



THE PROMISE AND PRACTICE OF A LANDSCAPE APPROACH

Rachel Fleener
PhD Student
University of Otago, School of
Geography

WHO AM I?



From the Pacific Northwest part of the United States

BA in Politics (Honors) emphasis on International Environmental Policy

Current PhD Student at the University of Otago (New Zealand)

I'm an environmental social scientist

- Interrelations between humans and the natural world
- Environmental issues are inherently political, economic and social issues



Olympia, Washington



WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE? WELL, IT DEPENDS WHO YOU ASK.

“land”, root in the Germanic languages, belonging or ownership

“-scape”, in many languages, to shape

Any environment shaped and managed by human activity

Artistic expression? (ex. Landscape painting)

Cultural heritage? Personal identity?

Ecologically defined boundary?

Economic asset?



The Overberg in Autumn by Carla Bosch

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH

-The **development impasse**: inconsistent ecological concerns and the rise of sustainable development mantra

-Critiques of command and control conservation techniques and idea that there is a single point in which nature is in balance - move to more **systems level thinking**

-Development of a new plethora of Integrated Conservation and Development Initiatives: Community natural resource management, biosphere reserves, buffer zones, etc.

-Landscape Ecology: Local diversity and think systematically about the interacting parts of an ecological system and the interactions between a mosaic of different ecosystems

-Humanist Geography: Landscapes as an expression of human-environmental connection: cultural landscape studies and sense of place

-Social-Ecological Systems



Fynbos Landscape by Alexandra Karamallis

DEFINING THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH

“A **landscape approach** is a multi-faceted integrated strategy that aims to bring together **multiple stakeholders from multiple sectors to provide solutions at multiple scales**. It can be broadly defined as a framework to address the increasingly widespread and complex environmental, economic, social and political challenges that typically transcend traditional management boundaries” (Reed, et al. 2016)

DEFINING THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH

- Working both within and beyond the boundaries of protected areas
- Managing managing a mosaic of land uses
- Involving protection, restoration, production and subsistence use
- Aiming to deliver ecological, economic and social benefits
- Building partnerships between role-players: multiple stakeholders from multiple sectors to provide solutions at multiple scales
- Continued and participatory monitoring and evaluation
- Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in land-use planning and production sectors



WHO IS USING IT?



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



THE WORLD BANK



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Wildlife
Conservation
Society



World
Agroforestry



CIFOR

The Nature
Conservancy



Biodiversity for Development

South Africa's landscape approach to conserving
biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience



COLLABORATIVE LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE: THE BENEFITS

Increasing focus on **collaborative governance** as a key to solving “wicked” problems that extend traditional management silos

We all have a partial understanding of the landscape as a **complex social ecological system**

Benefits: access to a leveraging of resources, efficient resource use, make larger impact, increase political influence, reach different communities, innovative solutions, learning and adaptability



COLLABORATIVE LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE: THE CHALLENGES

- Achieving consensus
- Trust
- Competing institutional cultures
- Autonomy
- Coordination fatigue
- Lack of organizational capacity to work collaboratively- Time, human capital, etc.
- Sustainability

I'm sorry that my distaste for collaboration and feedback is making it hard to collaborate and give me feedback.

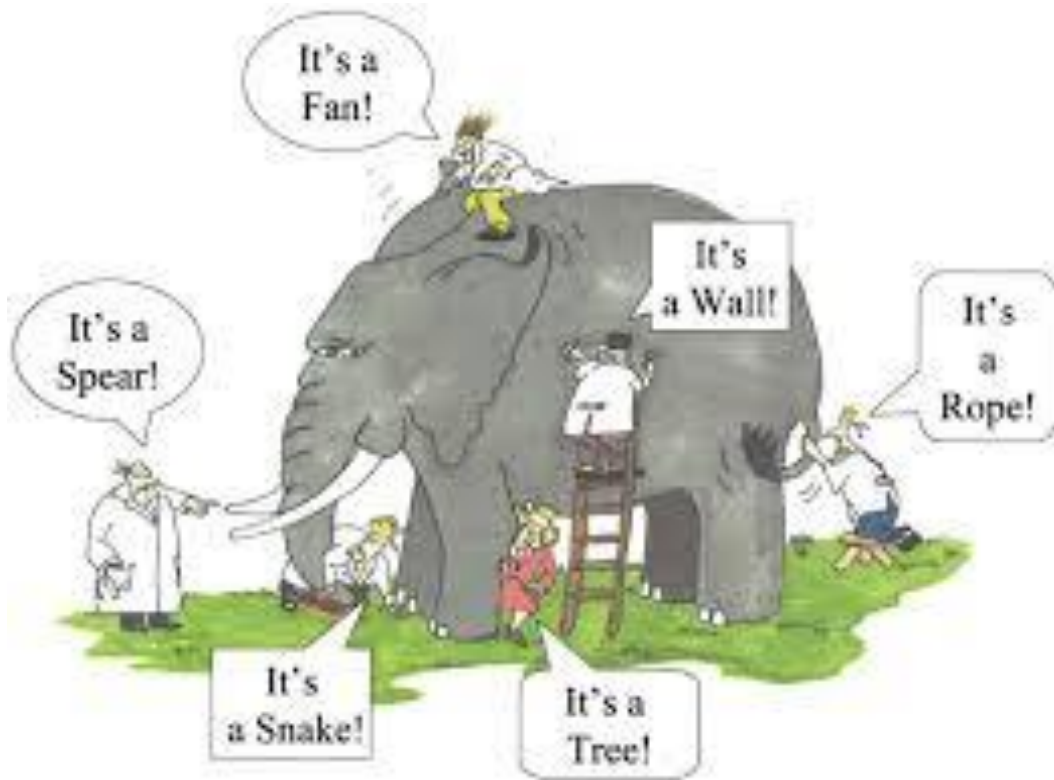
someecards
user card



SO WHAT AM I TRYING TO UNDERSTAND?

- ABI could provide a much need case study to the academic literature
- I want to explore the way the Landscape approach is applied in the Overberg
- What are it's benefits and what are it's limitations? What is ABI able to accomplish in this given context?

FUTURE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS? POSSIBLY YOU!



-Tell me about your perceptions regarding the conservation and socio-economic imperative in the Overberg

-Have you collaborated with another organization, agency, etc.? What worked? What didn't?

-Tell me about your perception regarding landscape approaches to conservation, particularly in regards to ABI

-Offer your perspective!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?