

RESTORING AFRICA'S LANDSCAPES REGIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM IN GHANA

The [Global Landscapes Forum](#) organizes the [Regional Conference 2019 Restoring Africa's Landscapes: Uniting actions from above and below](#). The Conference will take place in Accra (Ghana) on 29 - 30 October 2019.

The Global Landscapes Forum website underlines that...*land degradation is negatively impacting at least 3.2 billion people and costing over 10 per cent of the annual global gross product in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Reversing degradation of land and marine ecosystems can provide more than one-third of the climate change mitigation required by 2030 to remain below a 2°C increase in average global temperatures and at the same time conserve biodiversity, increase food and water security, and help achieve the sustainable development goals.*

Restoring Degraded Land Can Improve Livelihoods

Africa has the largest restoration opportunity of any continent in the world—more than 700 million hectares of degraded land, or an area the size of Australia. This degraded land can be restored to forests or mosaic landscapes, providing many benefits.

- 1. Boost Productivity**
In southern Niger, women used to spend 2.5 hours a day collecting firewood from sparse landscapes. Now, they spend only 0.5 hours by pruning on-farm trees.
- 2. Improve Food and Water Security**
In Zinder and Maradi, Niger, adding trees to farms increased crop yields by 15-30%.
- 3. Protect Biodiversity**
In Malawi, increasing trees on farms slowed deforestation by reducing the need to cut existing forests.
- 4. Increase Climate Change Resilience**
In Tigray, Ethiopia, restoration expanded dry season farming from 40 to 40,000 hectares over the past 20 years.
- 5. Reduce Disaster Risk**
A single mature baobab in Niger's Mirriah district produces leaves and fruit worth at least \$28, allowing farmers to buy cereals and other food during droughts.
- 6. Combat Desertification**
Trees help restore, maintain and improve soil fertility by increasing organic soil matter.

The objective of the Conference is to make an examination of successful, sustainable forest and landscape restoration projects throughout the continent of Africa in order to understand what approaches are effective and how these can be replicated elsewhere.

In particular, [the Conference intends to address the following issues:](#)

- Sharing restoration planning: best practices in restoration planning, based on experiences from such organizations as [AFR100](#), FAO and International Union for Conservation of Nature to encompass lessons from governments and local communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Collaboration between farmers and the private sector: local forests and ecosystems provide livelihoods and income for farm families and communities.
- Linking ecology and community for strong social and ecological benefits: what kinds of forestry, agroforestry and agricultural land use arrangements have helped achieve social and livelihood goals.
- Restoration status reports: country and regional partners and international non-governmental organizations will report on progress toward achieving restoration goals.
- Research insights from the field: scientists from universities and research centers in both the Global North and South will present findings on factors affecting uptake by communities of restoration investments, including tenure security, effective governance, as well as financial returns and benefits.



- Youth and a vision for 2030: joining forces of people of all ages in the framework of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) beginning in 2021 and linked closely with forest and landscape restoration.

The Conference will bring together leaders and policy makers from across Africa, scientists, experts and researchers, representatives from corporate and finance sectors, indigenous communities, youth and women's groups and global media.

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.

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

To know more

[GLF 2019 Accra Regional Conference](#)

[Concept Note GLF Accra 2019](#)

[GLF Accra in Landportal.org](#)

[Global Landscapes Forum website](#)

[Global Landscapes Forum in Facebook](#)

[Africa Restoration Initiative](#)

[African Restoration Initiative in slideshare.net](#)

[2018 Report Africa Restoration Initiative](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration in GLF website](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in UN Environment website](#)

