Global Landscapes Forum

Food in the time of climate crisis
How to feed the world without eating the planet?

3-5 June, 2020
Bonn, Germany

GLF Bonn
Digital Summit

Experience the future of conferences and connect, share, learn and act through this three-day GLF event featuring inspirational talks, interactive sessions and idea exchange toward building more sustainable food systems.

On 3-5 June, GLF will host one of the world’s first global digital conference on integrated land use from its new digital broadcasting center in Bonn, Germany, marking a new era for global conversation without a carbon footprint.

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Launching a decade of action

2020 marks the start of what many believe will be the most important decade of the century. The global community has committed itself to ending poverty, hunger, malnutrition, gender inequality and the degradation of ecosystems by 2030, as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 2 specifically seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security. At the same time, SDG 12 calls for responsible consumption and production; SDG 14 urges us to conserve and sustainably use the oceans; SDG 15 focuses on preserving terrestrial ecosystems, or life on land; and SDG 13 promises to deliver climate action. That is a big ask.

The 2020 theme of GLF is “Food and Livelihoods.” Today, agricultural production, mostly for food, is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions, a main driver of deforestation and the greatest threat to biodiversity. At the same time, biodiversity loss and land degradation are two sides of the same coin and need to be addressed simultaneously. One of the root problems in degraded lands is the loss of biological diversity. Biodiversity is often threatened by competing land uses, one of the key themes that the Landscape Approach seeks to address. Investing in sustainable landscapes is often the solution to increasing biodiversity and vice versa. It’s time to transform these problems into opportunities.

Event Topics

Can a population of nearly 10 billion sustainably feed and nourish itself in 2050? By highlighting opportunities for large-scale and system-wide transformations and successful initiatives, GLF Bonn 2020 will illustrate a future for sustainable agriculture and food production systems.

Climate action

How can we reduce emissions from agriculture by 30% by 2030? How can we address risks to food security related to mitigating land use and climate impacts, e.g. increasing competition for land from the non-food bioproduction sector (timber, bioenergy, etc.), and promote seed system diversity for climate adaptation? How can agroecosystems store more carbon in biomass and in soils without losing their productive function?

Forests and trees

How do forests and trees contribute to nourishing the planet? How does the current food system put forested landscapes at risk? How do the crises of malnutrition and deforestation interact? What can we do to make sure that the solutions for one of these crises do not worsen the other?

Regenerative agriculture

What practices already exist for producing nutritious foods while maintaining or enhancing biodiversity and improving resilience? We will explore such practices as: including ‘trees on farm’ approaches, regenerative agricultural techniques, organic pest control, biofertilizers, agroecology, etc. We will try to see how to foster such approaches at a larger scale.

Biodiversity

Science has warned that biodiversity losses due to climate change could result in perilous drops in crop and fish yields, threatening food security already menaced by violent, damaging floods and other natural disasters. Crop pollination, natural water purification, flood protection, carbon sequestration and other benefits that biodiverse ecosystems provide have already been declining. Looking ahead to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in October in Kunming, China, we are asking what measures should be taken instead?

Finance for food

How can we provide finance at scale and what concrete role will (mainstream) investors play for funding the transition to more sustainable food systems? How can corporations and big agri-businesses contribute to sustainable landscapes within their own balance sheets? How can public finance support leveraging additional or diverting existing financial streams, e.g. in value chains?

Youth

How can we build on youth climate activism and momentum build to advocate for a new food future? What opportunities can be developed for the creation of well-paid and satisfactory jobs in agriculture? How is a cross-sectoral alliance of young change-makers furthering the creation and adoption of innovations in food and agricultural landscapes?

The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

How can we scale up ecosystem restoration efforts that contribute to development, food security and nutritional needs in a future world of 10 billion? What will be the role of regenerative agriculture in this effort? What are the trade-offs, among restoration, food and nutrition security, and climate, and how can efforts and initiatives be closely aligned?

Politics of food

What policy measures are available to support transformational changes in the agricultural and food sectors in both producer and consumer realms, including for incentivizing contributions to biodiversity or food security? How will we effectively incentivize, monitor and validate changes in practice that lead to improved soil, biodiversity or other benefits? How do current incentives work against realizing a more sustainable and equitable food system?
Health and consumption
How can we achieve transformative change from farm to fork from a consumer and health-focused perspective? What approaches exist for tackling malnutrition, addressing shifts from animal to plant-based diets in rich countries and drastically reducing food waste? How may these approaches differ among the Global South and Global North?

Ongoing GLF topics
How do we bring in the world’s diverse landscapes, including peatlands, as well as Indigenous and local community rights into the conversation and the solution to food security and nutritional needs? How do we address and further gender specific solutions? How can we identify and launch the latest knowledge and instruments required to measure and track progress throughout the decade?

Experience a climate-smart future with GLF Bonn 2020
GLF Bonn 2020 will pioneer a new way of experiencing conferences and engaging in global dialogue without vast carbon footprints. It will break geographical divides and cultural boundaries by eliminating the costs that often lead to the exclusion of certain vital voices. With the help of the latest technology and a state-of-the-art digital center, sponsored by the Foundation for International Dialogue of Sparkasse Bank in Bonn, GLF Bonn will foster a worldwide online conversation on revolutionizing global food production systems.

Building on the success of GLF Kyoto 2019, which saw thousands gather online for a 24-hour virtual world tour from Brazil to Indonesia to Kenya and more, this three-day event will continue to push the horizon of digital conferencing through interactive sessions, inspirational talks, documentary screenings and exclusive interviews streamed live from Bonn as well as landscapes and cities around the world. Participants will experience crowdsourced idea-sharing, networking to connect activities, digital scavenger hunts, learning journeys, live polls and more.

Join the community of visionaries and change-makers committed to slashing their carbon footprint to shape a new future for food.
Communications

In the same spirit of GLF Kyoto (GLF’s first 24-hour digital summit) and the recent launch of GLF’s Digital Broadcasting Center, the GLF Bonn campaign is not limited to what happens during the event. The communications team will create sticky content aimed at sparking and transforming ideas to feed into the challenge of how to feed the world sustainably. Landscape News and GLF’s social media channels will create, curate and post content in English, French and Spanish.

The GLF will leverage its extensive media channels and networks to bring new attention to the digital event. A digital campaign will promote themes, ideas, before, during and throughout the rest of the year covering the latest news and research, rich media content and video interviews aimed at breaking down complex topics for a broader audience. GLF will conduct polls on social media and use social listening tools to gauge online audience interest in certain topics and engagement preferences. The focus of GLF’s communication efforts will be engagement, capturing the attention of online viewers - speaking to their identity and values, raising awareness and encouraging thoughtful debate.