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GLF AFRICA
DIGITAL
CONFERENCE
15.9.2022

HOW TO BUILD AN EQUITABLE, RESILIENT FOOD FUTURE

ONLINE

DISCOVER MORE GLF AFRICA 15 September 2022

The challenge

Africa has played a minimal role in causing the climate crisis, yet its people are already paying a heavy price for it.

In the Horn of Africa, the worst drought in 40 years is putting up to 20 million people at risk of starvation and has already killed over 1.5 million livestock. Meanwhile in Madagascar, years of drought have pushed 2 million people to the brink of famine – at the same time that four major storms have battered the island nation in the space of a month.

With each new flood or drought, food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa is rising by 5 to 20 percentage points. Even more urgently, the war in Ukraine has led to a global food crisis marked by rising fuel and food prices, which are exacerbating existing food security and sovereignty issues on the continent. Sadly, we are now facing multiple interconnected crises: the cost of living, climate change, and broken food systems. This reality is upending lives across the continent and calls for urgent collective action.



Agriculture has the coolest jobs in the world. I hope young people realize. African food-agri business will be \$1 trillion by 2030. You won't be a billionaire from oil and gas: nobody drinks oil or smokes gas – everybody eats food.



Akinwumi A. Adesina
President of African
Development Bank



We stimulate action in people, and we also have an incentive to do this. Because we are part of the community, we thrive with the community. We rise and fall together as a community.



**His Majesty
Ngwenyama Inkosi
Ya Makhosi Gomani V**
King of the Maseko Ngoni,
Malawi, Mozambique,
Tanzania and South Africa

Now for the good news: we can put an end to these challenges by building an **equitable and resilient food future** through a united effort to **transform Africa's food systems**. This food future will see resilient, drought-proof landscapes with healthy soil that can sustain dry periods, produce diverse foods, and create new livelihood opportunities. Not only can this transformation build the resilience of communities and ecosystems, but it can also mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food production.

We can achieve this food future by harnessing the latest **science and innovative technology** and, more importantly, the wealth of **local and traditional knowledge** and an eager willingness for **local dialogue and implementation**. Today, the continent is buzzing with many shining, successful examples of locally-led solutions for a new food future, from sustainable entrepreneurship to youth empowerment. These community-led solutions have massive potential to be scaled up and accelerated when connected with the right stakeholders, expertise, and funding.

Welcome to the GLF Africa 2022 Digital Conference

In a one-day digital conference, **GLF Africa** will gather thousands of frontline leaders, grassroots actors, farmers' cooperatives, scientists, innovators, youth and women's groups, and financiers to answer the crucial question: **How can we build an equitable and resilient food future?** The event will illustrate what it takes to achieve a holistic, sustainable food systems transition to a future of nutrition security, equity, and sovereignty in Africa.

By bringing together leading local land champions, changemakers and thinkers from across the continent and the world, GLF Africa will break down **how resilient landscapes, equitable land access and ownership, and sustainable value chains are key drivers of food systems transformation**.

Conference objectives

GLF Africa will be guided by both the latest scientific and technological expertise and the traditional knowledge, practices and technologies that have been applied and adapted throughout history. The conference broadly seeks to:

- Promote a new narrative of African solutions that are driving a holistic, sustainable agri-food systems transformation to address food security, equity and sovereignty
- Inspire innovative partnerships by building bridges across sectors and initiatives in African agriculture, forest landscape restoration, sustainable finance, and creative industries
- Establish best practices and successful models for accelerating youth and women's leadership for action at scale
- Identify examples of effective policies, investments, and new social norms to draw success factors and policy recommendations for inclusive and equitable tenure and governance.



Promises don't put trees and grass in the ground. Promises don't build ecosystems. Action does. To act with speed and purpose, we need to get the finance flowing.



Inger Andersen
Under-Secretary-
General, United Nations
Environment Programme
(UNEP)



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Building on regional and global initiatives

GLF Africa 2022 will focus on creating a holistic approach to agri-food system transformation which builds upon several regional and global initiatives, including:

- The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government designated **2022 as the Year of Nutrition** to strengthen resilience in nutrition, food security, and agro-food systems.
- The **UN Food Systems Summit 2021** recognized inclusive and transformative food systems as a key pathway to realizing the 2030 Agenda.
- The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)** aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. The **UN Decade on Family Farming (2019–2028)** will unleash the power of family farmers in achieving food system transformation, while the **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)** will make a sustained and coherent effort to eliminate malnutrition.
- At the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification COP15** in May 2022, delegates made a united global pledge to boost drought resilience and invest in land restoration for future prosperity.
- The **African Union Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security** aims to allocate 10% of national budgets to agricultural development.
- The **African Union Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth** seeks to achieve improved livelihoods with an emphasis on smallholder farmers.



There's a need to be a line between where we act and where we let nature restore itself because nature is dynamic.



Adjany Costa
Advisor for Environmental Affairs, President of the Republic of Angola



Ecosystem restoration is never for its own sake. It is for the sake of everyone.



Mordecai Ogada
Executive Director,
Conservation Solutions
Afrika



Believe that you can make the change that you would like to see. Create small impacts. At the end, we shall all meet at the top.



Desmond Alugnoa
Co-founder, Green Africa
Youth Organization
(GAYO)



We need to ensure that we put our leaders accountable for the actions that we youth do and ensure that there is as much environmental justice as possible.



Fatou Jeng
Founder,
Clean Earth
Gambia

What's on the agenda?

The agenda will feature interactive technical sessions sharing best practices, press conferences launching new campaigns and tools, structured networking sessions, cultural exhibitions featuring local photographers and filmmakers, virtual farm and project tours, documentary screenings, and a job fair featuring green employment opportunities for Africa's top talent.

The agenda will be curated in the following three conference tracks:

1. Sustainable Finance: From Markets to Value Chains

A new generation of entrepreneurs are turning community-based NGOs into sustainable enterprises. GLF Africa will explore the business case for regenerative agriculture and restoration and meet some of the young entrepreneurs working to de-risk local initiatives to attract investment. We will also address how these entrepreneurs can receive the financing required to sustainably meet the demands of growing urban populations and international commodity markets. The event will host a special plenary on holistic approaches to transforming food production building on the Global Environment Facility-funded [Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration \(FOLUR\)](#) Impact Program. By identifying how to green the value chains of major commodities, such as cocoa, coffee and corn, we will explore pathways for Africa's shift towards a bio-based economy.

2. Resilient, Regenerative Landscapes: From Restoration to Agroecology

What is needed to support the transition to a more regenerative food production system? [Up to 65% of productive land in Africa is already degraded](#), at increasing risk of drought, and in urgent need of restoration. But how can we ensure that restoration actors have access to the basics: seed supply, technical knowledge, effective approaches, enabling institutional incentives, and financing? We will gain insights into best practices in community-based and farmer-led restoration, as well as inclusive governance processes for recovery and restoration at scale.

3. Landscape Rights: From Inclusive Tenure to Policy Change

There should be equitable access to and use of natural resources such as land, water, grass, and trees, regardless of gender and age. What are some success stories in effective policies, investments, and new social norms that ensure the equitable governance of land tenure? While land tenure is crucial, tenure security is embedded in a wider spectrum of human rights, and it is critical that these multiple rights are also secured. We will identify instruments to align legal frameworks with local realities and reflect on the 10th anniversary of the [Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure](#) (VGGT), an international framework set out to improve land governance.

Recognizing game changers

The resilient future for food will be driven by these three game changers for progress and food systems transformation. GLF Africa will place particular emphasis on recognizing and elevating the role of these drivers of progress, ensuring that they are represented and reflected across all aspects of the agenda and conference tracks.

1. Youth and women's leadership

Education and investment, particularly in youth and women, can catalyze their role as game changers for the continent. What can we learn from leaders who are innovating, mobilizing their communities and generating new revenue streams? How can we co-create a vision that meets the aspirations of younger generations and addresses their unique challenges?

The Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) is running the [Young African Landscape Leadership](#) program for young landscape leaders from all across Africa. Young people will showcase their expertise in youth-led sessions and play key roles during the event as speakers, restorers and volunteers.

2. Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems

Indigenous Peoples and rural communities are some of the most effective stewards of land. What can they teach the world about building more sustainable food systems? How can science meet Indigenous and traditional knowledge to create resilient rural economies in the face of a rapidly changing climate?

3. Digital innovations for transformation

Digital technologies are swiftly changing the business of food and agriculture systems by providing new tools and data to farmers,

consumers and actors across the value chain. How have these budding African innovations been tested, nurtured and financed? What more can be done to foster innovation ecosystems across the continent to nurture and grow startups to reach their full potential?

A new GLF approach to conferencing

With three successful regional conferences in [GLF Nairobi 2018](#), [GLF Accra 2019](#), and [GLF Africa 2021](#), which connected thousands in person and millions online, the GLF has demonstrated a strong record in mobilizing key stakeholders in Africa.

GLF Africa 2022 will build on these discussions and serve as a key moment in the GLF's 2022 campaign, which will include the organization of several activities throughout the year to meet the following objectives:

- 1. Regional and local communications** to amplify the work of successful locally-led initiatives and promote a combined knowledge base of traditional practice and the latest science through media partnerships and creative campaigns.
- 2. Institutional and partner engagement** to build new cross-sectoral coalitions and amplify existing ones to influence regional and global policy processes such as the Rio Conventions, Great Green Wall and AFR100. GLF Africa will provide a pathway for alliances, collaborations and recommendations to uplift African priorities from the UNCCD COP15 in May to GLF Climate alongside the COP27 climate change conference.
3. Developing the capacity to **scale the action of local NGOs, youth, and educational institutes** across the continent through GLF local chapters, the Landscape Academy and youth-led programs.





The road to GLF Africa 2022

GLF Africa will be the highlight of the GLF's ongoing digital campaign to catalyze community-led local action and showcase human stories on the ground. We will organize the following activities to kick off the journey towards GLF Africa in September:

GLF Africa Week (18–24 April): To announce the GLF Africa 2022 conference, gain input and ideas from our community, and build momentum towards UNCCD COP15, the GLF hosted an Africa Week to promote Africa-related content across all GLF communication channels. This included: 1) an interactive GLF Live series on Africa, including one focused on key issues at UNCCD COP15; 2) the launch of a new thought leadership video keynote series for GLF Charter Member heads; 3) the launch of an Africa photo competition; and 4) promotion by 42 social media ambassadors across 26 countries in 16 languages.

GLF at UNCCD COP15 (9–20 May): In close partnership with the UNCCD Secretariat, the GLF sent a communications core crew and team to work with partners and cover the conference in Abidjan, producing multimedia content and organizing a series of special GLF Lives to amplify key messages and outcomes. This was complimented by a side event on 12 May titled [*Securing Landscape Rights as a Catalyst to Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality: A Multi-stakeholder Dialogue*](#), as well as a session on the GLF Restoration Steward Program in the Rio Pavilion on 14 May.

2022 Young African Landscape Leadership Program:

Africa's youth have immense potential to forge a new development model and vision for the continent and are already champions for their landscapes and community-based solutions. The YIL and the GLF have launched the first-ever [*Young African Landscape Leadership*](#) annual program to engage young people before and after GLF Africa. The program aims to mobilize the immense potential of African youth to forge a new development model and vision for the continent and champion their landscapes and community-based solutions.

GLF Africa Job Fair (14 September): The GLF and the [*International Forestry Students' Association \(IFSA\)*](#) will host a virtual job fair ahead of the conference to connect employers in sustainability-related fields with top talent from across Africa, with a focus on students, entry-level and mid-career professionals (aged 18 to 35).

GLF Chapters and Restoration Stewards will showcase inspiring success stories of community-led restoration action across Africa and host watch parties for GLF Africa in their communities. The GLF will launch a call for applications for new local chapters working towards sustainable agri-food systems. Chapters and Restoration Stewards will leverage momentum from the conference to strengthen their networks, fundraise and create space for collaboration.

Special GLF Live series on Africa: African thought leaders will highlight new solutions and key themes crucial to a resilient food future through a special GLF Live series leading up to and after the conference.

Get involved

The agenda will feature plenaries, interactive sessions, structured networking, cultural exhibitions featuring local photographers and filmmakers, virtual tours, documentary screenings and press conferences around the selected themes. Please refer to the [Get Involved page](#) or contact [GLF Global Assistant Coordinator Judith Sonneck](#) with any questions.

Digital communications

This conference will leverage the communication and digital marketing capacity of the GLF and CIFOR-ICRAF, along with the 33 GLF Charter Members, engaged partners, media partners, and the networks of conference speakers and participants. A social media boot camp will develop capacity and maximize the reach and impact of the event. We will commission 15 Africa-based GLF social media ambassadors to report on the conference live from across the continent, using their own channels including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn to spark meaningful conversations on ecosystem restoration in Africa. In total, the 2022 social media ambassador program consists of 42 Ambassadors from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

Sponsorship opportunities

Over the past eight years, the GLF has reached close to 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 33 Charter Members, which include some of the world's leading developmental organizations, including the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute and Rainforest Alliance. Brands that support the GLF are associated with a movement that has engaged 7,400 entities to date, including international organizations, governments, universities, corporations, and community groups.

GLF conferences have been attended by 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. Platinum, gold, silver, and bronze sponsorship packages are available, as well as custom and exclusive packages such as sponsoring a community of practice, a GLF chapter, a learning product or youth activities. For more information, please contact [GLF Engagement and Growth Coordinator Nina Haase](#).





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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 livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FAO, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, TMG-Think Tank for Sustainability, UNCCD, 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

Funding partners



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