INTRODUCING THE 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 (SDGs) by 2030 and the Paris 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: CIRAD, CIFOR, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Ecoagriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, IPMG, CIAT, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, INBAR, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative, World Bank Group.

Funding partners

Global Landscapes Forum

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globallandscapesforum.org
GOAL
Our goal at GLF is to build a worldwide movement of 1 billion people towards the creation of sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient.

VISION
Sustainable landscapes form the very foundation of the future we want for our world. From achieving the Paris Agreement on climate change to realizing each of the Sustainable Development Goals – sustainable landscapes are at the core of what we do.

APPROACH
By working through the Landscape Approach, we bring together everyone who has an influence on, and an interest in, landscapes. By working together, we first understand each other’s needs and interests. We can then agree on a way to balance the often-competing demands on ecosystems in a way that is best for human well-being and the environment. A Landscape Approach can mean creating new and often innovative solutions that consider food and livelihoods, finance, rights, restoration and the needs of future generations.

With science and traditional knowledge at the core of our work the GLF works across five themes: Food and Livelihoods, Restoration, Sustainable Finance, Rights and Measuring Progress.

ACHIEVEMENTS
The GLF has succeeded in mainstreaming integrated sustainable landscape approaches into development and conservation thinking and planning while simultaneously changing the narrative in this regard.

In some cases, GLF has helped to create real, on-the-ground change. In Indonesia, for example, by spotlighting a small, highly scientific and technical conference on peatland management, GLF has ultimately helped initiate legal and regulatory changes including application of scientific advice.

GLF has built a broad and powerful coalition of organizations that support this vision: the GLF Charter Members. Working together, we are partners in some of the sector’s most prominent and potentially impactful initiatives.

The GLF has also become part of the Consortium of the U.N. Decade for Ecosystem Restoration joining the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN) and the Food and Agriculture Programme of the United Nations (FAO). This offers us an unprecedented opportunity to help shape this most important Decade.

Furthermore, GLF is a key implementing partner in the FOLUR Global Knowledge to Action Platform. This operates under the mandate of the Global Environment Facility 7 (GEF-7) Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program. The program seeks to promote sustainable integrated landscapes and efficient food value chains at scale.

The opening of the newly established Institute for Resilient Landscapes in Bonn, Germany – where GLF is based – further demonstrates the sustainable landscape hub developing around GLF. It also provides further proof of GLF’s convening power and influence in helping to mainstream and establish integrated landscape approaches as an integral solution to the big issues facing humanity.

Under the Sustainable Finance theme, GLF has played a major role in shaping and informing developments in financing of nature and sustainable landscapes - through the annual Investment Case Symposium. Through the GLF vision, the way forward involves a shift in financial flows to sustainable land-use models that are financially viable. To achieve this, a great deal must still be done to widely share the knowledge gained on existing innovations and continuously build new solutions.

Previous Investment Case Symposiums have explored the economic drivers of land degradation and demonstrated the power of market-driven solutions; and all have sought solutions to mainstreaming sustainable finance and seen the launch of decisive, sustainable finance initiatives. These have included the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility, the $300 million Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and USAID’s Investor Survey on Land Rights.

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE AT SCALE
We are now ready to harvest the results of these connections, networks and platforms that have been established to highlight, showcase and promote solutions proven to deliver. It is now time to connect those who can provide funds or knowledge with those sites and projects where it is most needed, to set into motion a powerful and potentially transformative mechanism of scaling up action. This occurs through sharing of knowledge, practices and solutions, as well as integrating these into national and international policy frameworks, global agreements and national and local regulation.

The GLF’s connection with grassroots movements and local changemakers, as well as large, multilateral donors and policymakers such as the World Bank, UNEP, FAO, GEF and others, puts GLF in a unique position. Through our traditional and social media reach, online conferencing facilities, learning programs and numerous other supportive movements, GLF is primed to become the leading global network to help scale and bring to action solutions that work.
The recently launched GLFx is built of independently organized local chapters, designed to foster action on the ground by empowering communities, innovators and change-makers to share their knowledge, jointly develop solutions that are custom-made for their individual environments and situations, and help bring to scale proven solutions. The individual chapters are connected by a powerful online platform that allows for learning, sharing, collective action and scaling of action as well as fund-raising.

This brings together the local and global levels, cutting-edge technology, community organizing and deep-rooted local knowledge in a meaningful way. This could then catalyze the type of transformative changes that have been sought for so long.

Opportunities are available now to support the entire program, individual local chapters or regions, or to provide IT support and sponsorship.

The Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) is a growing global network of over 50,000 young people. Its partners include the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA), Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) and the Global Agroecology Alliance (GAEA). YIL unites and empowers youth aged 18-35 years, drawn from diverse backgrounds around the world to have a public voice and to create positive change for the sustainability of their landscapes and community livelihoods. To achieve its mission, in the last year alone YIL has delivered four workshops on various topics (including rights and climate change, community-based projects and sustainable finance) and united more than 900 young people in person at GLF events, plus thousands more reached online. Through the new program Generation Restoration, YIL will support youth restoration activities and ensure knowledge and experience sharing among a global network of young restoration actors.

There are many ways to support YIL activities: from sponsoring community-based youth camps to summer schools, interactive workshops, or by supporting youth attendance at important landscape events throughout 2020. We are also still looking for partners to support Generation Restoration as a youth movement during the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration which will begin in 2021. By supporting our youth programme you can make a difference by empowering the next generation of landscape leaders.

In partnership with Wageningen University, GLF has developed a powerful knowledge sharing and learning program – The Landscape Academy – offering online, in-person and blended learning opportunities. Around 7,000 people have completed one of the three online courses offered to date, and several hundred have participated in learning events in person held around the globe.

Courses on landscape governance, climate-smart landscapes and rights-based landscape approaches have been successfully implemented in various countries.

Learning events with partners in the Himalayas, Philippines, Ghana, Kenya and beyond have contributed to policy influence and in education have helped motivate changes in curricula.

We are looking for support to further grow the Landscape Academy by adding two more Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs), scholarships for participants from the Global South and an ambitious learning journey throughout 2020 and into the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which begins in 2021.
LOOKING AHEAD THROUGH 2020

GLF’s theme in 2020 is “Food and Livelihoods.” This theme will be highlighted during one of the world’s first global digital conferences on integrated land use.

GLF Bonn, Germany 3-5 June 2020; Digital Summit Food in the time of climate crisis.

“How to feed the world and not eat the planet” will flip traditional conferencing on its head by offering an interactive experience with multiple translation channels for tens of thousands online from Asia to the Americas.

GLF Glasgow, November 14-15 2020; University of Glasgow: 2020-2030-the Turning Point

The seventh annual GLF global gathering will run alongside the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). The GLF event will define the actions we must take to achieve a sustainable world by the end of what many believe will be the most important decade of this century: the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

We are inviting our most outstanding and influential speakers to date for this most critical gathering. Speakers will include world leaders, scientists, global media, Indigenous communities, youth and women’s groups, activists and leaders in the corporate and finance sectors. They will be joined in person by 2,500 selected participants at the prestigious University of Glasgow, and by more than 50,000 online participants from more than 150 countries.

We are looking for partners and sponsors for our conferences. If you would like to get involved – we would like to hear from you.

GLF Kunming, China, October 2020: Securing Biodiverse Landscapes and Ecosystems

GLF will offer a one-day plenary event on Biodiversity and Restoration alongside the COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

You could be a part of this global movement. If any of this speaks to you, then we would like to speak with you.

ZERO-CARBON CONFERENCING

The opening of our state-of-the-art GLF Broadcast Center in Bonn will allow us to dramatically reduce GLF’s carbon footprint while still organizing cutting-edge, interactive conferences.

LIVING OUR VALUES

From digital conferencing, to offering vegetarian meals at meetings, to taking very seriously our commitments about inclusion and diversity – at GLF, we walk the talk and we live our values.

Nina Haase
Engagement and Growth Coordinator
Center for International Forestry Research
CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

Mobile number: +31 617518388
Email: n.haase@cgiar.org