



# Youth in Landscapes Initiative

***Charter Document***  
**31.03.2019**



This charter is a document that details the vision, mission, and governance of the Youth in Landscape (YIL) Initiative. It has been created by those who have participated in the founding of YIL and by newer members of YIL leadership.



## History

The Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) emerged from a youth event at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) 2013 in Warsaw and since then has grown in its ambitions, through its programs and through its permanent involvement in the GLF. During its first five years alone, YIL has run a wide variety of programs designed to mainstream youth at each of the annual GLF events ([Lima](#), [Paris](#), [Marrakesh](#), [Bonn](#) and [Nairobi](#)), as well as at events carried out by other organisations (e.g. [Forest in Asia 2014](#); Halting Deforestation in 2018). In December 2018, YIL formalized its partnership with the GLF through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which detailed terms for the 2018-2021 period. This MoU establishes YIL as the focal point, as well as the coordinating and advisory body, for formal youth engagement in GLF activities.

## About YIL

YIL is a partnership coordinated by the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development ([YPARD](#)), the International Forestry Students Association ([IFSA](#)) and the Global AgroEcology Alliance ([GAEA](#)). Together, these organisations represent over 50,000 young people working and studying within sectors including agriculture, forestry and agroecology. Today, YIL has become a global movement of young people committed to living and breathing the landscapes philosophy: collaboration, diversity, and collective action.

## Vision and Mission

**Our Vision:** An inclusive and equitable world where people collaborate across boundaries, sectors and generations to achieve sustainability for our global and local landscapes.

**Our Mission:** To unite and empower youth aged 18-35 years, from diverse backgrounds around the world to have a public voice, and to create positive change for the sustainability of their landscapes and community livelihoods.

The YIL aims to achieve this mission by providing a platform to connect, educate and inspire passionate young individuals, youth organisations, and youth supporters. Through this platform, YIL helps lead and facilitate key activities and events with a focus on:

- Leadership training and capacity building
- Community building and mobilizing
- Mentorship
- Youth and inter-generational dialogue

## Our Values

- **Friendship** – We believe in the power of a worldwide community dreaming and working together – across ages, gender and regions of the world.
- **Holistic thinking** – We believe that everything is connected: social, environmental, political, and economic aspects influence each other, and a balance is necessary among these to ensure sustainable development for all.



- **Intergenerational** – We believe that creating positive change in landscapes is a multi-generational effort. We are committed to uniting generations for this common cause.
- **Justice and Equity** – We believe in worldwide equity and dignity for all, as anchored in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). We build relationships on mutual respect and kindness.
- **Efficiency** – We believe in making the most of our resources and using our energy to turn passion into commitments and actions. We believe this is essential for all landscape leaders.
- **Knowledge** – We believe in recognizing the power of information, capacity and knowledge as a means to affect positive change. We strive to be holistic, interdisciplinary and content-driven.
- **Optimism** – We believe that a just world is possible, despite overwhelming challenges. We have testified the power of bringing people together.

## The YIL Community

The YIL Community includes youth who are now, or have been recently active in YIL activities, as well as individuals who have signed onto our mailing list, or have joined the YIL Facebook group.

**YIL Landscape Leaders** – These are individuals who have participated in a YIL program.

**Coordinating Organisation** – These are organisations actively coordinating the programs and direction of YIL. These organisations have a mission in line with the YIL mission and have proven dedication to YIL. Currently IFSA, YPARD, GAEA.

**YIL-GLF Coordination team** – This is the team employed by GLF to support the GLF-YIL partnership and co-design youth activities.

**Associate Partners** – These include any other established youth-led or youth-centred organisations or networks that seek to join YIL and contribute to the planning and design of YIL programs ([International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences](#), [Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network](#), [European Geography Association](#), etc.)

**Advisory Team** – This includes individuals who formerly served as YIL Steering Committee members.

**External Partners** – This include organisations, such as the GLF Charter members, providing in-kind or financial support to YIL.

## Governance

### Steering Committee

**Steering Committee** – Membership includes nominated and selected representatives of the coordinating organisations, the Advisory Team, and the Landscape Leaders Alumni who will provide strategic and long-term direction to YIL while maintaining and forming partner relationships.

- Responsibilities:** The Steering Committee (SC) is responsible for ensuring that strategic organisation decisions are taken and, subsequently, stay on track. The committee maintains a solid foundation and structure while capitalising on synergies across youth initiatives.
- Composition:** The Steering Committee consists of: nominated representatives from the founding members of YIL (IFSA, YPARD, GAEA), a selected representative from YIL Alumni, and a nominated representative from the Advisory Team. Each representative will commit to serve for at least one year.
- Decision-making:** The Steering Committee utilizes the combined experience and knowledge of YIL to make informed decisions, taking account of organisational capacity, needs of communities (through consultation where possible), and external partner perspectives. Decisions must be made with all Steering Committee members present and taken by majority vote (minimum three individuals).





## Project Governance

Representatives from the steering committee of the three coordinating organisations must agree in order to establish a YIL project or activity. Project committees are facilitated and guided by a project coordinator, appointed or elected by the Steering Committee.

### Project Committee

- A. **Responsibility:** Project committees are responsible for making decisions related to the logistics, marketing, and budget decisions of a program or project level with a given start and end date. The details of developing a program for YIL activities lie with the project committees.
- B. **Composition:** Committee membership includes representatives from the YIL partner organisations, the YIL - GLF Coordination Team (for a GLF event), and Landscape Leaders who express interest in facilitating new projects.
- C. **Decision making process:** Decisions are made democratically with each active member receiving a vote and all members informed when a decision is to be made. Group decisions will be overseen by the Steering Committee through the project coordinator in cases of disagreement, the Steering Committee may directly intervene to consult and make final decisions.

All photos by Pilar Valbuena/GLF and GLF

This charter was established in February 2019 by the Youth in Landscapes Steering Committee members and will be formally reviewed every two years. This charter can be revisited and amended by the YIL Steering Committee upon request by the YIL community.