



GLF AFRICA
DIGITAL
CONFERENCE
15.9.2022

**HOW TO
BUILD AN
EQUITABLE,
RESILIENT
FOOD FUTURE**



DONOR AND PARTNER REPORT

GLF AFRICA
DIGITAL CONFERENCE

2022

This year, climate change disasters and the food crisis have worsened food insecurity for millions in both Africa and around the world. But in the largest online gathering of its kind, the Global Landscapes Forum on 15 September brought together 185 speakers and thousands of participants – spanning sectors and regions of Africa – to learn to build a sustainable and resilient agricultural future on the continent.

GLF Africa 2022 ran as a fully-digital conference, joining people around the world together in discussions, plenaries, networking events, virtual tours of landscapes, exhibitions and more, in what resulted in being the GLF's most attended and engaged-with African event yet.

This success was made possible through the financial backing of Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Robert Bosch Foundation, as well as the **Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program**, a USD 345 million, seven-year initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the World Bank.

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 33 Charter Members, this event provided a critical opportunity for leading thinkers and actors to meet and forge new pathways for Africa's food-secure future.



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“Never before have we been facing as many global crises simultaneously as we are today. Today, we not only need to take action against one of the worst global food crises ever, but we also need to make our food systems resilient to future crises. Let us consider this as an opportunity.”



Jochen Flasbarth
State Secretary, Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ), Germany

“We know that for every one percent increase in food prices, 10 million people are thrown into extreme poverty. In combination with this, we're also now experiencing severe impacts of climate change with droughts and floods wreaking havoc on the agriculture sector in many parts of this continent. In these very difficult times, a joined up multilateral approach with common sense cooperation between institutions is more important than ever.”



Jane Feehan
Senior Investment Officer,
European Investment Bank (EIB)

“We need African leaders to actively promote investment in the agricultural sector. After all, agriculture is the coolest job in the world. African agribusiness will be worth USD 1 trillion by 2030, and everyone does need to eat.”



Ineza Grace
Coordinator, Loss and
Damage Youth Coalition

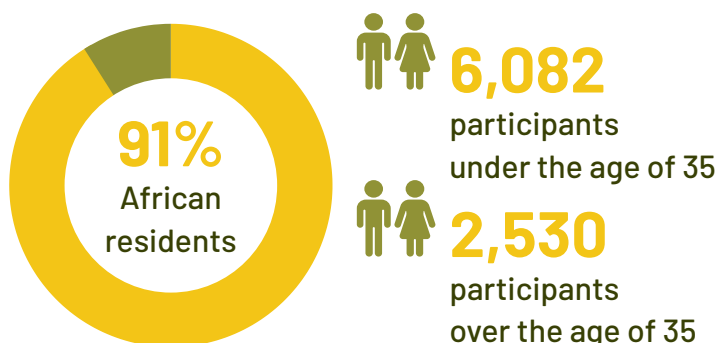
“If we are reactive, we may continue to experience more of the same, but if we become proactive, we may well become leaders of new food systems.”



Carlos Lopes
Honorary Professor, Nelson Mandela
School of Public Governance,
University of Cape Town

GLF Africa in numbers

PARTICIPATION



3 watch parties
hosted by GLFx chapters in Cameroon and
Strathmore University, Nairobi attended by
80 participants

“ Small-scale producers grow a third of the world’s food but can still go to bed hungry themselves. This is both an economic issue and one of equity and inclusion.”



Alvaro Lario

President, International Fund for
Agricultural Development (IFAD)

“ Securing land rights is a fundamental right in itself that is key for communities to use their knowledge, skills, attitude, and values that are necessary to shape a more sustainable food system.”



Fai Cassian Ndi

Coordinator of Youth Development
Organization (YODO) Cameroon

“ The new type of profitability is sustainability...which affects the full value chain.”



Violet Amoabeng

Founder and Chief Executive
Officer, Skin Gourmet Limited

“ It is not for us to tell Africa, in its immensity and diversity, what to do. People know what to do; they know which solutions work on their level, in their context, in their culture. Our role is to help people to implement these solutions. Our role is to listen and support.”



Robert Nasi

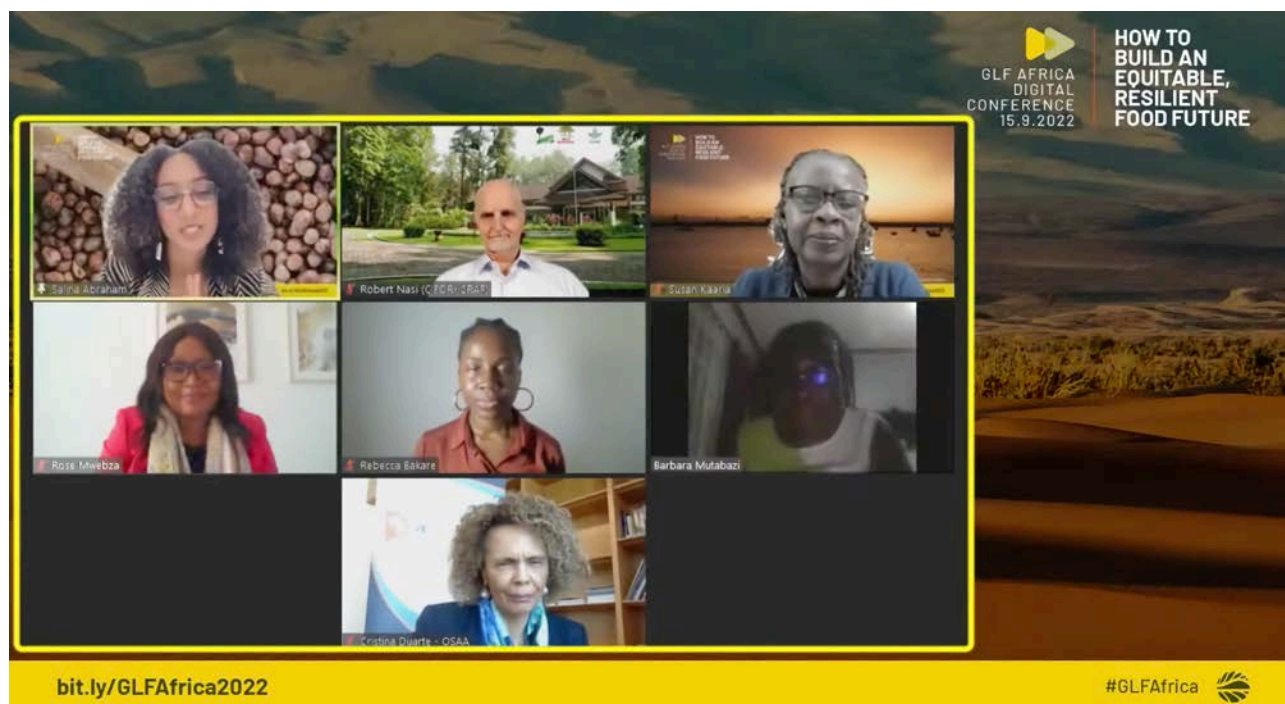
Director-General of the Center for
International Forestry Research-
World Agroforestry Center
(CIFOR-ICRAF)

“ As much as individual companies are making their own investments in direct supply chains, it has become critical for collective investment in landscapes.”



Betty Annan

Country Director for Ghana,
World Cocoa Foundation.



Speakers at the GLF Africa 2022 Closing Plenary “Towards a resilient, equitable and Africa-led food future”.

REACH



almost
250,000
total session views
across all streams

Social media #GLFAfrica



30.3
million social media reach



486,000
engagements



136
million impressions

Media



over **84**
million media reach



89
media hits



94
press registrations

EVENT



184
speakers

49% men
51% women



77%
African speakers



4 white papers:
425 downloads
in the first two weeks



90
partners, including
session hosts, media
partners and sponsors



31 sessions
Virtual tours
and Creatives
for Climate
sessions

Including:

27 from governments and international organizations
22 from local communities
31 from private sector, finance and business
20 from research and academia

POST-EVENT SURVEY RESPONDENTS



98%

rated the overall event quality as good or excellent



85%

said they learned how to build an equitable and resilient food future



75%

said they made meaningful connections with other participants



92%

said they were committed to action within work or professional engagements to catalyze change for resilient, equitable food systems in Africa.

“Enhancing the digital literacy of women is a key tool to promote sustainable development.”



Barbara Birungi Mutabazi
Executive Director, Hive Colab

“Women make the best community agents when it comes to development.”



Lavender Ondere
Environment, Climate Change, Natural Resource Management, and Resilience Expert, World Vision Kenya

“[Women] will do the work. They’ll take action. They just need that startup piece of knowledge to do so.”



Constance Okollet
Ugandan Farmer and Chair of Osukuru United Women's Network



Speakers at the Restoration Education Summit joining GLF Africa live from Nairobi, Kenya.

Participant testimonials

- “The conference was interesting in many ways. I particularly found the presentations by the multitude of experts very informative and enriching. I learned a lot about the link between agroforestry and green economy. I learned that data is very important for things to get better in Africa. I learned that Africa is the continent with the youngest population and thus the future is in Africa. Resilience and adaptation is key and this can only be effective if we are united. Innovation has to accompany this will to make things move forward.”
- “I haven’t participated in any conferences before GLF Africa, and participating in this was a game changer and mind opener for me. All the coordinators and presenters who presented on the day were on point. That is, they were assertive and went straight to the point, addressing the exact challenges Africa faces when it comes to agriculture, and also gave plausible solutions that pertain to those challenges. Also, the presentations were simple enough to understand. They touched on every aspect of agriculture, especially the business and management side of agriculture, which is huge, and a lot of people are lacking when it comes to that. I learnt a whole lot, especially on the strategies one can use to secure lands for agriculture in Cameroon. You could tell they knew their stuff. Getting first hand information from experts, who themselves have tried and tested these techniques and know that they work, is why it was excellent for me.”
- “The presentations were clear, even for people who are not in the field – this is to be encouraged.”
- “The conference was evidence-based and its presentation was really excellent.”

“The effects of climate change are not going to be a future problem. They are happening now, today, at this very moment.”



Ineza Grace

Coordinator, Loss and Damage Youth Coalition

“It’s totally unfair, it’s totally unrealistic to ask a continent like Africa, which is responsible for a mere percentage of greenhouse gas emissions, to forego any development because we in the developed countries are responsible for 75 percent of emissions.”



Robert Nasi

Director-General of the Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry Center (CIFOR-ICRAF)

“In many parts of Africa, adaptation actions have increased, but progress is uneven, and the continent is not adapting fast enough... When we think of adaptation, our first thought might be around reducing food risks or preventing water shortages, but what we learn is that strengthening health systems can reduce the impact of infectious disease, heat stress and other climate-related risks, as well as trauma associated with extreme heat.”



Youba Sokona

Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

“In my culture, trees are sacred. That is something we can build on to conserve biodiversity. Our cultures have the solutions.”



Ayo Fortunate

Turr Tribe, Karamoja Region

“Communities living adjacent to forests, rangelands, and other ecosystems are critical to achieving national and global restoration targets – and must be meaningfully involved in the design and implementation. For them to become stewards and beneficiaries of sustainable land use, they need support in claiming their rights and securing access to forest and land resources.”



Kader Baba

Research Associate and Country Program Manager, TMG Research

Key messages

The event identified key 'game changers' that are facilitating the necessary transition towards a sustainable agri-food systems transition.

Game changers for a new food future

1. **'Leapfrog technologies'.** Across the African continent, leaders and institutions are bypassing traditional development stages to 'jump' directly to the latest technologies, or using emerging tech to explore alternative paths to confronting food system challenges and maximizing benefits.
2. **Centering local knowledge and traditional strategies.** These must be the starting point for all technical innovations and solutions towards an equitable, resilient food future.
3. **'Brain circulation'.** Migration of skilled professionals out of Africa can no longer just be considered a 'brain drain'. Globalization is helping African expats to take a leading role in the future of the continent – no matter where they live.
4. **Innovative partnerships across all levels.** To scale up innovation and make food system transformation worth people's while, novel and diverse kinds of collaboration will be critical.

Launches

At GLF Africa 2022, a call for applications was launched for new African GLFx chapters – independently-organized chapters that meet locally and in online communities of practice. The **Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme**, a major international initiative that aims to improve wildlife conservation and food security, also **launched** a new **3D virtual tour** around its 13 project sites across the African continent, at the event.

The event also built on previous launchpads. For instance, at last year's GLF Africa conference, the Restoration Education Summit – whereby research organizations and partners come together to transform how restoration is taught – was launched. This year, the concept was repeated and expanded.

“Urban areas do not have to be concrete jungles; from the rooftops to balconies.”



Alice Mwangi
Founder, Permaculture Designer, Trainer and Consultant on Agroecology and Regenerative Agricultural Practices, Hillside Organic Garden Kabete

“When we adopt circular thinking, we become more conscious of our actions and behavior from morning to evening.”



Nicodemus Omundo
Chef Entrepreneur, author and systems thinker, Organic Life Limited

“Don't manage poverty, but manage development.”



Cristina Duarte
Special Advisor on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations

“To scale up innovation, we need the right politics, well-tailored financial investments, leadership and accountability, technology transfer and trust-based cooperation.”



Safiatu Nana
Coordinator, GLFx Ouagadougou

“Livestock are the bedrock on which the beef of the continent relies.”



Jimmy Smith
Director General, International Livestock Research Institute

Youth at GLF Africa

On the Road to GLF Africa, the Youth in Landscapes (YIL) Initiative organized a GLF Live with four young experts to discuss **the just energy transition** across the African continent. In collaboration with the **Africa Youth Project Team**, a regional dialogue on the human-rights approach to conservation and restoration across Africa was conducted with the participants of the **Young African Landscape Leadership Program**. On the day before the conference, hundreds of young professionals joined the first GLF Africa Job Fair to network with leading environmental and development organizations, and listened to personal stories and advise **on how to find a green job**.

During GLF Africa, young food experts, activists, restoration practitioners and artists took the stage to challenge the world's understanding of Africa and share their visions for the African food systems. YIL, together with the **Young Professionals For Agricultural Development**, opened the conference with the "Seeds of Food Justice", stressing the importance of policy and finances dedicated to supporting young and local farmers.

The 2022 **Restoration Stewards** for Drylands, Adrian Leitoro, and Forests, Kandi, invited participants to spend a day at their restoration sites, while Charity Lanoi, the 2021 Drylands Restoration Steward welcomed the world for a virtual tour to the Maasai lands. For the youth-led session, "The Many Stories Across Africa", the youth team – in collaboration with the **Light on A Hill Organization** – announced the **four winners** of the **Young African Storytelling Contest** (which received more than 250 phenomenal applications). The session saw young storytellers, artists and educators from every corner of the continent to share how they are taking control of the narratives about Africa.

The representative of the Young African Landscape Leadership Program, Rebecca Bakare, perfectly captured the feelings of youth in the closing plenary of the conference: "To any young African out there, I want you to know that the future and present is ours, so seize every opportunity you have to make a difference now."

“ There is a narrative that we can start changing. Africa is not a country: it is a continent. Africa is not 'defined by poverty' – Africa is rich. Africa is full of stories; Africa is full of diversity; it's full of young hearts, it's full of culture, it's full of innovation; it's full of new ideas.”



Jamila Jana
Marine Biologist,
Stellenbosch University

“ What I hope to achieve is more stewards. I hope to pass on and educate more people on the importance of restoration, the beauty of nature, to heal the planet. That is my greatest ambition.”



Eva Makandi
Founder, Light on a Hill and GLF
Restoration Steward 2022

“ To any young African out there, I want you to know that the future and present is ours, so seize every opportunity you have to make a difference now.”



Rebecca Bakare
Co-founder, Nueden Bio

“ The African youth generation has awakened, and we are committed to doing all we can to build a prosperous Africa. For that, we need African leaders to actively promote investment in the agricultural sector. After all, agriculture is the coolest job in the world. African agribusiness will be worth \$1 trillion by 2030, and everyone does need to eat.”



Ineza Grace
Coordinator, Loss and
Damage Youth Coalition



A GLF Africa 'watch party' in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by students of Strathmore University.

Inclusivity

Too often, African countries are sidelined in international events due to entrenched global injustice issues, such as ease of travel, time, money, and access to visas and vaccines. At GLF Africa 2022, the conference's virtual nature meant attendees were able to contribute and be part of the action from their homes in 104 countries around the globe – while saving carbon emissions and precious funds. To ensure the widest possible dissemination, some of the event's sessions were available not only via GLF's digital platform, but also on YouTube, Facebook Live, Twitter and Instagram.

As at last year's event, registration was free for all residents on the African continent. GLF Africa 2022 also supported local and small organizations by offering solidarity sessions and tickets, allowing for those who otherwise could not join to participate. 'Watch parties' brought GLF events to communities with limited internet access. Three 'watch parties' were organized by members of the GLFx Nkambé and GLFx Yaoundé chapters in Cameroon and students of Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Between solidarity sessions, watch parties, and free tickets, GLF spent EUR 108,490 on inclusivity. The numbers show some of the impacts of that investment. Ninety-one percent of conference participants (7,824 people) were African residents, as were 77% of all speakers. Over half of all speakers were women, and 73% were from the Global South.

Investment in inclusivity



EUR 29,750
on 4 solidarity sessions



EUR 78,240
on free tickets for
7,824 African residents



EUR 500
on 1 watch party



EUR 108,490
– total GLF investment
in inclusivity

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



CHARTER MEMBERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



SPONSORS



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-ICRAF, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FAO, 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, UNCCD, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)