

# PhD Abstract

## Local knowledge and practices as a contribution to the implementation of integrated landscape approaches in Kalomo District, Zambia

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### Problem definition

Although integrated landscape approaches (ILAs) have recently gained attention as a framework for multi-stakeholder engagement, there is no consensus about its conceptualization, terminology, and application. While there is agreement that ILAs have potential for balancing competing demands and integrating policies for multiple land uses and multiple actors, the question of how to integrate different types of knowledge remains under-researched and disconnected from political discourses. Giving space to indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge and enhancing knowledge co-production and practices are some of the new challenges facing global environmental governance and sustainable development processes.

### Research Question

How can local knowledge and practices contribute to the implementation of landscape approaches in Kalomo District, Zambia?

### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework combines four theoretical strands to unpack knowledge co-creation for integrated landscape governance and sustainable development: 1) the debate on ILA conceptualization, terminology, and application; 2) indigenous and traditional knowledge and conservation practices, 3) challenges and potentials of knowledge co-production processes; and 4) the politics of knowledge.

### Methodology

The study adopts a mixed methods design, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods. Primary data will be gathered through participatory observation (attending meetings), and interviews with platform participants. Data analysis includes Q-methodology for discourse analysis, and social network analysis to identify actor alliances.

Secondary data collection includes a comprehensive review of policy documents, government documents, and archives.

### Expected Results

By analysing knowledge co-production processes in multi-stakeholder platforms and negotiation processes, the study aims to generate insights into: a) the terms of participation by different stakeholders in negotiating trade-offs and synergies; and b) the effects of knowledge co-production on the power position of marginalized groups and on power relations in knowledge co-creation processes. The overall aim is to contribute knowledge for the design of strategies for knowledge co-production and ILA implementation.

### Expected graduation:

September, 2022