

# A NEW VISION FOR EARTH

GLF Nairobi 2023 Hybrid Conference



11 October 2023  
Nairobi, Kenya + Online

Day 1 . African Sovereign  
Solutions

Concept Note



***GLF Nairobi 2023 Hybrid Conference gathers key stakeholders to shape the global conversation ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP28. It is an opportunity for all to call for action on crucial issues affecting humans, biodiversity, and the planet.***

Africa boasts an abundance of natural resources, including lush forests, vast rivers, and fertile soil that sustain the livelihoods of its diverse communities. But the swift degradation of its unique landscapes aggravated by climatic and non-climatic factors poses a significant threat to the continent's ability to create a prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has brought to light the devastating impact of weather and climate extremes, which are projected to cause impacts on ecosystem, biodiversity and communities, including acute food and water insecurity globally, but with more severe impacts to vulnerable groups such as women, elderly Indigenous Peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers, and low-income households across Africa. That's on top of poor land management practices, biodiversity loss, neo-colonial policies,

compounded and exacerbated by climate change that have already resulted in the degradation of 65 percent of Africa's productive land and the desertification of 45 percent of its total land area. UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report (2022) projects an increase in adaptation needs and a widening finance gap which may put the world, especially developing nations, at a high vulnerability risk in the coming years.

This confluence of events triggers migration movement of rural population putting continuous strain on the environment particularly wood, land, and water resources. Communities are increasingly challenged with shrinking of productive lands for food and livelihoods. Vulnerable groups without access to arable land, relying on wild products or open grazing grounds face severe threats.

Despite progressive legislation enacted in recent years, women still continue to be marginalized and discriminated with regard to access to land and a shrinking natural resources base.

But there's hope in sovereign African solutions that empower local communities, landowners, and custodians to restore landscapes, create jobs, secure livelihoods, and strengthen food systems.





## Welcome to GLF Nairobi 2023 Day 1: African Sovereign solutions

The GLF Nairobi 2023 conference will gather thousands of women leaders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, smallholder farmers, youth activists, frontline actors, scientists, innovators, policymakers, and financiers who collectively have the vision, creativity, and knowledge to drive holistic, African-led solutions for sustainable food systems and promising livelihood prospects for the rural population. To be held on 11 October 2023, this hybrid conference will unite actors at the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, local watch parties across the continent, and digital participants worldwide to strengthen global partnerships that truly deliver results.

**Agenda 2063** of the African Union prioritizes the Africa that Africans want and commits to preserving at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, while supporting 30 percent of farmers, fisher people, and pastoralists to practice climate resilient production systems. Prioritizing African solutions towards the restoration of Africa's degraded landscapes gives its people an opportunity to secure their livelihoods, access to finance, advocate for the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples and – most importantly – produce food for their social and economic wellbeing.

GLF Nairobi day 2: Climate Survival Guide on October 12th, and in honor of GLF's 10-year anniversary and CIFOR's 30-year anniversary, GLF Nairobi 2023 will deliver a vision where African communities have ownership for the well-being of their landscapes, amidst the backdrop of biodiversity loss, broken food systems, and the climate crisis. By illustrating sovereign solutions to African issues by African communities, the event

will offer a dynamic platform for connecting with the local and global champions, traditional knowledge, and cutting-edge science that is necessary to amplify the impact and potential of locally-led solutions for the most pressing global challenges. The one-day conference will be packed with plenaries, interactive sessions, networking opportunities, the latest research, and live community watch parties from different locations across the continent.

Day 1 of the conference builds upon existing efforts to prioritize Africa's people and their need for change through their sovereign solutions, whereas day 2 focuses on climate, connecting African priorities and experiences to global climate, biodiversity and food resilience action. GLF Nairobi 2023 broadly seeks to:

- Convene and engage a diverse, action-oriented stakeholder group (innovators, scientists, policymakers, civil society organizations, youth activists, grassroots actors, financiers, entrepreneurs, and farmers) working to catalyze action and partnerships for the benefit of the African continent
- Provide a dynamic platform for collaboration, sharing expertise, and showcasing the top locally led solutions across Africa
- Facilitate learning, knowledge sharing, and matchmaking between diverse stakeholders

The primary themes and topics will be detailed and refined through a GLF Africa Regional Knowledge Committee consisting of Charter



**“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)



Members and partner focal points. The agenda will feature interactive technical sessions sharing best practices, press conferences launching new campaigns and tools, structured networking sessions, and cultural exhibitions, across the following themes:

- Fostering rural development and green jobs through restoration enterprises (rural development, youth, jobs, biodiversity)
- Implementing local action through nature-based solutions to address humanitarian challenges of migration, conflict, aid, tenure insecurity and water scarcity
- Women as champions for restoring and managing landscapes for sustainable food systems in Africa (rights, agroecology, agrobiodiversity, agroforestry systems (including Agrosilvopastoral, Silvopastoral, and Agrosilvicultural))
- Tenure and rights for equitable access to and ownership of natural resources including land.
- Access to finance for restoration and resilience in Africa
- Sovereign solutions for restoring land
- Youth as drivers of the future resilient landscapes and livelihoods – unlocking the digital space.



**“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

## Road to GLF Nairobi 2023

The GLF Nairobi 2023 Hybrid Conference will be the highlight of the GLF’s Road to GLF Nairobi campaign to catalyze community-led local action and showcase human stories on the ground. We will organize the following activities with stakeholders to shape compelling pathways for action:

- **GLFx Africa Chapter Summit, 19–21 June:** A 3-day workshop in collaboration with the Robert Bosch Foundation, will bring together all GLFx Community-based chapters working in Africa to connect, share experiences, challenges, learn and dream together on upcoming activities to support community-led action toward more sustainable landscapes.
- **Finance for Nature Digital Forum:** Investing in Equitable Futures, 13 July: This Digital Forum will explore how to increase funding for the local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean – and how to promote equitable distribution of resources in these contexts.
- **Restoration Education Summit 2023:** This Summit will drive discussions for the implementation of a transdisciplinary curricula for restoration. By bridging practice-based, competence-based education with principles such as flexible assessment and life-long learning, the GLF partnership hopes to transform on-the-ground restoration education, and create seasoned landscape professionals to lead the way across the restoration sector. The curricula for restoration will be co-designed by a pan-African network of universities, the International Union Forest Research Organizations, Wageningen Centre for Development, and Wageningen University and Research.
- **Activities by the Youth in Landscapes Initiative**
  - ♦ *Regional Digital Dialogues:* In summer 2023, a series of digital interactive dialogues will shed light on and elevate action priorities for specific topics around climate justice and relevant policy for the local communities in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific.



- ◆ **Landscape Leadership Workshop:** The flagship learning program of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) will take place in person during the week leading to GLF Nairobi 2023. Students and young professionals from across the African continent will have the opportunity to strengthen different skills and explore the landscape approach in the context of their own landscape, with a long-term goal of becoming landscape leaders.

- **Special GLF Live series on GLF Nairobi 2023:** Thought leaders and local actors will highlight solutions crucial to a resilient future through a special [GLF Live](#) series leading up to and after the conference.

## Get involved

The agenda will feature plenaries, interactive sessions, structured networking, cultural exhibitions featuring local photographers and filmmakers, virtual tours, documentary screenings, and press conferences around the selected themes. Please refer to the [Get Involved page](#) or contact GLF Global Events and Outreach Coordinator [Judith Sonneck](#) with any questions.

### A wide-reaching digital communications and outreach program

The GLF and its regional and global partners will build an interactive, creative, and visionary campaign and a hybrid event experience that



**“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



**“Traditional authorities have a lot to contribute to the vision we all have for Africa. We are all in this world together, trying to achieve the same goals for future generations”**

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS DRANI IZAKARI**

Forum for Traditional Authorities, Uganda

will engage, inspire, and promote change. The back-to-back event and campaign are tipped to reach 60 million people from over 100 countries across the globe, through social media, partners, influencers, and the networks of conference speakers, participants, and media. The GLF’s [45 social media ambassadors](#) will amplify the campaign in 29 countries and 10+ languages.

## Past speakers

The conference will be a celebration of 10 years of the GLF. We will bring back African experts and changemakers from previous GLF regional and global events to reflect on a decade of knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned from the continent. They will be joined by a fresh agenda of speakers working on making Africa sovereign amidst the climate crisis. Past speakers include:

- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, WTO Director-General and former Minister of Finance of Nigeria and Coordinating Minister for the Economy (2011 to 2015)
- **Elizabeth Mrema**, Executive Secretary at UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- **Ibrahim Thiaw**, Executive Secretary of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Daniel Kobei**, Founder and Executive Director, Ogjek Peoples’ Development Program (OPDP)
- **Youba Sokona**, Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- **Musonda Mumba**, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- **Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda** (The Nnabagereka of Buganda) who is Queen consort of the King of Buganda, Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Muteb, is a traditional leader and an ardent advocate of human development rooted in cultural values
- **Vivienne Yeda**, Director General of the East African Development Bank (EADB)
- **Carlos Lopes**, Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance Faculty of the Commerce University of Cape Town.
- **Vanessa Nakate**, Climate activist and founder of Rise Up
- **Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli**, Co-founder and Executive Chair, Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition
- **Adrian Leitoro**, co-founder of Nature and People as One (NaPO).
- **Inna Modja**, CEO & co-founder of Code Green & a strong figure for Social, Environmental & Climate Justice.



**“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, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



## About GLF

Founded by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Bank, and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with 33 leading development organizations as Charter Members, the GLF is the world's largest and fastest-growing knowledge-led platform on sustainable land use. It seeks to create a movement dedicated to achieving the sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum has connected nearly 10,000 organizations, over 215,000 participants and reached more than one billion people from 185 countries.

The Forum is a key implementing partner in the Global Environment Facility 7 (GEF-7) Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR)'s Global Knowledge to Action Platform. The program seeks to promote sustainable integrated landscapes and efficient food value chains for the world's major commodities in 24 countries.



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

**SHARON IKEAZOR**

Minister of State for Environment, Nigeria

## Sponsor the GLF Community

We are the world's most exclusive platform on integrated, sustainable land use management. Our 33 Charter Members include leading Sustainable Development organizations such as the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute and Rainforest Alliance.

At GLF events, we bring together leading private sector innovators who push the boundaries of what is possible to make business more sustainable with investors who are turning risk into opportunities and are leading with new sustainable finance tools and instruments. Recent panthers include Rabobank, Nestle, Oatley, Credit Suisse, Microsoft, Natura, Liquid Telecom and others.

We bridge local to global and south to north. We run the leading youth program on sustainable landscape management with 60 000 participants under 35 years mainly from the global south.

We are THE Global platform for the voices of women and indigenous and local communities and youth on how to solve the big questions we are collectively facing today: from rapidly declining biodiversity to increasingly fast climate change, justice, poverty and hunger.



At every event we reach 30 million people and more. Over the past decade, we have reached over 1.5 billion people. We would be delighted to support you with your next launch, promote your number one initiative on sustainability and help you achieve ambitious goals and KPIs.

GLF events are created on a full cost recovery basis financed mainly through the generous support of our sponsors and session hosting fees.

Entry tickets make up only a small part of the income as we aspire to keep events as inclusive as possible.

Investments in inclusivity include free virtual conference participation for all residents of the African continent and youth; data stipends and watch parties to help bridge the digital divide; solidarity sessions for organizations and voices that should be heard more, but often lack access.



**“We have lands, we have water, and we need to change the way we do business with smallholder farmers. We need to see agriculture as opportunities... opportunities for jobs, for women and closing the gender gap, and for youth particularly”**

**AMATH PATHE SENE**

Environment and Climate Lead for West and Central Africa, UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)





Please find opportunities to partner [here](#). For more information, please contact Marina Brunale at [m.brunale@CIFOR-ICRAF.org](mailto:m.brunale@CIFOR-ICRAF.org)



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## About 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, 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

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