

Lisa Elena Fuchs*, Rachel C. Voss*, Sarah Freed*, Anne Rietveld*, Thomas Falk†, Bernard Triomphe‡, Nadia Bergamini*, Chris Dickens§, Marcela Quintero*

*Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT †International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

‡French agricultural research and international cooperation organization (CIRAD) §International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

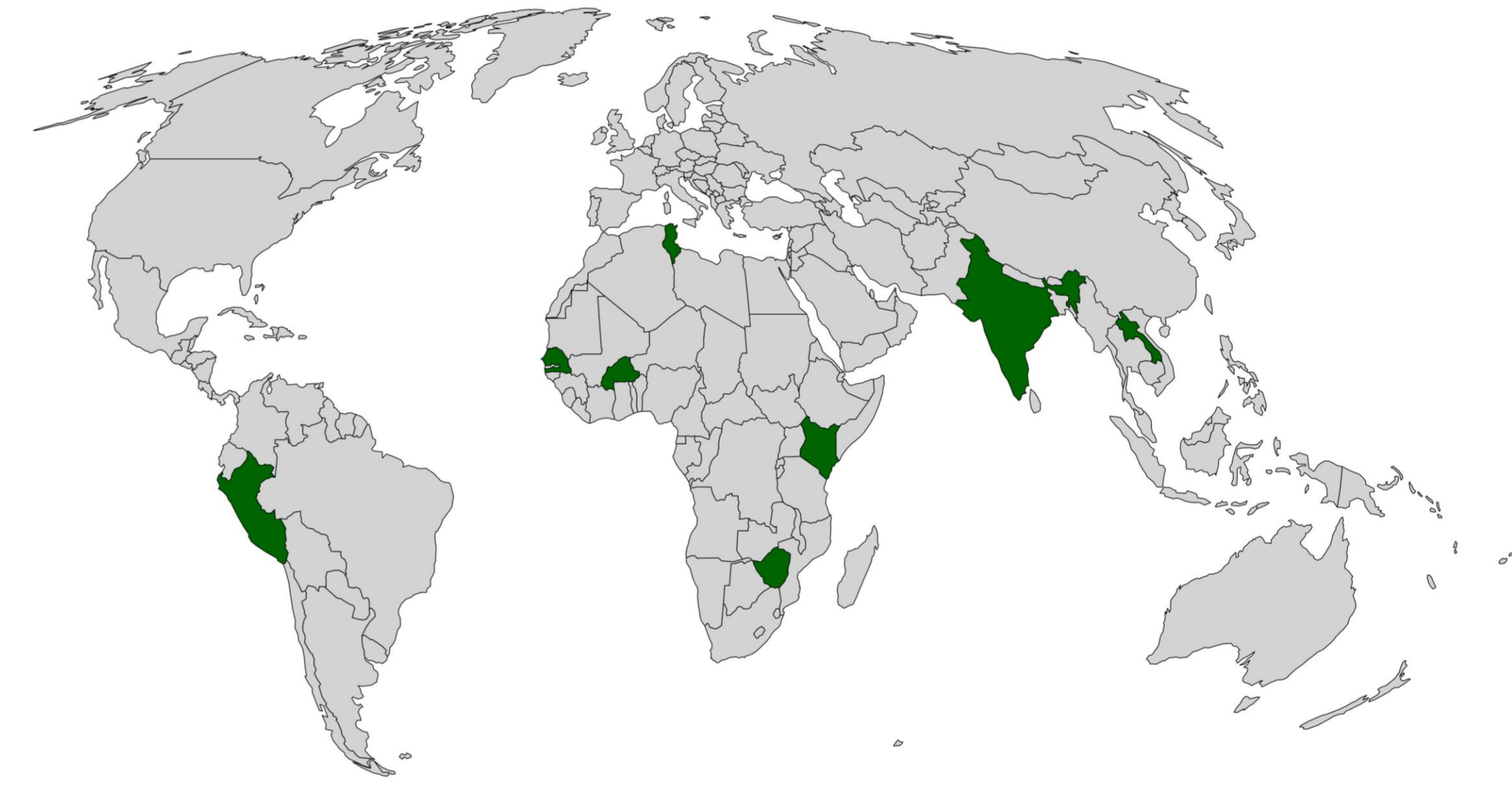


What are Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALLs)?

Living labs or living landscapes are gaining momentum as sub-national territories within which sustainable food system transformation is sought through multi-stakeholder engagement processes.

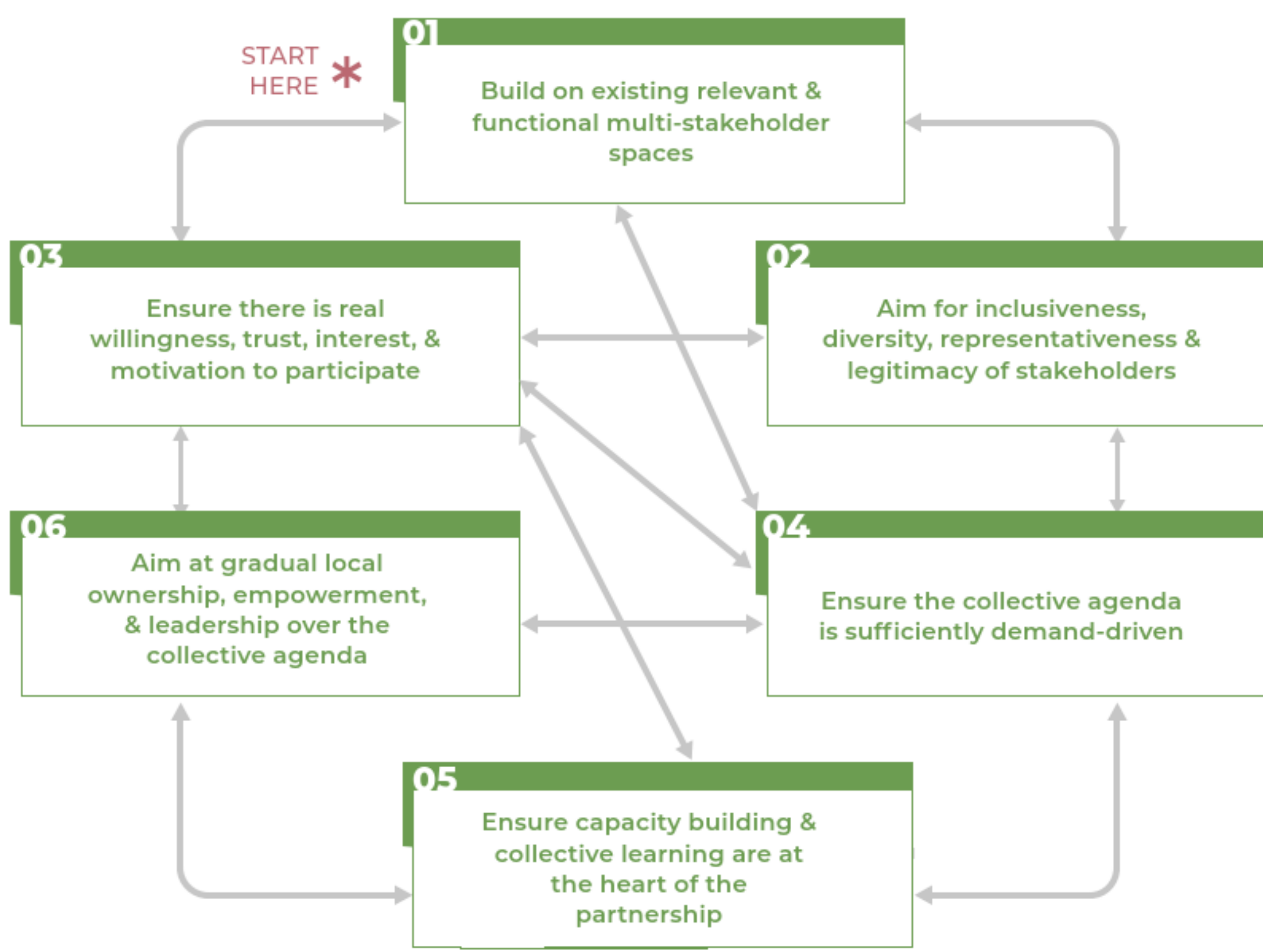
In the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative, 11 ALLs were established in 8 countries. Here, ALLs are defined as **multi-stakeholder** spaces in which agroecological **innovations** can be identified, **co-designed**, tested, and adopted.

These landscapes emerge as **coherent territories** that have **fuzzy boundaries** defined by the **functionality** and meaning bestowed onto them by their **diverse users**, who **care about** and are willing to take **transformative action** in pursuit of **just food system transitions**, rather than by geographical or administrative limits.



Principle based engagement methods to support and enable locally led agroecological transformation

Principles of Engagement



Why Principles of Engagement?

ALLs respond to the common challenges that external partners face in **accompanying and supporting local stakeholders** on agroecological transition pathways without imposing their own views and agendas. ALLs offer an opportunity to act as **transformation vehicles that foster transdisciplinary research**, including the co-creation of knowledge and co-design of innovations.

In line with HLPE (2019), transdisciplinary research should be **problem-focused, solution-oriented, inclusive, and reflexive**.

In the Agroecology Initiative, the Principles of Engagement were positioned as fundamental for starting and structuring **continuous engagement**, and for creating principle-based ALLs. This principle-based engagement method aims to help research teams to be reflexive and self-aware in how they interact with ALL partners, and, by extension, how they implement their projects.

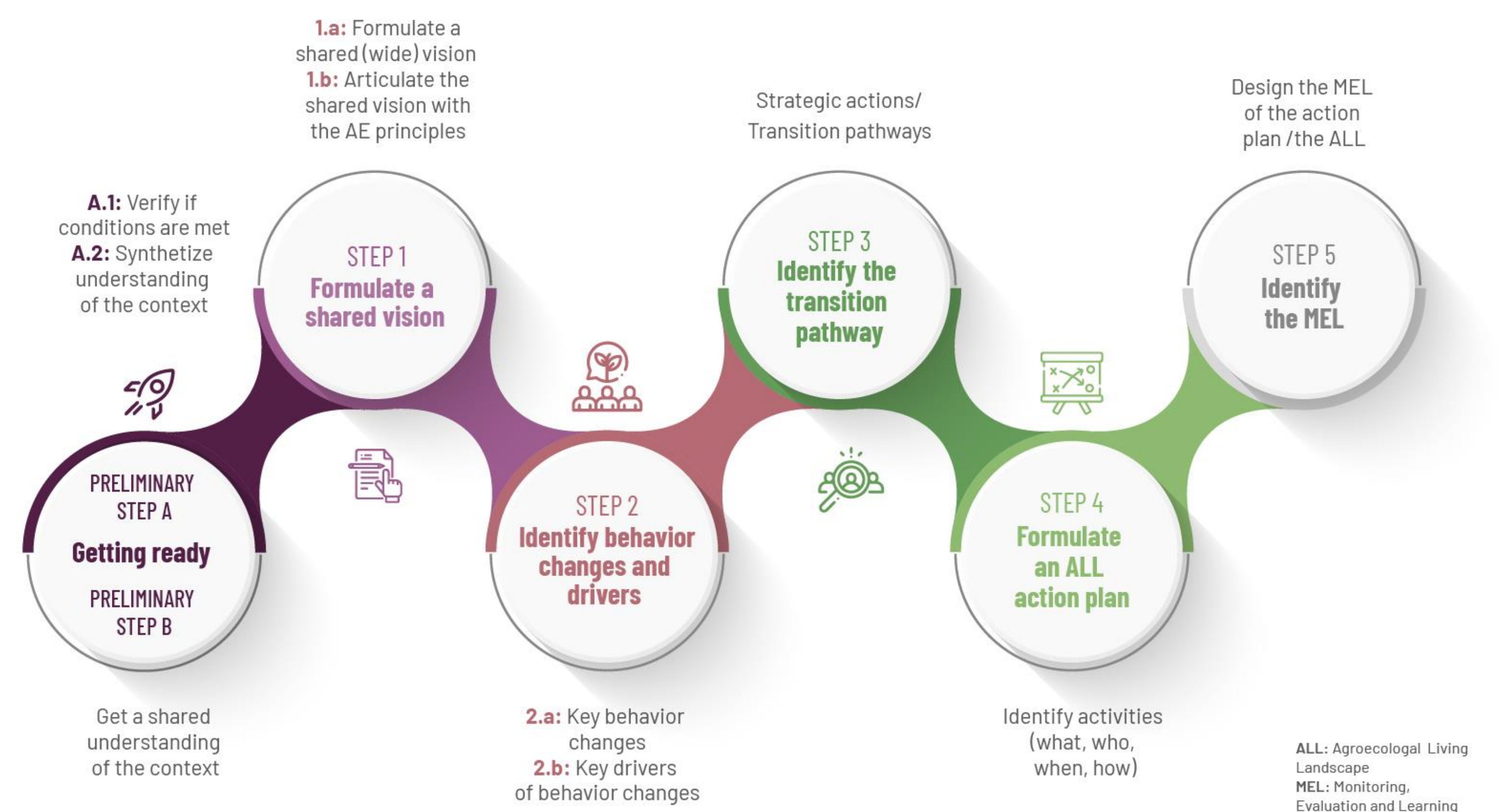
Why vision-based transition pathways?

The V2A process aims to support key ALL stakeholders to create a **shared vision** for a desirable future, develop a holistic and medium-term **transition pathway**, and define a realistic, collectively agreed-upon concrete **action plan** for their ALL that outlines the **behavior changes** required to transition from their current situation to the envisioned future.

V2A is designed to **foster action** that is **multi-actor** (e.g., producers, traders, enterprises, consumers, policy-makers), **multi-dimensional** (e.g., agricultural, environmental, economic, social), and **multi-scalar** (e.g., farm, landscape, system) to realize sustainable food system transformation. The V2A process and results also point to opportunities and entry points for **responsive external support**.

V2A mobilizes **powerful participatory action research** methods such as Appreciative inquiry, Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), Back-casting, *Ex ante* impact pathways, Foresight, and Visioning.

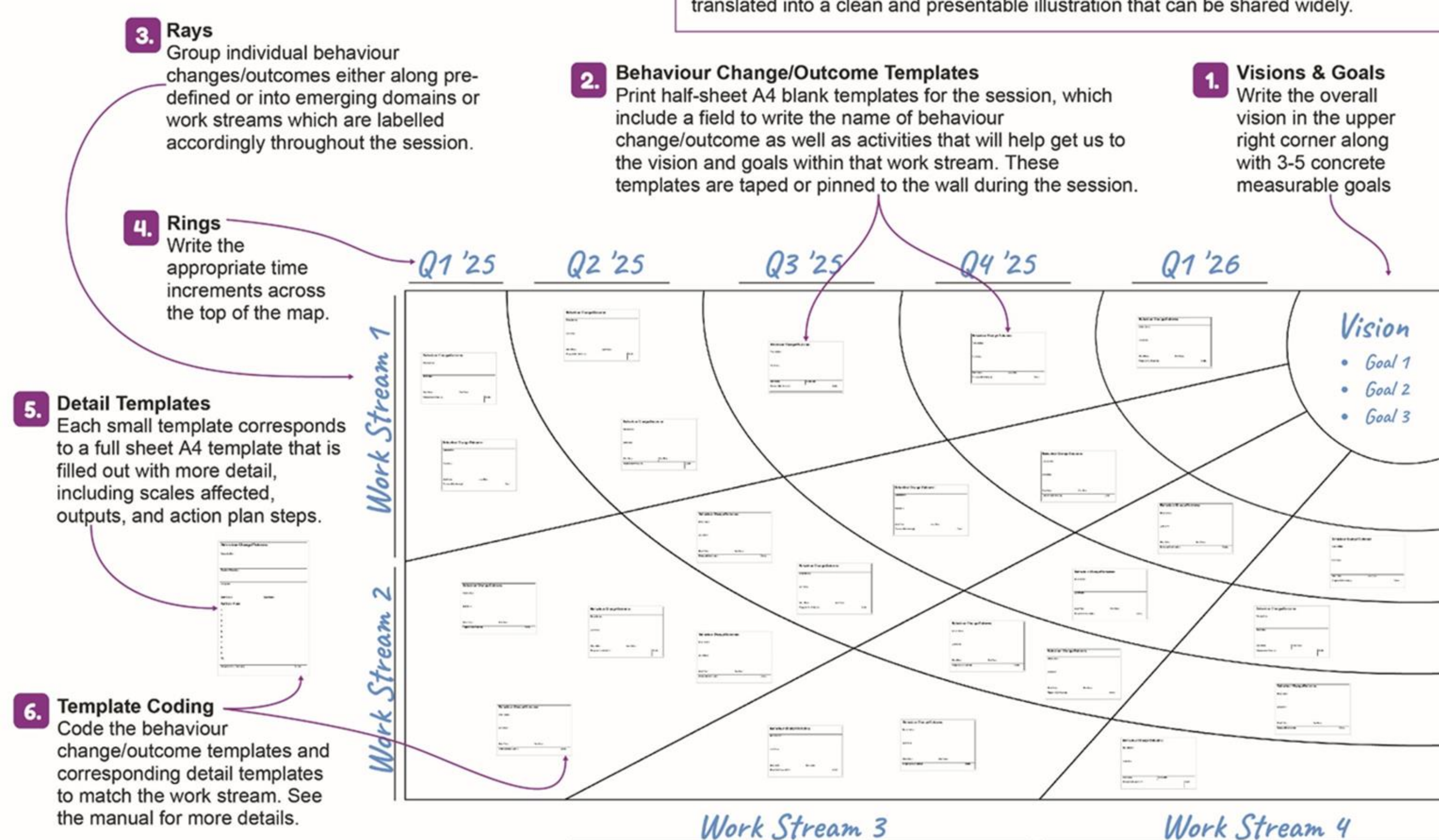
VISION-TO-ACTION PROCESS



Vision-to-Action (V2A)

Creating a V2A Transformation Map Template

Template Structure
To prepare for a collaborative session, draw this structure up on a whiteboard or large piece of paper and pin it to the wall. The template can either be pre-defined for a given session, or left open so that the number of work stream rays and time increment rings can be adapted as needed. If possible, use a whiteboard or piece of paper that is at least 120cm x 250cm (48"x96"). Once the exercise is completed, the template can be translated into a clean and presentable illustration that can be shared widely.



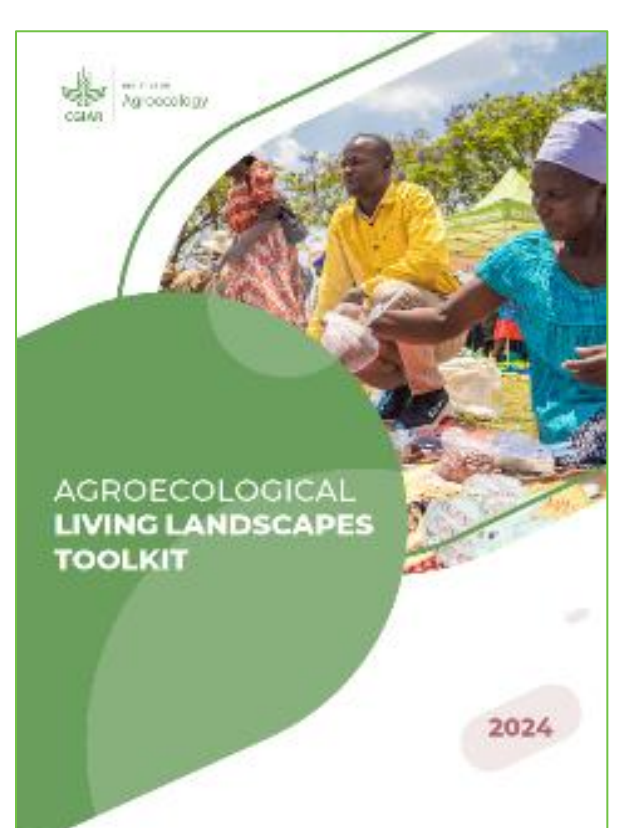
Further reading



Source: Triomphe et al. 2022
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/127414>



Source: Triomphe et al. 2024.
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/169532>



Source: Voss et al. 2024.
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/169255>