



Forests
Food
Finance

FRONTIERS OF CHANGE

GLF CLIMATE HYBRID CONFERENCE

#GLFClimate

5-7
NOVEMBER
2021





01

FRONTIERS OF CHANGE

Background

The Earth is in crisis. On top of a global pandemic that has claimed millions of lives and wreaked economic havoc, the climate emergency is worsening as the world witnesses record-high temperatures, widespread drought, wildfires and increasingly unpredictable floods.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is very clear as it flags a ‘code red for humanity,’ and human activity is to blame. Exceeding critical tipping points, so it says, will lead to the loss of essential ecosystems and unprecedented social and economic impact.

But there is still hope. If we drastically control CO₂ emissions and accelerate the sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere, we may be able to avoid catastrophic warming, and not reach or exceed the critical 1.5 degrees temperature rise, while achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication (IPCC, 2021). The world’s rapid response to the COVID-19

pandemic has shown that human societies can adapt dynamically to external threats and pressures if the urgency is real. During the past year we have painfully learned that economies and environments are inextricably interlinked, and that integrated action is needed to ‘build back better’ while leaving nobody behind. Which are the positive tipping points that can help us to transform our society, and sustain life on Earth?

One of these tipping points is ecosystem restoration, which aims to combine restored ecosystem functioning and development to both mitigate and adapt to global warming. The recently launched United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration offers a great opportunity to communities, companies and governments to join efforts, protect and restore forests, transform food systems, and develop sustainable finance models to keep the planet habitable.

“When you lose a primary forest, it’s lost. Full stop.”



ROBERT NASI,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
FORESTRY RESEARCH
(CIFOR)



It is these joint efforts that will allow us to fundamentally change the way we use our land, water and natural resources, and trigger the behavioral change, the technology transfer, and adequate financing that is needed. And experience has shown that landscape approaches are key to doing so, as it is within landscapes where stakeholders meet, conflicting interests are negotiated, and synergies between adaptation and mitigation measures are achieved. Landscape approaches, long championed by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), are now widely promoted by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, conservation organizations, climate investors and intergovernmental agencies to connect global ambition to local action.

However, there are persistent challenges that involve conflicting stakeholder interests, siloed rules and regulations, and power imbalances that resist change. Overcoming them requires all actors operating in forest conservation and restoration, food and agriculture, supply chains, healthcare, as well as business and finance to step up to change.

“Even if we stopped deforesting and converting habitats today, we would not have enough forests to be our allies in the fight against climate change and nature loss. We desperately need to accelerate restoration.”

FRAN PRICE, FOREST
PRACTICE LEADER, WWF



The conference's objectives

In partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom, the GLF is organizing the hybrid conference **GLF Climate: Forests, Food and Finance – Frontiers of Change**. The event will take place in Glasgow, Scotland, on the sidelines of the **26th session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** to the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**.

This event aims to:

- **Accelerate action** toward achieving the Paris Agreement's climate goals. The conference will gather the climate champions of past events run by the GLF and bring together the GLF community of 250,000 people from 185 countries in order to identify those positive tipping points that are needed to keep the planet habitable.
- **Showcase evidence** that landscape approaches are a great way to accelerate action, as they deliver mitigation and adaptation successes, without compromising on local livelihoods and human rights. We will be inspired by local climate heroes, amplify the voices of local stewards and Indigenous Peoples, and discover the key to their success.

- **Tackle seemingly incompatible trade-offs** and address **real barriers** to landscape progress. Together, we will create new alliances and synergies between forests, food and finance, and trigger the integrated action that is needed to change.

The outcome of the conference will be a clear contribution to the climate negotiations, providing negotiators as well as governments, companies and citizens across the world with the insights, the evidence, and the tangible actions that will make the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference 2021 one of the most important climate summits in history.

THE UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** runs from 2021 to 2030 and aims to scale up efforts to halt land degradation, conserve the remaining intact ecosystems, while restoring degraded and deforested landscapes across the globe. These are all key pillars of the international effort to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C. The Decade is led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It builds on previous restoration goals, including **the Bonn Challenge**, **Initiative 20x20** and **AFR100**. The Decade plays a crucial role in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly those related to climate action, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

GLF Climate will spotlight the opportunities and challenges associated with climate action across all landscapes of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: forests, farmlands, drylands, peatlands, wetlands, mountains, oceans and urban areas.



Forests + Food + Finance = Climate Action

Proposed topics:

Over the three days of the conference, we will address the interrelated topics of forests, food and finance, transforming them into a coherent set of integrated climate actions in order to further the investment case. We will highlight the importance of protecting and restoring ecosystems in building resilient landscapes that provide sufficient nutritious food for all. Acknowledging the rights of humans and nature, we will show how the protection, restoration and sustainable management of the world's landscapes can contribute to a **stewardship economy** in which the voices of smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and particularly women and youth are heard. The role of traditional and local knowledge will be emphasized throughout the conference, showing the way toward a more sustainable and equitable future that can halt or even reverse climate change.

“For many years, forests had been largely absent from the climate change debate. Yet they are the planet’s single most powerful mechanism for sequestering carbon (or, conversely, releasing it into the atmosphere).”

JUSTIN ADAMS, TROPICAL
FOREST ALLIANCE (TFA)

ACTING ON THE SCIENCE

Climate change is here, and most of its effects will persist for centuries. But if humanity immediately and rapidly reduces worldwide carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, some of these irreversible changes can be slowed. In order to stay within the 1.5°C limit and below the 2°C threshold that may trigger catastrophic climate change, we must:

- Cut global emissions in half by 2030.
- Reach net zero emissions by 2050.
- Deliver on finance commitments to support countries and communities that are most impacted by climate change.
- Restore our ecosystems.



02

PROTECT AND RESTORE THE WORLD'S FORESTS

"No matter where you live or who you are, we all depend on forests globally for our climate, for our food, and for countless other aspects of our daily lives."

PATRICIA ZURITA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL





Forests play a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate. They have a direct effect on global and local rainfall patterns, temperature and freshwater availability. They can be a carbon sink by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but when deforested or degraded, they can turn into carbon sources, aggravating the climate crisis. Protecting and restoring forests is one of the most effective ways to enhance resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Over the past 30 years, forests have taken center stage within multilateral climate agreements. Recent global initiatives have focused on either reducing deforestation by conserving existing forests or restoring degraded land with forest and vegetation cover, enhancing their ability to store carbon. The **Bonn Challenge** and the **New York Declaration on Forests** have challenged governments and companies to restore 350 million hectares of degraded land and to eliminate deforestation from supply chains by 2030.

However, despite the significant number of pledges toward these targets, they are not legally binding, and question marks remain around viable business cases for the protection, restoration and management of forest resources. Too often, commitments made are not grounded in human rights or informed consent, and the knowledge of local and Indigenous Peoples remains untapped, jeopardizing social justice and human rights.

The first day of the conference will focus on these multiple values and dimensions of forests, addressing the following issues and more:

- Enhancing forest and ecosystem resilience, while protecting and restoring biodiversity, maintaining productivity, providing renewable energy and securing local livelihoods and human rights: How to connect the dots?
- A critical assessment of zero deforestation, forest restoration and other forest-related commitments: What progress is being made, and what lessons have we learned?
- Telling the stories of the growing number of successful restoration initiatives in which global targets are translated into local action – identifying the keys to their success.
- Ways to support local and Indigenous Peoples in their successful stewardship of the last remaining intact ecosystems through novel forms of ecosystem governance, recognizing and securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as well as the rights of nature itself.
- Mainstreaming the role of forests and nature within agricultural production by building nature-inclusive food systems and putting Planet Earth at the heart of a food systems transformation.

“My people don’t depend on a salary at the end of the month to survive. They depend on rainfall. They depend on soil fertilization. They depend on the forest. They depend on foods, the winds – if it’s too hot or cold to survive.”



HINDOU OUMAROU
IBRAHIM,
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST
AND A MEMBER OF THE
PASTORALIST MBORORO
COMMUNITY IN CHAD



03

RECIPES FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE AND A HEALTHY PLANET

“We need to look at every single square meter of space on the Earth and ask what is the best use we can make of that space for producing foods that are both healthy and will ensure the sustainability of that square meter.”

WALTER WILLETT, PROFESSOR OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND NUTRITION
AT HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH





Crop- and livestock-based agriculture has expanded to meet the food demands of a burgeoning population that is expected to exceed 9 billion by 2050 (IPBES 2019). Agriculture occupies 30%–40% of the Earth's land surface and therefore has a disproportionate effect on biodiversity, climate change and human wellbeing (IPBES 2019). Several landmark reports revealed to us that our current agricultural system is threatening both human wellbeing and our societies. Food production is one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions and a key driver of deforestation. Emissions from agriculture alone could be enough to **warm the planet by 1.5°C**. Unless these emissions are drastically reduced, **a third of global food production could be at risk by 2100**.

Food systems transformation is therefore high on the global agenda. The (expected) outcomes of the **UN Food Systems Summit** align with the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, as many of these relate to a fundamental change from linear production systems to circular, integrated systems, such as agroforestry and regenerative agriculture. They show how a reduction of food waste increases total food availability, while improving the structure, taste and price of plant-based alternatives enables dietary shifts toward foods that are healthier and more sustainable. More diversified land use could decarbonize the food chain and create more resilient rural economies. Many of these integrated systems are already used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, so what is preventing us from switching to more sustainable production, and building food systems that are healthy for people and the planet?

The second day of the conference will highlight successful food-system transformations and discuss the remaining challenges. It will acknowledge that there are no blanket solutions, as such transformations need to be place-based, centering on the relationship between people and the environment on which they depend. The following issues will be addressed:

- Reducing the **foodprint** of global commodity chains by combining novel technology with local wisdom and leveraging successful place-based, integrated and circular practices that work well
- Changing our attitudes to food by reducing food loss and waste, and shifting our diets toward plant-based foods, with more diverse protein supply and sustainably produced meat
- Listening to local farmers in the global North and South to find out how they perceive sustainable food systems, and what barriers prevent them from getting there
- Dealing with perverse institutional and financial incentives that hamper food system transformation.
- Governing food system transformation and realizing the institutional innovation that is needed to secure the availability, accessibility and affordability of good, nutritious food for all.

“Agriculture is a lifeline for more than 2.5 billion people who live on 500 small-scale producing farms – 63 percent of whom live in poverty [...] Without transforming their livelihoods, our food systems will continue to stay broken.”

MARIE HAGA, ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT, IFAD



04

AN INVESTMENT CASE FOR THE PLANET

**“The world needs a new economic system
that is powered by nature and recognizes
natural capital as its most important asset.”**

MARC PALAHÍ, DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE (EFI)



While many challenges persist about the mobilization of large-scale public-private finance, innovations within the finance sector are accelerating. The fifth GLF Investment Case, which is part of the [Luxembourg-GLF Finance for Nature Platform](#), will provide insights into the latest developments on sustainable finance for nature-based solutions and sustainable land use in the context of the climate crisis. Relevant models for bankable landscape projects that combine multiple land uses and revenue streams will be highlighted, showing how rural economies can be transformed by restoring their ecological basis, securing local livelihoods and creating jobs. But the investment case will also emphasize how the bulk of finance still stimulates unsustainable land use, like large-scale agricultural expansion at the expense of forested ecosystems and local livelihoods.

How can we leverage innovative financial innovations and create a positive tipping point in finance by incentivizing deforestation-free agricultural production and de-risking sustainable enterprises in order to create 'green' commodity chains that respect the rights of all actors involved? Do existing sustainable finance frameworks incorporate those nature-based solutions that catalyze the growing share of private capital geared toward greener investments at scale? And are the investment portfolios created for landscapes attractive enough to the larger finance community, whose expectations may not be met?

Building on the discussions from the previous conference days, the Investment Case for the Planet will take stock of the ongoing debate about sustainable climate and landscape finance and address the following issues:

- Financing a green and equitable post-COVID recovery. What are the financial mechanisms that we currently have? How do we overcome the institutional barriers that prevent these mechanisms from changing the world of finance?
- The latest developments of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance. Highlighting its priorities for the REDD+ mechanism, the [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture](#) and other financial instruments, such as green bonds, carbon markets and landscape funds.
- The implications of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on finance for nature. How could it balance sustainable land use objectives around conservation, restoration and sustainable management? The recent developments of the Nagoya Protocol implementation will discuss how biodiversity objectives are key to building resilient and inclusive value chains that benefit local communities.
- Good practices of bankable projects with the potential to accelerate the adoption of resilient nature-based solutions and to implement them at scale, highlighting how a circular bioeconomy can be a catalyst for ecosystem restoration.
- A critical assessment of existing financial mechanisms within the context of local ownership, social justice and human rights.
- New financing alliances and partnerships that support a green recovery through nature-based solutions in the post-COVID era, spawning a new generation of finance innovators who respect local ownership, social justice and human rights.

“We need to showcase the incredible opportunities that we create when we restore ecosystems. Restoring nature is as much a tool of economic empowerment as any other strategy that economists will place before us.”



JOYCE MSUYA, DEPUTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF UNEP

ARE YOU READY TO BE PART OF THE CHANGE?

Express your interest in hosting a session or launching a report by emailing
info@globallandscapesforum.org



05

WHO
IS THIS
EVENT
FOR?





GLF Climate is expected to convene more than 5,000 people online and in person, including practitioners, farmer organizations, Indigenous Peoples, community leaders, researchers, policymakers, financial investors, global and regional media, the private sector, civil society organizations, interest groups, youth groups, activists and individual citizens, all having their own reasons to bring about change.

The conference will build on engagement processes and key messages from [GLF Africa: Restoring Africa's Drylands](#) (2–3 June 2021) and [GLF Amazonia: The Tipping Point – Solutions from the Inside Out](#) (21–23 September 2021). These preceding events will help gather a global community that can help deliver the transformations needed for people, planet and prosperity.

“My country’s restoration program is like a puzzle. In the GLF, when I went there, there were a lot of new pieces in my puzzle: a new time, a new idea, a new technology, a new framework. It’s fantastic. And it’s holistic. It’s the only place that you can understand the restoration of ecosystems and landscapes from different perspectives.”

LINA POHL, FORMER ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER OF EL SALVADOR AND A LEADING PROPONENT OF THE DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



06

YOUTH LEADERSHIP





Young people are leading the disruptive change needed to tackle the global crises and secure a sustainable future. At GLF Climate, the GLF and the **Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)** will shape a unique program for young landscape leaders from all over the world to share their innovative ideas and construct a fresh narrative to replace the “business as usual” approach.

Students and young professionals (aged 18–35) will be involved in learning activities ahead of the conference and will have the opportunity to speak in plenaries and run their own sessions.



07

COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT





GLF Climate will leverage the communication and digital marketing capacity of the GLF, the **Center for International Forestry Research** and **World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF)**, as well as the 31 GLF Charter Members, partners, influencers and the networks of conference speakers and participants. The common goal will be to tackle the multiple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation with a focus on forests, food and finance.

Event-related campaigns will aim to build momentum toward **COP26** in Glasgow. Using audiovisual content shared via multiple digital channels, the GLF will showcase stories, opportunities and best practices on the ground. Content will be disseminated in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese (TBC) to grow and engage the GLF community of 250,000 people worldwide.

Prior to the event, media training will take place online with dozens of journalists from across the globe. The GLF will also seek media partnerships with key publications, blogs, podcasts and radio stations worldwide.

The 34 GLF social media ambassadors for 2021 – a cohort of young volunteers located in 24 countries across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia – will report from the conference in real time. These young volunteers will use their own channels on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn to spark meaningful conversations on the conference topics.

GLF Climate's local and global partners, as well as the GLF Charter Members, will contribute insights and content, and are invited to join the communications committee. For more information, please contact GLF Communications Coordinator **Melissa Angel**.

“We are all future ancestors, challenged to renew the earth for coming generations. This is humanity's joint endeavor to save our home.”

JOJI CARINO, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR FOREST
PEOPLES PROGRAMME



08

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES





 ver the past eight years, the GLF has reached almost 1 billion people across the globe and established itself as the largest forum on integrated and sustainable land-use management. The GLF is supported by its Charter Members – 31 of the world’s leading developmental organizations, including the World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund, the World Resources Institute, and the Rainforest Alliance. Brands that support the GLF are associated with a movement that has engaged 7,400 entities so far, including international organizations, governments, universities, corporations and community groups.

GLF conferences have been attended by over 200,000 participants from 185 countries, and the GLF’s youth program has involved more than 60,000 future leaders across the world under the age of 35.

We offer a small number of exclusive partnership opportunities for sustainability leaders in their sector. Please contact GLF Engagement and Growth Coordinator **Nina Haase** to register your interest.

JOIN US FOR GLF CLIMATE TODAY

events.globallandscapesforum.org/Climate-2021

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: 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, (TMG) Think Tank, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

Funding partners



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THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

