

TIPPING POINT

Solutions from the Inside Out 21-23 September 2021



GLF
AMAZONIA

KEY MESSAGES

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THE AMAZON REGION, ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE AREAS ON EARTH CULTURALLY AND BIOLOGICALLY, IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST HUMID TROPICAL FOREST, AND 40% OF IT IS SET TO TIP FROM WET CANOPY RAINFOREST TO A DRY DEGRADED LANDSCAPE.

Local people of all ages, civil society organizations, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, financial and private sectors' representatives, activists, other local and global actors and you can divert the course of this change. Combining local and global knowledge and solutions, *acting now*, we can preserve and restore the biological and cultural diversity of the biome. This while *avoiding global risks*, such as compromising access to food and water and the production of medicines, releasing stored carbon into the atmosphere and accelerating global warming, the *proliferation of zoonotic diseases*, decreasing water and nutrients being discharged in oceans by the Amazon River, biodiversity loss and disrupting the regional climate and the spiritual dynamic of millions of people.

GLF AMAZONIA, LOCAL AND GLOBAL IMPACT

This solution-led conference will convene experts and knowledge from around the world. From a landscape or territorial approach, local expertise, ancestral practices and recent innovations aiming to equitable, just and sustainable use and distribution of the Amazon's resources are the cornerstones of the event. Different sort of outcomes from this two-day event and its preparatory sessions will be brought forward during the Climate Week 2021 (September 20-26), the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties – COP26 (November 2021); the latter through a three-day hybrid conference: GLF Climate. This will result in amplifying existing and ongoing locally-led initiatives and increasing

support on them, strengthening or creating alliances, and accelerating sustainable and nature-based action towards an equitable and resilient Amazon Biome.

GLF AMAZONIA 2021, TO EXPLORE, CONTRIBUTE AND LEARN FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST RAINFOREST

Attending and writing about this conference will help create momentum around global challenges related to the preservation and restoration of the world's largest tropical forest, which needs urgent action. Through partnerships and a diversity of activities, such as plenaries, interactive sessions, launchpads, networking and learning journeys, GLF Amazonia will:



A member of the Tariana tribe in the Amazon region of Brazil. ©Julio Pantoja/World Bank

Provide or facilitate

- learning from and across the different biocultural identities in the Amazon Biome, and the development of a common vision for a sustainable future for the biome and its people;
- a platform for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Afro-descendent Peoples to voice their needs, ambitions and visions on assuring a safe and prosperous future for themselves and their families;
- sustainable finance and responsible investment for inclusive and resilient value chains;
- new commitments to upscale cross-sectoral land-use planning in the Amazon Biome;
- a dialogue between indigenous knowledge and practices, and innovative technologies derived from Western science;
- a spotlight on nature-based businesses that can be brought to scale; and
- knowledge and understanding of synergies between existing coalitions and movements.

While exploring

- the various biocultural identities of the Amazon Biome;
- an equitable, resilient and circular bioeconomy;
- transboundary governance and cross-sectoral land-use planning;
- incentives, disincentives and policy instruments; and
- the role of technology and traditional knowledge.

IN THE AMAZON, THE FUTURE IS TODAY

- Eight countries and an overseas territory share the complex and rich Amazon Biome: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela, Suriname and French Guiana, respectively.
- The Amazon is home to more than 30 million people, of which around 9% are indigenous; about 410 ethnic groups –including both Afro-descendent and Indigenous Peoples– 60% of which still remain largely isolated; and one of every ten world’s land species –flora and fauna–, various of them unique in the world.
- Among all the ecosystem services the Amazon provides to the region and the world are supporting native species, the maintenance of climate function, regulation

of temperature and humidity, storing a big amount of carbon, and providing fresh water and food to local communities.

- Deforestation in the Amazon can lead to losing the biome’s ability to produce its own rainfall, releasing carbon and significantly accelerating global warming, as well as increasing human exposure to animals with diseases (“virus spillover”) and chances that a zoonotic virus such as COVID-19 or Ebola emerges.
- Stronger policies are needed to avoid that more than 40% of Amazon’s intact forest be cleared by 2050. The Amazon Biome (6.7 million km²) –almost as big as Australia, twice India and three times Mexico– has lost 17% of its forest in the last 50 years and 2 million hectares of forest in 2020, a portion of land half the size of Switzerland or almost three times Puerto Rico.

- The Amazon River (6600 km²), as long as the distance from New York to the capitals of Bolivia or Germany, contains the largest number of freshwater fish species in the world and nurtures the Atlantic Ocean.
- About 2.7 million people, almost 1 in every 10, is indigenous in the Amazon Biome, and their territories cover one-third of the biome. Formal recognition of indigenous land is needed, even more considering that those areas show better-managed natural resources. Indigenous rights and roles are pivotal in climate and conservation action.
- In Brazil, where 60% of the Amazon Biome is located, deforestation, pollution, city expansion and conflict (e.g., land or drug-related) threaten the biome and people who live in it. During the last 30 years, less than 10% of land-related killings have gone to trial, and currently, a bill expanding a law that grants land rights to “land-grabbers” has complicated relations between European retailers and Brazil because of deforestation concerns. However, Brazil has applied beneficial policies for the Amazon in the past, and there is an urgent need to adapt those initiatives to modern times, such as those that led to a 70% reduction in deforestation in the Amazon, between 2005 and 2017, while increasing economic growth.
- Sometimes mining and agriculture projects in the Amazon Biome generate environmental and social problems and Indigenous Peoples demand being consulted before extractive works start in their territories; this prior consultation is a constitutional right in Colombia. In this country, currently, there are 51 oil contracts in its Amazon area, from which 39 intersect with 83 indigenous reservations. Illegal mining threatens all: forests, rivers and Indigenous People and Local Communities’ lives, among others.
- Agribusiness has been responsible for some emblematic cases of deforestation in the Amazonas since they require a vast piece of land. In some countries, those soy, cacao and palm oil crops have been strongly promoted by governments.
- There is a current risk of expansion of legal and illegal highways in the Amazon. For example, the project promoted by the government of Bolsonaro for the construction of the Pucallpa (Peru) and Cruzeiro do Sul (Brazil) Highway, a more than 250 km road that would pass through a national park and 10 indigenous territories. As for the illegal roads, Colombia counts three in the departments of Guaviare, Caquetá and Meta.
- Forest fires have caused severe damages. In relation to it, a recent study indicates that a region of the Brazilian Amazon now releases more carbon than it stores.

An Amazon tree boa in Manu National Park, Peru.
© Ulrike Langner/ Unsplash



MOMENTUM

- GLF Amazonia 2021 occurs within the framework of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), an initiative of the UN Environment Programme and FAO, and with support from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.
- Outcomes from the GLF Amazonia will spark action and dialogue during Climate Week 2021, the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the COP26 and GLF Climate.
- In May 2021, the Climate and Environment Ministers of the G7 recognized the critical role of forests and nature-based solutions in countering climate change and biodiversity loss, and benefiting peoples and the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); also recognized the need to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to respect and value their knowledge and leadership; and committed to urgent action to conserve, protect and restore natural ecosystems, and to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030.

THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON THE AMAZON RESTORATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOODS:

Voices in the press: UNEP, UNDP, WWF, WHO, FAO, World Food Programme, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, IPBES, World Meteorological Organization, World Economic Forum, IUCN, WRI, the World Bank, and top experts in environment, medicine, economics and conservation.

KEY TERMS (FROM THE PRESS/REPORTS):

biodiversity, climate change, deforestation, rainforest, ecosystem service, indigenous, sustainable, extinction, ecological restoration, food security, green recovery, livelihoods, nature-based solutions, pandemic, COVID-19, supply chains, warming, agroforestry.

SOURCES:

- GLF Amazonia concept note
- Inside the Amazon
- Study: Could the Amazon become ground zero for the world's next pandemic?
- Amazônia: life and death in the Brazilian rainforest
- G7 Climate and Environment: Ministers' Communiqué
- The Global Importance of Amazon Natural Resources
- The challenge of the 83 indigenous reservations to which oil blocks are crossed
- European retailers urge Brazil to drop Amazon squatters bill
- Amazon rainforest now emitting more CO2 than it absorbs

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events.globallandscapesforum.org/amazon-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.

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