

One World, One Health

Recommendations to harness the power of landscapes



The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is to be adopted by the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, is expected to play a significant role in promoting solutions to conserve and sustainably use the planet's biodiversity. The framework's pathways to catalyze multilateral cooperation to support national action and ensure equitable access and benefit-sharing that arise from genetic resources¹ will promote resilience in the face of growing environmental, health and development challenges. In conjunction with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, the post-2020 biodiversity framework has the potential to promote the One Health approach, which recognizes the full range of linkages between biodiversity and all aspects of human health, and addresses the common drivers of biodiversity loss, disease risk and ill-health. Activities accompanying the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration are opportunities for the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) community to help to strengthen these guiding frameworks. During the **GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 "One World, One Health" (28-29 October 2020)**, GLF provided space for actors from across sectors to explore the relationships between biodiversity and health. In the course of the event, the GLF community came together and encouraged the world to harness the power of landscapes for transformative change towards radical inclusivity and sustainability.

The GLF community consists of thousands of scientists, environmental practitioners, policy makers, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth, the financial sector, private corporations, and the wider public from 7,400 organizations and 185 countries that have participated in GLF activities. This powerful network will be instrumental in successfully contributing to the implementation of biodiversity action plan, monitoring progress on global restoration efforts and sustaining momentum for building knowledge on the nexus between biodiversity and health.

¹ Access and benefit-sharing refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use. Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) sets out rules which govern access and benefit-sharing. Read more information: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/infokit/revise/web/factsheet-abs-en.pdf>

Recognizing the potential of the **landscape approach**² to contribute towards biodiversity targets, the GLF and the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) facilitated the co-creation of the GLF Biodiversity Policy Recommendations. This report brings together perspectives from the GLF community as represented in the **GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference** sessions and inputs from partner and youth organizations. To ensure the full inclusion of an intra- and intergenerational justice perspective in the final output, the synthesis and drafting processes were co-led by GLF, YIL and delegates representing 26 youth organizations. The youth delegates co-wrote an open letter outlining youth's needs from the international community in pursuing biodiversity and restoration targets for meeting the post-2020 biodiversity goals, achieving **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and realizing the CBD's **2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature"**.

Main messages of the policy recommendations report

To support transformative change towards living in harmony with nature, the GLF community has identified paradigm shifts that are necessary in five areas of sustainable development: integrating the landscape and One Health approaches across all sectoral policies and actions; mobilizing finances towards supporting best practices for biodiversity; decolonizing conservation and restoration language, knowledge and actions; mainstreaming environmental justice and intergenerational equity across all sectoral policies and actions; embracing transformative change towards collective action for biodiversity.

² Landscape approaches seek to provide tools and concepts for allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals...[Sayer et al. 2013 define] 10 summary principles to support implementation of a landscape approach...[that] emphasize adaptive management, stakeholder involvement, and multiple objectives." (Sayer et al., 2013)

The recommendations below represent calls to action from the GLF community that can support progress towards the necessary paradigm shifts. The accompanying pathways provide examples of specific priority themes, tools and frameworks that can support implementation.

Seven recommendations to harness the power of landscapes

1. Include public health perspectives in landscape and ecosystem management

The climate and biodiversity loss crises must be treated as pressing public health concerns. Many experts have called for closer collaboration between the landscape approach and the One Health approach. Decision-makers, scientists, communities and practitioners should work with public health experts, including traditional knowledge holders, in all stages of landscape management, conservation and restoration activities.

2. Transform financial structures for conservation and restoration, especially through re-targeting of subsidies and stimulating youth employment

National governments, in collaboration with regional and local governments, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society, should: emphasize holistic measures of prosperity that encompass more complex indicators; re-allocate harmful subsidies on the basis of local ecosystem and livelihood needs; promote sustainable procurement, investment and supply-chain infrastructure; and consider economic stimulus measures that promote youth capacity building and employment in conservation and restoration at scale.

3. Enable community ownership of decision-making structures and resource flows

Stronger measures are needed to promote community ownership of financing mechanisms, food systems and ensure greater agency in value chains. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, engaging with the growing number of landscape networks to build on local initiatives, enhancing capacity of and framework support for community-based business and young professionals for employment and building local processing and distribution infrastructure to shorten value chains.

4. Commit support to, and engage in, inclusive knowledge-sharing platforms

Platforms that facilitate global, regional and national cross-sectoral collaborations and trust-building can generate and sustain political support in achieving restoration and biodiversity goals. Platforms should strive for decentralized governance that spans sectors, regions and governance levels, and include expertise representing all stakeholder needs, especially knowledge from IPLC, women and youth.

5. Promote the application of rights-based approaches in sustainable development and upholding rights

Rights-based approaches for sustainable development can help clarify how decision-makers uphold rights; including by ensuring that rights holder participation is meaningful and that free, prior and informed consent is properly obtained. Specific IPLC rights to be addressed in international frameworks include but are not limited to land tenure, formalizing customary rights when possible, rights to produce and right to decide in spatial planning in area-based conservation and restoration measures.

6. Scale local initiatives and successes, in lieu of imposing solutions top-down

Scaling locally managed initiatives can tackle local environmental challenges and address global ones. Building the capacity of Indigenous, local and young researchers and storytellers can conserve critical ecological knowledge. Tools for intra- and inter-community learning can help to build capacity while promoting community ownership over solutions, measures and actions.

7. Support communities which have the most at stake in the climate, health and biodiversity crises to own development discourse

Communities often risk losing ownership over paradigms in which they have high stakes, such as “nature-based solutions”. Space in international fora prevents co-opting of these concepts at communities’ expense, such as via greenwashing. Through a landscape approach lens, the local concepts, needs and debates can be included at regional, national and international decision making levels.

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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