

Concept Note



Global
Landscapes
Forum

RESTORE THE EARTH

Opportunities and
partnerships

A Global Landscapes Forum event

28 September 2019
New York City

Main objectives

- **Consult with countries and key stakeholders** on the content and focus of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030;
- Raise awareness of the opportunities linked to **large-scale ecosystem restoration in the landscapes and seascapes**;
- Forge and announce **new, non-traditional partnerships** ahead of the implementation of the UN Decade;
- Coordinate and increase **international, national, and private support** for ecosystem restoration;
- Explore in-depth key global ecosystem restoration needs: **forests/agriculture, wetlands/peatlands, mountains, drylands/rangelands, oceans/coasts**;
- Strengthen, expand and connect existing restoration initiatives on land and in water from local to global level to **accelerate implementation at unprecedented scale**.

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: CIRAD, CIFOR, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Ecoagriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, IPMG, CIAT, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, INBAR, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, World Agroforestry, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative, World Bank Group

Funding partners



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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Humankind and our planet are in a precarious situation. Decades of progress on sustainable development are now threatened by climate change and biodiversity loss. According to the [latest science](#), we have only 12 years left to avoid runaway climate change and irreversibly damaging Earth's life-support systems. Increasingly extreme weather events are being felt across the world, hitting hardest the poor and most vulnerable. Such impacts are expected to increase in severity each year, largely placing the burden of adjustment on future generations. Fighting the climate crisis has now become an urgent issue of inter-generational justice.

Against this stark backdrop, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed a Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The Resolution recognizes the important role that nature and nature-based solutions play in fighting the climate crisis and in achieving sustainable development, in the integrated spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Commitments to restoration and sustainable land use are increasing. For instance, 122 countries have already agreed, under the framework of the United National Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to set land degradation neutrality targets, as part of their pledges towards achieving by 2030 the SDG target 15.3, which call for countries to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world. By some estimates, a concerted effort to protect and restore forests and landscapes, and transform agriculture, could solve more than one-third of the climate crisis, and trigger a large array of other benefits for sustainable development. However, nature-based solutions at present receive less than three percent of climate finance. For land-based ecosystems, for example, the [Global Partnership on](#)

[Forest and Landscapes Restoration](#) (GPFLR) estimates that while restoring 350 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 would cost around USD 837 billion, it could generate ecosystem services worth around USD 9 trillion.¹

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This means for every dollar invested in ecosystem restoration, society would gain more than 10 dollars in return.”

Marine ecosystems will also play a critical part in slowing climate change and conserving precious biodiversity; at present, they are already suffering significantly from climate change (e.g. coral bleaching) and numerous other anthropogenic threats, such as (micro)plastic, radioactive and other chemical waste, oil pollution, noise and overfishing.

To mark the adoption of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – connecting land and water – and to ensure this opportunity reaches its full potential, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is organizing a one-day event on 28 September in New York, back-to-back with the opening of the 74th UN General Assembly (UN GA) and shortly after the UN Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Action Summit. We expect that the day will give us an opportunity to **advance new action coalitions for the UN Decade, and offer a Decade-long implementation platform** to nature-based solutions emerging from the Secretary-General's Climate Summit.

Areas for discussion during the GLF event:

- **Consultation with UN Member States.** First and foremost, the UN Decade is owned by national governments, and the event will be an opportunity to hear their past experiences as well as views and ideas for a successful Decade. UN Environment and FAO, the lead UN agencies on the Decade, will organize this consultation.
- **Economics and finance.** What will the implementation of the UN Decade cost, and what will be the benefits to societies?
- **Vision 2030.** The UN Decade could provide a message of hope, action, and opportunities for decent jobs. Key leaders of global movements on climate action, lifestyles, and ecosystems will share lessons-learned to mobilize mass support.
- **Ecosystem panels.** Learning from and sharing best practices, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, regarding key ecosystem types, such as forests, mountains, oceans, peatlands/wetlands, rangelands/drylands.

¹ Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), 2018: [Restoring forests and landscapes – the key to a sustainable future.](#)



Expected results

Holding the event concurrently with the opening of the UN GA and the SG Climate Summit, provides an opportunity to position ecosystem restoration as a key solution to the climate and biodiversity crises, and a valuable proposition for sustainable development. Key expected results include:

- **Shape the implementation of the UN Decade.** The views raised during this day will flow into the Strategy for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, which is being developed by UN Environment and FAO.
- **Increased political momentum.** We would like to see a pledge of support from actors working in ecosystem restoration, and those not yet engaged, as we gear up to implement the UN Decade. In addition, we would like additional countries to pledge restoration actions towards achieving the goal of 350 million hectares under restoration by 2030. We will also take stock of key commitments on restoration made during the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit on 23 September.
- **Better global coordination of relevant actors.** To better channel the growing momentum and energy for restoration in useful directions, the GLF NYC 2019 will be a space of learning from each other, working together, and understanding our individual and collective successes and failures.
- **Exchanges of the latest science and practical lessons learned.** Conversations will demonstrate what works, what conditions are needed for restoration, and support discussions on how to scale-up role models. Discussions will also identify obstacles and provide evidence-based insights into practical, political, technical and financial solutions for overcoming these obstacles.
- **Increased private (domestic and foreign) investment in ecosystem restoration.** The launch of new, responsible and inclusive finance mechanisms to attract private investments is expected.
- **Spark a Youth alliance to foster implementation.** Facilitate the linkages of existing youth movements and grassroots actors on climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration to form a Youth alliance which picks up and support countries' pledges for large-scale ecosystem restoration.

Timing and location

GLF NYC 2019 will take place on 28 September 2019 at New York City. More than 500 people are expected to attend the on-site event and tens of thousands more will participate live online in the GLF Digital Edition.

Proposed agenda

Opening plenary	
MORNING	<p>Shaping the Roadmap <i>How do we move from resolution to mass action?</i></p> <p>Country Panel National governments will share their commitments, past experiences, and views for the necessary components of a successful UN decade.</p> <p>Economics and Finance Where some see challenge, these leaders in sustainable finance and investment see opportunity. Leading banks and economists share commitments, insights, and innovations in green and social finance.</p> <p>Vision 2030 Key leaders of global movements on climate action, lifestyles, and eco-systems will share lessons-learned to mobilize mass support and their support to the UN Decade.</p>
Lunch	
AFTERNOON	<p>Restoring our lands and seas <i>How do we transform our food systems and conduct restoration for the benefit of nature and people?</i></p> <p>Ecosystem panels, interspersed with celebrity 'fire-starter' talks and creative interventions, will share best-practices from indigenous peoples, local communities, youth and practitioners in key ecosystem types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forests and agriculture 2. Mountains 3. Wetlands and peatlands 4. Oceans, coasts, coral reefs 5. Drylands and rangelands



Digital edition

Thousands of online viewers will join the conversation through the Digital Edition of GLF NYC 2019 to share their insights and help shape the UN Decade. Conference sessions will be streamed live, while hosts and virtual moderators will guide the conversation in livestream chat rooms and digital sessions. It is expected that the conference and the preceding three-month campaign will reach hundreds of news outlets, and millions of stakeholders worldwide.

Communications

The GLF will leverage its extensive media channels to bring international attention to the event. A digital campaign will promote speakers, content and themes before, during and after the event, covering the latest news and research and video interviews with key personalities. Our GLF news portal, Landscape News, with its team of global journalists will cover key topics and decisionmakers. Compelling stories through social media will reach thousands of people in numerous languages.

Partners are essential to the success of GLF communications efforts and they contribute with insight and content that is shared across GLF platform. Contribute your story, innovative social media narrative, video or infographic. Publish your content on the GLF platform or join the communications committee.

For information regarding GLF's communications committee, please contact **Melissa Angel** (m.kayeangel@cgjar.org), GLF Communications Coordinator.

Conference sponsorships

By sponsoring the GLF, your company or organization will contribute to the world's largest forum on sustainable land use and development. Your brand will be associated with a movement that over the past six years has reached more than 230 million people on social media.

More than 4,400 organizations, governments, universities, corporations and community groups have participated, and 180,000 people from 185 countries have attended GLF conferences. GLF participants and members are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Already, the GLF's youth programs have had a direct impact on more than 50,000 youth under the age of 35. More than 250 million people have been reached through traditional media, and 4,600 print, broadcast and radio media cover the GLF around the world.

Partnership engagement

The GLF builds collaborative efforts to accelerate the transition from a short-term engagement perspective to one that focuses on long-term partnerships for sustainable impact on ecosystems. The GLF partnership mandate includes mobilizing world leaders, scientists, policymakers, global media, the corporate and finance sectors, indigenous communities, youth and women's groups to accelerate action to build climate-resilient, equitable, prosperous and productive landscapes. It also involves building a community of practice to identify and solve key climate challenges while developing capacity through numerous learning opportunities.

The GLF network platform is effectively positioned to provide influence and direction for traditional investing and promotion of thought leadership, best practices and active engagement with the purpose of seeing positive systems change.

For all information regarding GLF Sponsorships and Partnership Engagement, including the GLF Charter and GLF Sponsorship Packages, please contact **John Colmey** (j.colmey@cgjar.org), GLF Managing Director.