



# LANDSCAPES FOR FORESTS AND FOOD

BUILDING INCLUSIVE, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY  
FRIENDLY LAND-USE SYSTEMS FOR ALL

FRONTIERS  
OF CHANGE

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## Partners

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The way we use the land to produce food and other goods is responsible for nearly a quarter of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most of these emissions come from deforestation and agricultural emissions from livestock, soil, and nutrient management.

The world's largest tropical rainforests, the Amazon and the Congo, play a critical role in capturing some of this carbon from the atmosphere. The Amazon alone is currently storing some 200 billion tons. But the Amazon is reaching a dangerous tipping point in its ability to help regulate GHGs: some parts of the rainforest now emit more carbon than it captures. This accelerates the vicious cycle of climatic change, drought, and deforestation, that in-turn do the forest further harm.

The dominant agricultural system that is designed to maximize efficiency and yield is a result of asymmetric investment in research, technology and markets. The Green Revolution,

which was an international donor-led research and development program to create and adopt high-yielding varieties of maize, wheat and rice and intensive agriculture has been phenomenally successful: it resulted in higher yields, lower food prices and better-off farmers. But because its programs focused exclusively on selective crops and farming systems, it has also resulted in a market imbalance that makes investments into diverse, low carbon, non-commodity food crops and nature-based products very risky, and, hence, unattractive to private investors.

To transform agriculture to address the climate and biodiversity crisis, and to protect our remaining forests, we will need to address this imbalance and to reconstruct local and regional agri-food systems and value chains and to invest in regenerative, diverse agricultural practices. This presents an unparalleled opportunity to help boost nutrition, diversify diets, and provide greater benefits among rural populations.





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Key Messages from experts and practitioners –  
6 calls to action for food system transformation:

- **The protection of our remaining forests is crucial for the survival of humankind and the planet.** Forests like the Amazon and the Congo Basin will cease to exist the way we know it if deforestation is not stopped. While carbon markets, zero-deforestation commodity pathways and other approaches can help reduce deforestation and generate economic prosperity, the best way to change the current trajectory is to support a development path that creates value for people based on standing, healthy forests as well as local values and traditions. The Amazon has huge potential to supply regional and global markets with tropical fruits as well as ingredients and products for the growing organic, personal-care industry, which is projected to reach USD 23.6 billion by 2027.
- **Forest basins, like the Amazon and the Congo need a strong coalition** to promote scientific innovation, capacity building and market development; to support business entrepreneurs and local communities; to upscale the production of already marketable products; and to develop new ones. For this, a heavy influx of public and private investment is necessary. Some of this money should be channeled to community funds, which have been hugely successful in supporting autonomous development by combining traditional knowledge of the communities with the academic training of younger generations.
- **Agricultural research and development need to develop solutions** for both intensified agriculture as well as for better integration of traditional land-use systems, local knowledge and innovative technologies. On agricultural land there is a huge knowledge gap at this stage on the best land-use systems that are both productive, low carbon and biodiversity



friendly. Most of the agricultural research for decades has been on yield maximization. Even paradigms such as sustainable intensification are scientifically very poorly defined. Agriculture is, however, starting to undergo a transformation that recognizes the importance of circular or regenerative agriculture and opportunities are being seen to introduce biodiversity conservation into the transformed practices.

- **Key to reducing the GHG emission from agriculture is the expansion of integrated and regenerative farming practices** that combine a diversity of crops, animals and trees with different spatial and seasonal arrangements. The only way to recirculate biomass and water and reduce the needs for artificial inputs like mineral fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides without losing yield is to harvest the synergy effects of different components of the farming system.

- **International funding instruments need to be available** so that governments, especially in the Global South, can ensure their farming communities live and prosper in harmony with nature. The global environmental governance context (including IPBES, CBD and various global and regional restoration initiatives) provides an enabling framework for action and encourages sustainable and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, conserving and managing wild biodiversity sustainably in farming landscapes, and restoring damaged or fragmented habitats, including forests.
- **Integrated approaches to govern and manage land use in ways that balance goals from different sectors require integrated leadership and better coordination of sectoral policies.** We welcome the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#) that calls for national governments to overcome the incoherence between environmental, agricultural, economic and infrastructure policies.

## Further Information

- [Making the post-2020 global biodiversity framework a successful tool for building biodiverse, inclusive, resilient and safe food systems for all](#)
- [Regenerative Agriculture- An opportunity for businesses and society to restore degraded land in Africa](#)
- [The role of diverse agricultural landscapes for biodiversity conservation and food system resilience](#)
- [The missing piece of the new biodiversity goals-agricultural landscapes](#)
- [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#)
- [IUCN Guidelines for planning and monitoring corporate biodiversity performance](#)



#GLFClimate

## 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, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM – Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, TMG–Think Tank for Sustainability, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)

### Funding partners

