

CRP6: Sentinel Landscapes

Program of work for 2011–2014

As suggested in the approved February 2011, CRP6 document we envisage a stepwise approach, depending on funding availability.

Year 2011

- Convene a preliminary sentinel landscape workshop at the time of the CIFOR annual meeting (30/09–01/10) gathering our four centres and resources people. This workshop (draft tentative agenda attached) aims at reaching consensus among us on the designs, approaches and coordination necessary to put an SL network in place.

Year 2012 (Preparation)

- Undertake a detailed analysis of existing networks: lessons learned, impacts and opportunities for collaboration.
- Convene a broader workshop (CRP6 participating centres and main partners) to refine and validate needs (sites, data, methods, collaborations) and criteria for site selection, objectives, and research and monitoring design (see Box).
 - ➔ Decision about the actual SLs to be made during this workshop or soon after as a result of it.
- Establish, in close collaboration and with the strong involvement of the components and the gender cross-cutting theme, one (or several) working group(s) on methods to design a minimum set of common and standardised methods to use across sites.
- Visit candidate sites and develop official partnerships and protocols with relevant in-country partners.
- Develop database and data management procedures.
- Coordinate with research undertaken by Component Implementation Teams at sentinel landscapes, at both site and global levels, to plan for EPIA studies.

Year 2013 (First measurement)

- Establish the baselines:
 - Analyse existing information and available data.
 - Carry out specific measurement campaigns as needed.
- Provide support to Component Implementation Teams to initiate research at the sites.
- Fill-in and clean database; run preliminary analyses by site.

Year 2014

- Run detailed analyses (by and across sites).

Year 2017 (Second measurement)

- Measure changes since 2013 and analyse and interpret trends and changes.
- Develop EPIA reports.

Questions to be addressed at the proposed CRP sentinel landscapes network concept and design workshop

During the workshop to be held in the first year of CRP6's implementation, we will need to address the following key issues in order to frame the design of a future sentinel landscape network:

- What lessons have been learned (design, priorities, locations, partnerships, impacts) from other long-term site-specific research networks to inform our discussion?
- What are the relevant problems or trends (likely differing between components) that can be addressed through long-term research at a network of sentinel landscapes?
- What criteria for selection of landscapes would be optimal to meet the different needs of the various CRP6 research components?
- On what model(s) should the sentinel landscape research design be based?
 - Non-bounded network of specific study sites/sampling units (e.g., households) re-measured at regular intervals (e.g., IFRI, PEN, Smithsonian-type forest dynamic plots)
 - Fixed-size area monitored by remote sensing with ground truthing components (e.g., AfSIS sentinel landscapes)
 - Benchmark area approach (e.g., IITA Ecoregional Program, ASB Benchmark sites, Landscape Mosaics project).
- What collaborations and networks need to be developed?
 - within and across CRP6 components
 - with other CGIAR CRPs (e.g., CRP1.1, CRP2, CRP5)
 - with other existing long-term monitoring networks (may enhance long-term sustainability and economies of scale, but may constrain design and landscape placement).
- What interventions and who intervenes?
 - Under what conditions can sentinel landscapes without interventions be justified?
 - What are the respective roles of research organisations and other partners in interventions?
 - How to deal with the effect of interventions on the natural development of the sentinel landscapes, that is, how to separate the study of effects of interventions from the study of the natural impacts of exogenous and endogenous change at the landscape scale.

