

A Feasibility Study for an International Year of Landcare

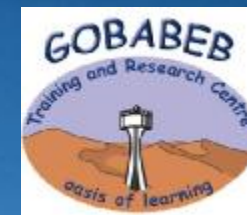
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Landcare overview

§Landcare is about people working taking action on local problems, and integrating those actions in addressing broader issues.

§In countries where it has been applied, Landcare-based approaches have proven to be highly successful. It is one of the world's strongest tools in tackling land degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

§The study reviewed the concept of the Landcare approach and describes its rationale, strengths and weaknesses.

§It further explores the feasibility of establishing an International Year of Landcare (IYLC).

Landcare Year Concept

Establishing IYLC was recommended at the International Forum on Soils, Society and Global Change in Iceland, 2007 (<http://www.iisd.ca/YMB/SDFSS/>)

Study methods

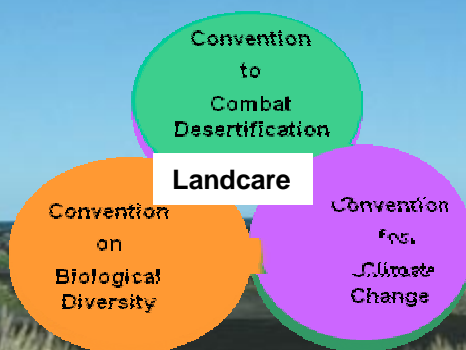
§Literature review

§Email and face to face interviews and discussions

§Interviews with farmers in Iceland

Why establish IYLC?

§As the foundation of life, human survival and lasting peace, proper land care is essential worldwide.



§IYLC would promote synergies between the United Nations environmental conventions, thus furthering achievement of MDG and other sustainability goals.

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Focus for IYLC

§IYLC could foster land literacy education ("read the land"), especially among young and grassroots people.

§IYLC could focus on empowering the grassroots people in the spotlight of activity, through Landcare movements.

§IYLC would focus on awareness activities to increase understanding of sustainable land management at all levels.

Conclusion and recommendations

§Establishing IYLC is ethically, culturally and environmentally feasible. However, commitment and support among all stakeholder must be earned: globally, nationally and locally

§Maintaining a diverse body of committed stakeholders (e.g. scholar) to promote concept will secure the establishment of the year by the United Nations.

§Countries should promote Landcare nationally and ensure that the concept becomes a household name.