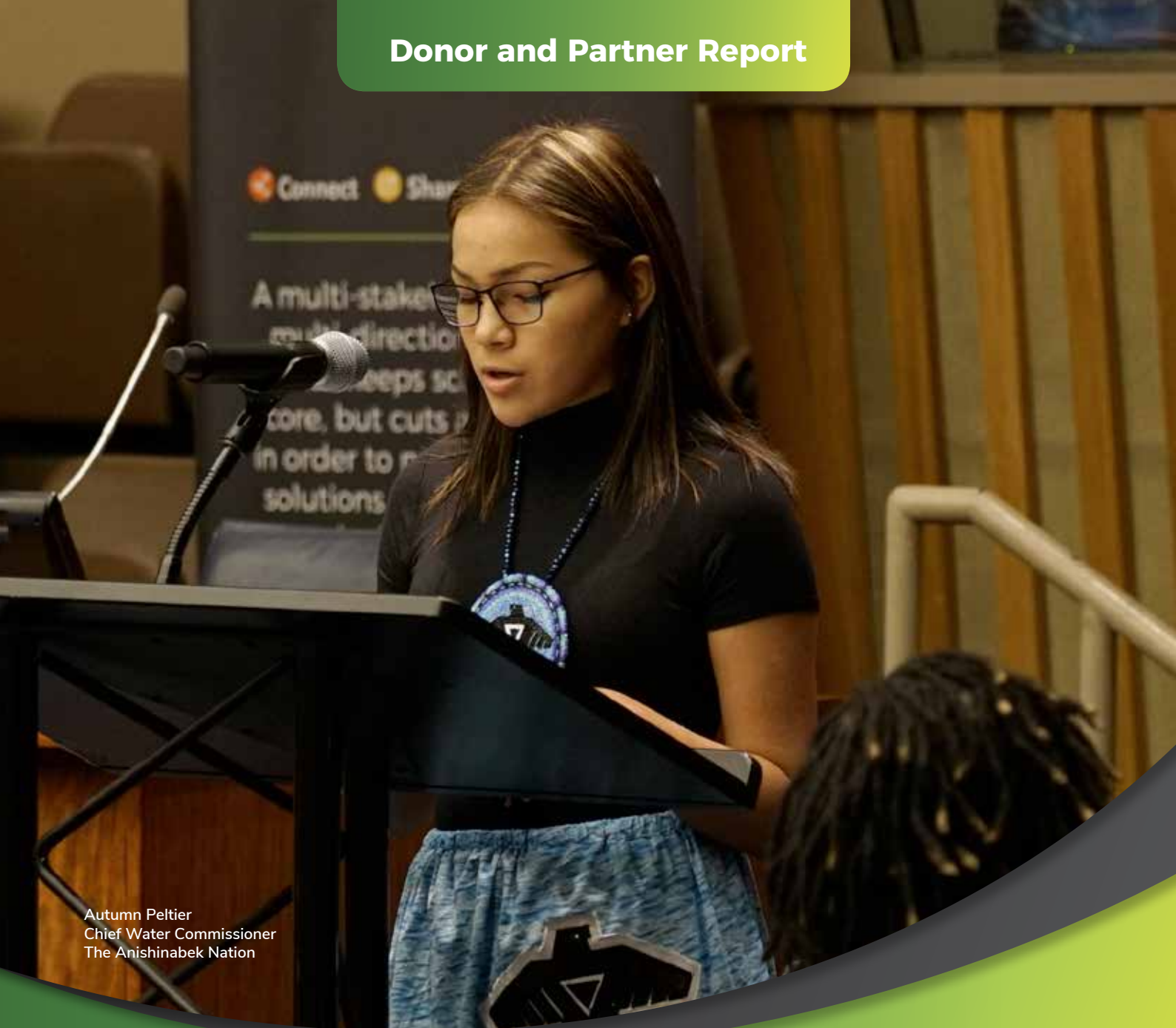


Donor and Partner Report



Autumn Peltier
Chief Water Commissioner
The Anishinabek Nation



Global
Landscapes
Forum

Restore the Earth

New York City, USA
28 September 2019

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: 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, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, World Agroforestry, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative, World Bank Group

Funding partners



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development





Executive summary

The Global Landscapes Forum event *Restore the Earth* took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 28 September, at the close of Climate Week NYC 2019. Almost 800 participants registered for the Forum. They were selected from 2,545 applications. The event reached a further 131 million people through news media and over 25 million people on social media.

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) was founded in 2013 by the World Bank, UN Environment and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). It has since evolved rapidly into a global partnership of some of the largest and most active organizations engaged in restoring sustainable landscapes. Through the hundreds of events that the GLF has organized since its inception, it has connected 4,400 organizations and 180,000 participants from all around the world. As the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, the GLF fosters dialogue between scientists and experts from universities, the public and private sectors, governments, and activist groups. It hosted many of the conversations that eventually gave rise to the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and has since taken a critical role in the initiative.

The declaration of the U.N. Decade and the need to devise pathways to fulfill its potential were the key motivations behind the GLF event in New York. Overall,

40 organizations shaped the agenda as session hosts and speakers. The event provided a wide array of sessions and inspirational talks. The day's events were streamed live from the U.N. Headquarters and incorporated interactive digital tools and knowledge products.

The central objectives of the conference included: holding structured consultations with key stakeholders on the Decade; raising awareness of the particular opportunities of and obstacles to ecosystem restoration at scale; generating support from public and private sector actors; exploring new, non-traditional partnerships for the Decade; and deepening existing restoration initiatives.

“I believe that in a decade, we will have restored the Earth, because I believe in us. In a decade, we will have achieved a great milestone in our efforts to reverse the impact of degradation, because we are now an unstoppable movement.”

– **Rocky Dawuni**
International artist and humanitarian





The challenge

Climate Week 2019 saw a much more palpable sense of urgency than ever before, embodied by the hundreds of thousands of activists who took part in “climate strikes” around the world. The marked shift in tone emerged as extreme weather events intensified and new evidence arrived, collectively amounting to an unmistakable step change in the climate crisis. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned unambiguously that the world had a mere 12 years in which to act against global heating before ecosystems collapse irreversibly in a devastating chain reaction. So far, 2019 has seen a series of catastrophic events linked to this process, including lethal heatwaves and raging wildfires on a new and disastrous scale.

In response, institutions, governments, and individuals have been fighting back. In March, the U.N. General Assembly declared a Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, lasting 2021 to 2030, aimed at scaling up the restoration of degraded landscapes around the world. Land and ecosystem degradation directly negatively impacts 3.2 billion people by compromising freshwater supplies and destroying the biodiversity that help sustain food and agricultural systems. However, more than 2 billion hectares, an area larger than South America, stand to be restored.

The Decade’s emphasis on the role of “the integrated management of land, water and living resources” dovetails perfectly with the “landscape approach”, a way of balancing competing land use demands that sits at the heart of the Global Landscapes Forum. Given these matching visions, the GLF is ideally placed to take a leading role in the Decade. It has consistently given a platform to the key actors that devised the Decade, fostering the dialogues over many years that eventually led to its proclamation, and it did so again in New York City.

“Fasten your seatbelts, ladies and gentlemen, because the next decade will be the critical decade. We hold in our hands this frightening responsibility to forever change the trajectory of our planet.”

– Inger Andersen

Executive Director, UN Environment Programme





Program overview

The action-packed one-day event consisted of 12 sessions, including an opening and a closing plenary and 10 inspirational talks given by experts and representatives on some of the most pressing issues of the climate crisis and ecosystem restoration.

The GLF Knowledge committee, composed of scientists and policy specialists, conceived and designed the conference in coordination with core GLF partners, before reviewing applications in accordance with the stated objectives of the GLF and its partners. The selection process was then finalized by a group of session hosts distinguished by their impressive track records and proven commitment to landscape restoration.

The Vision 2030 session laid out a diverse set of perspectives on the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Building on the achievements of GLF Bonn 2019, the session drew attention to the role of Indigenous Peoples and the importance of rights as a pathway to sustainable land management. It also highlighted the role of financial platforms in curating investments in sustainable development, as well as the part that young activists are playing in pushing for more ambitious environmental goals.

Another session, entitled “Resetting the Restoration Agenda,” was hosted by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF). It assembled a stellar panel of scientists whose work has collectively shaped the conversation on sustainable land use. It also illuminated the crucial role of collaboration and knowledge sharing between stakeholders in supporting sustainable, equitable and productive landscapes.

Conservation International has made major contributions to the work of the GLF and again led the conversation in New York with a timely session entitled “How to Fulfil Restoration Promises.” Featuring its president, Jennifer Morris, the panel explored why restoration has not yet

been fully leveraged to radically reduce atmospheric carbon and deliver improved living standards for millions of the world’s most vulnerable people.

The GLF was founded in part to dissolve the silos in which many organizations operate, and one of the sessions in New York, “Radical Collaboration to Achieve Scale”, took this aspiration to the next level. Hosted by the Rainforest Alliance and Ecoagriculture Partners, it explored exciting new opportunities for cooperation. Over lunch, delegates were invited to explore ways to bring a fresh dawn of partnerships marked by innovation, experimentation and mutual respect.

The final six sessions focused on specific landscapes and assessed opportunities and challenges around restoring them: agriculture, forests, mountains, drylands and rangelands, peatlands and oceans.

GLF New York continued the tradition of analyzing new and evolving trends in agriculture with a session hosted by the World Bank. Exploring the progress to date and future prospects of transitioning to sustainable farming, the session gathered a broad range of stakeholders to holistically evaluate the challenges and successes at every stage of the supply chain.

The Global Evergreening Alliance argued for a six-point plan to counteract degradation in its session on forest ecosystems. Speakers explained the special impact of “evergreening” practices, which can rapidly restore land and transform the financial prospects of smallholder farmers. The merits of these practices were then further debated by a panel of experts from across the environmental management sector.

South Pole Group and Global Forest Generation hosted a session centered on mountains. This session illustrated the massive potential of restoration with a case study from the Andes mountains of South America. This scheme is community-driven and renowned for its remoteness and longevity.



Daniel Murdiyarto (center), Principal Scientist of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), with participants at Global Landscapes Forum New York City 2019.

The session on drylands and rangelands placed similar emphasis on real-world examples, this time spanning Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. Speakers delved into the complex generational challenges, giving vivid video accounts of the harsh and deteriorating conditions they faced but also presenting a concise and actionable agenda for change.

The GLF has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the importance of peatlands, notably with its landmark “Peatlands Matter” event in Indonesia in 2017, and these crucial ecosystems again featured at GLF New York. Hosted by the International Tropical Peatlands Center (ITPC) and Global Peatlands Initiative, the session on peatlands recapitulated the progress to date and shone a light on a critical new opportunity: in treating peatlands as a nature-based “super solution” to climate change, restoration can be understood as a low-cost, low-tech, high-impact approach to the climate crisis.

The ecosystem sessions closed with an in-depth look at oceans, hosted by GLF stalwarts Rare and Conservation International. The session took the U.N. Decade as an opportunity to refocus attention on some of the most critically endangered seascapes, such as coral reefs and mangroves. After reemphasizing the vital importance of “blue carbon” considerations, the session speakers were united in calling for ocean-centered approaches to be mainstreamed into environmental thinking.

Audience interaction is a hallmark of GLF events, and to that end, an audience interaction tool, Slido, was adopted in New York to enable both in-person and online participants to shape the conversation with pre-event activities, polls and Q&As. On-site moderators curated inputs from around the world and shared them with session hosts and speakers. Online audiences were able to easily submit questions and participate in real-time polling through a Slido frame integrated into the livestream webpage.

“How many of us think consciously when we go to the supermarket? Let me talk about the Global North. What is implied by the products we are buying? Not only in terms of the environment, but also socially? What are we grabbing from the Global South? I think we need to start acting locally and increase collective responsibility and awareness.”

– **Tania Eulalia Martinez Cruz**
Indigenous activist and researcher



Louise Mabulo, award-winning chef and entrepreneur prepares to speak at GLF New York: Restore the Earth.



Participants and feedback

Following the event, a survey was distributed to participants. Post-event surveys are customary with the GLF, in accordance with its commitment to transparency and accountability.

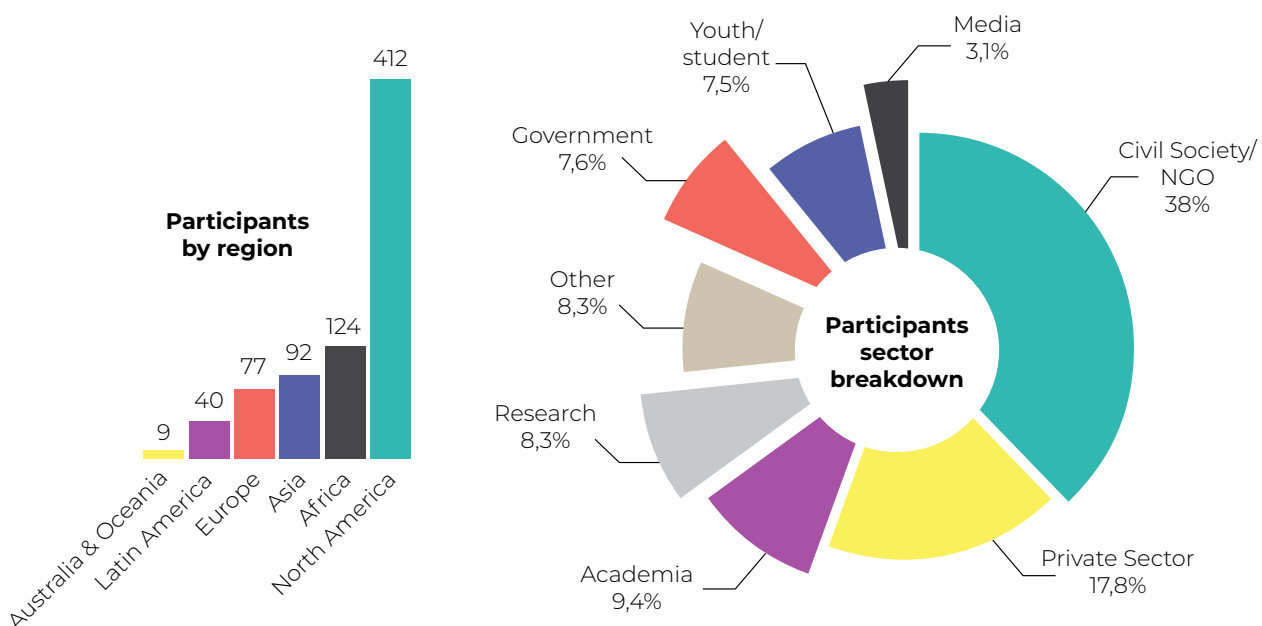
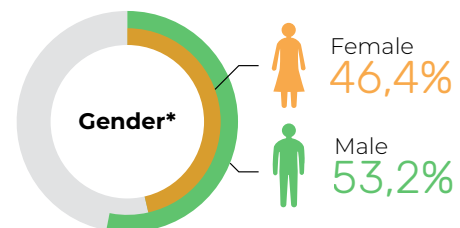
The surveys help the GLF understand what aspects of the event were particularly useful and to whom. Although the team is squarely focused on addressing any outstanding issues related to content or execution,

the survey is also an opportunity to make certain that the central aims of the GLF - to break down sectoral barriers, foster new conversations and accelerate action - are being fulfilled.

87.84% of participants rated the event "good" or "excellent". 97.3% of participants felt that the event had helped them commit to positive action around ecosystem restoration and sustainable landscapes.

754 registered participants

40 organisations



*GLF has a strong commitment to diversity of participants and speakers - both in gender and race. Recent forums have managed to almost close the gender gap of in-person participants.



Youth

More than 100 young people in the fields of forestry, agriculture, climate action and biodiversity registered to GLF New York, and played a key role, highlighting the urgency of action and the importance of including youth in the U.N. Decade.

These young people enhanced the GLF experience by asking the hard questions, introducing new perspectives and accelerating change by keeping an eye on local realities. Youth were present and engaged throughout GLF activities, which included:

Creating content

Five young people from five different regions showcased their connection to a particular landscape. These short videos were played during the GLF and across GLF's social media platforms.

Delivering messages

13 young leaders contributed as speakers in plenaries, sharing their opinion and call for action from youth perspectives.

Developing capacity

The YIL together with GLF organised a Youth Leaders meeting during the lunch break, which saw 40 young people getting together to build a common path toward youth inclusion in the UN Decade.

103 participants | 25 nationalities

48% female | 52% male

“Children all around the world are experiencing the effects of our climate crisis. Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have an inherent right to life. When children are experiencing floods, wildfires, heat waves, hurricanes that are disrupting their rights, then that is threatening their rights as children.”

– **Alexandria Villaseñor**

Founder, US Youth Climate Strike and Earth Uprising



Alexandria Villaseñor, Founder,
US Youth Climate Strike and Earth Uprising.



Water Resource Users Association Member Rusi Chelangat
filling a potting bag with soil, Mau forest, Kenya.
Photo by Patrick Shepherd/CIFOR



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



Twitter

(@GlobalLF, #GLFNYC2019, #ThinkLandscape)

173.4 million impressions | 8,770 RTs | 934 new follows (@GlobalLF)

4,266 mentions (@GlobalLF) | 4,971 link clicks



Facebook

47k engagement | 564 new follows | 34,500 link clicks



Instagram

1,476 new follows | 138,440 story views | 430 link clicks



25.1 million total reach on social media



Over 131 million (131,683,054) reach | 493 media hits with highest reach on CBC, CTV News and Toronto Star



The GLF Digital Edition was streamed live to 4,050 people from 138 countries.



GLF New York 2019 Conclusion

If necessity is indeed the mother of invention, then the deepening crisis of our planet's life-support systems should herald an era of unprecedented cooperation and collective action. Few believe it will be easy. But the visceral sense of urgency witnessed in New York and around the world during the Global Climate Strike on 20 September marks a much-needed upping of the ante.

As the destruction of the Earth's ecosystems accelerates, there is a growing and shared recognition that the collective challenges facing both humanity and nature can only be solved by breaking the silos between science, policy, business and civil society. The Global Landscapes Forum event in New York argued passionately for a paradigm shift in partnership, designed to deliver new standards of efficacy, efficiency and equity. Sessions saw green investors line up alongside youth activists, filmmakers join forces with conservation experts, and farmers cross paths with scientists to set the ball rolling on building these vital alliances.

"We're living on a planet with no safety nets, where the consequences of our actions are impacting not only our ability to survive but the ability of all humans and all

ecosystems to survive," said filmmaker and photojournalist Taylor Rees. "If we give up or assume that it'll be okay, we're going to fail to take direct action. We're going to fail. And if we fail, we're going to bring others down with us."

"We need to be a downpour," added Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org and bestselling author. "We need to be a human flood over this next decade, to wash away much of the old world and make room for what comes next."

"We need to take action. Let's do it. Let's establish a committee with different sectors, regions and ages where we define an operational root for the decade on restoration, because we are running out of time."

– **Lina Dolores Pohl Alfaro**

Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Mexico



Participants at Global Landscapes Forum New York City 2019.



Participants at Global Landscapes Forum New York City 2019.



Bill McKibben, Founder 350.org.



Florent Kaiser, Executive Director Global Forest Generation.



Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme.



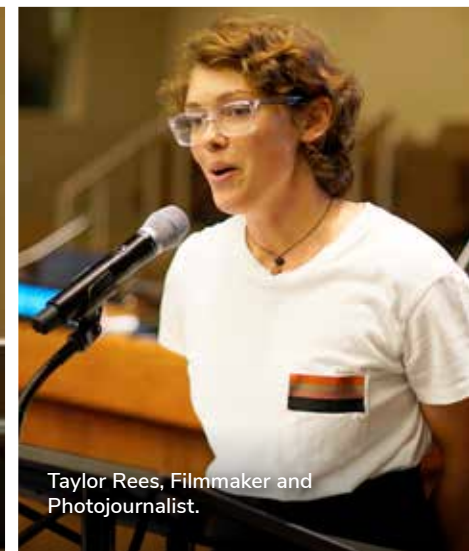
Rocky Dawuni, International artist and humanitarian.



Mette Wilkie (left), Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO and Agus Justianto (right), Representative of the government of Indonesia, ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).



Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee.



Taylor Rees, Filmmaker and Photojournalist.



“We have to understand that nature conservation is not a luxury. We are dependent on nature, and the restoration of ecosystems has economic value. We must reach out to other sectors and mainstream biodiversity protection. Nature is not just about recreation and tourism, it’s about the sustainability of our future.”

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

All photos by Justin Davey/GLF, unless otherwise credited.

Connect with the GLF online!

#thinklandscape | #glfnyc2019

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PARTNERSHIP
ON FOREST AND
LANDSCAPE
RESTORATION



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GREEN
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Participating organizations



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