



SUSTAINABLE
LANDSCAPE
FINANCE
COALITION


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AFRICA

Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition

Finance Solution Approach[©]

The Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition has developed a four-stage approach to developing and implementing new finance solutions to particular landscape contexts. The Finance Solution Approach[©] is based on experience in developing successful landscape finance solutions, such as [section 37D of the Income Tax Act](#) and WWF's Green Financial Solutions. Ensuring a strategic approach to ensuring viability of solutions before piloting is critical to effect lasting change and transferability of solution building blocks to enhance scale. The approach is applicable to any innovative finance solution and can be embedded into a diversity of projects, entities and landscapes.

www.wwf.org.za 

www.wildernessfoundation.co.za 

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-sustainable-landscape-finance-coalition/> 



Finance Solution Building Blocks

Elements or critical success factors, referred to as “building blocks”, of a particular finance solution allow for potential adaptation, replication or upscaling in other geographic, social or sectoral contexts. Building blocks do not follow a “one-size-fits-all” approach, but share overarching methodologies that follow a practical, strategic and integrated approach to problem-solving and implementation. Building blocks are crucial to facilitating the re-application and transferability of a specific finance solution so that others may benefit and breakthroughs may be upscaled.



01 Stage 1: Incubation

Finance Solution Incubators act as a strategic approach to investigating a specific finance solution. They are designed to function without cost and to nimbly advance critical findings that have the potential to unlock new and sustainable landscape finance opportunities. This is facilitated by the presence of a cross-section of leading specialists and the provision of framing questions that guide the investigation. Ultimately, this yields findings that determine if a solution has the necessary building blocks to be implemented or not. This is evidenced by the Coalition's BMA Tax Incentive Incubator findings which are now being practically implemented through the BMA Tax Incentive Pilot Project (refer to below for further detail). The Finance Solution Approach[®] allowed for a new concept to be investigated and moved to piloting in under one year.

02 Stage 2: Strategic Development

Strategic Development involves the creation of Finance Strategies and/or Feasibility Studies that provide a road map for implementation and detail finance solution viability. Finance Strategies can be developed per project, per organisation or entity or for entire landscapes. Feasibility Studies are designed to target a specific type of intervention within a defined context to ascertain if the finance intervention in question is viable within the pre-defined context. The Coalition's Finance Solution Approach[®] focuses critically on strategic implementation and advocates for context specific approaches to be clearly scoped. This accurately determines and assesses the viability of finance interventions before they are piloted. The approach notes greater success with regards to effectiveness, transferability and success at moving to scale by focusing on the initial finance solution building blocks and their strategic implementation.

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Stage 3: Piloting

Piloting of finance solutions is often a time consuming and costly exercise, sometimes without success, or with limitations of scale and importantly, unnecessary delays due to the absence of factors critical to the pilot's implementation (referred to as Finance Solution Building Blocks). The Coalition's Finance Solution Approach© seeks to guarantee piloting success and scale and reduce unnecessary costs and delays by ensuring that viability checks have been established in stages 1 and 2. For example, where an incubator investigates a specific finance solution for which the findings indicate that there are missing building blocks, the next stages will not be conducted unless those critical success factors can be ensured. Essentially, all pilots under Stage 3 are based on finance strategies or feasibility studies in elected landscapes to test practical implementation and are often based on catalytic findings from incubators.

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Stage 4: Scalability

Ultimately the aim of all finance solution efforts is to ensure the scale of successful innovation in order to plug finance shortfalls for conservation and sustainability efforts. This requires two critical factors: 1) Mainstreaming successful pilots to all landscapes that can benefit from the same finance solution; and 2) ensuring that the building blocks essential to getting the new finance solution off the ground are clearly illustrated so that they can be assessed in other landscapes to facilitate mainstreaming.

Join the Coalition

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