

Concept note

Biodiversity a Digital Journey

September-October 2020
4-week learning program

#GenerationRestoration



Background and Introduction

Over the last decades, human activities have led to land degradation, habitat loss and pollution, which has brought about biodiversity loss, the climate crisis and – in 2020 – a global pandemic. Steering humanity's path towards a more resilient future and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be done without the full and effective participation of younger generations. In the past few years, young people have increasingly engaged in addressing global challenges, with young leaders across the globe pushing for transformational change towards sustainability, on behalf of current and future generations.

Students' and young professionals' participation in the dialogues, decision-making and actions to tackle environmental, societal and financial challenges will play a major role in determining whether the planetary conditions that have benefited humanity for thousands of years will continue to exist beyond this century. That's why it's crucial to create spaces where young people from around the world can build on valuable knowledge from experts, identify the linkages between climate, flourishing biodiversity and healthy landscapes, and exchange ideas about best practices and pathways for action in their own landscapes.

Biodiversity and Climate Action - a learning journey

The [Youth in Landscapes Initiative \(YIL\)](#), together with the [Global Landscapes Forum \(GLF\)](#) and the [Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation \(WCDI\)](#), and in collaboration with [Youth 4 Nature](#), is shaping a unique learning experience for students and young professionals interested in becoming leaders in biodiversity and climate action.

Starting four weeks before the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference, the participants will follow the new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "[Climate action in biodiverse landscapes](#)" at their own pace, alongside numerous other course attendees from across the globe. The selected participants will also have the opportunity to engage in weekly interactive learning sessions – and to join the [GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference](#) free of charge!

Weekly meetings

As part of the program, four weekly interactive sessions will take place prior to the digital conference, each at around 14:00 CEST.

During the sessions, participants will have the chance to share knowledge, expertise, and ideas. Through digital collaboration with peers; networking sessions; inspiring talks; and skills-based training sessions, participants will go on a journey of discovery about biocultural diversity in landscapes, climate action, biodiversity and finance, and nature-based solutions. Participants who join at least three of the four interactive sessions will receive a free certificate of course completion, and free access to the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference.



The weekly meetings will cover a variety of topics, including:



**Please note that all meeting dates may be subject to change.*



September 22nd
Biocultural diversity in
Landscapes

We all live in biologically- and culturally-diverse landscapes. As such, the important contributions of biodiversity to our life are not only practical, physical or functional, but also cultural and spiritual. In this interactive meeting, we will explore the diversity of perspectives and relationships with nature. We will not only consider the interlinkages between biological and cultural diversity within our professional contexts but also explore personal meaning and experiences of living in harmony with nature.



September 29th
Climate Action in Biodiverse
Landscapes

The second meeting is a module led by the Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation (WCDI) as an introduction to the MOOC. The session will focus on climate change, climate action and biodiverse landscapes, and it will address the impact that climate change has on biodiversity, as well as the important role that biodiversity can play in tackling the climate crises.



October 6th
Biodiversity and Finance

What does the world of money, investments and profit have to do with the world of bees, dolphins and mangroves? During the third meeting, we will consolidate and develop the learnings from the climate and finance MOOC module, by building a deeper understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and finance, and focusing specifically on the design of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes as an important skill for any land-use practitioner.



October 13th
Nature-based Solutions

The world is looking for holistic and efficient ways to address multiple global challenges such as biodiversity loss, the climate crisis, food and water sovereignty, as well as preventing future global pandemics. During this meeting, we will explore how and to what extent nature-based solutions can be utilized for the benefit of our societies and the world's biodiversity.

Climate Action in Biodiverse Landscapes MOOC

During the MOOC on Climate Action in Biodiverse Landscapes, you will learn about the impact that climate change has on biodiversity and human well-being, as well as the role that biodiversity plays in adapting to one of the biggest challenges humankind is facing.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the MOOC.

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference

At the end of the program, you will be ready to join – and make the most out of – the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference! Some of the youth program participants will be actively involved in this two-day global event, for example by running sessions, volunteering, and inspiring others as plenary speakers.

