



Global
Landscapes
Forum

Concept note

Climate Action in the Landscape

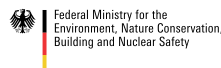
COP 24, Katowice, Poland
Sunday, 9 December 2018



Coordinating partners



Funding partners



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, 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 U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP). With core funding provided by the German government, the GLF is entering its next five-year phase by launching 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 to aid in reducing institutional overlaps, silos 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 2018-2022 phase, the GLF aspiration is to move even further from “pledges to action.”

The GLF carries out learning and capacity building, youth networking, global, regional and thematic conferences online, forum activities and competitions. In the past six years, the Forum has hosted four global conferences: Warsaw 2013, Lima 2014, Paris 2015 and Bonn 2018; thematic events in London and Washington, D.C. – in 2015 and 2016 and 2018 – on financing investment for sustainable landscapes, and a forth in Jakarta on peatlands in 2017. In Marrakesh in 2016, GLF focused climate change and climate actions. Today some 4,000 organizations and 76,000 people have participated in GLF forums, while more than 100 million have been reached online.

Climate action across the globe has become increasingly important in recent years, with many Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets to restricting global temperatures to well below 2 or 1.5 degrees Celsius involving significant efforts in the land sector, including agriculture and forestry. These actions include reducing emissions caused by converting land to agriculture and during agricultural operations, halting deforestation and forest degradation, and undertaking significant restoration activities around the world. Sectors such as aviation and shipping are working on increasing fuel efficiency including a strong role for biofuels. Negative emissions technologies are being discussed including bioenergy carbon capture and storage, which are expected to require large amounts of land. All these functions come together in landscapes – coherent pieces of land subject to varying uses – and it is in this arena where the different functions must be brought together, where trade-offs must be resolved and where synergies can be harnessed.

The GLF Climate Action in the Landscape event will address these matters in four sessions to be held during a special half day event on the sidelines of U.N. climate talks (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland, aligned with the five pillars of the GLF, namely: livelihoods; rights; restoration; finance and measuring progress.

The event will open with a High Level Plenary session exploring the role of land use and forests in the context of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees, to be followed by three consecutive discussion forums.

1	Climate Action: Role of land use in meeting Paris Agreement temperature targets
2	Tracking forest landscape restoration
3	Role of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
4	Operationalizing Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and the special role of ecosystems



Climate Action: Role of land use in meeting Paris Agreement temperature targets

The event will open with a high level plenary session with well known speakers and academics involved in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees, addressing a key component of the climate debate: How can land use and forests contribute to achieving the goal of restricting global temperature increases to well below 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius as agreed at the 2015 U.N. climate talks in Paris? This session will reflect on the outcomes of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees and focus specifically on the challenges related to biomass and land availability, including agricultural land, exploring transformational changes needed to ensure the land sector achieves its full potential in relation to climate mitigation and adaptation without further exacerbating social and environmental damage and while ensuring food security.



Tracking forest landscape restoration efforts

Over recent years there has been a multitude of restoration activities, but are they really working? These activities range from the Bonn Challenge, its regional spin-offs Initiative 20x20 and AFR100, to an effective peatland restoration initiative in Indonesia. In most cases, political objectives are not being achieved for a number of reasons, including lack of finance. Additionally, the effectiveness and legitimacy of ways of tracking, measuring and monitoring these initiatives has been questioned. This discussion forum will explore the key challenges associated with achieving ambitious targets, including those related to finance. It will also provide insights into success stories aimed at inspiring up-scaling.



Role of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

An expected outcome at COP 24 will be the establishment of the Facilitative Working Group to implement the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIP). However, while many of the negotiations are occurring in the UNFCCC corridors and negotiation rooms, a determination of what this platform can contribute to people living and working across the landscape, including agricultural practices and community forest management must be made. The discussion forum will feature strong representation from indigenous peoples involved in the LCIP and will explore such matters as governance and the potential for the platform for positive impacts on tenure and use rights on the ground.



Operationalizing Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and the special role of ecosystems

In the wake of finalized REDD+ negotiations, discussions have now turned to the operationalization of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement regarding sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, and a broader approach to land use and forests. The Polish High Level Champion initiated discussions on the topic during the technical Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice/Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBSTA/SBI) meeting in Bonn in May, and Parties are now considering how this article can be implemented. This discussion forum will explore the special role of ecosystems and biodiversity as reflected in Article 5, the provisions of the preamble of the Paris Agreement concerning human rights, and potential next steps can be taken by the UNFCCC to move forward with operationalizing these provisions, including their relationship to negotiations under Article 6 concerning cooperation on nationally



Laying the groundwork

The Climate Action in the Landscape GLF provides an opportunity to transform theory into practice. During the sessions delegates will work towards developing specific outcome statements. The event will dovetail with the main climate talks, allowing opportunities to engage with some of the most critical issues of our era.

The event will be inclusive, with representatives from science and academia, civil society, indigenous peoples, practitioners and government representatives. It will set the stage for further GLF events in 2019 and beyond, directly focused on the discussion on climate action at the international and national level.

Photos cover: Top - Margaret MacDonald/CIFOR, Bottom left - Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR, Bottom right - Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Photos content: pp. 2 - Ulet Ifansasti/CIFOR, pp. 3 (Top, Middle) - Axel Fassio/CIFOR, pp. 3 (Bottom) - Marco Simola/CIFOR, pp. 4 - Juan Carlos Huayllapuma/CIFOR



The GLF is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers, indigenous peoples, media, community leaders and civil society to accelerate action towards the creation of more resilient landscapes. More than 3,800 universities, governments, indigenous and community groups, and organizations, and 100,000 people from 115 countries have participated, reaching more than 100 million people online. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment, and the World Bank launched the Forum in Warsaw in 2013, on the sidelines of U.N. climate talks. With core funding provided by the German government, the GLF is in the first year of its next five-year phase to launch a movement of a billion people towards the creation of sustainable landscapes.

For more information on how to participate, please contact:


Kamal C. Prawiranegara, GLF Global Coordinator
k.prawiranegara@cgiar.org

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