

Global Landscapes Forum

Lima, December 2014

Post-event qualitative evaluation

16th February 2015



Executive Summary

This post-event qualitative evaluation was commissioned by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) following their organisation of the second Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) which ran parallel to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)s twentieth Conference of Parties (COP) in Lima, Peru in December 2014.

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the success of the 2014 GLF in achieving its objectives and to document lessons learned so as to inform future activities including the planning for the third GLF to run in Paris in December in parallel with the UNFCCC COP 21. The evaluation assessed three areas related to the 2014 GLF, these being the content, the impact and the structure and processes. Methodology involved document review and eighteen interviews with participants.

Findings were largely very positive. In terms of **content**, the objectives were addressed and the content was largely seen as relevant and useful. There was a range of “stand-out” moments including several related to the extent of high level buy-in to the concept of sustainable landscapes. Thus one respondent noted that *“the development of an appreciation of the need to address issues at a landscape level was something that stood out”* and a second stated *“The speakers were good at the closing plenary. It gave the impression that everyone is comfortable with the landscape approach. This was not the case two years ago.”*

Impacts included interviewees drawing on information from the GLF in their programmes, strategies and interventions on the ground. The strongest key take-away message concerned the need for implementation through joint policy dialogue.

The **structure and process** of the GLF was assessed very positively. Organisation and communication were seen as excellent and the format of sessions appreciated. One respondent noted *“The high level discussion forums are important and they can bring about change through the direct engagement of decision-makers”* and another noted *“I thought there was a good mix of big plenaries with key notes and more applied sessions where people were talking about detailed research or the situation on the ground so it had something for everyone and that was tremendous.”*

There are three recommendations that are particularly relevant for the next GLF. First, the breadth of both objectives and themes for the next GLF depends very much on what the purpose and objectives of that GLF will be. With the UNFCCC COP 21 coming up in Paris it is important that the objectives of the next GLF are set strategically so as to ensure synergy.

Second, it is important that CIFOR and its partners agree on the best language to use in relation to the implementation of sustainable landscapes. The terminology works very well as a concept that is at once cross-cutting, holistic and comprehensive. But use of the term “sustainable landscapes approach” needs to be considered carefully and perhaps worded differently, depending on each actual context. For examples, implementation may involve joint policy making; cross-sectoral collaboration; agro-forestry; watershed management and a host of other actions.

Third, whatever breadth or depth is decided on for the next GLF, all efforts should be made to ensure that there is a diverse mix of contributors, both in terms of stakeholder type and sector, not just at the GLF as a whole (as in the 2014 GLF) but in each session also so as to stimulate discussion.