



Global
Landscapes
Forum

RESTORING AFRICA'S LANDSCAPES: CATALYZING ACTION FROM ABOVE AND BELOW

A Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)
regional conference

29 - 30 October 2019
Accra, Ghana

Main objectives

- **Consult with countries and key stakeholders** on progress toward achieving the Bonn Challenge, New York Declaration on Forests and AFR-100 restoration goals.
- **Feature successful community-led restoration initiatives** and the policies, incentives and partnerships contributing to their success.
- **Consider forest landscape restoration initiatives successfully linking ecology, the rights of men, women and youth and community land management practices** for insights on forestry, agroforestry and agricultural initiatives that generate strong social and ecological co-benefits.
- **Feature effective approaches to promoting** tenure security, improving 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.
- **Coordinate and increase international, national and private support** for forest landscape restoration.

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, 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



Landscape restoration has been defined as “a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes”. For instance, forest landscape restoration (FLR) initiatives are incorporated into international and national forest policies, and are driven by voluntary national pledges and private sector commitments. Roughly 350 million hectares have been committed for restoration by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge and the UN Declaration on Forests. Importantly, top-down technocratic reforestation focused on mono-crop plantations is not considered to be FLR as defined by the Bonn Challenge and by the more than 40 countries that have made forest restoration commitments under the Challenge. Rather, efforts to restore degraded landscapes must be linked to improving the lives and livelihoods of people who live and work in forests and forested landscapes, especially in the Global South.

Global discussion of restoration has focused largely on restoration of degraded forestlands.

This emphasis has a variety of explanations, including the strong link to reforestation and achievement of global climate goals. However, restoration should focus on landscapes holistically, in ways that take account of various land uses—forests, agriculture and livestock production, among others— and with how land use decisions, livelihood needs and macro-economic factors and policy decisions shape social and ecological outcomes in landscapes at various scales. Importantly, the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** will ensure that that all landscapes will be included in global and national restoration agendas.

There are many challenges to implementing restoration initiatives in ways that meet ecological and social goals simultaneously. For instance, different sectors do not always communicate well, information that is needed is often asymmetrically distributed, and supply chains are fragmented and not accessible to small-scale producers of forest products. Experience to date of FLR suggests that payments for environmental services (PES)





often don't reach intended beneficiaries at the local level, or payments are too small to substitute for livelihoods based on less sustainable use of resources. For private investors, commercial reforestation tends to be the preferred alternative and financing for ecosystem services at landscape scales has only recently begun to emerge. Moreover, smallholders have limited access to the financing available and large companies are leery about undertaking the risk of planting native species or managing on long rotations. To reach current restoration targets, FLR needs to occur at scale, and difficulties to achieving scale economies are seen as barriers by many potential investors.

Overcoming these and other barriers may require greater long-term focus by governments and investors on tenure security, accessible finance, and creating jobs and livelihoods linked to markets demanding sustainably produced commodities. Communities will respond to legal and

institutional reforms, capacity building, fair payments for environmental services, and patient capital that together empower them to take responsibility for managing their local resources sustainably. Private and public sector investments to help small holder cocoa producers in West Africa adopt sustainable forest and land use practices show how market incentives linked to sustainability standards can transform social and ecological outcomes across entire commodity sectors. For farmers and communities to respond at scale, reforms need to be far-reaching in scope, often requiring decisive, concerted, and long-term action.

Too often missing in FLR strategies and plans is recognition of what people at the local-level are doing to conserve and manage their resources sustainably, or to restore degraded lands and forests through local initiatives and reliance on local labor and savings. Despite high-levels of poverty and limited access to finance and markets, communities have long been





investing in resource management and various forms of restoration. By learning about the success factors behind successful local initiatives, country and donor designed programs can, by understanding local priorities and practices, potentially amplify (and duly recognize) the achievements of local people.

Potential areas for discussion include:

- **Sharing insights from restoration planning.** IUCN, FAO, AFR-100 and others have worked with national governments and local communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to assess constraints and opportunities for restoration in a great variety of contexts. What has been learned about the role and relative importance of biophysical conditions, markets, tenure, governance, finance and other factors to success restoration implementation? What do we know about best practice in participatory restoration planning?
- **Lessons from successful collaboration between farmers and the private sector.** Local communities and farming families use and manage local forests and ecosystems for a variety of purposes, and importantly as sources of livelihoods and income. Smallholder coffee and cocoa producers understand their farms are more productive when ecosystem services provided by forests are maintained and protected. When buyers up and down supply chains incentivize good forest stewardship by helping farmers invest in sustainable practices, everyone benefits. What are the characteristics of successful partnerships between communities, governments and the private sector promoting better livelihoods and sustainable use of landscapes?
- **Linking ecology and community for strong social and ecological co-benefits.** What kinds of forestry, agroforestry and agricultural land use arrangements have been shown to contribute to achievement of positive social and livelihood goals? To what degree have land and resource rights and tenure



security enabled communities to invest in sustainable land use practices? Women and youth often lack independent rights to land and natural resources, and are dependent on fathers, brothers and husbands to gain access to land and natural resources. How are women and youth claiming rights? How are they exercising their duties to their communities by taking their seats at the tables where restoration decisions are being taken? Panels will feature case studies of initiatives that successfully deliver interventions generating strong social and environmental outcomes at scale.

- **Restoration status reports.** Country and regional partners and international NGOs will be invited to report on progress toward achieving restoration

goals, and offer ideas on what's needed to change course where appropriate.

- **Research insights from the field.** Scientists from universities and research centers based in the global north and south will present research findings on factors affecting uptake by communities of restoration investments, including tenure security, effective governance, financial returns and benefits, and other factors.
- **A vision for 2030 from Youth.** The new UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration can offer a message of hope, action, and opportunities for decent jobs. Mechanisms and dialogues to gather the views from Youth on climate action, restoration, and ecosystems.

Expected results

Key expected results include:

- **A reality check on restoration progress and goals:** Leaders of global restoration initiatives will be invited to provide updates on progress toward achieving the Bonn Challenge target of 350 million hectares restored by 2030, and what's needed to overcome barriers and catalyze implementation. Similarly, leaders of major companies and private-sector associations will report on progress toward achieving zero-deforestation commitments, and advances in promoting supply chain governance for sustainability globally. GLF will report on a study it is commissioning on progress toward meeting the Bonn Challenge and other restoration goals, by region and partner country. The study will offer expert reflections on lessons learned in restoration implementation.
- **Fostering restoration from below:** Signatories to the Bonn Challenge aim to improve the lives and livelihoods of

indigenous and local communities, while fostering sustainable use of forests and ecosystems. Local-level restoration leaders will share experiences in changing land use practices and attracting sustainable enterprises, while leveraging international and national funding and technical assistance. Participants will have opportunities to meet with new potential partners, or return to their home country with new ideas for getting behind the leadership of local communities.

- **Best practices for restoration planning and implementation:** Various versions of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and other planning tools are being used by national and international organizations to understand opportunities and gaps for investing in restoration. Participants will learn how these tools can help identify obstacles and provide evidence-based insights into practical technical and financial solutions for overcoming them.



2019 Timing and Location

The GLF Accra 2019 will take place on **29 - 30 October 2019** at the Accra International Conference Center. More than 800 people are expected to attend the on-site event and tens of thousands more will participate in the online program leading up to, during and following the event.

Pre-Conference Events

Youth in Landscapes Camp: Immersive Leadership Program

With many of today's most pressing global problem, the best solutions are often found, formed and implemented on local levels. As youth play an increasingly important role in the rise to meet global challenges, the GLF and the Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) will deliver a 5-day "Camp Landscape" to inform the minds, hearts, and skills of future leaders. In the lead up to GLF Accra 2019, the program will bring together young change-makers from around the world to local communities in Ghana with stories and lessons to share. It will take an analytical look at a local community that has successfully achieved its goals for a more sustainable landscape. Throughout the whole experience, interactive workshops, community building activities and conversations with key stakeholders will inspire and encourage youth participants to become front-line actors in their countries.

Learning

Fear not long monologues and PowerPoint presentations, as dedicated learning activities at GLF Accra 2019 will revolve around person-to-person engagement. The GLF will feature a training program on "Right2Place" that allows participants to engage with the latest curated content on the cutting edge of rights, restoration, and place. The GLF learning activities will help participants navigate a world of views and knowledge, with sessions featuring landscape restoration and governance, multi-stakeholder dialogue, cultural landscapes and much more.

Communications

The GLF is one of the most successful science communications programs in the world and will leverage its extensive media channels to bring international and national attention to the event.

A digital campaign will promote speakers, content and themes before, during and after the event, covering the latest news and research, video interviews with key personalities and much more. Our GLF news portal, Landscape News, with its team of global journalists will cover key topics and decisionmakers, as well as discussions and help spread the event beyond the venue. Compelling stories and social media posts will reach thousands of people with translations in other languages.

Sessions will be streamed live through the Digital Edition of the conference, while hosts and virtual moderators will guide the conversation in livestream chat rooms and digital sessions. It is expected that the conference and the preceding three-month campaign will reach hundreds of news outlets, and millions of stakeholders worldwide.

Partners are essential to the success of GLF communications efforts and they contribute with insight and content that is shared across GLF platform. See below for details on how you can get involved.

Ways to participate

There are many ways you can participate in GLF Accra 2019, from our Interactive Sessions, tabletop exhibitions, online discussion forums or full day global digital experiences.

Interactive session

Shape the sustainability conversation with in-depth livestreamed and recorded discussions. Engage with an audience of more than 300 people on site and thousands more online, while all GLF platforms and social media will support your work. Costs for hosting an Interactive Session are *\$11,500 (EUR 10,000)*.

Tabletop exhibitions in Accra

Book a space where you can share knowledge, build and reach out to networks revolving around a specific theme —and you will have the



entire day of the GLF to make the most out of it. Costs for hosting a tabletop exhibition are at \$1,700 (EUR 1,500).

Digital Summits

More than just webinars, these livestreamed conversations are your chance to connect with influencers and join various communities of practice around the latest landscape relevant topics.

Structured Networking

Join facilitated conversations between stakeholders who would not have met outside the Forum, exploring key questions.

Communications

Contribute your story, innovative social media narrative, video or infographic. The GLF platform is open to spread solutions for a sustainable future. Get involved by publishing your content on the GLF platform or joining the communications committee.

For information regarding GLF's communications committee, please contact **Melissa Angel (m.kayeangel@cgiar.org)**, GLF Communications Coordinator.



GLF Conference Sponsorships

By sponsoring the GLF, your company or organization will contribute to the world's largest forum on sustainable land use and development. Your brand will be associated with a movement that over the past six years has reached more than 230 million people on social media. More than 4,400 organizations, governments, universities, corporations and community groups have participated, and 180,000 people from 185 countries have attended GLF conferences. GLF participants and members are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Already, the GLF's youth programs have had a direct impact on more than 50,000 youth under the age of 35. More than 250 million people have been reached through traditional media, and 4,600 print, broadcast and radio media cover the GLF around the world.

GLF Partnership Engagement

The GLF builds collaborative efforts to accelerate the transition from a short-term engagement perspective to one that focuses on long-term partnerships for sustainable impact on ecosystems. The GLF partnership mandate includes mobilizing world leaders, scientists, policymakers, global media, the corporate and finance sectors, indigenous communities, youth and women's groups to accelerate action to build climate-resilient, equitable, prosperous and productive landscapes. It also involves building a community of practice to identify and solve key climate challenges while developing capacity through numerous learning opportunities.

The GLF network platform is effectively positioned to provide influence and direction for traditional investing and promotion of thought leadership, best practices and active engagement with the purpose of seeing positive systems change.

For all information regarding GLF Sponsorships and Partnership Engagement, including the GLF Charter and GLF Sponsorship Packages, please contact **John Colmey (j.colmey@cgiar.org)**, GLF Managing Director, directly.



Inside photos by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR, Patrick Sheperd/CIFOR, Mokhamad Edliadi/CIFOR



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