

Outcome Statement



**Global
Landscapes
Forum**

Connecting Communities: Accelerating action for a sustainable world

19-20 December 2017 - Bonn, Germany

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Coordinating partners



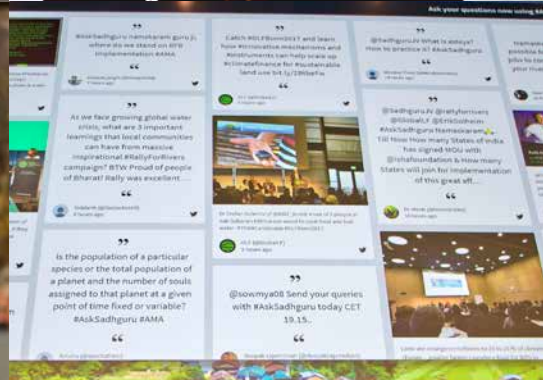
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The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) entered a new era in December 2017 when it successfully launched its next five-year phase, centered on building a worldwide movement to connect and engage one billion people around sustainable land use.

The inaugural meeting of this 'new' GLF was held from 19-20 December at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany, where the movement will take up residence over the next five years. With the generous support of the German Government – via the Ministries for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – the GLF will host an annual gathering in Bonn from 2017-2022, to check in on progress throughout the year on making a difference to communities and landscapes around the world.

Co-created by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Environment and the World Bank in 2013 at the UNFCCC Climate Conference, the GLF has long established itself as the world's largest gathering on sustainable landscapes. Since its inception, it has organized seven global summits in Warsaw, London, Paris, Lima, Marrakesh, Jakarta and most recently, Bonn.

At the most recent summit in Germany, more than 1,000 people from 104 countries – including world leaders, environmental activists, celebrities, youth, policymakers, Indigenous groups, researchers, scientists, media and more – collectively addressed

and offered solutions to the most pressing challenges facing landscapes. Another 70,000 people from 114 countries engaged online during the two days of the Forum, with 42 million others joining the conversation via social media.

Convened by a multi-sector consortium of global actors on landscapes, the GLF in Bonn featured four interactive plenaries, 18 informative 'Discussion Forums', 30 dynamic 'Landscape Talks' (modeled after the fast-paced TED Talks), five 'thematic pavilions' (clustered exhibition booths), four 'Launchpads' (press conferences), an award ceremony and various networking and side events. More than 80 host organizations participated in the GLF, contributing to a diverse agenda structured around the GLF's five major themes: Restoration, Finance, Rights, Food and Livelihoods, and Measuring Progress.

The GLF is nourished by major global research partnerships. Among them is the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) — the world's largest research-for-development partnership focused on the contribution of forests, trees and agroforestry to addressing climate change, improving food security and fostering sustainable landscapes.

FTA provides science, knowledge and an evidence base to feed into discussions between stakeholders at the GLF, so they can learn about the latest in science, and consider how that science can be integrated into different institutional and policy frameworks to incite tangible change on the ground.

Key Outcomes

1,026 participants
>104 countries

81 host organizations convened in Bonn

86%

of surveyed participants found the event to be of good or excellent quality, allowing them to learn and share knowledge around landscapes

52%

of surveyed participants indicated that their involvement in the event spurred or will spur them to action around landscapes

>42 Million people potentially reached through **Twitter**

>70,000 participants

joined online via **livestream** (YouTube and Facebook Live)



OPENING PLENARY

“ We face complex challenges and if we try to solve them by looking sector by sector- looking at forests, looking at agriculture, looking at cities - we are not going to solve them. Our only hope is to look at the whole picture – the landscape approach.”



Robert Nasi

Director General,
Center for International Forestry
Research (CIFOR)

With these words, Robert Nasi, CIFOR's Director General, set the tone for the Forum. Distinguished guests in the plenaries that followed rose to the challenge, highlighting numerous opportunities and synergies in the pursuit of protecting and improving sustainable landscapes.

The President of Mauritius, H.E. Ameenah Gurib Fakin, stressed the urgency for sustainable landscapes, noting that humanity's very existence is intimately and inextricably linked to the environment. While she acknowledged the ongoing decline of biodiversity, a growing human footprint and the unpredictable climate, she recognized that sustainable landscape management represents a significant opportunity – provided that the complex interdependencies of environment, culture and economy within landscapes are recognized.

“ Solutions require knowledge, and knowledge starts with good data. Therefore, research should not be viewed as an expense, but as an investment in our common future.”



H.E. Ameenah Gurib Fakin

President of Mauritius

Minister Barbara Hendricks of Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) concurred. To meet the current challenges, she championed the following actions: Make the land-use sector the focus of global efforts, agree on effective measures, and be willing to make compromises and trade-offs.

Stefan Schmitz of Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) ventured further, with a proposal that “the future of humankind will be decided – first and foremost – in rural areas”. Both Hendricks and Schmitz agreed that a platform for exchange would be fundamental to achieving progress, emphasizing that the GLF would play a decisive role in facilitating dialogue and creating and pooling relevant expertise, which is urgently required.



“ We need to put evidence based data into the hands of finance ministers, so that they know what the cost of environmental degradation is. We need to show proof that it is possible to restore land and that it can be done in a cost effective way.

**Karin Kemper**

Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, World Bank

UN Environment Executive Director Erik Solheim revisited the theme of cross-sector dialogue, urging environmentalists to broaden their perspective. In order for sustainable landscapes to be viable, he suggests that their management be linked to job creation. He highlighted the need to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including local communities, the private sector, and faith-based groups; namely those groups already displaying their capacity to rally others for change.

“ There is nothing wrong with creating a profit from the development of sustainable landscapes, what is wrong is profiting from the ongoing depletion of the Earth’s resources.

**Erik Solheim**

Executive Director, UN Environment

In addition to underlining the need for urgency, Karin Kemper, Senior Director for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice at the World Bank, emphasized the need to recognize the significant economic gains to be made from halting deforestation and degradation activities. For one, demand for timber products is expected to quadruple by 2040. Moreover, recent research shows that the incorporation of trees in landscapes increases crop yield and food security significantly, and mitigates disaster risk. Given this context, Kemper encouraged enhancement in three key areas to speed-up and scale-up action for landscapes: information, innovation and incentives.



KEY MESSAGES

Despite the rich diversity of stakeholders and issues presented at the GLF, there were striking commonalities across the various sessions and side events. While they do not represent consensus across the entire Forum, the messages below, categorized under the GLF's core themes, reappeared frequently, and summarize several key challenges and opportunities in moving towards more sustainable landscapes.

Restoration

Unsurprisingly, given recent global commitments, restoration featured prominently on this year's GLF agenda. 13 out of the total 18 Discussion Forums identified restoration as a relevant theme. Topics probed included: *Which ecosystems to prioritize and at what scale? What strategies to adopt? How to build capacity to undertake restoration?* Below, we highlight several key pre-requisites, challenges and opportunities for Forest landscape restoration (FLR), as identified across the various GLF Discussion Forums.

Pre-requisites

Many of the pre-requisites identified highlight the need for an understanding of the ecological, sociocultural and institutional contexts in which intervention is to be initiated, and how to better engage various actors. Participants suggested that a broad understanding of the FLR process, from all stakeholders involved, is a minimum requirement from the outset, and that in order to enhance sustainability, there must also be buy-in from local communities. Ensuring such buy-in will likely be dependent on FLR being an economically viable and equitable process, with marginalized groups such

as women and youth actively engaged, so that they can inform – as opposed to being solely impacted by – the intervention.

“ *Restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services will come with economic and social benefits at the local and national level.* ”



Lina Pohl

Minister of the Environment,
El Salvador

FLR activities should therefore be holistically co-designed with continuous moderation, such that the diversity of actors, and their specific roles, knowledge and motivations, are well understood and utilized. Co-development of the process can help clarify the roles of government and the private sector, and identify accessibility to markets – factors considered fundamental to progress. Finally, it was proposed that if issues related to rights, tenure and governance were more openly expressed prior to implementation, it could alleviate subsequent levels of corruption, mistrust and leakage effects.

Challenges

Key challenges identified for FLR relate to context-specificity and the diversity of actors. Many of the sessions considered how to define participation and success when there are vastly different starting points and perceptions. Various factors constitute success within a given landscape, many of which are beyond the control of the project/initiative developers. Impacts also differ as they evolve, with some long-term impacts imperceptible at the onset. In this context, it is challenging to devise strategies



that consider how activities might impact local power dynamics and account for short-term losses.

These challenges are compounded by a relative lack of data and examples of successful FLR processes (particularly in coastal contexts), without which viable solutions are difficult to prescribe. Even with reliable data, interventions that are effective at one scale may not be so at another. All landscapes are unique, inherently complex and dynamic, thus presenting significant challenges when scaling initiatives up or down. It was reiterated that the dual objectives of FLR – restoring the integrity of an ecosystem and enhancing human wellbeing – must be considered at all stages in the process, which ensures that local livelihoods and security are accounted for in restoration efforts.

One particular challenge identified was how to better connect and engage local communities, project developers and markets. Enhancing local communities' capacity to produce more is insufficient if there is no access to markets in which to sell produce. Project developers also need to be sensitive to the needs and demands of business,

“When you make a land-use decision to change the ecosystem, you are also influencing the power relationships in the social part of the system – it is therefore important to understand the co-benefits or trade-offs of any action taken.”



Houria Djoudi

Senior Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

with the private sector recognized as a valuable partner in the process. One session noted that as society only learned a decade ago of the effect of peatland removal, it was counter-effective to overly-punish businesses for unknowingly degrading the environment. Instead, we should actively engage them in developing restoration efforts.



Finally, the challenges of ensuring a more equitable process were consistently recognized throughout the GLF, particularly in the context of complicated land rights and access, along with the question of how to finance the piloting and scaling-up of FLR initiatives. These issues are considered below.

Opportunities

Political buy-in and enhanced engagement with youth and minority groups were highlighted as key areas of opportunity. Significant political will for FLR has already been demonstrated through the numerous pledges made towards the Bonn Challenge; this must now be catalyzed with action.

Moving from premise to practice will necessitate a scaling up of the engagement of key demographic groups. Areas of potential include mobilizing young people to generate momentum via online media and local action projects; ensuring the engagement of women in commodity value chains; and incentivizing engagement through the provision of marginal price incentives and direct cash transfers. Two examples cited hailed from Kenya, where participants were rewarded for engagement through direct transfers of mobile phone credits, and from Bolivia, where female-sourced produce demanded a higher market value.

“Strategically, the best marketing tool for youth is ‘scale,’ we need to go to scale, and youth can do this more effectively than most.”



Jeff Campbell

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

One subject of particular interest among GLF participants was the manner in which engagement is most effectively delivered. Focus group discussions

are considered valuable in determining which strategies are well-perceived, and in generating gender-disaggregated perspectives. Likewise, cooperatives are perceived as useful for developing collective empowerment of specific actor groups. For instance, farmer cooperatives can empower smallholders with an increased competitive advantage in decision-making processes, and can enhance their collective appeal to investors. Finally, stakeholder dialogue forums that meet periodically can be useful for gaining shared understanding of divergent stakeholder objectives, and how they might vary over time. For example, in Jambi, Indonesia, a multi-stakeholder forum regularly brings together multiple stakeholders within a landscape, facilitating open dialogue on issues such as oil palm development, fire management and peatland restoration.

Finance

Although only two of the Discussion Forums at the GLF had an exclusive focus on finance, the question of how to fund sustainable landscapes was a recurrent theme across the event. Despite consensus that we are moving in the right direction, there remains a gap to be filled in terms of linking investors with viable projects. More specifically, participants were concerned that even on the rare occasions when investors and project developers are conversing, they are not speaking the same language.

To bridge this gap, it was suggested that the GLF should provide a space and perform a facilitator role in bringing investors, researchers and project developers together. As the Forum already facilitates an Investment Case Symposium and other investment-related side events, further exploration would help build an understanding of how participants at such events could better connect with participants of the main GLF global event. However, this may still be insufficient in addressing ‘language barriers’ prevalent across different sectors. Some panelists recommended a focus on identifying



“We need to connect with the entrepreneurs and financiers, we need to convince them and speak their language, instead of them learning to speak our language, because that is not going to work.”



Nanno Kleiterp

Andgreen Fund

and training ‘dealmakers,’ who are able to leverage finance, create investment opportunities, understand manageable risks, recognize when projects are investment-ready, and find and connect appropriate partners.

It was further suggested that the environmental community - and the research community in particular - must become more ‘entrepreneurial’ in its approach. There is a need to broaden the perspective of the landscape approach to one that better represents a ‘whole of landscape’ approach – one that truly incorporates the business sector. Private sector representatives voiced their frustration at the over-emphasis on production, sourcing and sustainability, and a lack of emphasis on markets and the business case for sustainable landscape management. This lack of focus was viewed as detrimental to progress, not only in terms of failing to appeal to investors, but also in terms of accounting for the economic considerations of local communities and smallholders.

Further investment challenges identified included the current lack of data, and a mismatch in terms of timescales. It was noted that the lack of a portfolio of investable projects and profitable business cases would likely stall private investment. Likewise, investors prefer the security of having tractable investments where they have the ability to monitor progress, and withdraw or adapt investments if necessary. Developing a portfolio of projects; building viable business plans; having freely available

“Markets are where your products get sold, where your cash is generated, and where your cash flow comes from. If you don’t have enough reliability, enough volume, and enough liquidity, then there is no business case.”



Ben Valk

Rabobank

“All investors think alike; they don’t want to lose their money, they want to get their money back.”



Sylvia Wiskowski

Finance in Motion

and accessible data; and formulating strategies to mitigate investor risk were seen as crucial to generating traction for private investment. It was highlighted that we are now living in a golden age of high-resolution and almost real-time data availability, enabling speed and transparency that could appeal to impact investors.

The GLF Bonn, like previous events, saw substantial discussion on how to ensure long-term (10–20 years) financing for sustainable landscapes - a challenge given that the finance sector is typically concerned with short-term returns and quarterly reporting targets. Innovative blended finance instruments were frequently touted as an area of significant potential.

Initiatives that combine public funding with private investment can help mitigate risk, particularly in the project development and pilot stages. As projects mature and returns become quantifiable, they can



help attract further investment, by catalyzing public-private funding, “crowdfunding” and leveraging private finance. Two examples of such partnerships cited were the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF), which combines European Investment Bank financing with European Commission funding, and multi-layered impact investments at Finance in Motion; and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) supporting the World Agroforestry Centre’s ‘Financing Sustainable Community Forest Enterprises’ project in Cameroon. Another example cited was the partnership between the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and ADM Capital in Indonesia, from which the Tropical Landscapes Financing Facility was born. UN Environment and BNP Paribas now plan to build upon this flagship facility, with a target capital of USD 10 billion by 2025.

Rights

The GLF was once again recognized as a vehicle for highlighting rights issues, and providing a valuable platform for rural communities and indigenous groups to forge important coalitions with other stakeholder groups and organizations. With the strong presence of indigenous groups, indigenous people were relatively well-represented at this event, but this was recognized as a mere starting point. Greater future engagement is required, and the manner in which this engagement is realized must be duly considered. It was reiterated that indigenous people are not powerless, lacking in knowledge or capacity, but that they need to be better integrated in decision-making processes.

Issues surrounding land rights and titling featured heavily on the GLF agenda. Recent developments suggest some cause for optimism, with land-use rights being devolved from governments to local communities and indigenous people. Yet one of the key challenges identified was how to instill a more rights-based approach to traditionally top-down interventions like REDD and FLR. Such

“Rights are inherent, they are either respected or violated. Indigenous people need to be recognized as partners who have solutions. We need a seat at the table; if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu.”



Roberto Barreo

International Indian Treaty Council

“We look forward to further engagement, because we are also knowledge holders who can enrich the GLF. Collaboration is needed in order for us to advance in the interests that we share for sustainable landscapes.”



Joan Carling

Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)

an approach would enable local stakeholders to participate, negotiate and influence land-use decisions. However, this presents challenges that manifest across different scales, as national and local governments have to negotiate how to align local-level issues of land titling with national and regional-level issues of land planning. As a starting point, it was widely suggested that such dilemmas be confronted in tandem if possible. When not, securing land rights for local people should be viewed as a priority concern for interventions such as REDD, FLR and similar programs.



While there have been pockets of progress, it was noted that Africa – where only 10% of rural land is registered and 10% of indigenous land is legally recognized – lags far behind Latin America. Although progress was lamented as not forthcoming quickly enough, perhaps more worrying is that even where progress for tenure and rights is accelerating in terms of new laws and regulatory frameworks, rights often remain unenforced. Land rights violations have been perpetuated by an unprecedented increase on land pressure, and defending land has never been as dangerous in the face of increasingly aggressive land grabbing (primarily via extractive resource sectors), with over 200 people in killed in 2016 while attempting to defend their land.

Lack of formal titling and secure access to land does not just hinder sustainable land management practices. It is also associated with other challenges like inhibiting access to credit, inheritance, legal and extension services, as well as impeding external investment.

“If the land titling question is not solved, investors do not dare to invest in that area.”



Liva Ramiandrarivo

Ministry of the Environment and Forests, Madagascar

When considering strategies in moving forward, it was proposed that the rights of people on the ground be central to the climate, restoration and sustainable development agendas. More open channels of dialogue must be encouraged, with active involvement from across the entire spectrum of invested stakeholders. From a research perspective, it was suggested that more qualitative and interpretative analysis is required to foster a deeper understanding of behavior. In addition to more traditional forms of media, the Internet and mobile phones should be increasingly utilized to engage rural people and integrate traditional and

modern knowledge systems in order to co-produce sustainable approaches to landscape management. However, it was noted that the importance of context must not be overlooked. Furthermore, it should be acknowledged that indigenous people's needs and priorities are not homogenous. Against this backdrop, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) and CIFOR at the closing of the Bonn GLF on 21 December 2017, marked a significant milestone confirming the group's role as a key partner to the GLF representing the voice of indigenous people over the next four years.

Food and Livelihoods

Rising global population and an increasing demand for food products have led to projections that food production will need to double by the middle of the century. This daunting challenge is compounded by an increasingly unstable climate, and large-scale land degradation rendering many areas unsuitable for crop production. However, the issue of how we meet this challenge in a manner that sufficiently increases production, without compromising natural resources, remains open to debate.

One well-supported strategy is that of sustainable agricultural intensification – intensifying agricultural production on a land unit in a way that enhances yields without the need to expand operations, which will save forests and other non-agricultural ecosystems.

However, Adrian Martin of the University of East Anglia and others warned against over-emphasizing the virtues of sustainable intensification, or promoting it as a blueprint to meet global food security, until a more robust evidence base emerges. Martin's recent review of sustainable intensification projects found only 10 (out of 61) successful examples achieved positive outcomes for both the environment and human well-being. There were also



concerns about the indicators used to determine success, and the fact that sustainable intensification requires initial start-up investment, highlighting concerns that the poor may be excluded. As such, it is important to establish appropriate and locally-embedded entry points for interventions.

What we do know is that there is a fundamental requirement to sustainably combine forest conservation/restoration and food production. In many developing countries, people live on the fringes of forests and continue to rely on forest products for their daily needs – both as food and fuel. As such, there is a strong correlation between forests, food security and nutrition, with forests providing direct goods in the form of food, and indirectly in the form of ecosystem services. It was suggested that these relationships require further investigation, and there is a need to amass a greater understanding of how agrarian transitions (when communities transition from subsistence farming and forest dependence to monoculture cash crop systems removed from the forest but closer to markets) impact the environment, people's food and nutrition intake, and livelihood strategies.

“Forests are important for local lives. People in my community always lived from the forests. I was motivated to make this activity formal so that forest sustainability can be guaranteed for the future generations. The challenge was to ensure land legislation to show that local communities can manage forests.”



Maria Margarida Ribeiro da Silva

Brazilian forestry activist and winner of the 2017 Wangari Maathai Award

There appears to be an increasing awareness of the need for a contextual approach. Sustainably combining ecosystem protection and agricultural production invokes a range of complex challenges. As such, a number of strategies – both contemporary and traditional – have been developed and may hold potential. It is therefore crucial that interventions are appropriate for, or adapted to, the specific context. However, better alignment of government policies intended to address these challenges was widely regarded as necessary in all contexts. Policy development that results in conflicting mandates for environment and agriculture ministries continues to prevail; this exacerbates the challenge of reconciling forests and food production.

In terms of areas with potential for progress, it was noted that despite having been scrutinized for potentially adverse impacts in the recent past, traditional agricultural practices require further attention. There is significant evidence to show that local communities can manage their resources sustainably; between 80 and 100 million people practice rotational agriculture that has largely succeeded in ensuring local food security and enhancing landscape resilience. Therefore, a greater focus on assessing the value of traditional shifting cultivation is required, as well as consideration as to how such traditional practices can be integrated as a component of a landscape approach.

Further areas of opportunity identified include the potential for landscape certification schemes (production models that combine food quality with the quality of the landscape), greater integration of smallholder producers into value chain governance, and engaging the private sector more broadly in reconciling forestry with food security and nutrition. In this regard, recent World Bank initiatives were highlighted as providing useful examples. These include examples that engage the private sector in coffee production in Ethiopia, cocoa in Ghana, and mosaic landscape management in El Salvador. Finally, the importance of utilizing climate scenarios as a basis for decision-making was well-recognized. Many of the countries most vulnerable to the



impacts of climate change are still largely reliant on forests as a source of food and fuel, and there is a need for better social information, so that informed decisions can be made that fully weigh the risks and vulnerabilities induced by climate change.

Measuring Progress

Transparent monitoring for climate and development goals was resoundingly endorsed throughout the GLF. Development of effective monitoring systems is expected to deliver multiple benefits, not least of all broadening participation and enhancing stakeholder engagement. Improved land-use planning depends on reliable data being accessible to those who can influence change. At the local scale, ownership of monitoring and accessibility to data can lead to greater accountability and increased buy-in. Indeed, the importance of access to knowledge and good data, and how this can influence perceptions and behaviors, was well-illustrated in one of the Discussion Forums. In a session focused on 'rainfall recycling', participants were asked at the beginning whether rainfall was related to forest cover, and if this relationship should be considered within policy development. Fifty percent of participants answered positively to each of the questions. Yet by the end of the session, armed with the latest knowledge, positive responses to the same questions rose to 100% and 90% respectively.

Transparent monitoring systems can help identify how changes in ministerial policies impact land-use decision making at the landscape scale. Pippa Howard of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) recalled how in Zambia, an energy policy change resulted in an increase in energy prices, with the knock-on effect of local populations reverting to charcoal as a fuel source, and a subsequent spike in deforestation. Through addressing inconsistencies and data gaps in land-use monitoring, such feedbacks can be more readily identified and accounted for. Developing incentives and common agreement within and between governments to

coordinate efforts across multiple levels and sectors was recognized as essential to generate future progress. There was general consensus that relying on self-monitoring and reporting from sector-specific actors is no longer sufficient, and that a multi-sector collaboration that accurately tracks landscape dynamics can add a degree of precision to sustainable landscape management. The use of third-party brokers who can serve as watchdogs over monitoring processes was equally encouraged.

Recent technological advances make the monitoring of certain landscape processes possible in almost real-time. Concrete examples of potentially powerful and accessible mapping and assessment tools presented at the GLF Bonn included MapHubs and SPOT (Sustainable Policy Transparency Toolkit by the Zoological Society of London). However, landscape dynamism continues to present significant challenges, particularly in an increasingly connected world, where spillover or leakage effects can manifest in distant locations. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were developed to guide a more inclusive global development agenda, with many of the goals reflecting a transboundary nature.

“The weaknesses lie within the governance models and legal frameworks. The call for transparency, trust, and clear implementation strategies is fundamental, but this requires inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral collaboration – it is only through joint decision-making that forests legitimately gain the status that they deserve as water and climate regulators.”



Pippa Howard

Fauna and Flora International (FFI)



However, it remains unclear how to incentivize governments to develop land-use policies, or to implement monitoring systems that will benefit neighboring (or distant) states. Indeed, a lack of coordination across multiple scales of governance – compounded by ministries pushing conflicting mandates – was identified as a major obstacle to the development of transparent monitoring systems.

Contradictions within the SDG agenda present further challenges to monitoring; agriculture is widely acknowledged as a leading cause of deforestation, yet the SDGs strive for both increased agricultural productivity (and area of land under production), and halting deforestation by 2020. This emphasizes the need for monitoring that addresses the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. We must learn from, and utilize, past experiences – for example, the UNFCCC monitoring systems are fairly well-developed and systems for the SDGs should build upon this existing experience.

Further challenges to transparent monitoring relate to data standardization, data interpretation and technical capacity, particularly if monitoring is conducted over large spatial scales and dynamic landscapes, as is often the case. One Discussion Forum at the GLF explicitly called for a comprehensive global mapping platform for peatlands, but acknowledged the inherent difficulties involved, noting that the Congo Basin changes every 12 days and such rapid change is extremely difficult to monitor. There is also a significant cost implication to such comprehensive land-use monitoring systems, particularly in the start-up phase, when required investment may also include the cost of building capacity for monitoring. Such costs are, however, likely to decrease over time – evidencing the need for a long-term vision that factors in the multiple co-benefits that arise from the implementation of such systems.

“The GLF is a perfect addition to the UN city of Bonn. The international focus on global climate, environment and development policy is an unmistakable common feature between the GLF and Bonn. I have no doubt that this will lead to valuable synergies on both sides.”



Barbara Hendricks

German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

“Our goal is to achieve sustainable landscapes for people and the planet.”



Stefan Schmitz

Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



THE WAY FORWARD

The Bonn GLF 2017 concluded with a closing plenary that reflected on the Forum's past history, its role in the future, and what is required to further the sustainable landscapes agenda going forth.

Elsa Nickel of Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) affirmed that the GLF has a key role to play in informing international negotiations (such as those held regularly for the three Rio conventions), supporting them with concrete large-scale strategies that are implemented on the ground. Hiroto Mitsugi of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) asserted that the Forum had already provided a great opportunity to move the landscape agenda forward, and "allows us to break out of the business-as-usual ways of working, by breaking down institutional and sectorial silos".

It was widely concluded that this first event marking the onset of the new phase of the GLF had been a resounding success. The numbers spoke for themselves, with 1,000 participants hailing from a diversity of sectors, and 70,000 others participating online. The Forum's key messages reached upwards of 42 million people via social media. With plans for a finance-focused GLF event in May 2018, followed by a GLF African restoration summit in August 2018, the making of a movement is already underway.

Yet the Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Robert Nasi's statement that this is merely "the tip of the iceberg" voiced an underlying consensus that significant challenges are still to be faced. It is well-recognized that the landscapes community has to pose difficult questions now, including how we can ensure that social equity is part of the discussion. Gabriele Klingmuller, Deputy Mayor of Bonn, emphasized the

need for an integrated holistic approach that begins at the local level, calling on participants to foster action to seek out cross-cutting solutions required to preserve global land and natural resources.

Meanwhile, Mitsugo and Nickel called for greater focus on food security and biodiversity in future GLF events. Joan Carling and Mauline Gragau urged for continued efforts in engaging marginalized groups in decision-making and implementation processes. Gragau noted that the Forum's large youth turnout was a clear signal of their willingness to engage, and that mentorship and encouragement would be required to harness the capacity and enthusiasm of this often-undervalued demographic. Carling underlined the need to have indigenous people and landscape practitioners at the center of future GLF negotiations, reasoning that indigenous people, smallholder farmers and local communities are key practitioners of sustainable landscape management. Such enhanced participation of marginalized groups can help to ensure a more interactive exchange between traditional and scientific knowledge.

It was universally agreed that in the future, the GLF must continue to deliver on its established successes by creating innovative ways for people to connect, share, learn and act. Additionally, it must encourage the development of communities of practice around common themes. In this vein, Nasi's closing comments that the GLF cannot create a movement for landscapes without adequate support was a poignant call to arms: "We cannot do it without you and we cannot do it for you". Despite this, Nasi assured participants that the GLF will continue to provide the necessary resources and support that participants of its movement will need to succeed.



This report was prepared by James Reed with support from the GLF Team

All photos by Pilar Valbuena/GLF

Session Hosts

