

“Ecosystem restoration is also a revival of civility and the core values of respect, dignity, responsibility and integrity among others.”

– Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda  
The Nnabagereka (Queen) of Buganda



Global  
Landscapes  
Forum

Restoring Africa's  
Landscapes: Uniting Action  
from Above and Below

Accra, Ghana  
29 – 30 October, 2019



# GLF Accra 2019

The Global Landscapes Forum's GLF Accra 2019 conference "Restoring Africa's Landscapes: Uniting Actions from Above and Below" highlighted the role of Africa and all its people in connecting landscape restoration with human development. Participants tackled a range of challenges from gender equity, biodiversity conservation, land tenure, Indigenous rights to attracting private finance and investment, and reforming policy.

Through calls to action, discussions, sharing and networking among participants drawn from across the continent, the event presented solutions and success stories from local communities in confronting many of Africa's pressing climate and development challenges.

The messages of GLF Accra reached more than 18 million people across the world, with more than 5,000 participants joining through GLF's Digital Edition. Participants from seven of the top ten countries tuning

**“The time to act is now. It's not tomorrow, it's not next week. It's now.”**

– **Michelle Attoh**  
TV Host and Actress

**“This decade is about you and me, the environments we live in ... and it's about our very survival.”**

– **Musonda Mumba**  
Chief, Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (TEU)  
UN Environment

into the event online were from Africa, with civil society, government and private sector representatives making up the majority of participants.

GLF Accra 2019 was conceived to update progress on landscape initiatives including the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2030. The event took place following a four-day meeting of the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) partners and leaders.

Collaboration with partners is a cornerstone of GLF's efforts and GLF Accra 2019 leveraged restoration efforts in advance of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration which begins in 2021.







# Objectives

A key objective of the event was to continue stakeholder- and community-based landscape approaches to restoration work. Sessions gave special consideration to linkages between land tenure security rights, the vital contribution of women and youth, forestry, agroforestry, agriculture and economic empowerment.

GLF Accra 2019 objectives included:

- Featuring successful community-led restoration initiatives and the policies, incentives and partnerships contributing to their success.

“Every song has a dance, imagine if a song on tree planting goes viral. I have a tree to plant, dig, dig and plant. A tree cannot make a forest, but many trees. One voice, one song to restore our land.”

– **Erica Armah Bra-Bulu Tandoh**  
DJ Switch

“In my point of view, the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is not about creating something new; it is an umbrella to get together all the efforts already ongoing.”

– **Elke Steinmetz**

Political advisor to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment

- Considering forest landscape restoration initiatives that successfully link ecology, the rights of women and youth, community land management practices for insights on forestry, agroforestry and agricultural initiatives that generate strong social and ecological co-benefits.
- Highlighting effective approaches to promote tenure security, improved market incentives and access to supply chains for sustainably produced cocoa, coffee, shea and other products and delivering technical assistance and access to markets and finance.
- Coordinating and increasing international, national and private support for forest landscape restoration.





# Amplifying the message

In addition to six plenaries, eight interactive sessions, four workshops and two launchpads, several pre-events also took place. These included the GLF's first Youth in Landscapes Camp and an Accra-inspired version of a hackathon – dubbed the “HAccrathon” – which brought together young professionals to work on real-world problem solving. Participants in the youth consultation were led by Johnmary Kavuma, CEO of Upcycle Africa, in reflections on prospective environmental movements rising out of Africa's young population and their capacity to mobilise local action.

More than 400 youth participated in GLF Accra 2019 and discussed how African youth can better inspire their communities towards local restoration action. The workshop, “Understanding Rural Youth Migration and its Leading Factors”, tackled the challenging issue of youth migration.

“Sometimes I think we already have everything, but failure to connect all these solutions draws us behind.”

– **Desmond Alugnoa**

Co-Founder of the Green Africa Youth Organization


“If we mean what we say, if we act on what we've decided so far, if we really stop and restore or regain loss of biodiversity, if we really stop global heating, and if we really stop soil degradation to save our livelihoods – this is the core objective of the Decade [on Ecosystem Restoration].”

– **Horst Freiberg**

Restoration Expert

Youth at GLF Accra 2019 also discussed their expectations and hopes for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as debating how to manage waste in Ghana and the possibilities to turn the problem into an opportunity.

As the GLF movement continues to expand around the world, it will carry along with it the lessons gleaned from GLF Accra 2019 and the positive contributions that communities are making around the world and will continue to make.

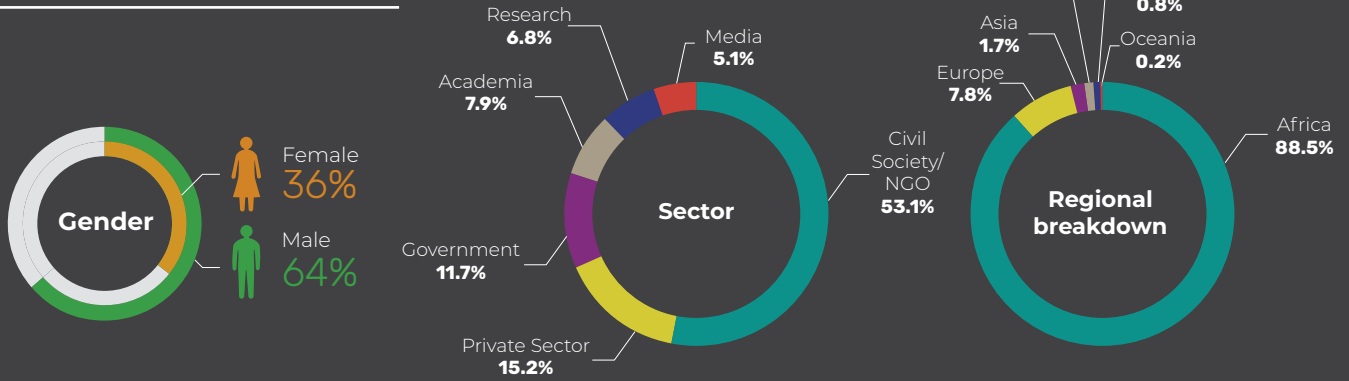


Desmond Alugnoa, co-founder of the Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) participates from the audience at the Global Landscapes Forum Accra 2019 Plenary: Sparking A Mass Restoration Movement.

# Communications and Outreach



## Participants



## Website and livestream

103K pageviews

9.9K livestream views

111 countries



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



18 Million reach

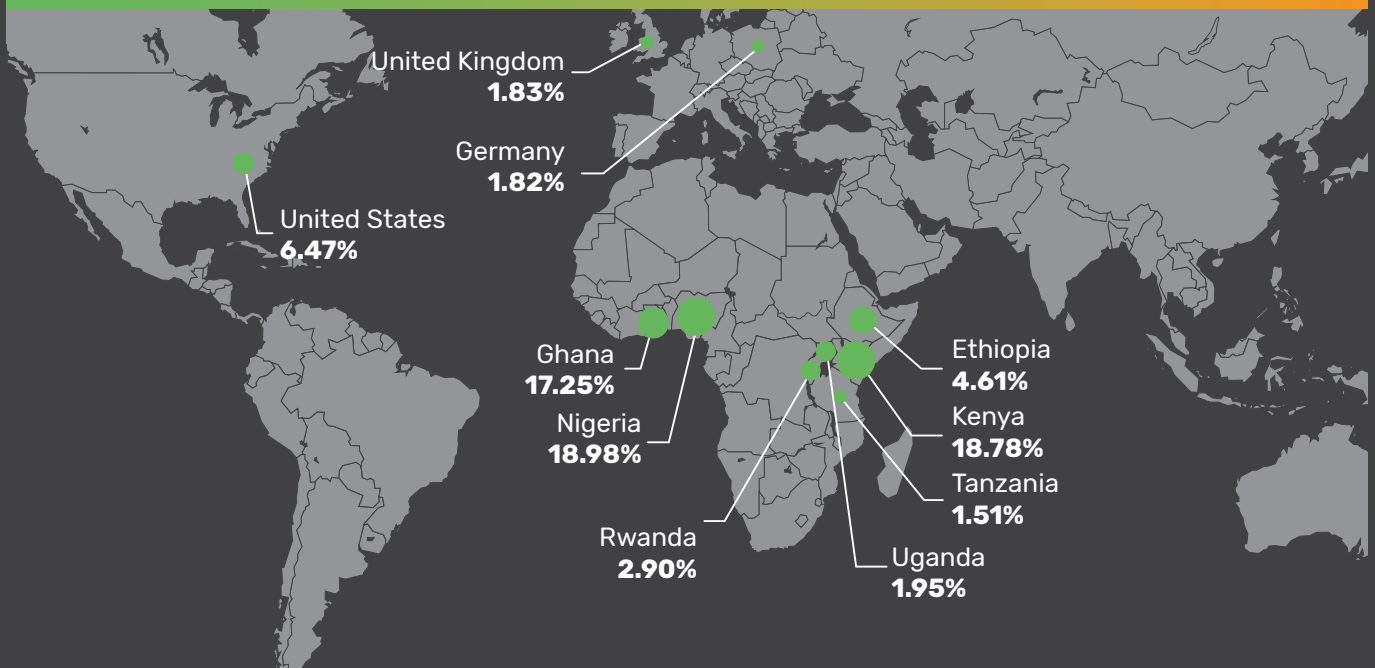


69K engagement



12 Million traditional media reach

## Digital Edition viewers by country





# Participating organizations

GLF Accra 2019 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit: [events.globallandscapesforum.org/accra-2019/partners](https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/accra-2019/partners)







A view from the top of Accra International Conference Center (AICC) main hall during the Global Landscapes Forum Accra 2019.



hACCRAthon.



Speed networking.



AsaseFest.





Cover photo: Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda, the Nnabagereka (Queen) of the Kingdom of Buganda, Uganda speaks at GLF Accra. All photos by Musah Botchway/GLF

A performance by SHADE, musician and Green Republic Project ambassador, closes out GLF Accra 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, SAN, 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



### Host country partner

