



GLF
Biodiversity
Digital
Conference



One
World
One
Health



28 - 29
OCTOBER
2020

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and
Partner
Report**



We must start thinking about ‘One Health’ as an approach that works within the Landscape Approach. This must be an integrated global response. What can scientists, landscape experts and community members do to help strengthen this integrated approach for the future?



Fiona Flintan,
Governance Scientist and Technical
Coordinator, International Livestock
Research Institute (ILRI)

Read the Outcome Statement

GLF's Biodiversity Digital Conference couldn't have been more timely. As countries grapple with ripples and resurgences of the zoonotic COVID-19 virus, the global community is taking stock of its failures to prevent drastic biodiversity loss, and setting a critical agenda to do better in the coming decade. The linkages between the ways we treat other species and our common home, and the health and wellbeing of human communities, become more apparent every day.

The conference centered biodiversity in global, national, regional and community-level efforts to 'build back better' for human, animal and ecological health. The conference identified pathways to transformative change to support the post-2020 biodiversity framework. **Find them here.**

Social media #GLFBiodiversity

400,000
engagements

35 million
reach

140 million
impressions

9,000
long stream views

Rating

97.2%
of surveyed
participants
rated the event
as good or
excellent

91%
at GLF
Bonn
2020

compared to

96%
would
recommend
the sessions
to others

90%
at GLF
Bonn
2020

compared to

Event outputs



Day 1: Wrap-Up
Day 2: Wrap-Up

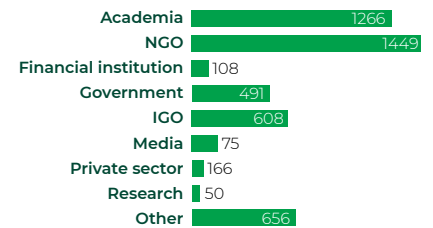
Final Press Release
Post-Event Page
15 Policy Briefs

Participants

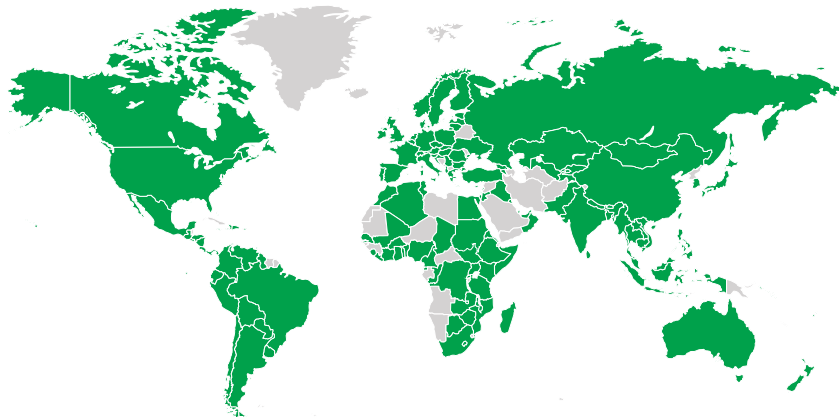
5,000
people



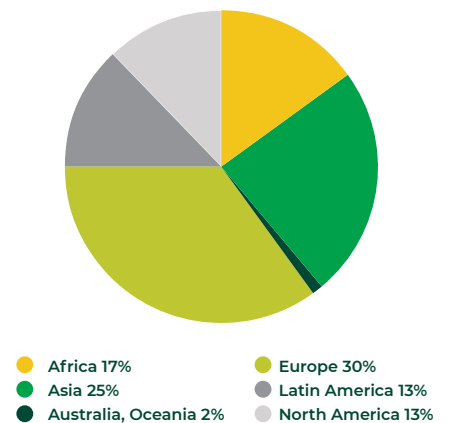
4,869
organizations



148
countries



6
regions



Event



“We need landscape-wide approaches that integrate the development of agriculture, forest, energy, water and infrastructure agendas,” said Watson. “We’re running out of time. This is the decisive decade for humanity’s future on earth.”

Leaders from across a diverse range of science, public health, environmental and socio-economic disciplines came together virtually via the **Global Landscapes Forum Digital Biodiversity Conference** 28-29 October 2020, to design a blueprint that puts biodiversity

restoration in its rightful place: at the very center of a ‘One World, One Health’ approach.

Nothing less will pull the planet back from the brink, warned **Sir Robert Watson**, eminent scientist with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP): “We need landscape-wide approaches that integrate the development of agriculture, forest, energy, water and infrastructure agendas,” said Watson. “We’re running out of time. This is the decisive decade for humanity’s future on earth.”

That message was amplified and elaborated by the more than 250 experts participating in the GLF event – **the world’s largest biodiversity conference of 2020**, which included 50 science and knowledge sessions, plenaries, youth dialogues, virtual tours of ecosystems and a documentary film festival. 5,000 people from 148 countries shared perspectives on integrating biodiversity and landscapes and efforts to prevent future outbreaks of zoonoses – diseases of animal origin such as COVID-19, SARS, Ebola and HIV.

This also informed the work of the GLF community, which – in collaboration with the **Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)** and delegations from 26 youth organizations – is developing the GLF Biodiversity 2020



Policy Brief due December 2020. This key outcome from the Biodiversity conference is designed to help strengthen the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration processes by providing recommendations from the GLF community on catalyzing transformative change towards living in harmony with nature. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration begins in 2021 and aims to slow the loss of the planet's biodiversity, which the CBD says is occurring at an "unprecedented pace."

"Preserving biodiversity is so important for our food, our energy, our medicines, our clothes our lives," Bård Vegar Solhjell, Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) told the GLF event.

The GLF conference brought a sharp focus to the necessity of implementing the 'One Health' approach – also a primary recommendation for curbing disastrous biodiversity loss issued by the **UN Convention on Biodiversity**, said its lead author David Cooper, deputy executive secretary of the CBD. Its **September 2020 report** alerted the world that

our biodiversity – the entire range of life on Earth – is "suffering badly and getting worse".

The CBD report was discussed widely during the GLF biodiversity event, as was **last year's report from IPBES**, which warned that a million species were enroute to extinction. Both reports made clear that as biodiversity declines, so too does the health of humans and the health of the planet.



If you are not sitting around the table, you quickly end up on the menu. Biodiversity matters. Climate change matters. Inequality matters.



Robert Nasi,
Director General, Center
for International Forestry
Research (CIFOR)
Managing Director,
CIFOR-ICRAF



Let's save the earth as if we are saving our own selves. Let's save the world by saving ourselves first.



Benki Piyāko,
Ashaninka Community Leader,
Terra Kampa do Rio Amônia



Restoration of ecosystems can not only provide economic benefits but also a vision that goes beyond individual disciplines, borders and interests.



Christiane Paulus,
Director General, Nature Conservation
and Sustainable Use of Natural
Resources, German Ministry for
Environment, Nature Conservation and
Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Participating in GLF

The GLF is the world's largest science- and knowledge-led platform for sustainable land use. Its unique platform means this biodiversity event was one of the world's most inclusive conferences, with participation limited only by Internet availability.

With the support of the NGO Nia Tero, the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank (Sparkasse) in Bonn, and the German government, the GLF event reached over 33 million people through social media on virtually every continent.

Participants heard from such thought leaders as **Peter Daszak, Elizabeth Mrema, Christiane Paulus, Ma Jun, Shahid Naeem, Jennifer Morgan, Mark Plotkin, Benki Piyāko, H.E Fekadu Beyene, Carla Montesi, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, and Bård Vegar Solhjell.**

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conferences, with participation limited only by Internet availability. The digital format of this GLF conference, like its **June 2020 event**, also means a drastic reduction in potential emissions when compared with in-person events with participants traveling from around the world.

Youth, Indigenous leaders, researchers, women, entrepreneurs, private-sector, activists and more contributed to the GLF interactive sessions, learning tracks, and meet-up events – all brought together by a collective interest in responding to ongoing global issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and public health.





Benki Piyáko, an Indigenous leader from the Amazon, sang in his native language to close the two-day digital event on biodiversity and planetary health. Photo by Pilar Valbuena/GLF



We are living through one of the most extraordinary threats to global health compounded by interlocking crises of biodiversity loss, land and environmental degradation and climate change... It's not too late to heal the planet. We have transformative pathways before us. We must begin walking on these pathways.



Elizabeth Mrema
Executive Secretary,
UN Convention on Biological Diversity

White papers: informing the discussions

The intellectual roots of the GLF biodiversity conference are embedded in **15 white papers**, written by some of the world's

leading environmental, science, and research organizations – including a number of UN agencies, the World Bank and the GLF's founding partner CIFOR-ICRAF. The research and conclusions of these papers is providing critical insight into how humanity can transition from exploiting to restoring the Earth's ecosystems. GLF has published these papers on its website, in order to inform policy- and decision-making processes, as well as interested actors in the fields of ecosystem and human health.

Papers, programs initiated

A number of allies initiated new programs and launched white papers during the GLF Biodiversity event, including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which released a new paper, **The Triple Challenge: Meeting the food needs of the world, while tackling the climate crisis and reversing the loss of nature**. Similarly, a white paper launched by the **Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, Build Back Better in a post-COVID-19 world**, argues that protecting wildlife habitats, reducing urban demand for wild meat and early detection of disease outbreaks could prevent the spread of future pandemics and avoid their damaging impacts.





By tackling inequality, which is an inevitable product of our capitalistic system, we'll be able to truly solve the biodiversity and climate crisis.



Mika Mei Jia Tan,
Coordinator, ASEAN Youth
Biodiversity Programme



COVID-19 is a wake-up call to what our priorities are... Imagine if we were to take fossil fuel subsidies and invest them differently.



Carole Dieschbourg,
Minister for the Environment,
Climate and Sustainable
Development of Luxembourg



We need to face the planetary emergency using an integrated approach. An integrated approach to achieve One Health is essential, and means that we have to avoid silo approaches.



Carla Montesi,
Director, Planet and Prosperity,
Directorate-General for International
Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

That restoration theme continued with a landmark partnership agreement announced to restore drylands and drought-prone areas in Asia. **The Landscape Partnership for Asia**, aims to establish a coherent body of 'green, blended development' knowledge and successes on the ground that will sustain further expansion of scale. Similarly, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) highlighted the '**HKH Call to Action**' which provides a roadmap for the threatened Hindu Kush Himalaya region, offering six urgent actions as pathways to prosperity.

The Global Evergreening Alliance **launched a cloud-based Monitoring Platform**

that tracks the progress and impact of multiple land **restoration efforts in near real-time**, providing essential information for effective policy-making and action on the ground – capturing collaboration from the ground up.

Considerable progress in forest and landscape restoration has been made in the last ten years, but **efforts must now be scaled up to reach international targets by 2030**, according to a new FAO publication released at GLF. The new edition of FAO's international forestry journal *Unasylva*, entitled *Restoring the Earth – The next decade*, also urged effective monitoring to keep restoration on track.





GLFx launched, Landscape Hero awarded

The conference saw the official launch of **GLFx**, a global community of independently organized local chapters that

meet online in dedicated communities of practice on topics such as tree planting and sustainable finance. GLFx is designed to enable and empower communities with new connections, technology and knowledge to connect, share, learn, and accelerate action towards more sustainable landscapes.

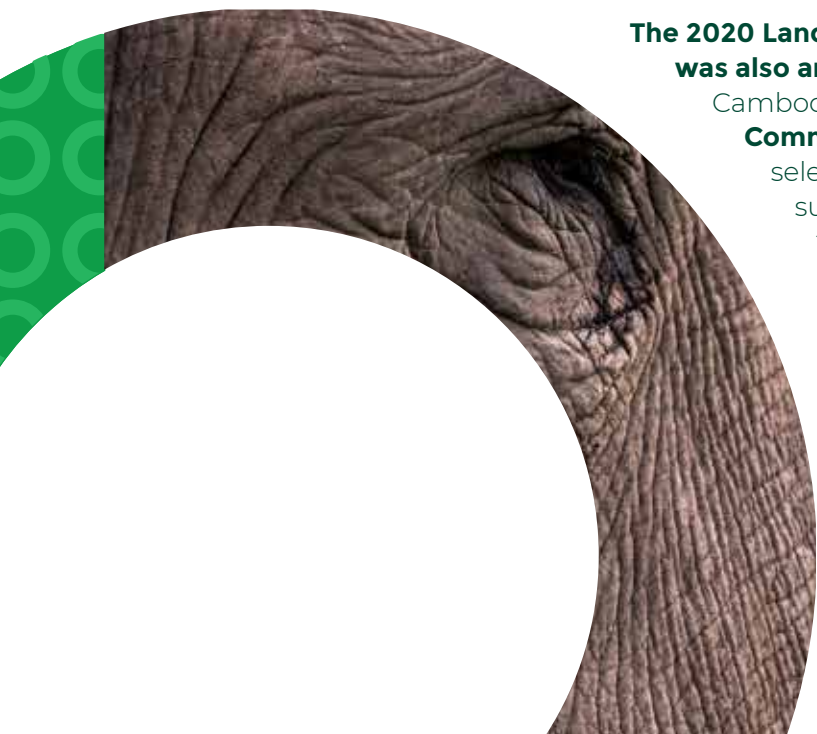
The 2020 Landscape Hero was also announced:

Cambodia's **Prey Lang Community Network**, selected from 80 submissions from the world. The award celebrates action to safeguard the planet's biodiversity.

Environmental specialist Jorge Watanabe emerged as 'audience favorite' for his landscape restoration initiative in Peru.

Youth and biodiversity

Youth, which GLF defines as ages 18-35, plays a prominent role in GLF's work, supported by such programs as **Biodiversity: a Digital Journey**. This learning experience for students and young professionals interested in becoming leaders in biodiversity and climate action, was developed through the GLF, the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) and the Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation (WCDI). The learning program involves digital collaboration with peers, networking sessions, inspiring



talks and skills-based training sessions to explore biocultural diversity in landscapes, climate action, biodiversity and finance, and nature-based solutions.

About 90 participants from over 40 countries completed the Biodiversity Journey in time to support the biodiversity conference as speakers and session facilitators. During the overall GLF event:

- **130 youth entered mentorship programs**
- **more than 50 young people volunteered as rapporteurs, online moderators**
- **28 youth acted as social media ambassadors**
- **more than 20 youth spoke in plenaries, sessions, launchpads**

Six GLF **Restoration Stewards** from six different ecosystems were announced. They will receive mentoring for one year from six partner organizations,

including CIFOR-ICRAF, in restoring landscapes while inspiring others.

As well, four 30-minutes 'Youth Daily Shows' saw 12 young experts addressing such key issues as the value of connecting with nature and impacts of monoculture in Latin America. These were organized with the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), and Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN).





The relationship between people and nature must be one of interdependence, otherwise we risk overlooking something that Indigenous Peoples have known all along: that we are nature and nature is us, and failing to see this simple truth is what has gotten us into this mess in the first place.



Tonio Sadik,
Director of Environment,
Assembly of First Nations (Canada)



The Green Deal is really one of the top priorities of the European Commission and biodiversity is one of the most important pillars of the Green Deal... with COVID-19, we will need a green recovery – and it has to be a GREEN recovery.



Philippe Mayaux,
Head of biodiversity,
DEVCO



We have to think seriously about succession planning for biodiversity conservation and use. Our youth plays a critical role in this area because when we retire, the baton needs to be passed on.



Mildred Crawford,
Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, Farmers Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Global Assembly of Partners towards Habitat III (GAP)

Cover photos by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR and Neil Palmer/CIAT. Inside photos by Marlon del Aguila, Neil Palmer/CIAT, Rifky/CIFOR and Yayan Indriatmoko/CIFOR

Host organizations



Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum, having reached almost 800 million people across the world and with the backing of its founders – the World Bank, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – is well-placed to facilitate and help guide these discussions and share knowledge in interactive digital spaces, leading the way for the conferences of now and the future.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIAMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMC, IUFRD, 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

GLF's sponsors make it possible for millions of people around the world to connect, share, learn and act in landscapes alongside a community dedicated to sustainable land use. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



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and Development



Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn

