



# Be part of the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum: **Peatlands Matter**

**18 May 2017**  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Peatlands are the world's largest carbon sinks, but often these landscapes are situated in areas where competing interests of conservation and development must be carefully negotiated. The Global Landscapes Forum: Peatlands Matter event will bring together local and global policymakers, stakeholders and private sector interests to identify landscape-level solutions and accelerate measurable action on the ground in negotiating conflicting land-use demands in these vital biomes.



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## Background

Peatlands are important carbon sinks and stocks, estimated to hold more than 600 Gt of carbon. When drained, they are especially susceptible to fires. At the same time, millions of farmers derive their livelihoods from unsustainable agricultural practices on these lands. The fire and haze event in Indonesia in 2015, which produced 15% of the world's carbon emissions that year over several weeks, caused billions of dollars in economic losses and created a public health crisis, bringing these conflicting issues to the forefront of global attention.

Over the past two years, Indonesia has prioritized the conservation and restoration of peatlands. In January 2016, President Joko Widodo established the Peatlands Restoration Agency (Badan Restorasi Gambut or BRG). And, UN Environment and partners launched the Global Peatlands Initiative at COP22 in Marrakesh in November 2016. These two bodies (respectively national and international) work at both the policy and field frontlines for the protection and sustainable use of peatlands. Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture jointly contribute to these efforts.

Meanwhile, the corporate sector, which uses peatlands for palm oil production, has made commitments to restore millions of hectares of degraded peatlands in Indonesia and elsewhere (as the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Peruvian Amazon also contain immense peat reserves). Even with these promising pledges and activities occurring across sectors, there is still much to learn about what that restoration entails and who will pay for it, as well as addressing complex governance challenges.

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) thematic event on peatlands, held on 18 May in Jakarta, in compliment to the UN Environment and BRG Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) Second Partners Meeting, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, will address these cross-sectoral issues with the aim of identifying landscape-level solutions and accelerating measurable action on the ground. Action that acknowledges competing land-use demands, recognizes that halting and reversing peatland degradation threatens livelihoods and asserts that it is integral to mitigating climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential – and necessary now.

The peatlands event series in Jakarta will facilitate such action and raise awareness, starting with a media workshop at peatland restoration sites in Riau and moving into the GPI Partners Meeting. The GLF thematic event, coordinated by CIFOR and UN Environment in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, will close the week by synthesizing research and best practices from the GPI Partners Meeting and informing tangible next steps toward restoration of peatlands in Indonesia, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Peru. A global outreach program will aim to reach millions worldwide through traditional and online media – and the event itself will be broadcast via live web stream.





## GLF: Key Achievements and Aspirations

With support from the Government of Germany, the GLF has become the world's largest platform on integrated land use and contributes to the achievement of the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs through the widespread application of the landscape approach. Founded by CIFOR, the World Bank and UN Environment, the GLF convenes stakeholders from all sectors to identify priority areas and best practices and accelerate action on the ground, namely on the development of sustainable landscapes across the world.

In its first three years, the GLF has already engendered significant achievements. The GLF platform has witnessed commitments to restoring more than 128 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes, and has connected millions online through broad traditional and social media campaigns. The GLF has also facilitated more than 25 launches of new landscape initiatives, including the Blue Carbon Initiative, the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility and the Global Peatlands Initiative. Thousands of organizations from all sectors have participated in GLF activities.

In 2017-2020, the GLF envisions an impact of one billion people positively affected by the widespread use of the landscape approach by 2020. In achieving this impact, the GLF will foster a Global Community of Practice acting as an accelerator of best practices around sustainable landscape approaches.

The GLF connects existing networks and communities through its global platforms and engagement processes to achieve a Global Community of Practice and the development of sustainable landscapes. Within these processes, a range of global, regional and thematic events like the GLF: Peatlands Matter event – along with science-led learning, outreach and engagement efforts – will be hosted continually ensuring that key stakeholders learn, connect, share and act.

## GLF: Peatlands Matter Objectives

- **Build** on political momentum after 2015's major fire and haze event in Indonesia and increased public awareness of peatlands and their important role for people's livelihoods and in climate change mitigation
- **Connect** local, regional and global bodies to share scientific knowledge and best practices about peatland conservation and policy expertise through the GPI and the BRG and other global bodies
- **Increase** public awareness and **engage** the public in understanding the value of peatlands and their larger role in climate change mitigation and biodiversity
- **Expand** a peatlands community of practice to continue the development and sharing of key knowledge and measurable actions on an international scale
- **Contribute** to raising awareness of the urgent need for peatlands research, from data-driven work on carbon emissions and soil health to socioeconomic analysis that balances environmental concerns with livelihoods needs of community and indigenous groups
- **Support** peatlands restoration through innovative financing mechanisms that generate multiple benefits of livelihoods, equity, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Identify** what is needed and where, and plans for action.

## Structure

The event will include morning sessions with key global influencers from civil society, government, science, the private sector and media, all engaging in structured dialogue designed to inform policy and action on the ground.

All sessions will tie global processes to local action, at the landscape level, crafted by an expert Science Committee comprised of peatlands experts, UN representatives, researchers and key Indonesian policymakers.

The morning sessions will include a panel that looks at peatlands around the world, and roundtable discussions focusing on global solutions and lessons learned, with interactive features allowing for audience exchange.

Afternoon sessions will be organized around key GLF themes as they relate to action in peatlands, grounded in cutting-edge scientific research:

- **Food, water and energy:** Peatlands and agricultural development – a problematic pairing?
- **Climate change:** Mitigation putting peat at the fore
- **Finance:** Green financing for peatlands and livelihoods conservation and restoration. How?
- **Sustainable development:** People and peat – Supporting conservation, supporting livelihoods
- **Restoration:** What does the science tell us and what don't we know?

Throughout the day, a series of Landscape Labs will highlight the latest techniques in the mapping and monitoring of peatlands, and include the launch of a drone footage competition. In addition, the winners of GLF's peatlands photo competition will be on exhibit.

*To find out more about the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum : Peatlands Matter or the GLF in general, please contact CIFOR's Director of Communications and External Relations **John Colmey** ([j.colmey@cgiar.org](mailto:j.colmey@cgiar.org)) and Global Events Manager **Kamaluddin Prawiranegara** ([k.prawiranegara@cgiar.org](mailto:k.prawiranegara@cgiar.org))*

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### Coordinating partners



### Funding partners

