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**Global  
Landscapes  
Forum**

Concept note

# Connecting for impact

## From commitment to action

World Conference Center, Bonn  
December 1-2, 2018

Coordinating partners



Funding partners



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Forests, Trees and  
Agroforestry

# Contents

## Overview

Target audience

Transformation through Youth

1

2

2

## Background

Setting the scene - The challenges

Moving from country, corporate and organizational pledges to action

3

3

3

## Guiding themes and topics

5

## Forum Agenda (Draft)

7

## Communications and outreach

8

## Ways to participate

GLF Digital experience

Get involved in Bonn

9

9

9

# Overview

Working towards achieving the SDGs, the NYDF, the Aichi Targets, the Paris Agreement, or regional efforts like the African Agenda 2063, the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn 2018 aims to “reignite the flame” to accelerate and mobilize collective action on the ground. GLF will bring together policy leaders, business, civil society, land use practitioners and the world’s leading scientists to jointly discuss and share knowledge and lessons learnt on how to move from commitments to action and develop innovative implementation strategies towards sustainable landscapes.

Sustainable landscapes are essential for food security, health, livelihoods, business and trade opportunities, including renewable materials and energy. International agreements play a critical role for development, as well as for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and adaptation or water security. However, nature and humanity will benefit most from these different sustainable development and conservation targets, like the SDGs or the Paris Agreement, only if they unfold the implementation of activities with maximum contribution to those different global policy agendas. Against this backdrop, GLF 2018 will allow participants to share knowledge with policy makers and each other in the pursuit of new and green development pathways in landscapes.

The Summit – organized by the Global Landscapes Forum and funded by the German government and key partners – has developed into the largest exchange platform on sustainable landscapes in the world in recent years and is expected to attract more than 2,000 stakeholders from across different sectors, regions and disciplines. Via an extensive online experience tens of thousands more are expected to participate via different opportunities. Special learning events with leading global experts on sustainable land use will be undertaken, along with a range of other engaging processes, including detailed discussions, a series of short talks, the innovative solutions for landscapes, thematic pavilions and a share fair showcasing the newest innovations in sustainable land use solutions.

Building on success stories and identifying barriers to and opportunities for implementation in practical ways, GLF helps actors from all sectors and levels to identify evidence-based solutions, effective action and monitoring. At GLF Bonn 2018 there will be plenty of space for different organizations and individuals to interact, share, learn and act together as to build and strengthen a Global Community of Practice and jointly start with implementing the transformations we want to see happening on the ground now.

## Main objectives of GLF 2018

With GLF 2018 we expect to achieve or contribute to accelerate:

- more and better multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination across sectors and governance levels to plan and advance implementation of countries’ commitments;
- approaches and strategies that meaningfully link global commitments to local needs, interests and aspirations;
- connecting sustainable landscape approaches to global processes to achieve stronger commitments towards reduced deforestation, enhanced restoration, and land degradation neutrality as to combat hunger, achieve food security and provide green development pathways
- greater collaboration between existing learning networks and communities of practice to foster ways to share knowledge, innovations, and models; and
- more targeted, applied research for informed decision-making drawing on what has worked and what has not worked so far.
- Help prepare the “glue” that holds together all the above elements, and more



## Target audience

Expected to attract more than 2,000 participants, GLF Bonn 2018 will bring together a wide diversity of stakeholders from across different sectors and regions that share critical interest in moving from commitments and pledges on sustainable landscapes to implementation. The event aims to benefit and build capacity of actors across multiple scales and disciplines while simultaneously raising global awareness and increasing capacity to pursue sustainable landscape approaches with measurable climate mitigation and adaptation benefits. Specifically, we aim to bridge gaps between distinct target groups in efforts to overcome sectoral barriers to development and climate work. In this effort, the organizers expect a significantly higher participation from the private sector and other implementing partners and change agents, such as youth, to reflect the increasing worldwide urgency for and engagement in sustainability. Leaders of government, private sector, practitioners, community representatives, small farmer organizations and indigenous leaders, research and development organizations and youth as well as donor agencies and media are invited to take part in open discussions that seek to identify synergies and trade-offs, bridge institutional silos and offer concrete 'green growth' solutions in sustainable landscapes for our common future. Engagement, outreach, knowledge production, and enabling learning activities will employ holistic lenses to ensure identification of change agents who act as multipliers and bring lessons and demands from the local level to be core components of GLF activities.

## Transformation through Youth

The GLF's largest stakeholder group – young people – will show force by sharing lessons learned and knowledge gained throughout the year through Youth in Landscapes (YIL) Initiative. YIL is a global movement of young people who have committed to living and breathing the landscapes philosophy – collaboration, diversity and collective action. This partnership welcomes everyone, aged 18-35, from any sector, to take part in its activities.

In Bonn, youth participants will build upon outcomes from numerous workshops, trainings, and events led by the GLF and YIL throughout the year, including a unique Youth Session at GLF Nairobi. Their involvement across discussion forums, plenaries, and all activities at the GLF, will infuse new insights into discussions on topics such as: halting deforestation and forest degradation, innovative financing for restoration, social entrepreneurship, agricultural transformation for youth employment, and effective strategies to mobilize and empower communities. Through curated conference mentorship program, pre-conference capacity development workshops, and a youth-led program of engagement – GLF Bonn will build an intergenerational network for impact and transformation.

## About the global Landscapes Forum



The **Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)** is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers and community leaders and civil society to accelerate action towards the creation of more resilient, equitable, profitable, and climate-friendly landscapes. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment, and The World Bank launched the Forum in Warsaw in 2013, alongside the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP). With core funding provided by the German Government, the GLF is entering its next 5-year phase with a launch a movement of 1 billion people towards the creation of sustainable landscapes.

GLF's mission is to connect and maintain long-lasting relationships between relevant actors as to aid in reducing institutional overlaps, siloes and barriers. Foremost, it is committed to action within landscapes, including registering pledges to restore 128 million hectares of land, protect over 70 watersheds and enact equitable policies. In its new phase 2018-2022 the GLF aspiration is to move even further from 'pledges to action'.

So far, the GLF has held four global conferences: Warsaw 2013, Lima 2014, Paris 2015 and Bonn 2017. Two additional thematic events in London – in 2015 and 2016 – focused on finance and investment for sustainable landscapes, complemented by a thematic GLF conference on peatlands held in Jakarta in 2017. In Marrakech 2016, the focus was on climate change and climate actions. Through these gatherings, the GLF was able to connect 3,400 organizations and 76,000 people and to reach another 70 million online.

For more information on how to participate, please contact John Colmey, GLF executive producer, [j.colmey@cgiar.org](mailto:j.colmey@cgiar.org)



# Background

## Setting the scene - The challenges

Sustainable landscapes are essential for the future we want: they provide humanity with food, health benefits, livelihoods and income, business and trade opportunities, renewable materials and energy, biodiversity conservation, fertile, productive soils, climate regulation and water security. Since the beginning of this decade, various international processes and commitments worldwide have set aspirations for a more sustainable future for all. In 2011, the Bonn Challenge, set restoration high on the global policy agenda with the goal of bringing 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020. It links to the CBD Aichi Targets (2011 – 2020) to reduce the loss of natural habitats, restore degraded areas and improve protected area networks.

Building on the global restoration movement ignited by the Bonn Challenge, also the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF, 2014) extended global efforts to halving the rate of deforestation by 2020 as to end the loss of natural forests by 2030, while restoring at least 350 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030 and eliminating deforestation from supply chains, among other goals, with a zero-deforestation supply chains commitment. The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under the UNCCD spearheads measures to conserve, sustainably manage and restore land in the context of land use planning. In addition, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, and the Paris Agreement under Agenda 2030 provide complementary and universal frameworks for all countries for accelerating ambitious action and prioritizing funding towards a safer, fairer and more sustainable future<sup>1</sup>.

So far, there are mixed signals on the progress of these global initiatives in mobilizing coordinated, multilateral responses and practical action across levels. In particular, to achieve the SDGs major gaps to be addressed remain in implementation, financing and political will<sup>2</sup>.

At national level, international commitments are often dealt with separately through different institutional,

policy and administrative processes and by different actors with different approaches to implementation, monitoring and available different datasets. Yet, to reduce duplication of work and increase efficiency, while maximizing the efficiency of resource, technical capacity, information and expertise sharing, it will be imperative to align different sustainable development and conservation agendas, e.g. tapping on the high potential for synergies between achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, while at the same time also gaining a deeper understanding of trade-offs. Towards that end, an integrated landscape perspective to sustainable development offers a great opportunity. Such integrated landscape management involves long-term collaboration among different groups of land managers and stakeholders to achieve their multiple objectives and expectations within the landscape for local livelihoods, health and well-being, while increasing mitigation and adaptation opportunities as to promote a green economy<sup>3</sup>.

## Moving from country, corporate and organizational pledges to action

Working towards the achievement of sustainable and low-emission development inspired by the SDGs, the NYDF, Bonn Challenge, the Aichi Targets and the Paris Agreement, the [Global Landscapes Forum](#) in Bonn aims to “reignite the flame” to accelerate and mobilize collective action. Recognizing the complexity and context dependency of landscape realities, the GLF event seeks to “[connect for impact](#)” and bring together practitioners from all relevant disciplines and communities to better understand the factors underlying the deterioration of soils, waterbodies, forests and whole ecosystems and jointly discuss and develop pathways towards sustainable landscapes.

Such efforts require a well-planned and coordinated participatory process as well as continued political, technical and financial support. It needs to pay heed to the fact that different countries and the actors therein face different challenges and have distinct perspectives and views on sustainable landscapes with implication for the respective suitable political, institutional, financial, social, ecological and technical ways of implementation. A number of experimental approaches and initiatives exist that are promising to

1 UNDP (2017), Bond (2016).

2 United Nations (2017).

3 LPFN (2016), FAO (2012).



delivering good outcomes for achieving the desired transformational change towards integrated sustainable landscapes. Valuable insights in science and practice about approaches to policies, tenure, technology and innovation, business models and investable projects, financing schemes or investment cases, monitoring as well as for stakeholder participation and facilitated knowledge exchange and learning can inspire action across decision-making levels. For example, supporting a greater integration of smallholder producers into value chain governance and engaging the private sector more broadly, as in Ethiopia for coffee production, or in Ghana for cocoa and for mosaic landscape management more broadly in El Salvador, can help reconcile forestry with food security and nutrition demands<sup>4</sup>.

Building on success stories and identifying barriers to and opportunities for implementation in practical ways, GLF aspires to help actors from all sectors and policy levels along the way from commitment to evidence-based solutions, effective action and monitoring. In this endeavour, GLF Bonn 2018 will provide plenty of space for all sorts of organizations and individuals – explicitly including institutions and actors with different ways of seeing landscapes – to interact, share, learn and act together as to build and strengthen a Global Community of Practice and jointly start with implementing the transformations we all want to see on the ground now.



Photo by Louis Putzel/CIFOR

4 GLF (2018).

# Guiding themes and topics

Discussions at GLF Bonn 2018 seek to provide practice-oriented insights and solutions for moving from country pledges to action, accelerating investments in sustainable landscapes, upscaling successful cases, mobilizing decision-makers and building favorable policies and regulations. The following five GLF themes are informed by what partners and participants work on and prioritize. They offer a valuable starting point and guidance for identifying such specific implementation-oriented discussion topics.

**1. Landscape restoration.** Exchanging of the latest knowledge, approaches, tools and practical experiences on landscape restoration planning and implementation, lessons learnt and ways to upscale successes.

Proposed discussion topics:

- Methods for planning objective-oriented landscape-level restoration
- Integrating multiple goals concomitantly (e.g. restoration, development, climate protection, adaptation)
- Seed and plant supply systems, including mechanisms for multi-level cooperation
- Institutional capacity building for implementing landscape restoration
- Cost-effective technical innovations in and approaches to restoration
- Value chains for landscape restoration and employment generation
- Business and investment options that reconcile restoration with social objectives
- Monitoring approaches for measuring success in landscape restoration

**2. Food security and livelihoods.** The landscape approach is a promising concept for managing natural resources as to promote rural livelihoods and addressing poverty reduction<sup>1</sup>. A key objective in landscape restoration is to achieve a balance between socio-economic and ecological benefits from agricultural practices, moving beyond the idea that food security and reduced environmental degradation are mutually exclusive. In this vein, agriculture in restoration areas may actually promote both an active role of communities in and a broad implementation of restoration plans<sup>2</sup>.

Proposed discussion topics:

- Managing the trade-offs – practical ways towards sustainable foods systems that balance between

near-term livelihood improvement and long-term ecosystem integrity

- Population growth and local migration – integrated landscape management adaptive to the dynamics of change in rural contexts
- Up-scaling or out-leaking? What inter-regional impacts of “landscape” projects on food, energy or water security and nutrition?
- Integrating forest conservation, restoration, food production, climate adaptation and local economic development– role and conditions for agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture and other integrated sustainable land use systems and approaches
- Policy, governance, and financing instruments to support integrated approaches in productive landscapes – Experiences and outcomes with payments for externalities
- Integration of traditional land-use practices (e.g. shifting cultivation, fallow management) for sustainable landscapes for food and livelihoods
- Traditional and scientific knowledge – how can they go hand in hand?

**3. Rights.** The recognition of the rights and empowerment of women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups is at the heart of sustainable landscapes. Taking a rights-based approach, in which community /individual rights to land, trees, or enhanced forest cover are recognized or protected, is important for long-term success. Likewise, factors such as access to infrastructure, extension, services, credit, and markets are part of a viable rights-based approach.

Proposed discussion topics:

- Addressing barriers and challenges in enhancing and securing land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including challenges arising from restoration
- Considering voluntary guidelines/ codes of conduct for investments to protect/ safeguard local user and land rights
- Land tenure reform and conducive legal framework across levels and sectors
- Support for technical and institutional capacity building at various levels
- Support for shifting forest agencies toward extension and facilitation of development processes
- Integration and mainstreaming of traditional knowledge and practice in public policies
- Approaches to support integrated and inclusive development in context of secure land tenure

<sup>1</sup> FAO (2012).

<sup>2</sup> De Pinto et al. (2017).



**4. Financing sustainable landscapes.** Developing innovative finance opportunities and financial instruments to fund sustainable forest and land management and restoration, aimed particularly at smallholders and sustainable value chains is key for achieving sustainable landscapes.

Proposed discussion topics:

- Innovative schemes for connecting local communities and SMEs, project developers and financiers for viable forest and landscape restoration and management projects
- Approaches for developing sustainable supply and value chains with potential for up scaling
- Investment models in landscapes that deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes, while ensuring equity and fairness in the distribution of benefits
- Options for inclusive business models for smallholders and SMEs, with explicit gender perspectives and potential to uplevel smallholders and SMEs production systems
- Role of multi-, international and domestic financial instruments (GCF and beyond)
- Role of policy measures and incentives (like PES) for private (domestic) investments in sustainable landscapes in ways that balance social, economic and restoration objectives
- Incl. how to blend private and multilateral/ international funding facilities and address challenges like timeliness of approval processes, alignment of interests, complex stakeholder management, costs of managing cross-sectoral partnerships etc.
- Role of certification and accountability frameworks for land-based investments, e.g. on production models that combine food quality with the quality of the landscape

**5. Measuring progress towards climate and development goals.** To successfully integrate development and climate change objectives – for an equitable, sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon world – actors need to be able to draw on the latest knowledge and instruments to achieve and measure progress at landscape level.

Proposed discussion topics:

- Addressing the trade-offs and integrating climate and development goals
- Key (cost-effective) indicators for intervention targets according to management/development objectives - Challenges and opportunities for alignment with existing processes and cross-sectoral coordination to operationalize monitoring systems (e.g. through collaborative roadmaps)
- Integrating the measurement and monitoring of environmental and social achievements
- Technology and innovation in measuring and monitoring public/private performance at landscape level
- Using 'big data' to measure progress at the landscape level
- Data for whom? Transparency in monitoring and evaluation
- Participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning



# Forum Agenda (Draft)

## Saturday, 1 December

*Running throughout: Landscape Pavilions, Open Networking, Landscape Laboratories and Innovation marketplace, Landscape Learning, Landscape Solutions Marketplace*

Time	Information
07:30-08:45	Registration
09:00-10:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
10:15-11:00	Structured Networking
11:00-12:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
12:30-13:45	Lunch; Launchpad and press conference
14:00-15:30	Opening Plenary
15:30-16:00	Structured Networking
16:00-17:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
17:15-19:30	Open & Structured Networking; 5 parallel evening side events (with GLF Christmas market) – including side events open to public

## Sunday, 2 December

*Running throughout: Landscape Pavilions, Open Networking, Landscape Laboratories and innovation marketplace, Landscape Learning, Landscape Solutions Marketplace*

Time	Information
07:30-08:45	Registration
09:00-10:15	Plenary
10:15-11:00	Structured Networking
11:00-12:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
12:30-13:45	Lunch; Launchpad and press conference
14:00-15:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
15:15-16:00	Structured Networking
16:00-17:15	3 parallel Discussion Forums; Talking Landscapes; 2 parallel side events; Launchpad and press conference
17:30-19:00	Closing Plenary
19:15-21:00	Evening Reception at the GLF Christmas Market



# Communications and outreach

The Global Landscapes Forum will leverage its extensive traditional and digital media channels networks to bring international, regional and national attention to the annual forum in Bonn, highlighting key speeches, discussions, work of standout participants and commitments announced at the event. The campaign will last for two months covering pre, during and post event stages, covering latest news, AMA sessions and TV interviews around the developing agenda, hosts, speakers and participants.

Our modern media news platform, Landscape News with a team of global journalists will cover key topics and discussions through long format pieces and

podcasts. Compelling pieces will be further translated in French and Spanish. Sessions held at the venue will be streamed live across our social platforms, [globallandscapesforum.org](http://globallandscapesforum.org), while virtual moderators guide the conversation in the live stream chat rooms and digital sessions.

A series of capacity building workshops will be curated around event, ranging from journalist and communications training on cutting-edge digital tools, to youth workshops that aim to nurture tomorrow's digital journalists who are self-sufficient in covering stories on the ground.



Photo by Rupesh Bhomia/CI-Or

# Ways to participate

A major objective of the GLF event 2018 is to help stakeholders and participants learn about new, innovative technologies and approaches in science, policy and business and to facilitate that practical knowledge and lessons are exchanged in productive, action-oriented and reflexive ways. An estimated 2,000 participants – along with a global online audience – will meet for two days of engagement, discussion, learning and innovation at the GLF Bonn. The programming will revolve around both physical and online sessions that span from pre, during and post event. There will be continuous livestreaming of key events, talks and discussions. This conference's agenda aims to create an immersive experience that brings a truly global audience to the GLF Bonn 2018, providing opportunity for more people to participate from more places at more times.

## GLF Digital experience

Sessions held at the venue will be streamed live across our social platforms, [globallandscapesforum.org](http://globallandscapesforum.org), and guided by virtual moderators in chat rooms and digital sessions. The GLF Digital Experience – will be a full agenda that is curated and created for online users. Carried out in complement with the physical event, GLF Bonn 2018 the digital experience will share engaging live content from the event alongside exclusively produced online talks and discussions. The aim of the process is to maximize the outreach and impact through sharing important content, connecting a large global community around the subject, and encouraging action through a broad and engaging experience.

## Get involved in Bonn

There are many ways to participate by hosting and/or attending various activities, including expert based discussion and exchange formats as well as facilitated 'hands-on', networking and workshop activities (*preliminary list to be further specified*), e.g.:

- **Discussion Forums** to accelerate action towards sustainable landscapes by incorporating a range of voices and opinions, sharing knowledge and challenging conventions built on innovative formats for real discussions and pre- and post-event digital summits to push discursive learning;
- **Digital Summits**, online events held before, during and after GLF Bonn that include engaging webinars and outreach campaigns to foster global input into key topics;
- **Landscape Pavilions and Knowledge Fair/Share Fair:** where people working across landscapes can meet, talk and hear from communities to plan for practical action and showcasing technical, financial, political and social processes and innovations for planning and implementing sustainable landscapes at scale using a marketplace and hub where entrepreneurs

and innovators can learn from and share with experts, researchers and other GLF stakeholders

- **Landscape Laboratories** that showcase innovations in technology, approaches and programs;
- **Plenaries** highlighting champions and change-makers from communities, science and more, departing from norms and encouraging impact;
- **Landscapes Talks**, a landscape lecture hall that provides a space for leading academics and scientists to provide short talks on current landscape activities;
- **Launchpad**, debut your initiative to the world through the GLF on-site and online press community, following in the footsteps of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, AFR100, 20x20 Initiative, the Indonesian National Carbon Accounting System (INCAS) and many others.
- **Landscape learning** opportunities that allow participants to engage with the latest curated content on the cutting edge of landscape thinking, including modules, courses and learning activities including;
  - Technical training for NGO representatives and investors on tenure, land use and beneficiary rights in restoration
  - Technical workshop on maps, freeware Apps and other innovative, low-cost tools for measuring progress at landscape scale
- The **Youth in Landscapes (YIL)** initiative and training sessions before the event;
- Opportunities to contribute to **Landscapes News** and other online platforms through articles, blogs, photographs, videos and more;
- Entering competitions and activities, such as the **GLF blog competition, photo competition** and others;
- **Scholarship opportunities** for community leaders and innovators accelerating action within landscapes;
- **Awards and excellence** with key landscape prizes to be awarded to community champions;
- Structured networking that connects people within the GLF landscape, and where multi-stakeholder, multidimensional debates can flourish;
- **Side events** hosted by GLF partner organizations alongside the GLF Bonn event.
- **Structured Networking:** Creating a space for decision makers and project developers to meet investors, technology providers and politicians to accelerate action on the ground.

If you are interested in hosting or participating in any of these ways please visit [globallandscapesforum.org](http://globallandscapesforum.org) or contact the GLF coordination team at [globallandscapesforuminfo@cgiar.org](mailto:globallandscapesforuminfo@cgiar.org)



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The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers and community leaders, global media and civil society to accelerate action towards the creation of more resilient, equitable, profitable, and climate-friendly landscapes. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment, and The World Bank launched the forum in Warsaw in 2013, alongside the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP). With core funding provided by the German government, the GLF is entering its next five-year phase to launch a movement of 1 billion people towards the creation of sustainable landscapes.

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**Connect with the GLF online! #ThinkLandscape #glfbonn2018**

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