



Global andscapes orum

DONOR AND PARTNER REPORT

GLF AFRICA DIGITAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 2021

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Every policy we make must have women and youth at the forefront.



Sharon Ikeazor Nigeria's Minister of State for Environment

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Anything that is a single, simplistic silver-bullet solution is not likely to work on land degradation, which is a multifaceted problem.



Robert Nasi Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

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Without its drylands, Africa would not be Africa... Change is homemade, not imported... It is time to reset, to rethink Africa's development, to turn challenges into opportunities.



Ibrahim Thiaw Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

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Transformation starts with the local community.



Charles Karangwa Regional Lead of the Forests, Landscapes and Livelihoods Program in Rwanda with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) brought together thousands of people to find solutions to ecosystem restoration challenges during the **GLF Africa: Restoring Africa's Drylands** digital conference 2-3 June 2021. We are grateful to the donors, collaborators and supporters, particularly the German government agencies that made this conference possible.

With thanks to the financial backing of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU); and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the knowledge shared at GLF Africa reached over 32 million people on social media. This number continued to grow well after the event officially ended.

With the ongoing support of GLF's founders – the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – and its **31 Charter Members**, this event achieved the status of the first-ever digital conference focused on Africa's drylands, which are home to a half-billion people. GLF Africa also contributed to the development of policy recommendations to inform implementation of the <u>UN Decade on</u> <u>Ecosystem Restoration</u>, which was officially launched on 5 June 2021.

Social media #GLFAfrica

363,000 Engagement

185 million

Impressions

32.6 million

62,000 Total stream views of any length

Event



Total session

views across all event platforms



Sessions



Business cards exchanged



12,786

Messages sent between participants

Participation



6,149 African registrants

65% Youth* *Ages 18-35

1,676 Organizations and affiliations

TOP 4 Industries





58186PartnersCountries

Kenya, Nigeria, United States, Ghana, Germany *during the event 66

We need a new, transformational way of thinking, accompanied by swift action worldwide to move us away from systems that harm the environment and our societies - and towards sustainable systems.



Maria Flachsbarth

Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany

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Policies are not implemented for the current age. They are implemented for the future generation.



Betty Osei Bonsu Project Coordinator at Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)

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Sustainable land-use sectors are still underfunded... Our aim is to mainstream and accelerate sustainable finance with a specific focus on naturebased solutions, climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity.



Carole Dieschbourg Luxembourg's Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development

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The advice I have for the youth is for you to start seeing what is around you. The opportunities are right in front of us, especially in Africa.



Helina Teklu Co-Founder of Seed Bomb Ethiopia

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Everyone is concerned. If you have an idea, think about it, consult about it, pray about it and then rise with an answer. Do it. If you wait for clear answers for everything, you'll never get there.



Simon E. Chiwanga Founder, LEAD Foundation

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I'm calling our partners to, please, support us to develop technical solutions for farmers... So we can continue to do our business and they can continue to do their business.



Lizzy Igbine National President NIWAAFA, Nigeria

Ratings overview



98% of surveyed participants rated the event as good or excellent*

*compared to 97% at the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference in 2020

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100%

of surveyed participants said they would recommend the conference sessions to a colleague or friend

Participant testimonials:



The event has woken me up to restore the degraded ecosystems of Africa drylands. I got a lot from the presenters. I even found good opportunities to create links that will enable me to apply for the project calls."

The topics were well chosen, and the speakers were very effective in disseminating knowledge. The virtual mode of delivery was perfect in connecting people all over the world. Inclusivity of people from different parts of the world made me feel and understand what we are all fighting for especially the issue of youth in agroforestry."

I can't express how awesome the conference was, every question in my mind was touched on. This was an excellently presented and coordinated conference. From the speakers to the way the conference was staged. Great job, well done."



GLF's digital advantage

GLF's unique platform made this event one of the world's most inclusive conferences, open to anyone with internet even with a low-data connection, as it was also broadcast via an audio-only channel. Measured in financial terms alone, it's efficiency is unbeatable: the average cost per participant at GLF Africa was a mere **one percent** of the cost of comparable in-person events. Financial efficiency is, of course, just one of the many metrics of success, and it does not account for the less tangible advantages of face-to-face meetings, such as networking and new partnerships.

By its very nature as a digital conference, almost no damaging carbon- emissions were created by air or ground travel to the GLF event, compared with the carbon footprint of in-person conferences. That is a significant measure, given that participants joined from 186 countries around the world to the digital event. In fact, to ensure the widest possible dissemination, GLF Africa was available not only via GLF's digital platform, but also on YouTube, Facebook Live and Instagram. So popular were the messages from the digital conference, conveyed by farmers, scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs, that the GLF event was trending on Twitter in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and Germany.

Raising awareness of opportunities in Africa's drylands

Some 223 speakers – including 129 from Africa and 108 women speakers – from 54 organizations participated in 47 sessions, including eight plenaries, 19 interactive sessions, three launchpads and five sessions organized for, and oriented towards, youth. The overarching message of the entire conference was that reversing landscape degradation and ushering in a prosperous future for drylands must be driven by local communities, working to adapt traditional land-sharing relationships between farmers, pastoralists and their ecosystems to reflect new realities on the ground.

The digital conference heard practical responses and knowledge exchanges on the multiple challenges facing Africa's drylands: from natural soil regeneration to the necessity of greater investment in genebanks as a critical measure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Some 50 journalists from 23 countries in Africa participated in a media seminar ahead of the conference in order to better explain the story of Africa's drylands to those living in Africa and beyond.

Strong science, knowledge leadership

GLF Africa's strong roots in science and knowledge leadership are highlighted in 12 white papers, published by GLF and developed by participating organizations that comprise some of the world's leading environmental, scientific and research bodies. These include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); WWF International; the World Bank; the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). The white papers provide critical insights on topics, ranging from new trends and tools to monitor restoration progress, to the critical role of youth and women in drylands restoration efforts. They also highlight underexplored sustainable livelihood opportunities as well as the role of innovation and sustainable financing in strengthening drylands resilience. These white papers published on the GLF website, further enhance GLF's knowledge leadership. Several major new initiatives were launched at the GLF event, including the Luxembourg-GLF Finance

for Nature Platform partnership, designed to expand the emerging market for global

sustainable finance; a new Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, launched by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to transform dryland management across 11 countries in Africa and Asia; the <u>Crop Trust launchpad</u> "Untapped Potential: The Importance of African genebanks in ensuring food security across the continent" and the second edition of the <u>Restoration</u> <u>Stewards Program 2022.</u>

In partnership with the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**, the **GLFx initiative**, a global project led by the Global Landscapes Forum to accelerate local action towards more sustainable landscapes, announced a **seed fund** for the creation of five new local chapters in the greater Sahel region. Each will each receive EUR 5,000 in addition to technical support and training. GLFx consists of independently organized chapters designed to foster restoration action on the ground.







Youth in restoration

Africa is the world's youngest continent, with 60 percent of its population under the age of 25, a trend reflected at the GLF digital event where at least 70 percent of registered participants were students and young professionals. That level of interest also indicates the eagerness of young Africans to act on land restoration activities, participants said. A fundamental message of the event was that youth empowerment must arise through African communities themselves, particularly through generational exchanges.

Voices from the field

As part of GLF's opening activities, the Nigerian Women Agro-Allied Farmers Association (NIWAAFA) and the Youth and Small Holders Farmers Association (YOSHOFA) were invited to broadcast from their communities, where they are working with more than 700 families to support farmer training and organization into cooperatives. Together, group members have been working to upscale land restoration efforts by using chicken waste as organic fertilizer, encouraging tree planting and working with community leaders to ensure that farmers are listened to and can voice their opinion about local activities. Key challenges presented include conflict between farmers and herders hindering the growth of farming and food security; the rape of women farmers and killing of farmers on their fields.

"We are grateful for the partnership and exposure during GLF Africa," said NIWAAFA National President Lizzy Igbine. "We are ready and willing to work with GLF to train and build the capacity of farmers." Lilian Uju Okpala, Young Women and Youths Leader of YOSHOFA, spoke of the dangers women face on their farms and called for support in restoring their land, especially through further training. Working with a group of 1,700 members, she noted the importance of working with farmers in self-help conservation by extending trainings especially supporting the formation of cooperatives, which help farmers to come together to share information, resources and advice.



Supporting organizations



Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

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, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative