



Global
Landscapes
Forum

'ONE WORLD ONE HEALTH'

GLF Biodiversity
Digital Conference
28 – 29 October 2020



globallandscapesforum.org

Concept
note

THE CONTEXT

The **diversity and sheer abundance of life on Earth underpins the vital services natural systems provide to humans** – livelihood provision, water regulation, seed dispersal, pollination, clean water, soil quality, air quality, cultural values, and others. The natural world provides a total value of USD 125 trillion a year in free services and support to economies, close to twice the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, approximately one million plant and animal species are now at risk of extinction with extinction rates estimated to be 1,000 times higher than originally thought; the planet's life-support systems are reaching or exceeding their thresholds.

Human transformation of Earth's natural landscapes is driving biodiversity loss, alongside land degradation, habitat loss, air pollution, climate change and the emergence of zoonotic pandemics such as SARS and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, which is not only a health crisis, but an economic, social and environmental crisis. As such, it cannot be tackled in isolation.

But it is not too late. The fight against COVID-19, and the plans to build back better after the world has passed the peak of the crisis will require cooperation across all domains, a '*whole-of-society approach*' that also mobilizes science and business; one that recognizes the connection between ecosystems, human health, and economic growth.

Degraded ecosystems **can be restored and offer a wealth of opportunities** to bend the curve. By way of response, The United Nations General Assembly has declared the 2021–2030 as the ***Decade on Ecosystem Restoration***, which calls on the international community, civil society, businesses, and individuals to *prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide* and achieve transformational ecosystem restoration. The ambition is to restore at least 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030. With global and regional initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge, Africa's AFR100 Initiative, Latin America's Initiative 20x20, the New York Declaration on Forests, the UN Decade on Family Farming 2018 and others, the restoration of biodiverse landscapes is increasingly in the center of the global development agenda.

Meanwhile, the UN is also developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which will build upon the ***Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020***, supersede its Aichi targets, and guide global efforts to conserve the variety of life forms on Earth, ensuring their sustainable use and the equitable sharing of their benefits. The framework will set out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity to ensure that, by 2050, a more harmonious relationship is achieved.



Urban expansion is occurring fast in areas adjacent to biodiversity hotspot and faster in low-elevation, biodiversity-rich coastal zones than in other areas. Photo by Sophie la Liberte/FAO

What the GLF conference seeks to achieve

The **Global Landscapes Forum** (GLF) as the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land-use, management and governance, is perfectly positioned to facilitate such connections and cooperation. In order to maintain momentum in spite of COVID-19 disruptions, the GLF will hold a two-day digital conference on 28 - 29 October under the theme '**One World – One Health**'. The **objective** is to bring together key actors representing a diverse range of sectors and interests but with a collective interest in responding to ongoing global issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and public health. The event will seize the opportunity to draw on the experience of top scientists, environmental practitioners, policymakers, banks, private corporates, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the wider public to showcase the means by which we can '*build back better*'. During the event, participants will address the need to fundamentally reshape human-nature relationships by bringing together key stakeholders with diverse interests but a collective desire to respond to issues of biodiversity, restoration and public health.

Participants will not only share perspectives on the urgency of conserving, protecting and restoring biodiverse landscapes, but also **call for major shifts in modes of production, consumption, and mobility**. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into all sectors of society and policymaking, including infrastructure, education, trade, global supply chains and finance requires a transformation of current practice and demands planning over the longer-term and for the greater common good. The conference will address these and other issues in the context of the six ecosystems of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: mountains, agricultural landscapes, forests, wetlands and peatlands, drylands and rangelands, and oceans and coastal areas. Interactive sessions will feature case-studies and successful examples of each.

Through a series of interactive sessions, learning tracks, inspirational talks, and virtual meetups, GLF will seek to answer such questions as: How can the international community tackle the root causes of biodiversity loss? What role could consumers, agrobusinesses and industries play? What is needed in terms of capacity development, technology and finance? How can we reconnect with nature when the majority of consumers live urbanized and highly technologized lives? And how can the knowledge and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities be recognized and integrated into solutions that will bring the world into harmony with nature?

Conference topics

Amongst others, GLF Biodiversity will organize sessions around the following topics:

1. Setting the post-2020 agenda for biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

For many years, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and a range of partners, to promote whole-of-society integrated approaches that prioritize prevention of infectious diseases. At its last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the CBD adopted biodiversity-inclusive *One Health Guidance* to assist countries in implementing such integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to health. An integrated approach to health and the environment is not only needed to recover from the current crisis and to build back better, but also to create an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **If people work together to take care of nature, nature takes better care of people.** The post-2020 global biodiversity framework calls for the global community to bend the curve of biodiversity loss, and restore biodiversity and ecosystems immediately, to ensure that people live in harmony with nature. This aligns with the objectives of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, in which biodiversity considerations are central for reversing degradation of ecosystems, and the benefits that this will bring.



2. Restoring biodiversity and ecosystems by adopting a holistic land- and seascape approach

Terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems are connected, and so must be the strategies to conserve and sustainably use natural resources on land and at sea. The conference will therefore feature **the integrated landscape approach as a set of methodologies and tools** critical to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Decade on Family Farming and the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the same time. Progress in the development of the approach will be shared by scientists, practitioners, producers and financiers who invested in its operationalization. Successful examples - such as the 'ridge-to-reef' integrated water management and others will be shared.

3. One Health: Bridging the gap between ecosystem, animal and human health.

Now more than ever, the health of our planet requires us to recognize our complex, interdependent relationships with animals and ecosystems. A [recent joint report](#) by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) recommends that in order to prevent future zoonotic diseases outbreaks, a One Health approach—which unites human health, animal and environmental/ecosystem health— is the optimal method for both preventing and responding to outbreaks and pandemics, as well as contributing to solve other global health challenges. Key issues under this topic are: how can we work more effectively across sectors to mitigate global health challenges? How can we navigate the trade-offs between disease risk and loss of livelihood and food security? What role does biodiversity play in containing and responding to diseases and health issues across different landscapes?

4. Biocultural diversity – learning from Indigenous Peoples and local communities

The ensemble of biological, cultural and linguistic manifestations that is unique to each landscape is known as 'biocultural diversity'. **Integrating the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities** is also a critical aspect of both the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Harnessing local stewardship is key to the success of both. Pressing issues discussed are: how can we learn from indigenous and local communities having centuries of experience in living in harmony with nature? How can we inspire from indigenous and local biocultural practices that have proven to be effective? How can the Indigenous and local community rights be better protected or recovered, to safeguard effective local practices, and protect these from disappearance?

5. Biodiversity finance for healthy landscapes and sustainable value chains

Biodiversity is an integral part of productive landscapes providing the food, fodder, fiber and fuel which are needed to meet a growing global demand. Nonetheless, agricultural supply chains are the leading driver of deforestation globally, while intensive fishing has resulted in the overexploitation of two thirds of the world's fish stocks. The conference will address diverse questions on the **interrelation between finance for biodiversity, healthy landscapes and sustainable value chains**, such as: What do private investors currently do to unleash the potential of biodiversity and ecosystem services for a bio-economy, and what is their impact? Are green bonds a sustainable solution for conservation finance and natural capital investments? What have we learned from Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes and their ability to contribute to the sustainability of landscapes? What are the preconditions for effective Access-and-Benefit-Sharing mechanisms to ensure socially just value chains?

6. Agrobiodiversity for resilient food systems

A global food system that **conserves and uses agricultural biodiversity**, encourages access to diverse diets, delivers nutrition, and is adaptable and resilient. It gives new economic opportunities to the marginalized, is better for the environment, and improves people's health. It is resilient, it protects livestock and crops from pests and disease, and it can weather diverse shocks. The greater the diversity, the more resilient the system. The conference will demonstrate why conserving and employing agrobiodiversity is essential to ensuring food and nutrition security for a future population of 10 billion people in the face of the interlocking crises of biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and climate change.

7. Nature-based solutions for a circular economy

Promoting the use and integration of nature in development is one of the smartest, most efficient ways of addressing a variety of environmental, social and economic challenges in a sustainable way. The relatively recent term **nature-based solutions (NBS)** refers precisely to actions that are inspired by, supported by, or copied from, nature. The conference will demonstrate how to harness the self-healing power of nature as well as the use of new technologies to mimic that power. Participants will share successful examples of how their innovative actions lead to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, while providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits, displaying how NBS fit in landscapes.

Global online dialogue

Building on its success at [GLF Bonn 2020](#), the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference will bring people across time zones together in a digital space that can be accessed on every device. This format makes for a more inclusive forum, while cutting emissions as compared to in-person events. GLF will therefore continue to push the horizon of digital conferencing through virtual tours, learning tracks, inspirational talks, documentary screenings and exclusive interviews streamed live from landscapes, seascapes and cities around the world. Through an interactive digital venue and tailored agendas for each region, the event will set a new precedent for global collaboration and knowledge-sharing on a range of landscape-specific topics. The event will take place over two days and will open with Asia's morning, move over to Europe and Africa in midday, and close in the Americas, with live translations in multiple languages.

More than half of Peru's territory is covered with forests, mainly tropical forests with high biodiversity. *Photo by Marlon del Aguila Guerrero/CIFOR*



Intensifying cocoa technology can avoid deforestation and forest degradation, along with the CO₂ emissions. *Photo by Marlon del Aguila Guerrero/CIFOR*





Epicormic shooting in Australia after a bushfire. Fire serves an important function in maintaining the health of certain ecosystems, but as a result of changes in climate and in human use (and misuse) of fire, fires are now a threat to many forests and their biodiversity. Photo by Salahuddin Ahmad/FAO



Tanjung Puting National Park in Indonesia is a UNESCO declared biosphere with high biodiversity of fauna and flora. It has the largest wild orangutan population in the world. Photo by Terry Sunderland/CIFOR

Youth 100% engaged

Young professionals and students around the world are actively engaged in protecting biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations. The event will host the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) and will offer youth organizations a platform to share their expertise in biodiversity science, policies and activism. A youth-led workshop on 27 October will center on building cross-sectoral alliances among young change-makers, while a conference mentorship program will focus on intergenerational learning to speed up actions in support of global biodiversity.

Ways to participate

To maximize the outreach and impact of the event and encourage global action on issues and solutions discussed, conference activities will be livestreamed across the GLF's social media and online platforms, emceed by dynamic moderators well-versed in the issues at hand.

To learn more about the many ways to participate by hosting and/or attending various activities – learning tracks, plenaries, interactive sessions, polls, press conferences and more – please visit our [webpage](#), or contact GLF Global Assistant Coordinator **Judith Sonneck** (j.sonneck@cgiar.org).

Communications, outreach and engagement

GLF Biodiversity will leverage the digital communication capacity of the GLF and partners to inform the narrative on biodiversity ahead of the post-2020 framework. The ultimate **objective is to build societal consensus that biodiversity matters**, and to outline the way forward through a wealth of scientific evidence and on-the-ground experience of the various stakeholders.

The building blocks for this narrative will range from multimedia and social media content, to stories bringing to the fore the science and humanity behind the drive to conserve biodiversity. Content will be disseminated in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages to be determined, to fully engage regional and international audiences.

GLF partners and charter members will contribute insights and content and are invited to join the communications committee. For more information, please contact **GLF Communications Coordinator Melissa Angel** (m.kayeangel@cgiar.org).



Peatlands are home to many of the world's threatened species, such as orangutans, rhinoceroses and leopards. Pictured is a peatland forest on the island of Kalimantan, Indonesia. Central Kalimantan. Photo by Nanang Sujana/CIFOR



GLF DIGITAL

CONFERENCE

SPONSORSHIPS

Over the past eight years, the GLF has reached almost 800 million people across the world and established itself as the world's largest forum on integrated and sustainable land use management. Brands that support the GLF are associated with a movement that has so far engaged 5,200 entities – international organizations, governments, universities, corporations, community groups. The GLF conferences have been attended by 205,000 participants from 185 countries, and the GLF's youth program has involved more than 50,000 future leaders across the world under the age of 35.

Platinum, gold, silver, and bronze sponsorship packages are available. For all information regarding GLF Sponsorship Packages and Partnership Engagement, please contact GLF Engagement and Growth Coordinator **Nina Haase** (n.haase@cgiar.org).

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 livelihood, 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, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

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