

Concept Note



Global
Landscapes
Forum



The Climate Solution We Forgot

GLF Peatlands 2024

Hidden habitats that define the future
of climate, biodiversity and life

Bonn, Germany and online
bit.ly/GLFPeatlands2024
#GLFPeatlands

6 June
2024

About the event

Peatlands make up just 3–4% of the Earth's land area, but they store a third of the world's soil carbon – double that of all global forests combined.

Not only is peat the most space-efficient terrestrial carbon sink, it also serves as a distinct and diverse array of ecosystems and species making its protection crucial in meeting biodiversity targets. However, 12% of the world's peatlands have been either drained or degraded, releasing vast amounts of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Peatland degradation accounts for 4% of annual human-induced emissions.

Driven by agriculture, forestry and peat extraction, the destruction of peatlands leads to complex environmental and social challenges like persistent peat fires, which adversely affect millions and cause considerable damage to health, education, the environment and the economy. Any gains from converting peatlands to other land uses are hugely outweighed by the environmental, social and economic costs of this precious landscape's degradation.

To effectively manage peatlands, we must establish communication and collaborations across sectors to incorporate diverse perspectives into charting integrated solutions.

As the world's largest knowledge-led platform on sustainable landscapes, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is uniquely positioned to unite global and regional stakeholders. Following the success

of the 2017 GLF Peatlands conference, this upcoming event will create space to address gaps in the science, policy and practice nexus and bring forth traditional knowledge in peatland management. It will foster dialogue around effective, appropriate and participatory management models as well as the necessary policy and financial tools needed to support them at the national, regional and global level.

Against the backdrop of growing political momentum for peatland protection, exemplified by Germany's commitment to a national peatland strategy, GLF Peatlands 2024 will align with global efforts to safeguard these critical ecosystems. Held alongside the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference, it seeks to enhance the dialogue on the vital role of preserved peatlands in carbon cycling, including their substantial carbon sequestration capacity when undisturbed and the critical impacts on greenhouse gas fluxes arising from degraded peatlands.

Beyond their importance in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the event seeks to emphasize the significance of peatlands in a multitude of processes, such as supporting biodiversity and water regulation.

The timing, location and topic of GLF Peatlands 2024 offer an ideal opportunity to leverage and bridge multiple global and regional events, such as IUFRO 2024, the International Peatlands Congress, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) and the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP16).



Objectives

GLF Peatlands 2024 seeks to:



Chart integrated solutions for effective peatland management by coordinating and increasing communication and knowledge sharing across science, policy and practice.



Explore innovative financial pathways to support effective peatland restoration and management and provide alternative livelihoods for local communities



Catalyze effective policy response and implementation that takes into account the environmental and social complexities of managing peatlands.



Raise peatland restoration and protection in the global climate agenda in the context of the Bonn Climate Change Conference and in the run up to COP29 and global policy processes.

Key topics to be explored

The following questions will be explored around the management of peatlands:



State of peatland knowledge: What are the most pressing gaps in peatland science in different regions? What are the latest approaches and best practices on peatland restoration and sustainable management across different regions? How can peatland restoration be effective in recovering biodiversity and carbon sequestration potential of peatlands? Are peatlands and land productivity compatible?



Human geography: How can conservation and restoration efforts be participatory and account for the cultural significance of a landscape? What are the challenges and opportunities that emerge with the traditional uses of the land by communities and local people, and how can they be reconciled with restoration objectives? How can access to and productivity of peatlands be secured in the process of restoration? How can the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples and local communities be leveraged to ensure context-specific challenges and needs are properly accounted for?



Policy instruments: What are some examples of national strategies, initiatives and action plans to map and manage peatlands? What are the challenges and opportunities in developing, adopting and implementing them? What are some effective actions that have been taken to halt peatland degradation?



Financing peatlands conservation: How can we ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized for the conservation and restoration of peatlands? What are some existing finance models, and what others can be leveraged? How can the private sector contribute, and what are some innovative blended finance mechanisms? How can a strong investment case be made for the conservation of peatland ecosystems in the different regions?

Who is this event for?

Hosted alongside the annual Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB60), GLF Peatlands 2024 will gather practitioners, policymakers, experts, scientists, representatives of NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, youth activists and business leaders, making waves in peatland conservation and restoration.

Join and network with a select group of a hundred participants at the GLF Secretariat in Bonn, located in the beautiful Rheinaue Leisure Park right next to the Bonn Climate Change Conference venue, or connect with thousands of practitioners from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean online.

Outreach and engagement

The back-to-back event and campaign are tipped to reach 10 million people across the globe and engage a hundred thousand people in

the conversation through social media, engaging partners, influencers, the networks of conference speakers, participants and the GLF's 42 social media ambassadors from 27 countries. The creative campaign will leverage and bridge to key policy processes and events to recognize the role of peatlands in all climate, biodiversity and land processes, bridging borders and learnings from tropical peatlands all the way to the boreal ones.

Community and action

The voices of youth (18–35 years old) and local partners, including Peatlands Restoration Stewards, the Youth in Landscapes network, GLFx chapters and others, will have a central role in shaping the conversation during GLF Peatlands. Through speaking at plenaries and sessions, as well as with interventions directly from the heart of the peatlands worldwide, local experts and practitioners will share their knowledge on the cultural and ecological values of peatlands in tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss trends.

About 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) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter members: CIAT, CIFOR-ICRAF, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FAO, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, TMG-Think Tank for Sustainability, UNCCD, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)

Funding partners



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