



**FRONTIERS  
OF CHANGE**



GLF CLIMATE HYBRID CONFERENCE

# OUTCOME STATEMENT

EVERY FRACTION OF  
A DEGREE MATTERS

11-12  
NOVEMBER  
2022

#GLFClimate



## Key messages

- **Climate action must be taken based on economic and political decisions that take a holistic view of nature's values, beyond market-based views – and incorporate the knowledge and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.** This means that social and environmental justice, humility, and inclusivity need to foreground this work; that the leadership and concerns of people most vulnerable to climate change are central; that all governments and business actors should carry out appropriate and responsible actions to protect people and nature; and that our relationships to nature and the rest of humanity need to be scrutinized as we make the shifts required.
- **To make that much-needed transition happen, we must address underlying power dynamics and imbalances to ensure meaningful engagement.** Intergovernmental alliances, public-private partnerships, and landscape-level multi-stakeholder processes must be characterized by inclusivity, listening, and recognition of our common humanity. They should move beyond seemingly-incompatible shorter-term trade-offs to supporting and equipping landscape actors to govern and manage their landscapes.
- **We must channel investment into locally-led and co-created solutions based on nature for resilient adaptation.** These should be centered in the landscapes and contexts that surround them, grounded in local knowledge, and supported by science, technology, and equity.
- **There is hope! We know what we need to do: now, we need to make it happen – through political commitments, private sector investments, and transformative coalitions that are explicitly oriented towards collective and purposeful action.** This work is hard and exhausting, but we've come a long way already. The pathways to a decarbonised future are coming into increasingly clear focus: those committed and pledging must be held accountable; publically funded finance institutions need to act in line with pledges and commitments; and all of society should stand in solidarity with those on the front-lines and most vulnerable to climate change.





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## 1. Introduction

On November 11-12, 2022, the [Global Landscapes Forum](#) (GLF) gathered on the sidelines of the annual [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (COP27) for its own annual climate-focussed event, [GLF Climate: Frontiers of Change](#). Held in a hybrid live/virtual format, in Sharm El-Sheikh and online, the event brought together over 7000 people from 164 countries, and rallied over 27 million people on social media around what humanity can still do to avoid the worsening impacts of the climate crisis.

Across 43 sessions – including plenaries, expert panels, launches, virtual tours, dialogues, networking sessions, and inspirational talks – the event provided

a platform for scientists, politicians, organizational leaders, activists, the private sector, Indigenous leaders, young people, artists, and more to share their views on fair and effective pathways to a resilient, climate-smart future. In doing so, the event amplified the voices of many passionate activists and advocates who were unable to speak at COP27 itself.

The event explored ways to take control of our own fate through collective action, behavioral change, and the widespread adoption of locally-led and co-created land-based solutions. It closed with a resounding call for a just transition to a [stewardship economy](#) that puts people and nature first.



**“We have been hearing from all these audiences – students, teachers, youth, artists – that they don’t only want to listen or to read about the climate crisis, about deforestation issues. They don’t only want to be ‘reached’. They want to be engaged, to be listened to, and above all... they want their voices to matter.”**

**FLORA PEREIRA**

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR, PULITZER CENTRE



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## 2. Take-home messages for an inclusive and just decarbonised future

### 2.1: Climate action must be taken based on economic and political decisions that take a holistic view of nature's values, beyond market-based views – and incorporate the knowledge and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

“We cannot de-link global environmental challenges, and people are at the heart of that fight, especially youth, local communities and women – they are the agents of change,” said Egyptian Minister of the Environment Yasmine Fouad during the [opening plenary](#).

GLF Climate contributed to changing the narrative, by platforming critical voices that would otherwise not have been heard in the wider COP event – including through its sizable media reach. Indigenous participation in decision making spaces was shown to be particularly critical – especially considering that Indigenous territories are the home of 80% of the world's intact biodiversity, and that these communities are stewards of many of its forests.

These ‘seats at the table’ are still lacking where it counts, said Indigenous leader and Brazilian congresswoman Sônia Guajajara – and even where they exist, most dialogues are organized without addressing fundamental power imbalances: at COP27, for instance, Indigenous representatives largely attended parallel sessions (rather than the



**“The ability to listen and hear the voice of Mother Earth is the manifestation of Indigenous ways of being, knowing and learning. And these ways come from thousands of years of experience that Indigenous people have heard from their ancestors, and this experience is known as our traditional knowledge. Our traditional knowledge is the result of the symbiotic relationship between the land and its people.”**

**GALINA ANGAROVA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL SURVIVAL



more-important plenaries), and in many countries – including Brazil – they are under-represented in political institutions. Speakers noted that it was critical to ensure that carbon net zero is not attained through ‘green colonization’ – such as pursuing ‘clean energy’ goals whilst mining the minerals required in battery development in unjust, ecologically-damaging ways that discount the desires of Indigenous Peoples and local communities: essentially, “how we decarbonise matters”, said Cle-Ann Gabriel, Head of Decarbonisation at global accounting firm [KPMG](#), during a plenary session. On that note, during a [panel discussion](#) on transformational change, Levi Sucre Romero, a Bribri leader from Costa Rica, emphasized the need for new technologies to support production challenges associated with climate change, but in ways that respect indigenous worldviews.

Securing land rights – including ensuring that the women who traditionally manage a large amount of land in the Global South have access to funding and decision-making spaces – was repeatedly shown to be fundamental to a sustainable and just transition. The event saw the launch of the [Rights and Resources Initiative](#) (RRI)’s [Land Rights Standard](#), which was developed with Indigenous Peoples and

local communities as a means to guide appropriate landscape investment across the globe.

On gender, Mary Crossland – an associate scientist at CIFOR-ICRAF – argued that transformation needs to pave the way for deeper-level changes, such as the social norms underlying inequalities. She provided examples from work in Kenya using gender transformative approaches to promote community dialogues, led by local people, based on building a common vision from the ground up.

Ultimately, the event drove participants to look deeply at their own relationships to nature and the rest of humanity, and consider what they valued and why. “Our value systems define success too much as wealth and money,” said Karenna Gore, the founder and executive director of the [Center for Earth Ethics](#). Indigenous advocates again showed they had plenty to offer in this regard: Galina Angarova, the Executive Director of Indigenous advocacy organization [Cultural Survival](#), said that “meaningful transition requires a return to our values: regenerative, reciprocal, and sustainable.” In fact, for most people engaging in environmental work, values is the central motivating force.



**2.2: To make that much-needed transition happen, we must address underlying power dynamics and imbalances to ensure meaningful engagement of long ignored stakeholders.**

Large-scale international alliances such as the new [Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) (FCLP) (which was launched at COP27 on November 7), the [FACT \(Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade\) Dialogue](#), and the United Nations' [framework on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation](#) (REDD+) "represent hope and action for our forest landscapes, vehicle to halt and reverse forest loss, healthy solutions to keep 1.5 [degrees Centigrade of maximum global temperature increase] alive," said Roselyn Fosuah Adjei, the Director of Climate Change and National REDD+ Focal Point at Ghana's [Forestry Commission](#).

Yet, as many speakers noted, none of these frameworks have been well-implemented to date: there are plenty of pledges and new agreements, but effective implementation remains lacking. For instance, Javier Montoya, an agricultural and natural resources economist at CIFOR-ICRAF, explained that the effect of REDD+ on forests in three project sites in Peru and Brazil were negligible, and most positive effects were lost after the projects ended. Asyl Undeland, a senior social development specialist at the World Bank, argued that results-based finance comes in too late to effectively engage forest custodians.

Fabiola Muñoz Doderó, the Country Director for Peru of the [Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force](#) (GCF), highlighted the salience of "meaningful dialogue" as "the instrument we need to use to connect public and private; public policy has its limits if we don't listen to people." Cora Van Oosten, a senior project leader at [Wageningen Centre for Development](#), stressed the need for "building bridges" between landscapes

To that end, the notion of a 'stewardship economy' – one that prioritizes caretaking, rather than ownership, of the natural world – was promoted during the event, particularly during the reflective and aspirational [stewardship economy plenary](#) session. "It is time to truly recognize that nature is more than just products," said Ravi Prabhu, ICRAF's interim Director General. "It also provides measurable services. People are not just producers, they are carers...We need to start seeing land and nature as a community to which we belong, rather than commodities to exploit. This is stewardship in simple terms."



**"Rights are at the heart of both climate adaptation and mitigation. We need donors, investors and the private sector [to] not only endorse but actually implement these principles to move away from business-as-usual. It is important to have principles, but unless they are implemented, there's no systemic change."**

**SOLANGE BANDIAKY-BADJI**  
PRESIDENT AND COORDINATOR, RIGHTS AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE



and political systems through means such as multi stakeholder platforms – and the challenges of connecting to formal democracy that that entails.

In line with these ends, the [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAID), in partnership with [Rainforest Alliance](#), [CDP](#), [Clarmondial](#), and [Conservation International](#), launched a public-private initiative called [The Business Case](#) during the event. This initiative is a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) that integrates landscape and jurisdictional approaches and incentivizes corporates and governments to cut deforestation – while accelerating biodiversity conservation, restoration, and community livelihoods gains by driving investment and innovation to local landscapes.

However, as several speakers highlighted, actions like establishing MSPs are very much just the first step of effective engagement: it's critical to go beyond that and examine the working mechanism (and in many cases the political agenda behind it), to understand who holds power and control in the platform, and learn how to make it more transparent and legitimate – and how to invite the right people to the table, and empower them to contribute.

**2.3 We must channel investment into locally-led and co-created solutions based on nature for resilient adaptation.**

Speakers highlighted the importance of land-based action for rebalancing the climate system whilst hitting multiple targets for people and nature. “Investing in trees and forests is probably the most profitable business for climate resilience,” said [Center for International Forestry Research–World Agroforestry Centre](#) (CIFOR-ICRAF) Principal Scientist Peter Minang. Whilst restoration is important, we also need to look at land as part of people’s lives, and “think about transformative approaches that enable them to protect their land.”

To leverage scientific knowledge and best practice on how forests and tree-based systems can support countries and local people in climate change mitigation through international and national partnerships, [CIFOR-ICRAF launched](#) a new partnership platform at the conference, [TreesAdapt](#), while [CropTrust launched](#) a [report](#) showing how tree diversity can most effectively be conserved and used for smallholder livelihoods and food security in resilient landscapes in the face of climate change.





Meanwhile, a [Youth Daily Show](#) drilled into the shortcomings of the 'one-dollar-per-tree' restoration funding models that have become popular with many businesses, and pointed out the need for more realistic narratives about how much effective ecosystem restoration actually costs. "We need to ask ourselves: what trees are we planting? Are they supportive of biodiversity? Are they supportive of underlying societal needs? Are these restorative efforts aligning with needs of society? Is it competing for land? Does it stress the water table?" These bring the limitation to ecosystem restoration," said Amos Amanubo, a research fellow at the [African Centre for Green Economy](#).

Many speakers noted that developing climate-smart, soil-serving agricultural systems, such as agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, and regenerative agriculture, will be critical to meet food security needs whilst softening climate change impacts. It's entirely possible to do so – as Sören Kirstein, a lead advisor on climate adaptation at the [German Development Cooperation](#) (GIZ) said, we can feed the estimated 9.2 billion people alive in 2050 whilst restoring our soil and water sources and mitigating climate change. But "potential alone is not enough," said Alexander Müller, the Founder and Managing Director of [TMG Think Tank](#): right now, "800 million people are hungry. So the big challenge is: how do we translate potential into real action?"

Ensuring sufficient food for a growing population is critical, but it shouldn't come at the cost of our planet's health. Agriculture, forestry and land use change produce almost a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions – and despite recent

progress, there are still massive opportunities to reduce emissions in agricultural production.

As the private sector and governments work to make that shift, it's critical they tailor solutions to local contexts. "There is a large gap between net-zero and zero-deforestation commitments and the reality on the ground for farmers," said Christopher Brett, the [Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact](#) (FOLUR) Program Lead at the [World Bank](#).

Experts from the beef, soy and palm oil sector discussed ways to close this gap during a [session](#) on solutions to reduce indirect emissions occurring in a company's value chain, also known as [Scope 3 emissions](#). They agreed that technical assistance to farmers – in particular smallholders – is essential during the transition to low carbon agricultural practices. "Farmers are aware that to be competitive, they need to adjust and adapt," said Rodrigo Castro, Country Manager of [Solidaridad](#) in Brazil and a member of the [Strategic Group of the Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture](#). "The big question they ask is: who will support me? What kind of technical assistance can I receive, and what is the investment package to stop deforestation?"

Technological innovation can help – if it's created and deployed inclusively and appropriately. Satellite data and other digital tools have great potential to strengthen resilience to climate-related shocks, said Sebastian Lesch, the head of the Agriculture Department at the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ), but "governance is critical for effectively applying the data generated to multiple crises and local contexts."



**"We need to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation, fight desertification and soil degradation, and improve food security. Holistic landscape-based approaches are a powerful lever for that."**

**JOCHEN FLASBARTH**  
STATE SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BMZ), GERMANY



**"It's important for all of us to understand how money moves, because we all fit into this diagram, we all need to know what our role is, we all need to know who we need to partner with, and we also need to know what might be missing."**

**JENNIFER PRYCE**  
CEO, CALVERT IMPACT CAPITAL





Likewise, according to Elizabeth Nsimadala, President of the [Eastern Africa Farmers Federation \(EAFF\)](#), “technology & innovation on their own can’t create sustainable food systems. We have to navigate these technologies and put them into practice.”

Money also matters – as many speakers highlighted. “Investments in nature-based solutions will have to almost triple by 2030,” said Yuriko Backes, Luxembourg’s Minister of Finance. That’s expensive, but not at all unreasonable, said Christopher Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist at the World Bank: “If nature could invoice for what is being used, it would drive change very quickly.” To ensure such investment makes an impact, and is more than mere ‘greenwashing’, it will be key to set up credible, just, and inclusive financial instruments.

This also means channeling finance to communities at the ‘coal-face’ of landscape restoration and protection, as Jennifer Pryce, President and CEO of [Calvert Impact Capital](#), noted during the same plenary. It’s a matter of fairness as well as function, said Maria Amália Souza, founder and senior advisor of Brazil-based [CASA Socio-Environmental Fund](#): “We cannot look at the Amazon and expect Indigenous people and the people of the forest to protect the Amazon for us, alone and without resources.” The

topic will be a key focus of GLF’s upcoming [6th Investment Case Symposium](#), which will be held in Luxembourg and online on 7 March 2023.

This call was echoed by numerous ‘voices of the landscape’: [GLFx chapter representatives](#) (local restoration leaders) and [Restoration Stewards](#) (young restoration champions) who checked into the conference ‘live from the field’, and sent a clear message to policymakers, governments, and funders: if you can’t be in the field, support those who are – and make that an ongoing commitment. “Financial institutions need to change their understanding of the long term,” said Sergio Lozano, a Colombian ecologist and 2022 Restoration Steward, who argued that lenders and funders need to be looking forward at least three decades in terms of tree planting. He emphasized that it is not merely the number of trees that ‘counts’, but also the surrounding ecosystem services: “Institutions need a new, more refined idea of ‘benefit’ and ‘returns,’” he said.

Meanwhile, young climate activists amplified the call for adaptation finance, and finance for ‘loss and damage’ resulting from climate impacts, which has been resonating around Sharm El-Sheikh since the COP began. “If you close your eyes and do not see these losses and damages mechanisms, and do not



see the financing for loss and damage, or financing for adaptation, and only focus on mitigation, it’s like playing a home goal,” said Oluwaseun Adekugbe, the managing director of youth environmental organization [Youth4Nature](#).

**2.4: There is hope! We know what we need to do: now, we need to make it happen – through political commitments, private sector investments, and transformative coalitions that are explicitly oriented towards collective and purposeful action.**

Despite the current stark challenges faced by communities confronting climate change across the globe – and significant disappointment in many sectors about various elements of COP27 itself – hope remained a salient feature of GLF Climate.

This was a deliberate act: as Adjei put it: “I believe that we all have to keep hope alive. The grounds are fertile now, and we have the right seeds on the ground.” One way GLF sought to nourish the foundations of this critical optimism was through the Climate Circle: a closed meeting attended by 35 young people from all around the world which was facilitated for attendees to discuss without judgment their interests, needs, thoughts, and feelings about experiencing the reality of the climate crisis. “We need more spaces like this to come together, be honest with each other, and nurture our shared humanity,” said one participant.

As one inspiring story of an active social movement, Cecile Ndjebet, the coordinator of the [African Women’s Network for the Community Management](#)



**“Solutions are all known, and we have to start repaying our debt to nature and to the most vulnerable countries.”**

**SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN,**  
ATTORNEY AND ENVIRONMENTALIST,  
BANGLADESH ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



**“We are also connected by hope, and hope is our greatest ally that we can adopt and maybe turn this thing around”**

**JOHN COLMEY**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, GLF



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of Forests (REFACOF), celebrated the launch at COP27 of the world's first-ever Women in the Global South Alliance, which consists of Indigenous and Afro-descendent women from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Other speakers emphasized the role each of us can play in scaling successful shifts up and out. "All the right things, that we know work, are happening all around the world," said Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, Director of Norway's [International Climate and Forest Initiative](#) (NICFI). "We just need it to happen everywhere at once – and for that to happen, we need political will and partnerships."

"We know that the solution to this climate emergency is to transform every segment of society, whether it's transport, energy, food production, buildings or manufacturing – all of them must be fundamentally transformed," echoed Ko Barrett, Vice-Chair of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC). "The good news is that we have many of the solutions that we need. We just need to work for widespread adoption. Importantly, we each have the power to make the change happen."

## Conclusion

GLF Climate 2022 was a rallying cry for urgent, coherent, and inclusive climate action that has people, places, and partnerships at its core. Presenters advocated passionately for the integration of local and Indigenous knowledges with scientific and technological innovations, to bring about the inspiring – and entirely possible – shared vision of a low-carbon, stewardship-based economy that places high value on functioning ecosystems and the people who inhabit, care for, and love them. The event emanated an atmosphere of cautious, yet resilient hope that the solutions we seek as a global community are well within our reach: that is, if we can come together well enough to grasp them in time.



Visit the [GLF Climate Digital Gallery](#)



## GLF Climate by the numbers

**6,883**

Registrants (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt + Online)



**43**

Sessions



**228**

Speakers



**6,461**

Participants online



**8**

Watch parties



**56%**

Women



**372**

Participants in-person



**18**

Digital booths



**65%**

From Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean



**32M**

Social media reach



**74M**

Impressions



**725k**

Engagement



**111,352**

Session views



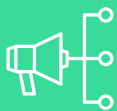
**4,377**

#GLFClimate  
All related posts on social media



**158**

Media hits



**34M**

Potential media reach



**5,063**

New followers



**11**

White Papers



**164**

Countries

Top 5 countries: India, Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan, and the Philippines

**Engagement:** The number of interactions on content received from users (likes, comments, shares, saves, etc.) related to event hashtags. **Impressions:** The number of times content was displayed on user timelines related to event hashtags.

**Social media reach:** The number of unique users who saw content related to event hashtags.

**Session Views:** Including partner-led sessions, launchpad, plenary, local & youth action sessions, and networking (only on GLF Climate Platform – excluding social media views).



#GLFClimate

[bit.ly/GLFClimate2022](https://bit.ly/GLFClimate2022)

### 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-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

