

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of rolling green hills, likely the Tuscan hills in Italy. The hills are covered in dense green vegetation and are characterized by their undulating, wave-like shapes. The lighting creates soft shadows and highlights, emphasizing the contours of the landscape. The overall color palette is various shades of green, from deep forest green to lighter, sunlit greens.

THE LANDBANKING GROUP

One place. Many instruments.

Connecting the evidence they already rely on

NatureCadastre: from German implementation to interoperable infrastructure
Chris Wilson, Local Partner APAC, The Landbanking Group | COP17, Netherlands Pavilion, Yerevan, 21 October 2026

Start with the ground

One farm. Several instruments. Different decisions, but all depend on what is actually there.

Compensation scheme

Is this site eligible: would the gain happen anyway, and is the land already committed?

Agri-environment payment or certifier

Was the agreed practice delivered, and does it meet the standard?

Nature finance

Is the condition real, and will it hold over time?

The same farm

Arable fields, grassland, hedgerows, a wetland margin, a protected habitat. Different schemes ask different questions, but the facts sit on the same ground.

Fragmentation costs money

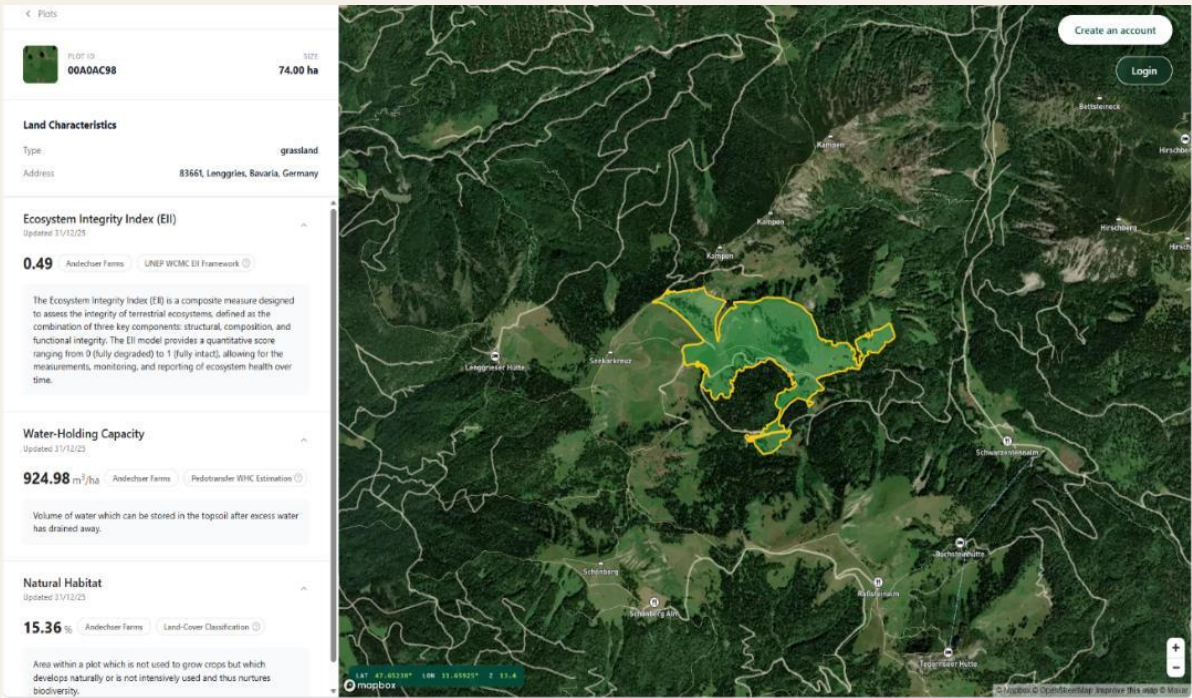
The same boundaries, obligations and ecological attributes are checked repeatedly because each scheme rebuilds its own evidence stack.

Compensation	Agri-environment or certification	Nature finance
condition	condition	condition
equivalence: gain against a counterfactual	performance: practice delivered as agreed	stewardship: condition held over time
management practice	management practice	boundary and existing obligations
boundary and existing obligations	boundary and existing obligations	permanence
permanence	payments already received	prior claims

- the same attribute, checked again by more than one scheme
- the claim each instrument tests against the same evidence

Germany has built the first layer

The NatureCadastre is now an operating MVP. The next challenge is to make its evidence genuinely reusable across instruments.



- MVP built** Germany’s parcel base is largely loaded; exemplary ecological indicators are attached to selected plots.
- Independent non-profit** A non-profit gGmbH is being established to run the NatureCadastre, philanthropically funded to start.
- Real use cases** Current priorities include CAP outcomes, restoration planning, compensation and certification / retail.
- What is still missing** Full interoperability between instruments, methods and jurisdictions remains the next design challenge.

NatureCadastre Germany • implementation status: September 2026

Connect the evidence, not the instruments

A shared reference can preserve the common facts while each scheme keeps its own rules, thresholds and legal effects.

Shared reference for the place

Spatial identity	boundary, version, use restrictions, payment options
Ecological result	condition, change or service
Practice record	what was done: observed, documented or declared
Method & version	how the result was produced
Provenance & reliability	who, when, uncertainty
Obligations & claims	what is already committed or paid for

Public payment

reads the record independently

then applies its own

**eligibility
performance**

Compensation

reads the record independently

then applies its own

**loss
equivalence**

Private finance

reads the record independently

then applies its own

**risk
claim**

Each instrument reads the same record in parallel. A practice record sits beside the ecological result; it is not evidence that the practice caused it. Shared reference is not shared methodology.

What shared evidence adds

Efficiency is only the first gain. The larger ones are claims that hold up and uses that are not possible today.

	Land steward <i>upstream</i>	Compensation <i>downstream</i>	Agri-environment or certification <i>downstream</i>	Nature finance <i>downstream</i>
Efficiency <i>doing the same for less</i>	Reports once; reused by every scheme	No re-survey of boundary or prior obligations	Fewer audits of the same field	Lower due diligence per parcel
Integrity <i>claims that hold up</i>	Sees their own record and can challenge it	Prior claims visible, so the same hectare is not counted twice	Practice and condition recorded separately, each labelled	Provenance and uncertainty on every result
New possibilities <i>uses not possible today</i>	Payments and restrictions visible; the record travels to any buyer; small parcels can become viable	Baselines observed on comparable land rather than assumed; measures followed up for years	Outcome-based payments become workable	Several payers share one evidence base; long-term stewardship finance; lending terms if lenders come to rely on it

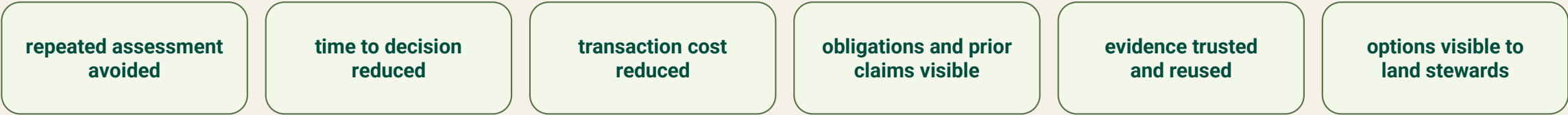
Public authorities gain one record for restoration reporting and a view of where public money already pays.

The next test: one landscape, three decisions

Start with uses that already have budgets or obligations, then measure whether shared evidence actually reduces friction.



What would success look like?



Financing principle: do not make the infrastructure depend on speculative credit demand. Earn relevance through funded public and regulatory uses; let private finance reuse the evidence where genuine demand exists.

The shared problem is global. Governance remains local.

The long-term opportunity is not one global database. It is locally governed cadastres that can interpret one another's evidence.

Germany

- MVP built
- Parcel base largely loaded
- Independent non-profit in formation

Australia

- Use-case design underway
- Draft rulebook covers use restrictions and landholder consent
- Public finance and land-management applications

China

- Technical requirements mapped
- Evidence, authority and claims architecture identified
- Technical paper launch: 25 October



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Common interoperability principles can travel. Data custody, governance, rights and permitted uses remain local.

Interested in testing another use case or jurisdiction? christopher.wilson@thelandbankinggroup.com