



GLF
Biodiversity
Digital
Conference

One
World
One
Health

28 - 29
OCTOBER
2020



**Outcome
Statement**



Key messages

Convened **5,000 people** across **148 countries** and reached **35 million** on social media, cultivating a global dialogue on One Health and sustainable landscapes

.....

Raised awareness of the **One Health approach**, establishing the link between ecosystem health and human health

.....

Highlighted the need to integrate One Health principles into the **landscape approach**, to foster stronger collaborations between the two communities

.....

Identified four **pathways for transformative change**: Building back better, placing people at the heart of conservation, meeting commitments, passing the baton to youth

.....

Provided **policy recommendations** on the power of landscapes to strengthen the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



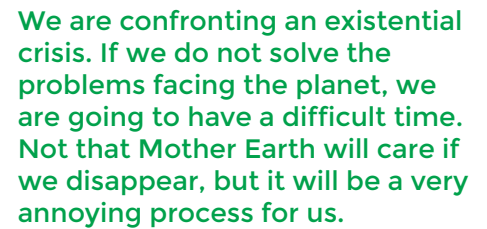
This is truly a state of planetary emergency. It is not only about existential risk – we are running out of time. This is the decisive decade for humanity's future on Earth.



Johan Rockström
Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor in Earth System Science, University of Potsdam

**One
World
One
Health**





Robert Nasi,
Director General, Center for International
Forestry Research (CIFOR), Managing
Director, CIFOR-ICRAF

Introduction

Up to a million species are **at risk of extinction** in the next few decades – and that loss of biodiversity **could lead to ecosystem collapse** across much of the globe, with massive repercussions for human health and well-being.

Acting on the urgency of these global crises, some 5,000 participants tuned in from 148 countries for **GLF Biodiversity: One World – One Health** on 28–29 October 2020. The digital conference, hosted by the **Global Landscapes Forum** (GLF), brought together a wide range of key actors including scientists, policymakers, financiers, Indigenous leaders and youth to explore ways to ‘build back better’ from COVID-19 while simultaneously tackling the climate and biodiversity crises.

With the support of NGO **Nia Tero**, Sparkasse KölnBonn, and the German government, the GLF Biodiversity conference featured 261 speakers from across

the science, policy, corporate, development and civil society realms, including Elizabeth Mrema, Peter Daszak, Galina Angarova and Benki Piyãko. The online event was broadcast live from GLF centers in Bonn, Germany and Bogor, Indonesia.

GLF Biodiversity contributes to the **U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** by engaging stakeholders to join a global movement around ecosystem restoration to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals**. With the release of **15 white papers** and accompanying sessions, GLF Biodiversity made an informed, unequivocal call for more ambitious action, including the widespread adoption of a One Health approach in biodiversity conservation and restoration. It also offered a range of policy recommendations to further inform the post-2020 **Global Biodiversity Framework** of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Four pathways for transformative change:

1. Building back better
2. Placing people at the heart of conservation
3. Meeting commitments
4. Passing the baton

Pathway 1: Building back better

GLF Biodiversity rallied participants to develop a globally coordinated response to the human and ecological health crises, integrating the One Health and landscape approaches.

Speakers throughout sessions called for the widespread adoption of an integrated landscape approach. At the heart of efforts to maximize ecological health (and the **GLF's mission**), the **landscape approach** aims to achieve optimal social, economic and environmental outcomes by leveraging the synergies and

interests of different actors. This involves balancing competing demands on land use, addressing potential conflicts between sectors and interests such as nature conservation, agriculture and forestry, extractive industries, tourism, and infrastructure development. The landscape approach supports conservation by reconciling competing demands and priorities among stakeholders. This is achieved through multistakeholder discussions and informed negotiations with regard to issues ranging from land use and resource use, to biodiversity, ecosystem services, livelihoods and traditional practices.

Participants agreed that by drastically transforming the planet's landscapes, humans are directly contributing to biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change – along with the spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19. The emergence of new zoonoses is



Nature is not to blame for the COVID-19 pandemic. Our unsustainable interactions with nature have created the conditions for this situation.



Elizabeth Mrema,
Executive Secretary,
U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

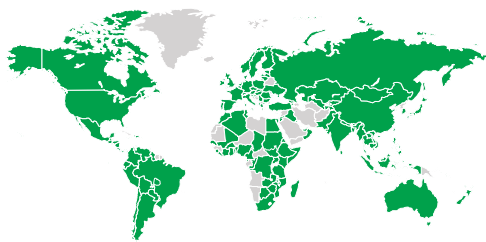
largely due to **increasing human encroachment into wildlife habitats**, driven by industries such as meat production, agriculture, infrastructure, logging and mining. These activities lead to increased contact between humans, livestock and wildlife, which

Participants

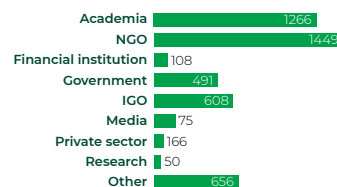
5,000
people



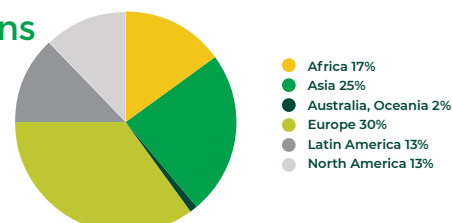
148
countries



4,869
organizations



6
regions





Both humans and animals contribute to an impact on the world. However, humans are the ones who contribute incorrectly by exceeding their own needs.



Shahid Naeem,
E3B Professor, Chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University

increases the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to humans. They also drive land degradation and biodiversity loss, which jeopardize the essential goods and services that humans derive from nature, including water, soil, clean air, energy and carbon sequestration.

The biodiversity, climate and COVID-19 crises are symptoms of a significant ailment: our interference with the planet's systems. Addressing the root causes demands a coordinated effort across multiple sectors and disciplines at local, national and global levels. Building these alliances forms the basis of a **One Health** approach, which seeks to achieve optimal human, animal and ecosystem health by recognizing the intrinsic connections between all three elements.

Rebuilding our relationship with the Earth demands bridging gaps between scientists,

policymakers and the public. This was a key aim of the GLF Biodiversity conference: to facilitate an exchange of ideas and proposals between diverse stakeholders to inform global policy.

The landscape approach and One Health

In a **session that emphasized the role of local actors**, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency highlighted the need for policymakers to recognize the potential of local-driven conservation and restoration at the landscape level. These are best positioned within landscapes to co-design nature-inclusive initiatives that incorporate the needs and expertise of local communities. Such arrangements should be included in both national and global policy frameworks as vehicles for transformative change, speakers emphasized.





How do we reconnect with nature? We do it by falling in love with what gives us life.



Niria Alicia Garcia,
Indigenous leader and innovator,
U.N. Young Champion of the
Earth finalist



We need to tear down the barriers between the public health community, the animal health community and the eco-health community. Viruses don't care about these artificial barriers.



Dennis Carroll,
Chair of the Leadership Board,
Global Virome Project



We need to face the planetary emergency using an integrated approach to One Health. That means that we have to avoid silo approaches.



Carla Montesi,
Director, Directorate General for
Development and Cooperation,
European Commission

The **COLANDS** initiative showcased integrated landscape approaches in action in Ghana, Indonesia and Zambia through a new book released at the conference titled **Operationalizing integrated landscape approaches in the tropics**. Early work in these landscapes aims to provide evidence for future applications of landscape approaches. In Indonesia, for example, a landscape approach has been applied to build collaborations in land management between local communities, NGOs, the private sector and various levels of government. COLANDS also demonstrates the importance of securing land tenure recognition for Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Experts from **ILRI advocated for the integration of One Health** into the landscape approach and related investments, calling for a global strategy to combat future health threats. These must be centered on transdisciplinary and multisectoral alliances between

policymakers, scientists, youth and grassroots organizations, local communities and the private sector.

Ecosystem restoration

An essential step towards stemming biodiversity loss involves restoration of the planet's damaged and degraded ecosystems. These notably include **peatlands** and **rangelands** – two vital yet oft-neglected landscapes that sustain biodiversity, sequester carbon and provide multiple other ecosystem services and thus demand restoration. The U.N. ran a **session seeking feedback from grassroots organizations** on the implementation of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with speakers calling for a joint effort between the public and private sectors and civil society to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises together.

Climate Focus highlighted the **threat posed to forests by large-scale infrastructure projects**

for mining and oil and gas drilling, raising concerns that these developments contribute to forest fragmentation, land degradation and pollution. Many of these projects not only threaten biodiversity but also hinder carbon sequestration and increase the risk of zoonotic disease transmission.

The **True Nature Foundation** drew attention to the potential of trophic rewilding, or reintroduction of missing wildlife species into an ecosystem. Its **white paper** released at GLF Biodiversity described such initiatives as the reintroduction of Tasmanian devils in Australia to manage invasive species, and bison and wild horses as keystone species in Europe. Restoring a large animal species can boost biodiversity in multiple ways, including accelerating nutrient cycles, contributing to seed dispersal, reducing forest fire risks, and improving an ecosystem's resilience to climate change.



Stefan Schmitz,
Executive Director, The Global
Crop Diversity Trust

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of modern food systems. Massive disruptions to food markets and agricultural value chains have resulted in **a large spike in food waste**, mass unemployment among agricultural workers, and **millions across the globe exposed to hunger**.

Experts from **ICRAF**,
IUCN and **GIZ** called
for a paradigm
shift towards
ecologically
sustainable,
resilient and
equitable
food
systems
driven by
biodiverse

agricultural landscapes. **CARICO Cafe** offered **glimpses of such a paradigm shift** on Uganda's Mount Elgon, where smallholding coffee farmers are grappling with the compound challenges of deforestation and climate disasters resulting in devastating landslides and flooding. The South African coffee retailer is working with local communities to promote agroforestry and other soil-enriching coffee farming methods that reduce fertilizer and pesticide use while improving quality and yields.



Pathway 2: Placing people at the heart of conservation

GLF Biodiversity placed traditional knowledge and expertise at the heart of conservation, emphasizing the need to include Indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes.

A vital tool against biodiversity loss is the traditional knowledge held by Indigenous peoples and local communities, which steward some of the planet's most biodiverse and often fragile landscapes. By leveraging this biocultural knowledge, community-rooted initiatives are more likely to succeed than top-down approaches, which are prone to creating conflict and ignoring local needs.

In the Malaysian state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo, Indigenous communities have embarked on a number of local **community-driven initiatives to preserve biodiversity** in the face of widespread logging and oil palm cultivation. A publication developed by **The Borneo Project** outlined some of these projects, including a protected forest area, a

tree nursery to reforest degraded areas, and a fishery system with collective fish management and sale within agreed fishing limits. Several communities in the Baram River basin have also joined forces to create the Baram Peace Park, the first Indigenous-managed protected area in the country.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) highlighted the '**HKH Call to Action**', which provides a roadmap for the threatened **Hindu Kush Himalaya** region. This region is a highly biologically and culturally diverse area home to 240 million people and over 1,000 languages, and its glaciers provide water, food and energy for almost 1.65 billion people. ICIMOD's proposals include adopting a transboundary landscape approach to combat land degradation, forging regional collaborations to build scientific research capacity, and leveraging the region's diverse traditional knowledge.

To ensure that Indigenous peoples and local communities can fully contribute their expertise to protecting biodiversity, it is vital

to secure formal recognition of their land tenure. Recent research finds that **deforestation rates are significantly lower** on tenure-secure Indigenous lands in Latin America. During a session titled "**Voices of the Landscape**", NGO **Nia Tero** called for the "**decolonization**" of **conservation policy**, including the acceptance of Indigenous land management practices. More broadly, a rights-based approach can enhance both conservation and Indigenous livelihoods by bridging the gap between modern science and traditional knowledge. Such an approach must ensure that data, technology and tools are put into the lands of local communities, argued speakers at a plenary session titled "**Transformative Change: A collective call for global action**".

GLF Biodiversity paid tribute to local changemakers protecting the planet's biodiversity.



Fencing off nature and defining it as something to be revered but not relied upon is not the way of Indigenous peoples. The relationship between people and nature must be one of interdependence.



Tonio Sadik,
Director of Environment, Assembly of First Nations (Canada)



We can change the paradigm of the colonial agenda. The transformative and creative educational model is important for future generations to concern for spirituality respecting the lessons of our creators.



Myrna Cunningham,
Ex-board member, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)





The **GLF 2020 Landscape Heroes award** was presented to the **Cambodian Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN)**, Indigenous communities that have worked for 20 years to defend Indigenous land rights and protect the Prey Lang forest from illegal logging and industrial agriculture.

Pathway 3: Meeting commitments

Speakers and participants advocated moving beyond pledges and integrating local and global action on biodiversity into the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The world has fallen well short of achieving its global biodiversity targets over the last decade: only six of the 20 **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** negotiated in 2010 have been partially met, with none fully achieved, according to the CBD's recently published **Global Biodiversity 5** report. CBD deputy executive

secretary David Cooper, the lead author of the report, **urged policymakers to show more concrete action** beyond statements of intent.

Restoration

Restoring the Earth and diversifying food systems are key to preventing infectious disease outbreaks, according to a **white paper** launched at GLF Biodiversity by the **Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme**. Its three-point plan for combating future pandemics includes preventative measures such as maintaining ecosystem integrity, strictly regulating the wildlife trade, and developing safe and sustainable local food systems. Risk assessment and mapping can aid early detection, while responses to new outbreaks should adopt a One Health approach across the wildlife and forestry sectors.

Peatlands are crucial landscapes to be restored, given the multiple ecosystem goods and services





We need to demonstrate that investments in the bioeconomy can have positive returns. Demonstrate, educate and scale; that's what we do.



Jennifer Pryce,
President and CEO,
Calvert Impact Capital

they provide, including carbon sequestration and flood protection. However, many of the world's peatlands have been drained or degraded due to pressure from industries such as agriculture and logging. A **white paper** from UNEP and the Global Peatlands Initiative called for urgent action to prevent further degradation, including filling knowledge gaps, harmonizing standards for restoration, and exchanging experiences of successful strategies.

FAO showcased opportunities for upscaling forest and landscape restoration in the latest issue of its *Unasylva* journal, titled **Restoring the Earth – The next decade**, launched at GLF Biodiversity. WWF published **The Triple Challenge** on the climate, food and biodiversity crises, calling for a landscape approach including ecosystem restoration, significant cuts to fossil fuel use and food waste, and an expansion of global protected areas combined with full recognition of Indigenous rights.

Financing biodiversity

Ecosystem restoration on a global scale will require billions of dollars in funding - however, the return on these investments is **likely to be seven- to ten times larger than that**. The cost of restoration also pales in comparison to the amounts spent globally on fossil fuel subsidies, agricultural subsidies and the military, numerous participants have argued.

Financial institutions and investors are increasingly committing to conservation and restoration, yet face numerous barriers to investments in biodiverse projects. Policymakers need to provide strong financial incentives to investors, such as mandating disclosure of environmental costs, while the stock of available projects for investments must be increased significantly, **speakers argued in a session on financial incentives for a biodiverse future**.

In fact, there remains a **disconnect between investors and green investment opportunities**. CIFOR-ICRAF's new **Resilient Landscapes** platform aims to address this by building a business case for projects that address deforestation and land degradation by assessing them based on financial, social and environmental criteria.

These projects could benefit from the pooled expertise and financial resources of the private and public sectors along with local stakeholders. A session on **financing biodiversity in Latin America** highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration through knowledge sharing and blended finance, which can attract private investment by mitigating financial risk. These efforts must be supplemented by measures to ensure the participation of local communities and businesses, panelists argued.



We have to think seriously about succession planning for biodiversity conservation and use. Our youth plays a critical role in this area because when we retire, the baton needs to be passed on.



Mildred Crawford,
Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, Farmers Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Global Assembly of Partners towards Habitat III (GAP)

Pathway 4: Passing the baton

GLF Biodiversity mobilized a generation of future leaders, including young professionals and students, to take on the biodiversity crisis.

Young people are key to building a more sustainable path forward for humanity. Speakers at GLF Biodiversity agreed that youth must be engaged in globally inclusive action that incorporates a rights-based approach to conservation and restoration while enhancing local and traditional knowledge.

Youth participants made up over one-third of GLF Biodiversity participants, and the conference recognized the pivotal role of young people in conservation and restoration, with six young



1,725
youth participants

restoration practitioners accepted into the **Restoration Stewards** program. They will receive funding, mentorship and training over the next year, sharing their journey via a series of vlogs and blogs.

Before the event, 90 young professionals and students from over 40 countries took part in a four-week **Biodiversity Online Learning Journey**. Jointly led by the **Youth in Landscapes Initiative** (YIL), the GLF and the **Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation** (WCDI) in collaboration with **Youth 4 Nature**, the workshop



gave participants a comprehensive overview of biodiversity, climate action, finance and nature-based solutions.

Four YIL-hosted sessions explored issues such as the impact of monocultures, Indigenous technologies across Asia and Latin America, and ways to bridge the divide between modern culture and nature. YIL also invited 26 youth organizations to send delegates to GLF Biodiversity. A total of 110 youth delegates took part in the conference, serving as special rapporteurs to capture potential policy recommendations and pledges for an upcoming youth-led policy brief.

Harnessing the power of digital

GLF Biodiversity cultivated a global dialogue through the Internet, working towards the development of a digital knowledge commons on sustainable landscapes to catalyze action on the ground.

GLF Biodiversity marks the Global Landscapes Forum's second fully-online conference of the year, building on the **GLF Bonn Digital Conference** in June 2020. The virtual format allowed for a more climate-friendly and inclusive event, minimizing carbon emissions from travel and enabling participation from anyone in the world with internet access. This was reflected in the significantly larger crowd compared to past physical events. Aside from connecting

stakeholders from across the globe, the conference also helped disseminate the GLF's growing digital library of resources to support the movement for sustainable landscapes.

GLF Biodiversity fostered participation through features including live chat and interactive polls. Participants arranged virtual meet-ups, voted during question-and-answer sessions, and sent inquiries to the GLF team directly. Viewers were treated to a Zoom-powered virtual tour of the Baram River basin in Malaysian Borneo, a mini-film festival hosted by outfitters Patagonia, and a series of digital exhibitions featuring raffles and giveaways.

Social media #GLFBiodiversity

400,000
engagements

35 million
reach

140 million
impressions

Engagement



261
speakers



556
average
attendance
per session



118
virtual
meetups



50
sessions



145 min
average time
spent in sessions
per participant



16,486
messages
sent between
participants



Three key principles have emerged out of the conference. First, we must do no harm to biodiversity. Second, we must better value biodiversity. And third, we must strengthen positive connections between humans and nature.



Tony Simons,
Director General, ICRAF,
Executive Director, CIFOR-ICRAF

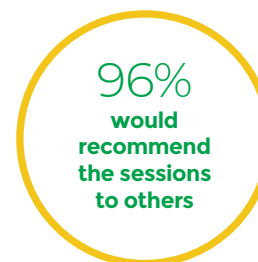
The GLF also launched the **GLFx** initiative, which represents its latest endeavor to build a global grassroots movement for sustainable land use. The initiative consists of a network of

independently organized local chapters and communities of practice (CoPs). Members will be supported in turning their ideas into action by their local chapter director as well as the GLF's 30 charter members.

Participant Feedback



compared to



compared to





Host organizations



Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum, having reached almost 800 million people across the world and with the backing of its founders – the World Bank, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – is well-placed to facilitate and help guide these discussions and share knowledge in interactive digital spaces, leading the way for the conferences of now and the future.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMC, IUFRD, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative

GLF's sponsors make it possible for millions of people around the world to connect, share, learn and act in landscapes alongside a community dedicated to sustainable land use. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:

