

OUTCOME STATEMENT

GLF AFRICA DIGITAL
CONFERENCE

JUNE 2021

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) event *Restoring Africa's Drylands: Accelerating Action on the Ground* was held just as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was formally launched. GLF thus set the scene for the Decade's work restoring the world's degraded landscapes, biodiversity, food systems and cultures. Recognizing the potential of drylands restoration and the great efforts made by Africa's population, GLF helped to initiate the Restoration Decade as a Decade of Action, starting from the African continent.

Key messages

1. GLF Africa **raised awareness** of the importance of Africa's drylands and their key role in sustainable development for the entire continent. Africa's drylands are among the world's most fragile landscapes and are heavily degraded, yet have enormous potential to be restored.
2. Restoration alone will not overcome the economic and social challenges the drylands face, and must therefore be part of **integrated approaches** involving various actors, often with multiple and diverse needs and interests. This is essential to leverage their potential, despite constraints of climate change and inadequate human and financial resources. Degradation in drylands is complex with no single blueprint or "silver bullet" solution.
3. Integrated approaches require better **coordination of sectoral policies**, to overcome the incoherence that exists between environmental, agricultural, economic and infrastructure policies. Effective planning across sectoral and administrative boundaries can overcome incoherence, and create necessary intersectoral synergies that combine ecological, social and economic interests within restoration plans.
4. Drylands restoration must be **driven by local communities** whose local knowledge and traditional strategies and capacities should be paired with, and enhanced by, scientific and technological interventions to enhance resilience and food security for all. **Mobilizing existing capacities and strengthening these** with technological and institutional innovation will boost restoration, empower people, strengthen formal and informal organizations, institutions and community networks. Educational institutes play a key role in this regard.
5. **Youth and women** are creating local solutions and revenue streams from innovative activities linked to dryland restoration. These must, therefore, be at the forefront of continental strategies, and supported by effective policies, investments and new social norms that ensure equitable access to land, regardless of gender and age, while recognizing the aspirations of younger generations for the opportunities and benefits of a modern life.
6. **Local initiatives must be supported financially** at the local level, to de-risk innovative work by pastoralists and crop farmers. This will also make drylands more visible and accessible to private and public funding, and to investors seeking opportunities in sustainable restoration projects within drylands. Sustainable finance, at scale, can support nature-positive agriculture and is key to achieving restoration at scale.
7. We believe that 2021 is the year to **galvanize change**, building on multiple international events and conventions – particularly, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. This provides unique momentum to catalyze local action, unlock financial opportunities and harmonize global policies to bring restoration to scale.





1. Introduction: shaping the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Dryland ecosystems cover some 43 percent of Africa (excluding deserts). They're home to more than half a billion people, many dependent on this land for their food and livelihoods, largely through farming and pastoralism. Drylands harbor some of the continent's most celebrated wildlife and plant species, and produce much of its food. But too often, the narrative applied to Africa's drylands is one of scarcity and neglect, rather than optimism and opportunity; and overlooks the extraordinary restoration potential in the grasslands, savannah, rangelands and forest areas of drylands ecosystems.

“About one-third of the world's population lives in drylands, and yet they are largely overlooked and ignored,” said Robert Nasi, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Changing that negative narrative was a goal of the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) digital conference: **GLF Africa 2021: Restoring Africa's Drylands, Accelerating Action On the Ground**. In collaboration with its many partners and over 7,000 registrants – including some 6,000 Africans – the event held on 2-3 June 2021 emphasized the extraordinary potential and restoration achievements to date in Africa's drylands. Simultaneously, it envisioned a productive future, bearing the promise of innovative restoration that includes more economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods; a future where traditional knowledge is paired with diffuse technology and new modes of learning. This approach supported GLF Africa's contribution to the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, officially launched on 5 June 2021.



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Restoration of hope is the real gift. When you have hope, you can do anything. You believe in yourself and in the future.

Tony Rinaudo

Principal Natural Resources Advisor, World Vision Australia

The Restoration Decade urgently calls on us to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. A similarly urgent call, focused on Africa's drylands, echoed throughout GLF Africa. Session after session emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge, existing innovative ideas and an ability to adapt that is characteristic of the people living in Africa's drylands. What is missing is the mainstreaming of context-appropriate tools and instruments, and financial support, to confront the many challenges facing the drylands.

Those include **overgrazing, agricultural expansion and over-exploitation of woodlands** that have followed the search for livelihoods by a young population hungry for jobs and the benefits of modern life. Those challenges are all exacerbated by the growing impacts of climate change. The importance of balancing diverging interests within landscapes was a recurrent theme in the GLF Africa sessions. Although many see only challenges, many others – including GLF Africa and its partners – see solutions. Restoration of drylands offers a wealth of opportunities to improve livelihoods, food security, health outcomes, while contributing to a sustainable, greener future that supports peace. **Evidence** shows that restored farmland, if managed well, contributes to higher yields, enhanced food security, more jobs and higher incomes. Restored grassland and pasture enhances animal and human health, livestock production, and can contribute to the preservation of rich pastoralist cultures across Africa.



“Local communities have huge amounts of knowledge, they know more than we know,” said Charles Karangwa, regional lead of the Forests, Landscapes and Livelihoods Program in Rwanda with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). “We should listen to them, plan with them and assist them technically in implementing their plans.”

With the publication of **12 white papers**, GLF Africa made an informed, unequivocal call for more ambitious action. Funding from the German government via the **Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and the **Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)**, as well as a partnership with the **Robert Bosch Stiftung/Foundation**, ensured GLF Africa featured high-level speakers from across science, policy, corporate, development and civil society realms, to shape the Restoration Decade from the start.



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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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2. Changing the narrative through innovative action

The historic prejudice that views pastoralism as a problem, instead of an opportunity, was one element of the narrative closely reviewed. Indeed, sessions noted that conflicts can arise when landscapes are fragmented and thus, ignore important grazing zones and pastoralist corridors; and poorly designed business and investment models that worsen competition over scarce land and water resources. In response, a common thread running through GLF Africa highlighted the ability of local drylands communities to find innovative solutions to persistent challenges.

Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), **refuted common myths about drylands** that falsely claim drylands are unproductive, have little to offer in solving the biodiversity and climate crises, don't contribute to economies and are unworthy of investment. Instead, he said, dryland pastoralists have previously been able to cope with climate changes, and have become

more innovative, to the point they now produce more than half of Africa's red meat and **milk**. Moreover, the cotton grown in drylands is key to the global fashion industry, and drylands offer huge opportunities for clean energy production.

Traditional skills, coupled with fresh tools and **innovations, can open economic opportunities and improve resiliency**, as outlined by the organization **Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC)** in its GLF Africa session. **Successful innovations** require strategic partnerships to address dryland-specific opportunities and challenges that enable or hamper innovation and scale; and bundling of products and services to reduce transaction costs and increase the value gained by end-users. Designing market-driven innovations tailored to the nomadic lifestyle of agro-pastoralists and pastoralists is also necessary, said SPARC, as is an enabling environment to foster innovation, including policy and regulatory openness, existing infrastructure (e.g. GSM network, roads), and a robust marketplace that supports investments in innovations in arid to semi-arid lands and in fragile and conflict-affected settings.



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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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3. Integrated solutions building on local knowledge

There was a common agreement that single-sector solutions or approaches will not create sustainable impacts in the complexity of Africa's drylands. Sustainable restoration demands an integrated approach that considers the complex socio-political, ecological and economic context. This requires coordinated and innovative efforts with multiple actors and bundles of actions to restore food systems and value chains and transform lives. The call for such an integrated approach that cuts across sectors to accelerate the collective movement for dryland restoration echoed through multiple sessions at the GLF event, including a **WWF and CIFOR-ICRAF plenary** which set the foundation for aligning the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration and the **UN Food Systems Summit**.

Restoration of resilience in Africa's food systems must be a top restoration goal, starting with conservation of agricultural biodiversity or agrobiodiversity, participants agreed. Just nine out of some 6,000 crops in the world account for 66 percent of all crop production, which illustrates why food security and nutrition in Africa hinges on diversifying food production, said Ismahane Elouafi, chief scientist at the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**. **A reshaping of the continent's supply chains, to strengthen their resilience, must also be a priority.**

The **Crop Trust** urged global collaborations between farmers, breeders and genebanks at all levels. Participants called for greater investment in genebanks and promotion of vital genetic material to local farmers and governments in the drylands.



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The role that young people play is pretty much the biggest comparative advantage that Africa has. How do we interest them, activate them and invest in their ideas? The Sahel is the youngest part of the world's youngest continent. That ought to be a source of great strength and inspiration.

Wanjira Mathai

Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, World Resources Institute (WRI)

“It is time to decide if we will continue to gamble with our future – or if we are willing to invest in it.” Stefan Schmitz, Executive Director, The Global Crop Diversity Trust

Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) was highlighted in multiple sessions as a proven approach for restoration of livelihoods and ecosystems in African drylands. FMNR offers a low-cost, simple and sustainable land regeneration practice that empowers local communities to restore their natural environment and consequently build resilience – of people, their lands and their livelihoods. During the session **From community-led restoration to carbon-enhancing landscapes**, discussions focused on restoration pathways that simultaneously address social, technical, economic issues while removing institutional barriers to the sustainable use of land, water, energy and other natural resources.

Indeed, drylands restoration must include water, land, vegetation, biomass and human resources simultaneously, building on the local knowledge held by farmers, pastoralists, youth, elders, civil society and development organizations and local governments. It is crucial, therefore, that drylands inhabitants be involved not only in implementing land-management and restoration practices, but in developing these processes, which have great potential to empower local structures and communities, especially women and youth, and have become an irreplaceable core of ecosystem restoration. That was a

key message from the session: **The Roots of Restoration: Sustainability through Community-Based Forest Landscape Restoration**, organized by GIZ and partners from its Forests4Future and Large-scale Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Africa program.

An integrated, market-driven approach to restoring timber stocks and biodiversity would generate rural livelihoods and business opportunities, and promote new, sustainable value chains to drive restorative forest management in Africa’s drylands, according to **The Wood Solution: The key to driving large-scale forest restoration**. Yet, despite substantial evidence of its economic potential, “restoration in these (dryland) areas is often considered a cost-intensive intervention that conflicts with unsustainable, but perceivably more lucrative, livelihoods and industries,” said the **Wood Solution white paper**.

Men and women farming in villages in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali described their success in applying FMNR during a video presentation to GLF Africa. Those successes included higher crop yields and improved incomes, despite significant challenges, such as drought and soil degradation. Participants said that applying FMNR measures, including durable native tree species and rainwater-retention measures, have helped farmers adapt to extreme temperatures and other damaging effects that are likely to be worsened by climate change.



“Every policy we make must have women and youth at the front of it.

Sharon Ikeazor
Nigeria Minister of State for Environment



4. Strengthening local knowledge with technology-based monitoring

While drylands communities have the essential knowledge and experience in restoration, many need additional capacity development support that enables and empowers people, strengthens formal and informal organizations, networks and multi-stakeholder processes to bring restoration to scale. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on results is an essential partner in order to understand what is effective and can be scaled up with knowledge shared.

During GLF Africa, the **Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)** – developed by FAO with the Restoration Decade’s Task Force on Monitoring – was launched. It aims to improve data flows and transparency between scales, and ensure that actions aimed at meeting restoration commitments are guided by the best available science. The FERM geospatial platform provides

accessible and transparent information for restoration practitioners across all ecosystems: grasslands, shrub lands and savannahs, peatlands, mountains, farmlands, oceans and coasts, freshwaters, forests, drylands and urban areas. The ultimate aim is to ensure that governments and investors can find the information they need to understand where successful restoration is occurring and to overcome some of the persistent barriers in scaling up ecosystem restoration.

Satellite monitoring has become a significant tool to support restoration, as demonstrated in the session **Satellite Monitoring for Forest Management (SMFM)**. It looked at new and innovative tools developed by the World Bank’s SMFM project, adapted to allow forest practitioners to assess forest cover and biomass, time-series change analysis as well as analyzing the drivers of forest change. The work is especially valuable because little is known about dryland forests, despite their importance, and they are often missed by inventories and management planning.



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Transformation starts with the local community.

Charles Karangwa

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

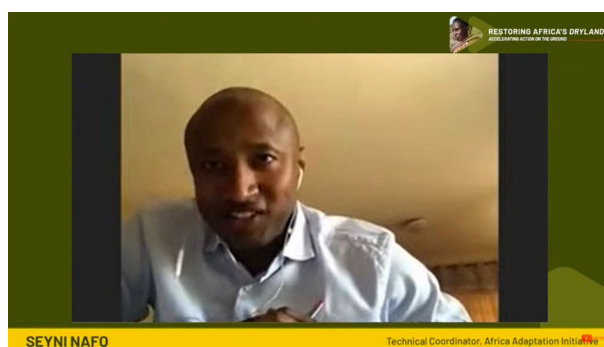
World Agroforestry (ICRAF)'s **Regreening Africa app** offered another example. This tool, which smallholder farmers can download on their smartphones, gives them access to new information, and they can report their own experiences and outcomes. However, participants emphasized, information flows must be two-way, with farmers on the ground consulted on their local knowledge while solutions should be tailored to their particular needs.

“We develop tools, and then we expect them to be taken up by the people who need them, but often that doesn't happen,” said Tor-Gunnar Vågen, a senior scientist at CIFOR-ICRAF. “It's really important to involve stakeholders in that process from the beginning, also so they understand the information and make decisions at different scales.”

Further evidence of effective and sustainable solutions was shown in the **launch of the Rangelands Atlas** by the **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**, **FAO**, **IUCN**, **UN Environment Programme**, **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** and the **International Land Coalition (ILC)** Rangelands Initiative. The Atlas is comprised of 16 maps charting rangelands which cover half of the world's land area – largely drylands – and support livestock farming. The Atlas charts rangelands by using satellite imagery to distinguish native tree cover from invasive species in order to support restoration.

“I really do see it as a game changer, because we've been looking for this kind of global data for so long... You cannot manage what you cannot measure,” said Jonathan Davies, global drylands coordinator at the IUCN. “To be fair, pastoralists have been managing rangelands very well for many centuries, using their own definitions and measures, but I think government and other actors have generally been less effective.”

“All restoration projects need to be led by people... From the highest level of government down to the rural areas, projects have to be led and driven by those on the ground,” said Seyni Nafo, technical coordinator of the Africa Adaptation Initiative.



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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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5. Youth and women creating innovative solutions

The critical role of youth and women in building many of the most successful regional and local initiatives was particularly showcased in sessions throughout the GLF event. They suffer directly from degradation; hence, they have the largest stake in landscape restoration. As Africa is the continent with the youngest population, the importance of intergenerational exchange and youth empowerment echoed throughout sessions and plenaries. At least 70 percent of registered participants at the GLF conference were students and young professionals. That reflects the eagerness of young Africans to take action on land restoration activities. The fundamental message of the GLF event was consistent: empowerment – of youth, of women, and any other marginalized group – must arise through African communities themselves, rather than as a top-down or outside-in approach.

“The role that young people play is pretty much the biggest comparative advantage that Africa has,” said Wanjira Mathai, Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, World Resources Institute (WRI). “How do we interest them, activate them and invest in their ideas? That ought to be a source of great strength and inspiration.”

Stories were told of successful small businesses, many of these established by women. Ndidi Nwuneli, a Nigerian businesswoman who leads West African agriculture companies and consultancies, said she focused much of the work of her youth-empowerment organization **LEAP Africa** on teaching entrepreneurs how to scale their businesses sustainably. That means not only protecting but also restoring the environment during business expansion, and infusing environmental education into school systems, agribusiness curricula and business development plans.



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All restoration projects need to be led by communities and their people... From the highest level of government down to the rural areas, projects have to be led and driven by those on the ground.

Seyni Nafo

Technical coordinator of the Africa Adaptation Initiative

A new generation of entrepreneurs in drylands are turning community-based NGO activities into sustainable businesses. **Sahel Consulting**, for example, links private investors to women dairy producers in Nigeria. **Enda Energie** is an initiative that connects women-led cooperatives to personal care and cosmetic markets, where they sell fruit. GLF participants said that **women must be supported in leading intergenerational dialogues** in their families and clans, as well as in their work, fostering the introduction of gender-sensitive land tenure policies and the development of new social norms that can ensure equitable access to land, regardless of gender and age.

“One of our challenges and goals is to bring financial tools and financial access to smallholder farmers, because they have difficulties accessing loans and guarantees,” said Mamadou Moussa Diakhité, a senior manager at the **New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**. “We must move from just restoration to business restoration, inclusive of women and youth.”

Young Africans – like young people everywhere – are seeking a life that allows them to turn their human capital into prosperity and safety; both for themselves, and for their communities. But they need jobs, and GLF Africa sessions suggested these could come from sources including: new social businesses developing from the revenue streams that land restoration can deliver; natural resource-based poverty relief and

public works expenditures; and, adequate extension services to pastoralist and farming communities for delivering services in small- and medium-sized enterprise development as well as sustainable land-use practices.

“The advice I have for the youth is for you to start seeing what is around you,” said Helina Teklu, co-founder of **Seed Bomb Ethiopia**. “The opportunities are right in front of us, especially in Africa. Start viewing Africa as a land of opportunities.”



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For me, the policy should turn to securing tenure... If you want to plant trees, you need secure tenure. If you want to do anything in the field, you need secure tenure.

Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet

President of REFACOF, an African organization focused on women's rights

Youth leadership during GLF Africa

Social media #GLFAfrica

363,000

Engagement

32.6 million

Reach

185 million

Impressions

62,000

Total stream views
of any length

Participation

7,166 Registrants



● Women ● Men ● Other

6,149

African registrants

65% Youth*

*Ages 18-35

1,676

Organizations and affiliations

TOP 4 Industries

1	Civil Society Organization/NGO	1520
2	Academia	1230
3	Private Sector	1141
4	Youth & Students	995

Event



223

Speakers



60,727

Total session views
across all event
platforms



744

Virtual meetups



47

Sessions



166

Business cards
exchanged



12,786

Messages sent
between participants



12 white papers:

2,000+

downloads in the
first month

Youth-specific participation



Over
4,500 youth
took part in GLF Africa



4 Youth Daily Shows and
1 Intergenerational plenary



More than
30 youth
spoke during sessions
throughout the full event



1 youth
networking session



A mentorship
program pairing
100+ mentees
and mentors

Youth plays a crucial part in restoring drylands from the bottom up. Young Africans are emerging as leaders of a growing movement to conserve and restore the continent's ecosystems and safeguard livelihoods. During GLF Africa, young restoration practitioners showcased **success stories**, and shared their challenges and solutions in restoration work. Activists and ecopreneurs discussed dryland restoration work as potentially **offering job opportunities for youth**. An **intergenerational plenary** explored challenges and identified solutions concerning land tenure.

GLF, working with the **Youth in Landscapes Initiative** (YIL), co-organized a youth networking session, a mentorship program pairing over 100 youth with mentors, and five youth sessions, including four Youth Daily Shows – fast-paced, 30-minute interviews with young professionals.

Post-event survey respondents



98%
rated the overall
event quality as good
or excellent



91%
said they learned
about Africa's drylands
substantially through
the event



86%
said they were inspired
to commit to action
on restoring Africa's
drylands following
their participation in
the event

A plenary session with women, pastoralists, and young people explored challenges related to land tenure, and engaged in an intergenerational conversation to identify solutions. Opening country borders for pastoralists and increasing information and engagement for young women were highlighted as key steps towards reducing land-related conflict.

The youth program began well before the launch of GLF Africa, as more than 60 African youth participated in a month-long "Restoration Road Trip" to learn more about preparing for restoration. Work has continued well after the event, as GLF and YIL have launched the second edition of the **Restoration Stewards** program, which will provide funding, mentorship, and training to five young restoration practitioners and their teams over the next year.

6. Building an investment case for Africa's drylands

The importance of sustainable finance to achieve restoration was emphasized throughout GLF Africa. This requires the right incentives, including incentivizing nature-positive agriculture, adopting inclusive wealth models, and working to change legislation that allows agricultural practices that destroy ecosystems. Financial support is critical, especially for women and youth who are often overlooked. Smallholders and community members, who make up the majority of Africa's private sector, struggle to obtain finance. In a GLF Africa poll, 39 percent of participants said that what's needed most in African restoration is investment in locally-led initiatives.

This message received a significant boost from the **Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (DSL-IP)** led by FAO and the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, and **launched** during GLF Africa. It's aimed at supporting projects designed to avoid, reduce and reverse degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands. The fund represents a landmark decision to institutionalize collaboration and alignment of major agencies (FAO, UNEP, GEF) as well as between countries. It will be applied across dryland communities in 11 countries in three geographical clusters and pledges to take account of the similar and transboundary nature of many of the challenges facing drylands. It will reach almost 1 million direct beneficiaries and bring 12 million hectares of drylands under sustainable land management, including 1.1 million hectares primarily benefitting biodiversity and preventing deforestation of 10,000 hectares of high conservation-value forests.

Expanding the emerging market for global sustainable finance and promoting nature-based solutions to climate change, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss is the goal of the **Luxembourg-GLF Finance for Nature Platform partnership**, also launched during GLF Africa.

“While nature can give more than 20 percent of the solutions needed to address climate change mitigation goals, sustainable land-use sectors are still underfunded,” Carole Dieschbourg, Luxembourg's Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, said during the platform launch. “Until recently, the finance sector has been slow to realize the threat that unsustainable land use poses for us,” she added.

During the session **Scaling Finance: Restoring Africa's drylands through private investment and local projects**, WRI argued that the restoration of Africa's drylands could be a major economic opportunity for investors. Speakers urged innovative approaches, such as attracting private-sector investments by converting community-based NGO activities into sustainable social businesses. Participants emphasized the enormous power of information to catalyze restoration actions and the value of science and innovative ideas to inform action and investment and to catalyze policy change.

A pre-condition for many investments is a sound policy framework. Stakeholders in African drylands have said they want more policy and policy recommendations on African landscape restoration, at every level of governance, according to findings of an **FAO study presented** at the GLF event. Land-use conflict mediation and appropriate interventions that take account of the realities of their particular culture and ways of life were the two most pressing needs cited in the survey.

“For policy to be effective, it has to be applicable,” said Adjany Costa, the 30-year-old former minister and environmental advisor to the president of Angola. “What has worked in the U.S., what has worked in Europe, most definitely will not be applicable in Africa,” she said. “When you have plans that are forged elsewhere with a very different cultural-economic-social background, it is very difficult to apply.”

7. Mobilizing capacities throughout the system

Another recurrent theme of GLF Africa emphasized the value of pairing traditional strategies and capacities of local communities with technical innovations. Without denying the importance of traditional practice, evolving realities require innovation and change. Research is needed to better understand these changing realities, and identify how to overcome new challenges and extend new knowledge to communities.

Mobilizing community exchanges and village-to-village capacity development is a great way of bringing restoration to scale, as demonstrated in the **Groundswell session** where inhabitants from the Sahel region presented their model of inter-community and transboundary collaboration. With this, they not only restored their dryland landscapes but also their cultural identities and livelihoods; sustaining productivity and innovation in their fragile environment.

Capacities at all levels must be mobilized and strengthened systematically: from farmers, herders, women and youth to government agencies, institutions and private companies. So said an assessment presented during the



FAO-IUFRO-GLF-led session **Enhancing restoration capacities in African drylands: A decade for action**. The assessment, completed for the Restoration Decade, led to a **Call to Action** urging Decade leaders to create transparent information channels that avoid duplication and align capacity development efforts across sectors and scales.

That Call to Action summarized many of the same action points as those of GLF Africa, based on the fundamental recognition of the enormous potential of Africa's drylands population, the enormous potential for restoration of drylands ecosystems and the role that we can all play in helping to bring this valuable work to fruition.

Time is very short. Let's ensure that 2021 is truly a year to galvanize change.

Launches at GLF Africa

- **The Luxembourg-GLF Finance for Nature Platform**, launched by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Global Landscapes Forum
- **Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program**, launched by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and FAO
- **The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring and Dryland Restoration Initiative Platform**, launched by UNEP and FAO for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- **The Global Rangelands Atlas**, launched by ILRI, FAO, IUCN, UNEP, WWF and ILC
- The French edition of the international forestry journal **Unasylva, "Restoring the Earth – The next decade,"** launched by FAO
- The **GLFx initiative**, in partnership with the **Robert Bosch Stiftung/Foundation**, announced a **seed fund** for the creation of five new local chapters in the greater Sahel region
- The **Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)** and GLF launched the second edition of the **Restoration Stewards** program, providing **funding and mentorship** to five young restoration practitioners and their teams.

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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