



CAN TREE PLANTING SAVE OUR PLANET?

DIGITAL FORUM | 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

CONCEPT NOTE



Hosted by CIFOR-ICRAF and Resilient Landscapes in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum



Global Landscapes Forum

CONTEXT

Tree planting has become the latest trend in tackling the climate crisis, motivating legions around the world to harness the incredible carbon absorbing potential of trees. Business and political leaders from Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have pledged to plant billions – even trillions – of trees across the planet as a fix for runaway carbon emissions and degraded landscapes. Plant trees, save the planet.

The key is ensuring that these admirable tree planting pledges turn into long-lasting trees and forests that support livelihoods, communities and the planet. But how? When planting trees and restoring forests, good intentions need to be bolstered by strong science. Successful, evidence-based tree planting initiatives start with considering the right tree for the right place and the right purpose.

On September 29, CIFOR-ICRAF in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum, will host a half-day digital forum that will bring scientists, forestry experts, community leaders, investors and policymakers together to share insights and scientific evidence to important tree planting initiatives and how to build back better following the Covid-19 pandemic. By sharing CIFOR-ICRAF's 70 years of experience across the global South in supporting successful tree planting and connecting efforts on biodiversity and landscape restoration, sustainable economic development and dismantling inequality, the forum aims to highlight the many ways to make tree planting good for people and the planet.

As demand for land to feed a growing global population drives deforestation, understanding how to restore the earth's forests and develop economies sustainably is key. 'Getting it right' is not only a sustainability question, but also an investment consideration for forests and landscapes as critical assets. How can we ensure that our investments have a positive impact on the environment, our health, biodiversity, the food chain, our wellbeing while also financially attractive over the long term? These will be key questions at our fully online digital conference.



WHAT THE CONFERENCE SEEKS TO ACHIEVE

This half-day GLF digital forum will bring scientists, forestry experts, practitioners, community leaders, investors and policy makers together to share insights and scientific evidence to important tree planting initiatives. By connecting tree planting to efforts on biodiversity and landscape restoration, sustainable economic development and dismantling inequality, the conference aims to highlight the need to get tree planting – and critically *tree growing* – right.

Through interactive discussions, we will seek to answer questions such as: how can tree planting accelerate action on the New York Declaration on Forests, AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge? How can it help us achieve our climate targets under the Paris Agreement? What resources should be deployed to ensure current tree planting initiatives achieve their aims and are focused on the multiple benefits of single trees and large forests and also on communities and livelihoods? What technologies are being developed to lower the cost, boost sapling survival rates and increase the efficiency of tree planting? And lastly, how do we finance tree planting beyond government initiatives and philanthropic means? What innovative tools and models are available to finance large- and small-scale restoration efforts across both the public sector and private sector landscapes?



Can we plant to save our planet?

LAUNCH OF RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

In addition, this event will introduce CIFOR-ICRAF's newest initiative - 'Resilient Landscapes' - an innovative and transformative venture created by CIFOR-ICRAF to leverage the power of the private sector and spur private finance investment in nature-based solutions. In partnership with the public sector, Resilient Landscapes aims to scale up proven, science-based solutions to address our planet's most urgent and important global crises. Resilient Landscapes will leverage CIFOR-ICRAF's \$1.8 billion knowledge legacy earned over a combined 70 years of research-in-development experience in integrated forestry and agroforestry systems. Through strategic long-term partnerships based on co-design, co-benefits and robust performance metrics, it seeks to ensure equitable and resilient landscapes that generate financial, social, natural capital dividends for investors and businesses.

In addition to offering evidence and analyses, solutions and options, project ideas and design, we are offering our services in project risk and analysis, project delivery, partnerships and networks and finance sourcing and blending, building on our recent success with the \$95 million Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF). Founded by UN Environment Programme (UNEP), ICRAF, ADM Capital and BNP Paribas, the TLFF is a sustainable loans platform financing green growth projects in Indonesia aiming to improve rural livelihoods and preserve biodiversity, with Michelin as one of the major corporate partners.

Resilient Landscapes seeks to bring socio-political and economic dividends for governments and multilateral institutions, and most importantly, improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers, forest stewards and their communities while ensuring a more prosperous planet for all.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

September 29, 2020, 13:00 – 17:00 Central European Time
bit.ly/GLF-TreePlanting

13:00-13:15	Welcome
13:15-13:30	Opening remarks CIFOR Director General/CIFOR-ICRAF Managing Director Dr. Robert Nasi
13:30-14:30	Session 1: Busting the myths and tackling the realities of tree planting Planting a trillion trees: a feel-good exercise or an important mission to save the planet? What does it take to make tree planting successful? The discussion will investigate some of the misconceptions about tree-planting and look at the pathways to restoring landscapes and growing trees that provide the greatest chance of success - for people and the planet. We will hear from researchers, community representatives and tree planting leaders who seek to build sustainable communities and business models.
14:35-15:35	Session 2: From planting to natural regeneration: best approaches to tree growing Tree planting techniques and technology, from species selection to considering natural regeneration, can help reduce costs, improve survival rates while connecting communities. During the second session we will consider what trees make the most sense under different climate scenarios, the role of biodiversity, where do we plant which tree species - or let nature do the work through natural regeneration. New technologies, their applications to the future of tree planting and restoration will also be discussed.
15:40-16:40	Session 3: Financing tree planting and proper valuation of natural assets and investments <i>Sponsored by Resilient Landscapes</i> Besides the few headline-grabbing big pledges from companies this year, tree planting and landscape restoration at scale have struggled to attract sufficient investment. The reasons for this are varied and include the long investment time frame, the low liquidity market for restored land, tenure issues and country risk. And yet, investment opportunities abound with commitments by governments to restore hundreds of millions of hectares through agreements like the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, in addition to growing willingness among companies to make their supply chains more sustainable. This final session will consider where investments in tree planting are happening and where the opportunities remain untapped. It will also look at the value that planting a tree brings to individuals, communities and the planet. Investors - public and private - will discuss their interests and their challenges. And it will close off with looking at potential models for blended finance and how to structure them. Join us for this timely discussion as tree planting and restoration move from pledges to implementation on the ground.
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks ICRAF Director General/CIFOR-ICRAF Executive Director Tony Simons



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Photos by: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR, Patrick Shepherd/CIFOR, Aris Sanjaya/CIFOR, Icaro Cooke Vieira/CIFOR



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16115, Indonesia



worldagroforestry.org

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi,
Kenya

CIFOR-ICRAF

Founded in 1993 and 1978 respectively, CIFOR and ICRAF are centres of scientific and development excellence that have united to conduct research-in-development on the most pressing challenges facing the world's landscapes. We are committed to an equitable world of sustainable landscapes that foster human well-being. We strive to use the world's best science to eradicate hunger, reduce poverty, provide affordable and clean energy, protect life on land, and combat climate change.



CIFOR-ICRAF are members of the CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, focusing on poverty reduction, increased food and nutritional security, and sustainable natural-resource systems. Our work also strongly addresses the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.