



Global  
Landscapes  
Forum

GLF Bonn  
Digital  
Conference  
2020

GLF BONN DIGITAL CONFERENCE

# FOOD



In the time  
of crises



**Donor and  
Partner Report**

June 2020

# FOOD



In the time  
of crises



Digital knowledge commons have the potential to become global system disruptors, a game changer no less powerful than the printing press. And GLF can lead that disruption to create a global landscape that is more productive, more prosperous, more equitable and more resilient – for the people and the planet.

**John Colmey,**  
GLF managing director



The current pandemic shows the great importance of good governance and joint action.

**Maria Flachsbarth,**  
Parliamentary State Secretary Federal  
Ministry of Economic Cooperation and  
Development (BMZ)



We cannot go on with business as usual. We have to do better, and use this window of opportunity to invest in nature.

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

## Social media

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**235,000**

engagements

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**50.5  
million**

reach

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**191  
million**

impressions

## Traditional media

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**135  
million**

reach

## Total sponsor impressions

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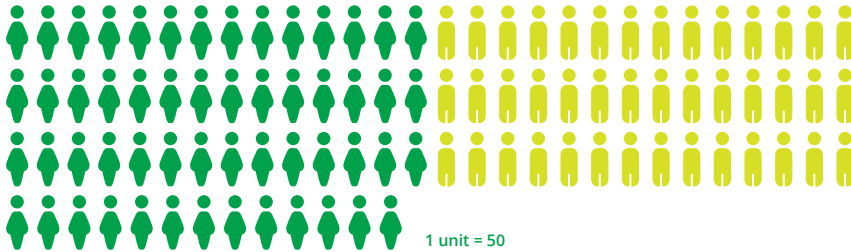
**2,853,419**

reach

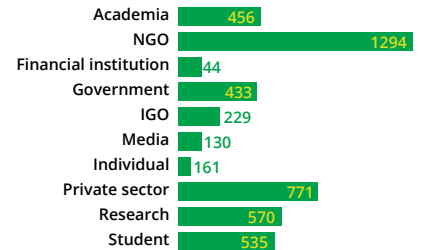


## Participants

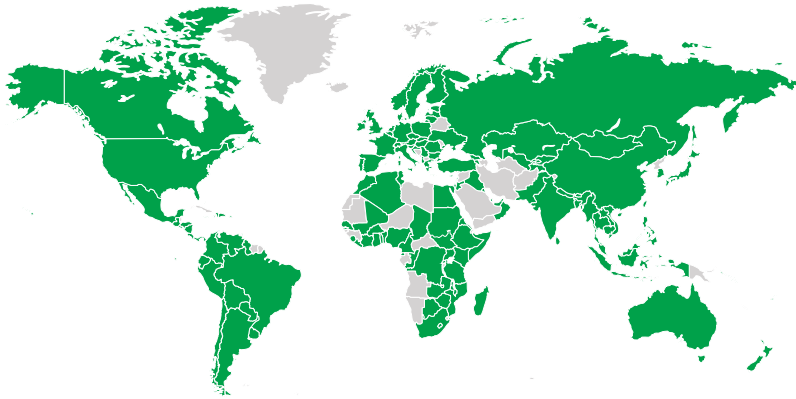
**4,924**  
people



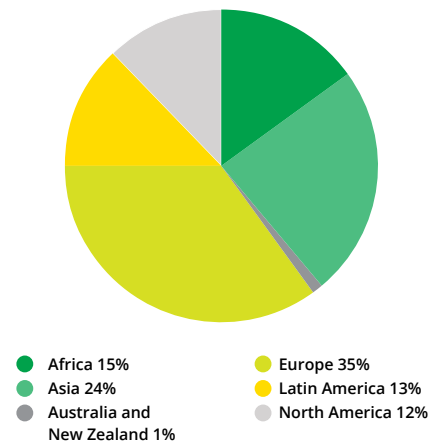
**10**  
sectors



**146**  
countries



**6**  
regions



## Event



**89**  
sessions



**300**  
speakers



**77,000**  
session  
views

## Learning tracks

**73%**  
participation



Storytelling



Measuring  
Progress



Finance & Value  
Chains

## Networking



**130**  
virtual  
meetups



**22,293**  
messages  
sent between  
participants





That's really the message: Small-scale family farming, diversity of crops, engaging the local people and helping them understand the need for conservation, and giving them the tools so that they could do conservation for themselves.



**Jane Goodall,**  
founder of The Jane Goodall  
Institute and a United Nations  
Messenger of Peace



My dream for the future is that access to good nutrition will not be dependent on income and that we will finally be able to democratize good-for-you foods while empowering local farmers along the way.



**Ada Osakwe,**  
founder and chief executive  
of Agrolay Ventures

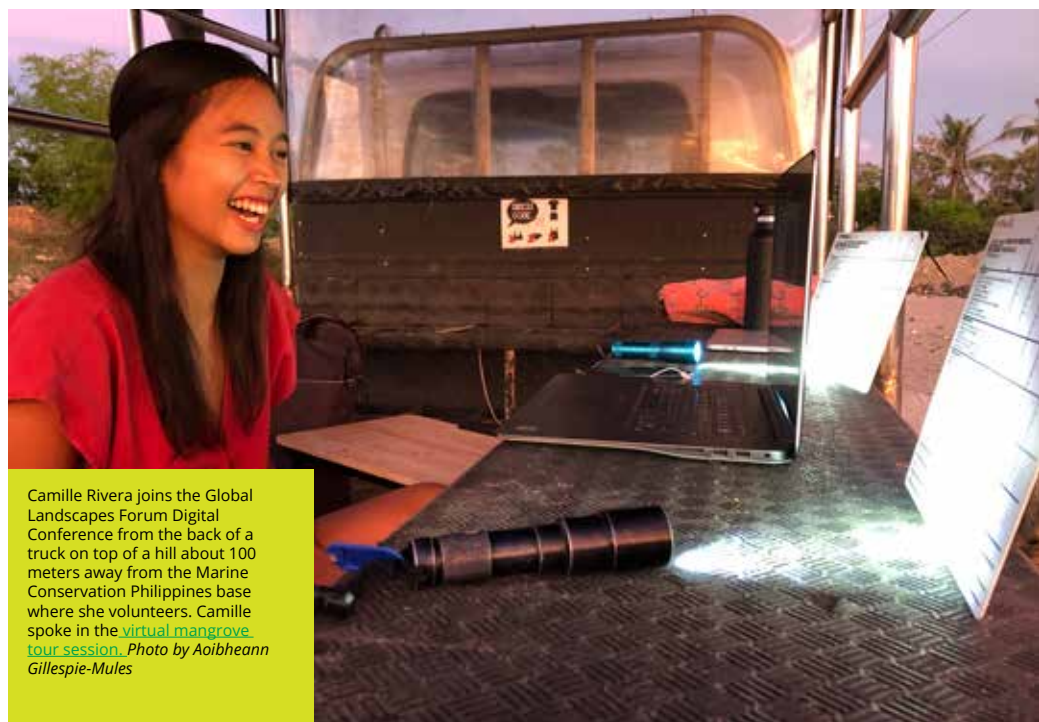
## GLF brings world together in largest digital environment conference

On 3-5 June, Jane Goodall, Indian Yogi Sadhguru, UN Environment Programme's Inger Anderson, members of the German environment ministry, the Indonesian environment and forestry minister, and more than 300 other speakers from around the world reimaged the future of food amid recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic in a global first: the largest-ever Global Landscapes Forum with 4,924 people from 146 countries joining in digitally. The event tackled the transformation of global food systems while laying the foundation for global climate change conferences by bringing people together in a carbon-saving, interactive online space.

"These kinds of events are what digital does well," said media theorist from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Douglas Rushkoff during [a session on media consumption and how it shapes narratives](#). "We need more [events] like this, rather than killing the planet."

With the support of the German government and the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank (Sparkasse) in Bonn, the event reached over 50 million people through social media platforms on six continents. The global and diverse audience tuned into panel discussions, talks with experts, [documentary screenings](#) and other activities related to the future of food within the context of the food, biodiversity and climate crises, COVID-19 pandemic and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The last day of the conference also coincided with World Environment Day.

As social and climate justice comes ever more into the foreground, and in the wake of major climate change events including COP 26 being canceled due to COVID-19, the digital format of the event saw more inclusivity and drastically reduced emissions as compared to multi-day in-person events.



Camille Rivera joins the Global Landscapes Forum Digital Conference from the back of a truck on top of a hill about 100 meters away from the Marine Conservation Philippines base where she volunteers. Camille spoke in the [virtual mangrove tour session](#). Photo by Aoibheann Gillespie-Mules

Compared with last year's physical event where 600 people attended, the participants this year exchanged 22,293 messages and arranged 130 virtual meetups using digital conferencing technology. Participants could access the conference on every device, including their phones in the most remote places.

"I can't believe it. I am in the middle of the nomadic Mongolian countryside and enjoying the Global Landscapes Forum [Digital Conference]. Thanks to the digital world," said one participant.

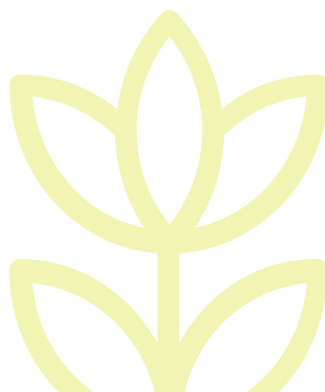
As countries draft recovery plans from COVID-19, experts see an unprecedented opportunity to 'build back better,' including through integrated land-use planning that can support climate change goals, more sustainable and resilient food systems and equitable human rights. This will require designing systems that support small farmers and eating locally, pillared on cross-sector policies, subsidies that promote the conservation of natural resources, and stimulus packages that seek to advance international commitments including the Paris Agreement, the Biodiversity Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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.

## About GLF

After first launching a Digital Edition of its conference in Kyoto last year, the GLF has now taken the concept further by staging and broadcasting a fully digital conference from Bonn. This provided a vision for the future as governments and business leaders weigh the benefits of a permanent shift to online meetings and home-office arrangements in a post-COVID-19 world. The breakthrough conference proved to be an innovative way to share democratized knowledge by linking landscape stakeholders from different continents and social backgrounds. Its fully online format can now be used as a blueprint for other event organizers wishing to connect large numbers of people simultaneously while eliminating the carbon emissions from air travel.

"This is one of the world's first global online digital conferences on sustainable land use, marking a new era in global conversation. Only recently, the Global Landscapes Forum opened a state-of-the-art Digital Broadcasting Center with funding by the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank in Bonn. Following the GLF event, Bonn will now assume a new role as a central digital knowledge and news center, connecting leaders and experts from around the world - all virtually - in the spirit of cooperation which characterizes this international city." [Mayor Ashok Sridharan of Bonn, Germany](#)



99.9% of humanity knows that reconnecting with nature is the only way to overcome the challenges we face. Nature is the lifeblood of society, the core of society.

**David Nabarro,**  
special envoy to the World Health Organization on COVID-19



Not many people can travel to these faraway places where we can see climate change happening every single second ... virtual reality helps us transport the viewer to that story so that they can see with their own eyes what that change actually looks like.

**Viktorija Mickute,**  
AI Jazeera journalist



I'm immensely thankful to the [GLF] organizers for making such a huge and important event accessible or everyone in the world by doing it all online. I would never have been able to afford it.

**Participant,**  
El Salvador



Agriculture is supposed to be about biodiversity, about caring for the land. The history of industrial agriculture is a very recent mistake, and it must be corrected.



**Vandana Shiva**  
Indian scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate



A sustainable diet is when human beings take responsibility for their food, when we recognize peasant work, when we value the flavors behind each food, when we enjoy with all our being the connection between ancestral knowledge and the flavors that we can now enjoy.

**Dalí Nolasco Cruz,**  
coordinator, Red Indigenous Tierra Madre Slow Food Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean



A woman cleans maize in Gwena, Kassena Nankana District in Ghana. Due to the essential role of maize in the food security of the country, numerous studies have been conducted to estimate how its production is being affected now and likely to be affected in future by climate change. Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

The intimate link between human and planetary health and the intersection between science and traditional knowledge ran as a thread through the 60 sessions and 130 virtual meetups of the event – a conference that assembled top scientists, policy-makers and representatives of organizations such as FAO, WWF, UNEP and the World Bank, alongside Indigenous activists and communities, leaders of the youth climate movement, an astronaut, a Vatican representative, pioneers of environmental journalism, farmers and landscape restoration experts.

From [cooking shows to data science workshops](#), the GLF also experimented with a range of new formats to engage its digital audience. Chef Ada Parellada [introduced viewers to arròs amb conill](#), a traditional Catalan rice dish. Made entirely from locally-sourced and seasonal produce, the dish is designed to be made from leftovers to ensure that no food goes to waste.

Ghanaian musician and activist Rocky Dawuni made [a surprise cameo](#), performing an acoustic rendition of his latest song, “Champion Arise”. “It’s a song about all of us harnessing our individual and collective power to push forward and become catalysts for positive change around the world,” said Dawuni.

Participants were also treated to a [Zoom-powered tour of mangrove ecosystems](#) on the Philippine island of Negros, guided by local conservation expert Camille Rivera. Local community members are working to reforest the area and prevent illegal fishing, as shown in Hidden Heroes, an accompanying short documentary by filmmakers Michael Du and Justin Davey.



## Youth

Youth, which GLF defines as ages 18-35, are [playing a prominent role in forging a sustainable and food secure future](#). The Global Landscapes Forum and the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) have created the [Generation Restoration](#) program to help young professionals [promote restoration activities and youth leadership](#) contributing to global restoration movements.

As part of this program, YIL carried out its first zero-carbon, digital forum covering the topic “Restore Our Planet” as a half-day event from the GLF Digital Broadcasting Center on 2 June.

It also live-streamed three 30-minute “Daily Shows” during the lunch breaks at the GLF Bonn 2020 conference to creatively share youth perspectives and contributions on the topic of [sustainable diets](#), [food sovereignty](#) and [food waste](#).

During the GLF Bonn 2020, 2,592 youth from 132 countries participated in sessions and discussions. 55 were speakers in the over 80 GLF Bonn sessions. Youth made up 58,7% of total participants and several volunteered on the GLF social media team to live tweet and provide rapporteur notes.



Drought is a disaster. The moment you realize that communities’ water for drinking is dirtier and more contaminated than your toilet water– that is when you realize that this is a crisis.



**Vanessa Nakate,**  
Ugandan climate activist



Great conference! I learned a lot which I can now carry back and integrate into my everyday work. You, [GLF], let us all walk away with hope and enthusiasm for building a better, more resilient, and more sustainable world.

**Participant,**  
Germany



It is essential that young people are strengthened to consciously build their own abilities and, thus, are able to shape their own future in creative ways.

**Nora Boehm,**  
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Chili peppers in the Yangambi market in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Amid rising violence and displacement in the DRC, 7.7 million people face acute hunger according to a FAO and WFP report. *Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR*





It is magic to grow food from soil, water and air, once you know that process you will never want to waste food again.

**Cooking show**

**Louise Mabulo**, Award-winning chef, entrepreneur, agriculture advocate, public speaker & competitive archer



Investing in nature is investing in our health, investing in our climate, investing in our well being, and investing in the future of this one planet that we have.

**Finance learning track**

**Inger Andersen**, UN Environment Programme



Finding positive messages and stories, promoting and spreading them, can help legitimize the narrative that we want to see established in society. Work directly with organizations and interested parties that really want to spread positive stories. I really believe that people are fundamentally good, and that you can help them express their deepest values.

**Storytelling learning track**

**Arran Stibbe**, ecologist



The younger generation are the stakeholders of our future Earth.

**Inspirational speech**

**Jolene Marie Cholock-Rotinsulu**, Miss International Indonesia 2019



Ensuring the conservation and use of the world's crop diversity is critical and urgent, especially in the context of growing populations and the challenges of a rapidly changing climate.

**Inspirational speech**

**Stefan Schmitz**, Executive Director of The Crop Trust



**Participating organizations**



**Global Landscapes Forum**

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood initiatives, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment and the World Bank and Charter Members.

**Charter Members:** CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

**Funding partners**



**Event Sponsors**

