



Global  
Landscapes  
Forum  
Paris

# Outcome statement

5–6 December 2015 | Paris, France

Held on the sidelines of the UNFCCC 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21)

As delegates at UNFCCC COP21<sup>1</sup> hashed out a new climate deal and debated how best to meet the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), more than 3,200 stakeholders from forestry, agriculture, water, energy, law and finance came together for the third annual Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). Launched by a cross-sectoral consortium of international organizations and led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Forum united 148 organizations from across the globe to exchange ideas through Discussion Forums, Thematic Pavilions, a Launchpad featuring 12 new initiatives and knowledge products, and a Landscapes Laboratory introducing the newest technology for understanding land use.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties

## Key Forum outcomes

- **3,200 participants** from 135 countries, including:
  - 19 Ministers and Heads of State
  - 148 organizations facilitating discussions

At the Forum, participants committed to:

- **restoring 128 million ha** of degraded and deforested landscapes
- **protecting watersheds** across the Andes, led by 125 city and regional governments
- the first and only **payments for ecosystem services** initiative in the Pacific Islands
- the **International Partnership for Blue Carbon** led by the Governments of Australia, Costa Rica and Indonesia

Find all GLF news and launches in the [Online Pressroom](#).

## From goals ... to action

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to frame the development policies of UN member states over the next 15 years. While only a few goals specifically mention forestry and other land-based sectors, all 17 depend on healthy and sustainable landscapes for their achievement.

“**Landscapes are essential for achieving all – each and every one – of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that were agreed a few months ago. Poverty, food security, decent jobs, energy, water, equity, ecosystems ... It’s all about the values that we attribute to landscapes.**”



**Peter Holmgren**  
Director General,  
CIFOR

The new Paris Agreement has been hailed as an historic achievement in the fight against climate change. It applies universally – to developed and developing countries alike – and sets an ambitious goal: to keep global warming under 1.5 degree Celsius.

It is now in the hands of policy makers, civil servants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the scientific community and the private sector to synchronize their efforts and transform these agreements into actions. The tools they choose need to be context-specific and informed by lessons learned at various levels and across different sectors.

By bringing together representatives from all of these groups, the Global Landscapes Forum provides the space to share these lessons, debate ideas and, ultimately, uncover new tools for change. It encourages innovation, facilitates action and drives progress toward key climate and development goals.

The Forum also makes room for discussions that go beyond economic aspirations and fixing the climate, looking at non-monetized values of nature, ecosystems and life.

## What do landscapes mean for the SDGs?

Land-based sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and cities, are central to achieving both climate and development goals. The link between healthy land (soil) and water, and the production of food, fiber and fuel is key, especially for *Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.*

Other SDGs can clearly benefit from a landscape approach. Balancing land uses will be essential to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture (*Goal 2*), taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (*Goal 13*), promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth (*Goal 8*), and ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (*Goal 12*). *Goals 1, 3, 6, 10 and 16* will also benefit from more equitable and balanced landscapes.

The achievement of the goals themselves should also support and reinforce the development of more diversified and inclusive landscapes, through capacity building (*Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning*), equal opportunities (*Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*), and smarter infrastructure (*Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*).

“**I’m passionate about landscapes because, through this approach, we choose to transcend borders.**”



**Salina Abraham**  
International Forestry Students'  
Association and Youth in  
Landscapes Initiative

## Key messages

Six messages emerged from the 2015 Global Landscapes Forum, each with practical examples for consideration. These messages, summarized below, are based on findings of individual sessions throughout the Forum proceedings and do not represent a consensus of the Forum as a whole.

### 1. We must break down sectoral silos in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals

While sector-based approaches may succeed in some scenarios, there are always trade-offs. Development and climate problems are complex and require nuanced solutions that are currently beyond the scope of many individual institutions.

“ People live in spaces, not in sectors!



**Stefan Schmitz**

Head of Division: Rural Development, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Moving beyond sectoral silos will be challenging. Bridging sectors goes against institutional and cultural norms, in which we break down and compartmentalize large problems to make them manageable. But getting the right mix of land uses – from strictly protected areas to intensive agriculture – and ensuring compatibility between them will take a range of approaches and actors working in concert. We need development models that can handle complexity and which are economically viable and scalable.

#### Considerations for policy makers

- The SDGs call for an integrated approach across sectors – for example, forests and water.
- To work across sectors, we need to work across government institutions. Agroforestry, restoration, energy provision (e.g. fuel wood) and climate-smart agriculture, for example, need to be inter-sectoral, inter-institutional and support partnerships to balance development, mitigation and adaptation.

- Individuals and institutions must learn different disciplines or languages, improve their communication skills, open themselves up to collaboration and have the confidence to try new ideas.
- In the world of finance, work has begun to make the asset class of land use and natural capital more attractive and accessible to investors. Landscapes practitioners are getting more comfortable with discussing bankability and return rates, while investors are becoming interested in landscapes.

#### Why landscapes? Why now?

In Warsaw, the first Global Landscapes Forum promoted the landscape approach. The next year in Lima, participants shared their experiences of implementation. In Paris, Forum participants focused on how the landscape approach can help meet the new development and climate goals.

As UNEP's Executive Director Achim Steiner put it: “In a world of 7 billion people, with significant resource demands and a lack of public policy progress at local, national and international levels, complexity is becoming the defining arena within which we need to move.”

A landscape approach is both ambitious and essential. It seeks to reconcile different land-based activities, reconnecting the environment and people in an integrated and sustainable way. It aims to balance the global, top-down political agenda for climate change and development with a more bottom-up approach to land-use planning.

It also acknowledges that, in the same landscapes where we are trying to adapt to or mitigate climate change, we are also trying to alleviate poverty. It requires us to confront the problems of power inequalities, recognizing that while some people will benefit, others will inevitably lose out.

Although the concept is growing in popularity, more information is needed to understand if the landscape vision is working. Lessons must be learned and shared. This is the role of the Global Landscapes Forum.

## 2. We must embrace our diversity and make the most of it by ensuring that everyone's voice is heard

Fighting climate change and sustaining healthy landscapes requires everyone's input. We will need to learn to work in multidisciplinary teams, respecting the opinions and differences of others. This must be part and parcel of how we work toward development and climate goals from now on.

“Financiers argue that their funds are indispensable. Scientists think their data and analysis are key. Indigenous peoples think their stewardship of land is vital. Youth feel their energy is unique. Gender specialists think much more balance is needed ... We need to transcend.



**Frank Hajek**  
Executive Director,  
Nature Services Peru

### Considerations for policy makers

- Equality is not just about safeguarding the rights of the marginalized, but realizing that what they have to offer is part of the solution.
- Gender needs to be taken into account across all scales, from local-level grassroots initiatives to global policy processes and climate agreements.

- The role of youth and the next generations must be given attention and support. In particular, there is a need for younger generations to fall in love with agriculture again.

“Should [finance for landscapes] come from rich donor countries? Yes. But will it? No.



**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
Economist

- Incorporating indigenous rights into a climate agreement is an operational strategy for combating climate change.
- Capacity building is needed across the board, from contract negotiation skills for government officials to create sustainable partnerships with multinational corporations, to agricultural skills for small-scale farmers.

“The moment women have access to land rights, there are massive decreases in malnourishment and increases in agricultural production!



**Inger Andersen**  
Director General,  
International Union for  
Conservation of Nature



## A new climate agreement

The Paris Agreement on climate change is unique in that it acknowledges the ways in which climate change relates to social and environmental issues. It recognizes the links between human rights, indigenous peoples' rights, local communities, gender equality, conservation and enhancement of ecosystems, as well as both food security and food production. This agreement takes a broader approach to climate change than its predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, and the UNFCCC itself.

The Paris Agreement takes a bold step forward by setting up the expectation that Parties will strive to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius. It also sets a long-term goal of balanced sources and sinks by the second half of the century, sending a clear signal that fossil fuels must be phased out and ecosystems conserved and enhanced, as a matter of urgency.

Meeting the long-term 'emissions balance' goal will, however, depend heavily on land-use decisions, in particular those related to forests. The explicit reference to 'removals by sinks' implies that forests and other carbon reservoirs will play an important role. In this context, the long-term goal should be read together with Article 5.1, which requires that Parties take action to 'conserve' and 'enhance' ecosystems, including forests, biomass, oceans and other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. These provisions put in place new 'safeguards' that will need to be developed in coming years and which will be applicable to all Parties.

Article 5.2 also addresses the issue of forests and draws links to several elements of REDD+, including joint mitigation and adaptation approaches and non-carbon benefits. The direct reference to REDD+ in Article 5 sends a strong signal to countries that efforts to implement REDD+ will be ongoing and will play an important role in the climate framework going forward.

But those who hoped for a strong compliance emissions trading market to emerge under the Paris Agreement will be disappointed. There is no such market, nor is there a price put on carbon or legally binding emissions reduction targets. The agreement establishes the Sustainable Development Mechanism, a voluntary mechanism similar to the Clean Development Mechanism. However, the extent to which this relates to forests, land credits and offsets is still up for debate, especially regarding the issue of permanence, as the mitigation benefits must be real, measurable and long term.

The Paris outcome recognizes that the current level of ambition in Parties' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions is too low. Parties must now ramp up their efforts and adopt a broad approach, cutting across sectors and landscapes. This was a key issue identified at the Paris GLF. Addressing it will take significant research, new policy development, and support for capacity building and technology development and transfer. As landscapes and forests will play a key role in the implementation of the new climate agreement, it will be critical to ensure that rights, ecosystems and food security are better protected.

### 3. We need to adopt a broader set of values – beyond the economic – in order to both drive change and adapt to it

Landscapes are about people and how they decide to use their land. These decisions are often more than economic. We need to understand the people operating within each landscape and move away from a system based on purely economic values to a holistic approach that generates environmental and social values.

The political landscape is often set up to support traditional fiscal incentives and values. Moving away from such an approach will take strong and long-term commitments to change, including drawing sector ministries out of their silos and uniting them under one coherent voice.

“ You work on a landscape level to do what you cannot do at an individual farm, including socioeconomic issues as well as biophysical ones.



**Jonathan Wadsworth**  
Executive Secretary,  
CGIAR Fund

#### Considerations for policy makers

- More incentives are needed to bring about behavior change, such as eco-labeling, agricultural knowledge, science and technology, payments for ecosystem services.
- To be affordable and effective, projects and standards must be tailored to local conditions.
- We need to define new legal instruments to promote sustainable forest management and address the new paradigms of forest management in logged-over forests.
- Investment by the private sector in landscape restoration must come through innovative financial models that yield measurable results-based payments.
- Market barriers and unsustainable subsidies need to be better understood and addressed.
- Landscape restoration should not present an added cost for the local communities who are already struggling financially, but allow them instead to significantly increase their productivity,

revenues and livelihoods. Incentive structures may be needed to address opportunity costs.

- Transforming land-use patterns can lead to shifts in power relations and gender dynamics, and planning must take into account the risk of unforeseen effects.

### 4. Leaders set the framework in which we operate – and subnational and local governments are key

Good governance is crucial to identifying both the drivers of land degradation and opportunities for restoration. Policy makers must have the confidence to reject the political status quo and change direction to develop new, collaborative ways of working that deliver clear, long-term solutions.

For example, the financial sector plays a key role in driving and facilitating sustainable and low-carbon development. But timelines in the financial and land-use sectors do not necessarily align (e.g. while an oil palm producer follows a 25-year growth cycle, investors look for returns within a few years). The direction of financial capital flows over the next 15 years will decide how well we can address climate change.

“ The investment choices we make today are going to define the outcomes we have in 20 years... we cannot put off making decisions that factor future climate effects into our policies and our investment choices.



**Laura Tuck**  
Vice President for Sustainable  
Development, World Bank

#### Considerations for policy makers

- National and federal governments have a role to play in setting the broader framework. For example, financial regulators in Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa are also making progress in areas such as the financial regulation governing stock exchanges and pension funds.
- For agroforestry, sustained long-term investment is key. Investments must be inclusive, competitive and sustainable, and the regulatory and policy trajectories need to be clear.

- Subnational governments are showing leadership by ensuring their development plans are focused on green growth, and have succeeded in lowering landscape-based emissions in some jurisdictions (e.g. through expanding the land registry in Pará, Brazil, and focusing oil palm expansion on already-degraded lands in East Kalimantan, Indonesia). Subnational leaders are also working with local and indigenous communities to ensure equity and social justice goals are achieved.
- There may be tensions between national and subnational actions on climate. While they share the same goals, top-down measures may constrain the flexibility needed at the subnational level to adapt to different needs, opportunities and institutional contexts. Leadership roles need to be clearer. For example, when implementing REDD+, who decides on the benefit-sharing mechanism? Who has the responsibility for reducing emissions? Whose perspective counts in the end?
- Non-governmental institutions such as cooperatives, unions and community groups can also lead. Local and indigenous women and men are already taking action at the grassroots level, without waiting for climate agreements to kick in.

“ Value what has happened at the subnational level.



**Amy Duchelle**  
Scientist,  
CIFOR

## 5. We must support rural communities and smallholders, the cornerstone of sustainable landscapes

Human population growth and the search for new arable land drive deforestation in many parts of the world. Rural populations, and in particular smallholder farmers, are pivotal to successfully meeting development and climate goals. Smallholder farms provide livelihoods for 1.5 billion men and women, who produce 70% of today's global food needs. Small-scale and family farms will be essential to future food security.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Maass Wolfenson, KD. 2013. *Coping with the food and agriculture challenge: Smallholders' agenda*. Preparations and outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Most developing countries have put increasing food productivity and the resilience of rural livelihoods at the top of their policy agenda. Yet, protecting forest lands from agricultural encroachment is vital to addressing climate change. How can this dual agenda be met?

“ The biggest economic paradox of our time is that while family businesses have been shown to be among the most successful, family farmers are failing at assuring their own livelihoods. Why? This is something that needs to change urgently.



**Manoj Kumar**  
Founding CEO, Naandi  
Foundation (India)

### Considerations for policy makers

- To realize food production, climate and development goals, policy makers must recognize and protect the land rights of indigenous and local communities.
- Land titling of indigenous areas is particularly important to REDD+ implementation.
- We need to understand soil and land restoration as a process that involves people, especially smallholders.
- Many of the migration-related emergencies we are witnessing are linked to climate factors. Addressing biodiversity, land degradation and climate change will mitigate vulnerability and displacements.
- New financial models with results-based returns are needed for smallholders.
- Supply chains represent powerful untapped levers to increase access to markets and capacity building. Designed sustainably, they can help mitigate climate change, secure resources, reduce poverty and ensure adequate food supply.
- However, the private sector cannot be given sole responsibility for upgrading all smallholders in their supply chains, as it goes beyond their everyday operations and motives. Scaling up innovative agricultural models needs government support.

“ **Small-scale farmers aren't poor, passive victims. Let's harness their potential. They're already active and solving problems!** ”



**Ravi Prabhu**

Deputy Director General  
(Research), World  
Agroforestry Centre

## 6. We need innovation, technology, data – and the wisdom to use them effectively

Measuring progress is key to meeting climate and development goals. Data and technology models and analytical tools are ever increasing. The challenge now is to analyze available data and ensure that decision makers have access to those data.

Policy makers must adopt new analytical modeling tools and datasets to evaluate food security policies and identify viable economic development pathways consistent with low-carbon development. But careful attention needs to be paid to assumptions, data gaps and other limitations to avoid misinterpretation.

“ **We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom. The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely.** ”



**Nancy Harris**

Research Manager for Global  
Forest Watch, World Resources  
Institute (quoting E.O. Wilson)

### **Considerations for policy makers**

- Traditional knowledge is critical for the development of public policies.
- Countries' progress in establishing forest reference levels represents an important step toward calculating their contribution to mitigation and thus toward being awarded results-based payments.

- In terms of data, there is a need for:
  - » methodologies for estimating degradation
  - » adequate resolution of the data and new methodologies/technology for remotely assessed biomass
  - » better emission factors for attributing carbon stocks
  - » metrics for measuring impacts of restoration initiatives on food security and livelihoods
  - » standards and monitoring systems that incorporate landscape thinking
  - » access to and capacity for processing remote-sensing data
  - » mechanisms for calculating cost-benefit analysis
  - » additional work on removing perverse incentives.
- New monitoring technologies and datasets must be used transparently and publicly to design programs and policies, as civil society organizations need ready access to credible datasets to contribute effectively to reforms.
- The work on emission reference levels also helps to improve countries' land-use information, planning and implementation of best land-use practices.
- Social data are also essential to meeting climate goals. Quantitative and qualitative evidence on co-benefits and trade-offs is needed as well as data on how gender relations influence climate change (mitigation and adaptation) and how climate change affects gender relations.
- There is a need for increasing spatial modeling to understand and reach greater spatial and temporal scales. We need macro-level modeling that can be aggregated to the national level, as well as an understanding of how global economic and climate forces drive change at the local level.
- Analysis is needed that not only identifies what changes are likely to happen, but also where these changes are likely to occur in the landscape.
- There is a need to develop universal or common metrics to allow nationals and subnationals to measure adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- In terms of innovation and technology, there is a need for:
  - » landscape-level investment incubators to help build technical capacity among people on the ground
  - » investment in brokering services for integrated landscape deals
  - » incorporating landscape investment principles into public finance
  - » creating frameworks for financing integrated landscape management within national SDG and green growth strategies
  - » making the business case for private sector investment, but also public investment in building coalitions, de-risking, and providing early financing before financial returns can be realized
  - » a program that links small land users' concerns and natural resources protection to public, social and economic solutions.
- Information can overwhelm us unless it is successfully analyzed. We need people who synthesize, bridge disciplines, balance needs and offer the right information at the right time.

## Conclusion

The global community – made up of civil servants, politicians, teachers, NGO workers, farmers, researchers, retailers, manufacturers, lawyers, consumers and many more – must look for opportunities to contribute to something greater.

The GLF highlighted an emerging feeling of shared purpose and responsibility in meeting the new climate and development goals. We must move beyond mere sentiment and begin to make changes in our everyday lives, our business practices, our purchases and our relationships. We have the tools. Let's get to work.

“ Let me tell you that this forum has been remarkable, extraordinary, but you have not missed the opportunity to follow it ... Whether you are a practitioner, a university professor, a minister, a forester, a farmer, do take a look at some of these sessions.



### Achim Steiner

Executive Director, UNEP and  
Under-Secretary-General,  
United Nations

This outcome statement was prepared by  
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For all session details and outcomes, go to:  
[landscapes.org/glf-2015/](http://landscapes.org/glf-2015/)

### Coordinating partners



### Host country partners



### Funding partners



### Implementing partners



