

#GLFBiodiversity

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Collaborating to operationalise landscape approaches for nature, development and sustainability

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**One
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White paper

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Photo by Mokhammad Edliad/CIFOR

Why landscape approaches?

The over-exploitation of natural resources has accelerated recent human development, but at the same time has clearly jeopardized the very systems upon which sustainable and just futures for people and nature depend. The high costs of human appropriation of nature have been highlighted in recent international reports on climate, land and biodiversity: for example, the 2020 WWF Living Planet report showed a 68 percent decline in global wildlife populations, and that over a quarter of all living species are now threatened with extinction. Furthermore, none of the Aichi biodiversity targets have been achieved, and progress towards commitments of zero deforestation, emissions reductions, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been underwhelming. The current COVID-19 pandemic will exacerbate these challenges, and has highlighted both the fragility of many of our current operating systems, and the dangers of ignoring their interconnectedness.

More holistic approaches are required to better harmonize the needs of people and planet – a fact increasingly acknowledged by global policy commitments towards conservation and development. Integrated landscape approaches (ILAs) are an example of such holistic thinking, featuring prominently in recent United Nations conventions as viable strategies to address many of the interconnected social, political, economic and environmental challenges in tropical landscapes.

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COLANDS: gathering evidence and addressing knowledge gaps

However, evidence of the effectiveness of ILAs has been poorly researched, reported and understood. This session of the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference will address that gap in knowledge and understanding by showcasing the initiative *Collaborating to Operationalise Landscape Approaches for Nature, Development and Sustainability (COLANDS)*. This initiative has so far been focused on multi-stakeholder consultation, building capacity to implement and evaluate integrated approaches to landscape governance, pilot testing of ILAs, and formulating global and national policy recommendations based on lessons learned.

The COLANDS initiative is implementing ILAs in **Ghana, Zambia, and Indonesia** with the aim of achieving integrated landscape governance. Its insights and findings from the first years of COLANDS activities have been documented in a new book, which was co-written by team members and will be launched at the GLF Biodiversity conference, where speakers will share their experiences of conceptualizing, designing and implementing landscape approaches.

Another critical feature of operationalizing landscape approaches is a greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluation, as only then are we able to learn from the lessons of implementation. As these lessons emerge, they are communicated through all of COLANDS, CIFOR and partners' communications channels, and shared at the national level through workshops, publications and meetings.



Photo by Manuel Boissière/CIFOR

Implementing ILAs to protect biodiversity

Lessons drawn from the COLANDS work are already beginning to build the evidence that is urgently needed for effective implementation of landscape approaches. These lessons will be extremely valuable for the design and implementation of – and research into – future landscape approaches, informing those efforts and improving their functionality. One major concern consistent across the three COLANDS landscapes is the loss of biodiversity, which is not only important for its intrinsic value, but also for the goods and services that it provides, particularly in complex, multi-functional landscapes. Given that, we will consider how biodiversity can be better integrated within landscape approaches, how better governance can be achieved, what evaluation approaches are appropriate and how to bridge sectorial, disciplinary and knowledge system divides.

Certain critical yet vexing topics experienced by the COLANDS initiative will also be confronted, such as: How can private sector engagement be improved in landscape-level efforts? What are responsibilities of governments beyond what can be addressed by NGO and research initiatives? How can we overcome the "tyranny of the logframe" that constrains many projects and hampers their success? Finally, how can we devise more bottom-up processes that allow us to learn from local stakeholders – arguably the real experts, who are already living and working in mosaic landscapes?

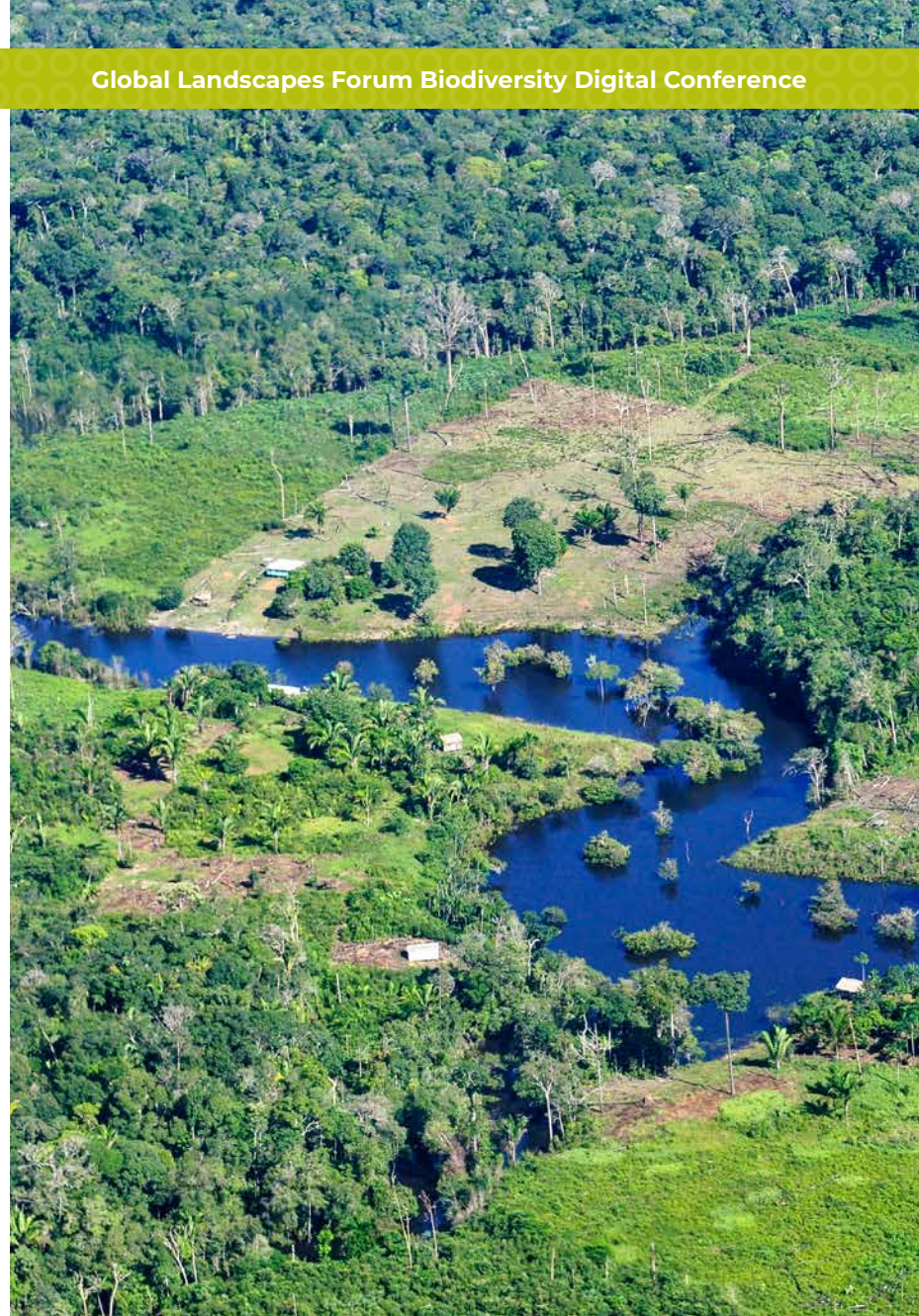




Photo by Neil Palmer/CiAT

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Participating organizations

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 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:

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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, 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 Programme and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.



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