



Landscape Heroes Competition

Be the next Global Landscape Hero

Biodiversity loss more severe than ever – ¾ of agricultural biodiversity already lost, 25% of all mammals at risk of extinction

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. The biodiversity we see today is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. Biodiversity also includes genetic differences within each species - for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock.

*Yet another aspect of biodiversity is the variety of ecosystems such as those that occur in deserts, forests, wetlands, mountains, lakes, rivers, and agricultural landscapes. In each ecosystem, living creatures - including humans - **form a community**, interacting with one another and with the air, water, and soil around them.*

It is the combination of life forms, and their interactions with each other and with the rest of the environment, that has made Earth a uniquely habitable place for humans.

Our planet faces [a biodiversity crisis](#) at a scale beyond anything humans have ever known. A global pandemic jeopardizes our health and economy; one million species are on track for extinction in the coming decade; and rising temperatures are stoking wildfires and transforming ecosystems across the Earth. With so much already lost - and so much more to lose - how can we join forces to build back and build better? We're facing a remarkable opportunity to transform food and land use systems, but as the challenges are growing, we need to act with great urgency.

Celebrating the efforts of local initiatives

Indigenous peoples and local communities are essential actors at the core of biodiversity conservation and enrichment efforts. Local efforts to conserve or enhance biodiversity are fast, meaningful and valuable in the fight against biodiversity loss. Landscape Heroes, a project designed to celebrate, recognize and reward some of the world's grassroots biodiversity champions, will spotlight efforts such as protecting previous forest ecosystems from biodiversity loss associated with large-scale logging; educating future generations to fight against biodiversity loss; and carrying indigenous knowledge to coming generations; and much, much more.

Recognizing the knowledge, innovations, practices, institutions and values of indigenous peoples and local communities and initiatives, and ensuring their inclusion and participation in environmental decision making, is an effective way to safeguard nature and its contributions to people by incorporating locally-attuned management systems, as well as indigenous and local knowledge.

The stewardship and knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local communities will be critical to addressing global biodiversity loss, and requires stronger protection of their rights than that which currently exists. In the light of the upcoming GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference, Landscape Heroes aims to showcase the impactful and holistic approaches of these unsung heroes taking a stand for their landscapes: mountains, oceans, forests, peatlands, cities, drylands, and agricultural landscapes.

If you want to put biodiversity-related environmental action in the spotlight, then this competition is for you. You can nominate yourself, a community member or a community organization that you know of or work with. We are looking for a range of entries that represent various parts of the world.