



GLF Bonn 2019

# Rights in the landscape

Concept note | 22 – 23 June 2019 Bonn, Germany

## GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM BONN 2019: RIGHTS-LED TRANSFORMATION TOWARD CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

Throughout 2019, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) will focus the world's attention on the fundamental importance of securing rights to change the course of the current environmental crisis. In a series of events, the GLF will explore the essential contributions made by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, rural women and youth to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets laid out in the Paris Agreement on climate change. The aim is to highlight the transformative role of rights and rights-based approaches, and how they can contribute to a more just, sustainable and prosperous future for the

global community through landscapes. These priorities will be the central focus of the annual GLF conference in Bonn, Germany on 22–23 June alongside the intersessional U.N. climate talks, making it the world's single largest forum on rights and sustainable landscapes.

To catalyze social and environmental transformation, the GLF is structured as a co-learning movement incorporating the voices, knowledge and priorities of socially, economically and politically marginalized groups in the development of land-based solutions to climate change, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and increasing global sustainability. By recognizing Indigenous Peoples and local communities as rights-holders and bearers of solutions, as opposed to mere “beneficiaries” of proposed development and climate interventions within their own landscapes, the GLF aims to foster new forms of collaboration, anchored in a common understanding that justice and equity are essential to sustainable and inclusive development.

### Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is a collaborative, mobile platform for discussions leading to action on landscape restoration, rights, finance, food and livelihood initiatives. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), supported by UN Environment and the World Bank. In conjunction with its many charter members, GLF also tracks and measures progress on meeting the targets laid out in the UN Paris Agreement on climate change and the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Core funding is provided by the government of Germany.

**Charter members:** CIRAD, CIFOR, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Ecoagriculture Partners, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, IPMG, CIAT, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, INBAR, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Agroforestry, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL), World Bank Group

Funding partners



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

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Policies and investments that recognize the importance of traditional knowledge, tenure security and the right to self-determination are essential for sparking progress towards climate-resilient landscapes. It is vital that the abilities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, rural women and youth, are recognized and supported to ensure they continue to play a substantial role in the sustainable use and governance of the world's landscapes to achieve our common social, economic and environmental goals.

**Conference objectives:**

- To amplify the transformational role of rights in the identification and implementation of solutions to sustainable development that address environmental challenges such as climate change
- To enhance the global narrative that recognizes the men and women of indigenous and local communities as bearers of rights and solutions to our common challenges
- To launch a new collaborative partnership that will develop best practice 'Guiding Principles to Rights Based Approaches' to inform global policy agendas and interventions across the landscape for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

**CONTEXT**

Despite suffering some of the worst consequences of climate change and unsustainable development, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have still been able to maintain their landscapes among the best conserved. Yet, their ability to keep doing this, and thus the effectiveness of their contribution to reach global goals, is dependent upon whether their rights are recognized and respected. Although the rights of these groups are recognized in formal international agreements, exercising them still remains a challenge in many cases. Beyond steps taken to formalize rights, a lack of legal security and rule of law, illustrated in intimidation, criminalization and persecution of communities and their leaders, limits the ability of people to exercise and defend these rights. Furthermore, the 2018 U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C recommended highly technical solutions to transform unsustainable human activities. It downplays the connection between rights and climate change, undermining the central role that Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in aiding the transformation of environment and development pathways.

However, the importance of locally driven stewardship practices has been recognized and reaffirmed in the recent introduction of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the umbrella of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the newly adopted U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People

Working in Rural Areas. These stewardship practices have the potential to transform development trajectories, address climate change and help meet the SDG targets through global and local efforts across landscapes.

Building on this momentum and the GLF's dedication to highlighting innovative ideas and solutions, strengthening knowledge and action, and fostering mutual trust and collaboration, the forum aims to make this year a turning point for how rights, traditional knowledge and proposed solutions from the ground are respected, considered and implemented in policymaking, consumer decisions, action on the ground, global business models and investment cycles. The GLF will seek the widespread adoption of a rights-based approach to sustainability that recognizes and protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to territory and resources, and participation in their governance. Local and indigenous groups and their self-determination must play a central role in this paradigm shift to ensure that adopted solutions are socially just, politically acceptable and ensure the long-term engagement by all relevant stakeholders.

At this event – and throughout the broader pursuit of its mission – the GLF will bring together various stakeholders to generate a cohesive dialogue to reconceptualize how to approach often fragmented activities in the landscape originating from competing interests. Men and women of all ages from indigenous and local, scientific, governmental, the corporate, academic, and development communities, with expertise and experience in landscape management will meet and trade ideas in a space intended to be uniquely collaborative. The goal is to create an environment free of the political constraints, bureaucratic structures, traditional gender role paradigms, social inequalities and power dynamics of other international forums to unlock the potential for real and lasting change. Emphasis will be on discussing how to reconceptualize interactions and activities within and across communities. To address the challenges of bringing different systems of knowledge and understanding into conversation and collaboration, the GLF will generate activities to shape an atmosphere conducive to transformational learning where participants will be invited to step back and reflect on how they consider and



approach pressing issues on rights. Through this process, participants can co-learn through better understanding their own positions, perspectives and perceptions as well as those of other actors. This experience will foster more meaningful and effective partnerships, avoid and overcome potential conflicts, and advance global inclusivity and understanding. Hence, it will ultimately contribute to more determined decision-making by all actors and at all policy levels.

## GUIDING THEMES AND TOPICS

### **Community solutions: Local landscape management for increased sustainability**

This theme will showcase a variety of community-led and locally defined initiatives and approaches to landscape restoration, biodiversity protection, agriculture, climate change mitigation and adaptation, forest management and other activities, which can be put into practice more broadly around the world. Participants will discuss the current challenges and opportunity for upscaling of existing success stories of local governance. This includes concrete means and supportive (multi-level) governance structures for various stakeholders to exchange, negotiate and collaborate at the implementation level, and collaborative arrangements between communities and the private sector, U.N. agencies, civil society organizations and governments.

### **Putting women at the center: Roles and challenges women face**

This theme will feature initiatives and experiences of women in exercising their rights, including the unique challenges they face, their aspirations and the lessons they have learned. It will also include discussions of best practices for women's inclusion and empowerment in policies, programs, business models and strategies for sustainable landscapes. It will shed light on which international and national regulatory frameworks could support such models and strategies.

### **Promoting land tenure and supportive legal frameworks**

This theme will explore challenges and best practices in governance, policymaking, investment, and local and national government for land reform policies – and policy coherence – related to the tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It will showcase community initiatives for land recognition, including social and legal research concerning regulatory frameworks and power imbalances in governance, community mapping, advocacy efforts and their links to the national level. Case studies will focus on the process of securing land rights in various countries.

### **Challenges to securing and enhancing land and resource tenure rights for indigenous and local communities**

This theme will include presentations by indigenous and community group representatives to showcase their challenges in securing land rights. It will also explore related issues, including exercising rights to use natural resources and undertake agricultural practices in relation to food security and sovereignty, power imbalances, context specific incentive



structures for (un)sustainable management of resources and restoration or ways to bridge between different interests in land use. Aspects of power asymmetries across policy levels and sectors will be under scrutiny. Participants will also discuss initiatives and concrete actions that relevant actors and stakeholders must take to address barriers and challenges.

### **Developing best practice guidance principles for rights-based approaches to sustainable landscapes**

This theme will identify lessons and best practices for re-thinking safeguards that can overcome disregard for rights as well as the criminalization and persecution of activists. It will seek to reframe safeguards as ways to empower communities rather than as tools to discourage negative impacts, and see this new framing reflected in policy. Proposed sessions may lead to revision of existing standards and methods of implementation, or discussions on concrete tools and strategies, guiding principles or supportive political frameworks in the context of such landscape restoration initiatives as AFR 100 and the Bonn Challenge. With this in mind, partnerships can be built in support of and to accelerate the common adoption of best practice guiding principles for rights-based approaches to sustainable landscapes.

### **Addressing the growing threats of rollback, violence and criminalization to the rights of environmental and land defenders**

Crucial to the development of best practice guiding principles, this theme will focus on emerging political narratives that risk minimizing political space for legitimate civil society engagement in many countries, and the growing threat of violence that rural, peasant and indigenous communities face. Participants will discuss ways to counteract the rise of populist agendas, opportunities to enhance coordination and collective action, the role of social media in social, political and economic marginalization, and tools and strategies for inspiring support for communities, including those related to good rural governance in support of rights-based approaches or through consumer support in sustainable supply chains.

### **Innovations to enhance rights-based approaches in landscape-based development**

This theme will explore how innovative initiatives and technologies are being harnessed to advance the rights and livelihoods of indigenous and community groups. The spectrum could range from blockchain technology ensuring fair benefits in supply chains to getting remote areas on the grid through renewable energy, and from communities using drones to monitor landscape boundaries to new techniques aiding climate change adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable landscapes.

### **Integrating and mainstreaming traditional knowledge and practices in sustainable landscape management and restoration**

Indigenous and local community leaders in landscapes, scientists, policymakers, research institutions and environmental organizations will engage in interactive exchanges on the critical role and importance of traditional knowledge and practices in sustainable landscape management and restoration. They will discuss initiatives to promote and integrate local know-how into their work on sustainable landscapes, including pathways to shape policies, strategies and links between sustainable land use practices and ecosystem conservation, for example, through Indigenous Peoples' territories and community conserved areas.

### **Right to finance: Good practices, partnerships and new methods of financing community-based solutions**

Participants will showcase efforts in financing community-based solutions. They will discuss actions for scaling up direct access to financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and opportunities to strengthen local partnerships, while ensuring sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing are taken into account. This theme will also showcase innovative community-centered business and finance models and supply chains for potential replication and wider implementation. It will involve discussing fair practical ways for improving access to finance for rural communities. For example, through reallocating public national budgets or by enhancing the legal preconditions for smallholders and peasant farmers to better qualify for micro-loans.

### **Rights in the private sector: Business models to secure and support community and indigenous land rights**

The private sector, including agribusiness and forest operators or large-scale investors involved in land use, together with representatives from Indigenous Peoples and local communities and engaged civil society, will discuss successful business models for securing and supporting community and indigenous land rights. Complementing the elaboration of best practice approaches to rights-based landscape management in business and industry, locally defined economic alternatives and solutions will also be in the spotlight. This will allow a comprehensive overview on the transformational role of rights to drive sustainable solutions in the business sector.

## **YOUTH**

The growth of social consciousness and global mindedness, supported by the use of social media, has resulted in more and more young people eager to address environmental challenges to sustainable development. Millions of young people are taking to the streets, walking out of classrooms, developing innovative projects and changing their consumption habits in order to create the future they want.

As young people take a stand in countries around the world, it is vital that the change they demand reverses inequality and promotes equity. To empower and train young leaders to adopt rights-based approaches in climate action and champion rights especially in rural landscapes, the GLF, with the Youth in Landscapes Initiative, will host an intensive workshop on environmental justice in collaboration with key partners from relevant organizations operating in their home countries.

## **LEARNING**

Fear not long monologues and PowerPoint presentations, as dedicated learning activities at GLF Bonn 2019 will revolve around person-to-person engagement. The GLF Landscape Learning Pavilion will feature 12 highly interactive mini-workshops where participants can learn from indigenous community members, farmers, community based



organizations, leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, journalists and more. The pavilion will encompass a world of views and knowledge, with sessions featuring landscape restoration and governance, multi-stakeholder dialogue, cultural landscapes and much more.

## EVENT STRUCTURE

The GLF Bonn 2019 annual conference will take place on 22–23 June, 2019 at the Maritim Hotel, midway through the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meetings in Bonn. It is projected to be the largest conference on rights in 2019. Approximately 1,500 experienced practitioners from around the world are expected to attend. A further 30,000 people are expected to follow the online digital edition.

GLF Bonn 2019 will be hosted by an indigenous youth spokesperson as Master of Ceremonies, and a central Indigenous Peoples' Pavilion will provide insights, information and a series of workshops and inspiring speakers. The event will start with an opening welcome ceremony, followed by various interactive sessions, including the "Voices of the Landscape" plenary, showcasing local and traditional solutions to global challenges through forest conservation, landscape restoration and biodiversity conservation, among other initiatives.

The other plenaries, interactive sessions, Landscape Talks, side events, media launchpads, digital summits and participant engagement activities will cover different aspects of how rights play into the various issues within the GLF's other four themes (restoration, finance, food and livelihoods, and measuring progress), such as the role of rights in agriculture, private investment, supply chains and restoration commitments.

As a core feature of the event will be the launch of a new collaborative partnership to begin work on establishing global best practice guiding principles to rights-based approaches to sustainable landscapes. Intended to be implemented in 2020, these principles will be backed by experiential evidence from existing efforts, including the Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples, the use of technology in rights security (for example blockchain, digital custodians, and crypto currency) and rights-based conservation through such initiatives as the Land Rights Now campaign or the new Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. Work on the Principles will occur throughout the year, at other GLF events and through its various platforms.

The event will end with a reception featuring cultural activities, including performances, music and highlights of key messages and outcomes from the two days.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The GLF will leverage its extensive traditional and digital media networks to bring international, regional and national attention to the annual forum in Bonn, highlighting key speeches, discussions, work of standout participants and commitments announced at the event. The campaign will

last for two months covering pre-, during- and post-event stages, latest news, Ask Me Anything sessions and television interviews around the developing agenda, hosts, speakers and participants.

Landscape News, the GLF news platform, will cover key topics and discussions through long-format pieces and podcasts with a team of global journalists. Compelling pieces will be translated into German, French and Spanish. Sessions held at the venue will be streamed live across GLF social platforms and website, while virtual moderators will guide the conversation in livestream chat rooms, interviews with speakers and participants, and digital sessions. A series of capacity building workshops will be curated around the event, ranging from journalist and communications training on cutting-edge digital tools, to youth workshops that aim to nurture the skills and mindsets of the leaders of tomorrow.

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: IN BONN AND ONLINE

The GLF Bonn 2019 agenda aims to create an immersive experience for a global audience, providing opportunities for people to participate in a wide range of ways in-person and online, from polls and question and answer sessions to interactive sessions and launches of major new initiatives.

To maximize the outreach and impact of the event and encourage global action on issues and solutions discussed, the entire event will be livestreamed across the GLF's social media and online platforms, emceed by dynamic moderators well-versed in the issues at hand. Complementing the onsite event, the GLF digital experience will also feature talks and discussions exclusively produced for online.

To learn more about the many ways to participate by hosting and/or attending various activities – Landscape Talks, plenaries, side-events Digital Summits, learning courses and more – please visit our [webpage](#), or contact the **GLF coordination team** at [globallandscapesforumInfo@cgjar.org](mailto:globallandscapesforumInfo@cgjar.org).

## RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: GLF IN KYOTO, BONN, LUXEMBOURG CITY AND ACCRA

Through various lenses, audiences and locations, the GLF will explore and accelerate all aspects of the importance of rights in landscapes throughout the year.

**GLF Kyoto** (13 May) will build up to GLF Bonn 2019 by emphasizing the necessity of rights for greater learning and awareness of solutions based on traditional knowledge. In collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, GLF

Kyoto will showcase case studies from communities around the world on land tenure and customary land-use practices, ways to support rights on the ground, how to exchange knowledge with local communities on the frontline of climate change and methods for successful partnership with indigenous and local communities. In Kyoto, work will also begin on the identification of best practices to feed into the aforementioned rights based approach principles.

Following Bonn, the GLF is planning a possible side-event to the UN Climate Summit in New York (e.g. on 28 September) partnering with UN Environment and the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of UN Environment in the official launch of the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Indigenous groups and rights-focused organizations convening in New York at this time can come together through the GLF to contribute to roadmaps for work on this major new initiative, for which GLF will serve as a major platform.

GLF Accra 2019 (31 October-1 November) will emphasize rights specifically in the context of Africa. The role of rights and traditional knowledge will be examined in restoration, sustainable supply chains, conservation, livelihoods and food security across the continent and from a landscape perspective.

The 4th GLF Investment Case will be held in Luxembourg City (30 November) and will unveil innovative investment models and explore lessons from public-private partnerships

in sustainable investment. It will also showcase the developments involved in establishing rights based approach principles, community-centered business and finance models and supply chains, and the latest technological innovations aiding the security of rights.

## CONCLUSION

Bringing rights to the forefront of the global dialogue on climate change, sustainable landscapes and development, is a call to action to re-engage with the current environmental crisis as human made, a problem that can also be solved by people. Looking at our planet through the lens of rights also summons a critical appreciation of how humans have engaged with the planet and highlights the need to learn from those who have often been marginalized. Recognizing and upholding the rights of the most world's most vulnerable communities can positively transform development frameworks through landscape approaches if partnerships among all actors in landscapes – from youth to world leaders, and from indigenous and local communities to international organizations – are nurtured and supported.

The GLF looks forward to working with all of its charter members and partners at GLF Bonn 2019 and throughout the year. The GLF believes that the necessary shift toward recognizing and respecting rights and traditional knowledge in sustainable land use is possible and within reach through this collaboration.





Photos by Faizal Abdul Aziz/CIFOR, Rifky/CIFOR, Nkumi Mtingwa/CIFOR, Axel Fassio/CIFOR, Marlon del Aguila/CIFOR, Ulet Ifansasti/CIFOR, Pilar Valbuena/GLF, Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR



The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers and community leaders and civil society to accelerate action toward the creation of more resilient, equitable, profitable and climate-friendly landscapes. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment and The World Bank launched the Forum in Warsaw in 2013, alongside the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP). With core funding provided by the Government of Germany, GLF is entering its next five-year phase with the launch of a movement of 1 billion people toward the creation of sustainable landscapes.

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