



January 2021

# One World, One Health

## Open letter from youth



We, the youth of the world, have a plan for the health of the people and of our planet.

The current patterns of production, consumption, landscape degradation and pollution have led to the many challenges that all generations are collectively facing: particularly the biodiversity, climate and health crises.

*As youth, we are already taking action on these issues. Now we urge world leaders, decision-makers, civil society organizations, and individuals to recognize the importance of sustaining a healthy planet and address the inevitable products of our capitalist and colonial system.*

*We must achieve a world where all communities have access to restore and practice stewardship over their landscapes.*

*We need to find the resources and tools that are grounded in inclusive knowledge to build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world for current and future generations.*

*We need everyone to realise that the Earth's health is our health, and that having a safe place to call home is not an option, but a fundamental human right.*

### We demand transparency

*We call on all governments to legislate for greater transparency within the operating systems of industries and sectors directly and indirectly connected with climate change, biodiversity and health.*

A lack of transparency and free access to accurate and adequate data is hiding highly unsustainable supply chains, creating uncertainty around environmental impact assessments, fostering greenwashing tactics, and impeding civil society's ability to expose misinformation. Governments need to consider nature as an additional stakeholder and integrate the environment into all decisions. We wish to see biodiversity agreements, policies and legislative tools that will ensure that those actors who are responsible for harming our environment are held accountable, in order to safeguard human rights, including indigenous rights, in their implementation, and to guarantee the protection of environmental defenders

### We demand transformative education

*We call on all actors to recognize the complexity and interconnectivity of the ongoing crises and their countless implications, and to prioritize transformative education.*

We need transformative education to facilitate our reconnection with nature and to ensure that we value nature through personal and collective experiences. Transformative education should be informed by different ways of knowing, and it should focus on biological diversity, cultural diversity and heritage, and overall sustainability. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities can inform and shape transformative education, as they hold knowledge for studying and understanding the drivers of these crises, as well as for exploring the ways forward. Transformative education should be integrated into all educational systems and be promoted in informal education settings.

### We demand inclusion

*We call on all actors to understand that the key to resilience is found in diversity, not only in our ecosystems, but in our agricultural practices, our societies, and in our decision-makers.*

Pressures on biodiversity can vary, depending on local context, and therefore require a locally-led approach to biodiversity planning and protection. Rights-based approaches should inform conservation, restoration and sustainable resource use

while acknowledging that the rights of local communities and the integrity of local ecosystems are intrinsically interconnected. Indigenous Peoples, smallholding and landless agricultural producers, as well as local communities, must have their rights respected and the necessary resources to make informed decisions regarding the management of lands and waters. Sustainable agricultural practices are essential to food security and biodiversity protection, promoting peace and stability - particularly in regions where the impacts of the climate crisis are experienced unequally. Respecting the cultural and intellectual property rights of knowledge holders, is necessary for realizing a resilient present and establishing a sustainable future for people and the planet. A pathway for this can be the meaningful integration of extensive pre-existing Indigenous and local knowledge systems into global frameworks, policies, and programs.

## We demand transformative action

*We call on all communities, decision makers and the whole of society to recognize that the immediate, severe and disproportionate impacts of the biodiversity and climate crises require concerted and immediate transformative action.*

The relationship between humans and the environment has never been more important. It is time we recognize our collective contribution to the socio-ecological crisis. Women,

youth, children, and Indigenous Peoples, are among the many groups often marginalized in this crisis, leading them to become the most vulnerable and the most victimized. These communities need representation in governance to ensure that their needs are met today and in the future. Decision-makers and leaders must work together to immediately act upon the drivers that degrade the Earth's health and subsequently, human wellbeing. We also call on all governments to meaningfully engage with youth and youth-led networks, to learn, understand, and apply the actions necessary to achieve a just and equitable future in harmony with nature.

The mobilization of youth networks and organizations can be the catalyst for collective and robust action across all sectors and levels. Through advocacy, grassroots movements, and networking, we have been able to harness the power of our communities to share knowledge and promote actions needed for the future we want. We strongly believe that fostering inclusivity, diversity, and intergenerational equity, ensuring environmental justice and mainstreaming gender-responsiveness are crucial to overcoming the challenges we are facing. We, the youth, are committed to working diligently for our common present and future. We invite all generations, all world leaders, decision-makers, and the whole of society to join us in sustaining a safe, radically inclusive and healthy planet for all.

**Sign the Open Letter**

**Read the GLF Biodiversity Policy Recommendations**

### Written by:



### Reviewed by:



Illustration by Josie Ford, [studiojojo.co](http://studiojojo.co)

#### Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum, having reached almost 1 billion 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, 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