropocene references the human production of the earth's surface. For centuries, across all geographic extents, people have modified, tilled, worked, and reshaped the landscapes on which they live or govern. The power vista (see [Integration](#) section) makes this concrete: a landscape's condition is produced by the overlapping regulatory effects of actors with different geographic reach and different stakes in the landscape.

It is useful to regard landscape as vista – a way of seeing how system's elements interact, how its regulatory dynamics produce patterns, and where its heading points. The vista is not a view from outside: we are embedded within the system we observe, and our observation is itself a practice that shapes what we see. Nevertheless, the landscape as vista helps us perceive how the system functions as a whole.

Our landscape model

To help you think about ILM, we propose a three-layered model of what a landscape comprises: the landscape as a complex system, with its emergent behaviour. Embedded inside of this is power, inside of which are embedded practices. These layers interact – they are not mutually independent. Thus, practices pattern, regulate and shape power and its many different articulations, while power does the same to systems. Similarly, systems produce, emerge and constitute power, which then does the same to practices. Whichever variable it is that influences the layer, it 'bleeds' into the surrounding layer.

It is important to note that, as a model, this is a representation of how reality is structured. In the landscape, *things are far more dynamic*. The landscape never stays still. But if you maintain your overview of the system vista, keeping an eye on each of these layers, you pave the way for a successful ILM intervention.

A crucial implication of this model is that the practitioner's task is not to change what people do directly, but to change the conditions under which they act. In a complex system, behaviour is generated by context – by the regulatory environment of power relations, institutional arrangements, and norms within which people operate – rather than mandated by instruction. 'Regulation' is



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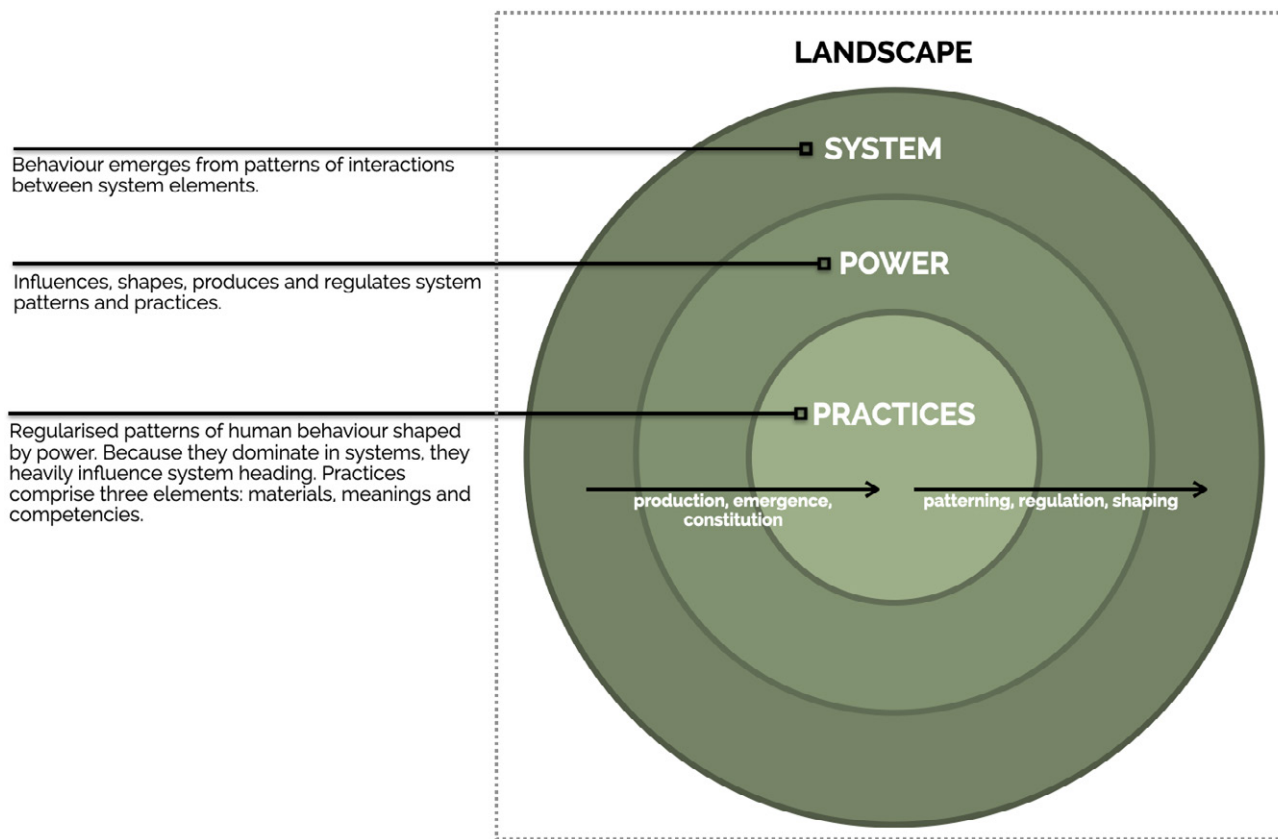
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how context is constituted: it is the dense web of pressures that together determine what is possible, permissible, and rewarded in a given setting. When we speak of intervening in the regulatory architecture, we are therefore speaking of reshaping the lived context that generates people's everyday behaviour. This is what makes the landscape itself so important as a unit of analysis: the landscape is the context within which practices emerge.

Defining ILM

ILM is an intervention approach in complex landscape systems that influences power and practices to shift heading in integrated social-ecological directions.

The ILM practitioner reads the landscape through its power configurations, practices, and system dynamics to identify opportunity points where influence can shift its heading.

How this may be done is the focus of this Playbook.