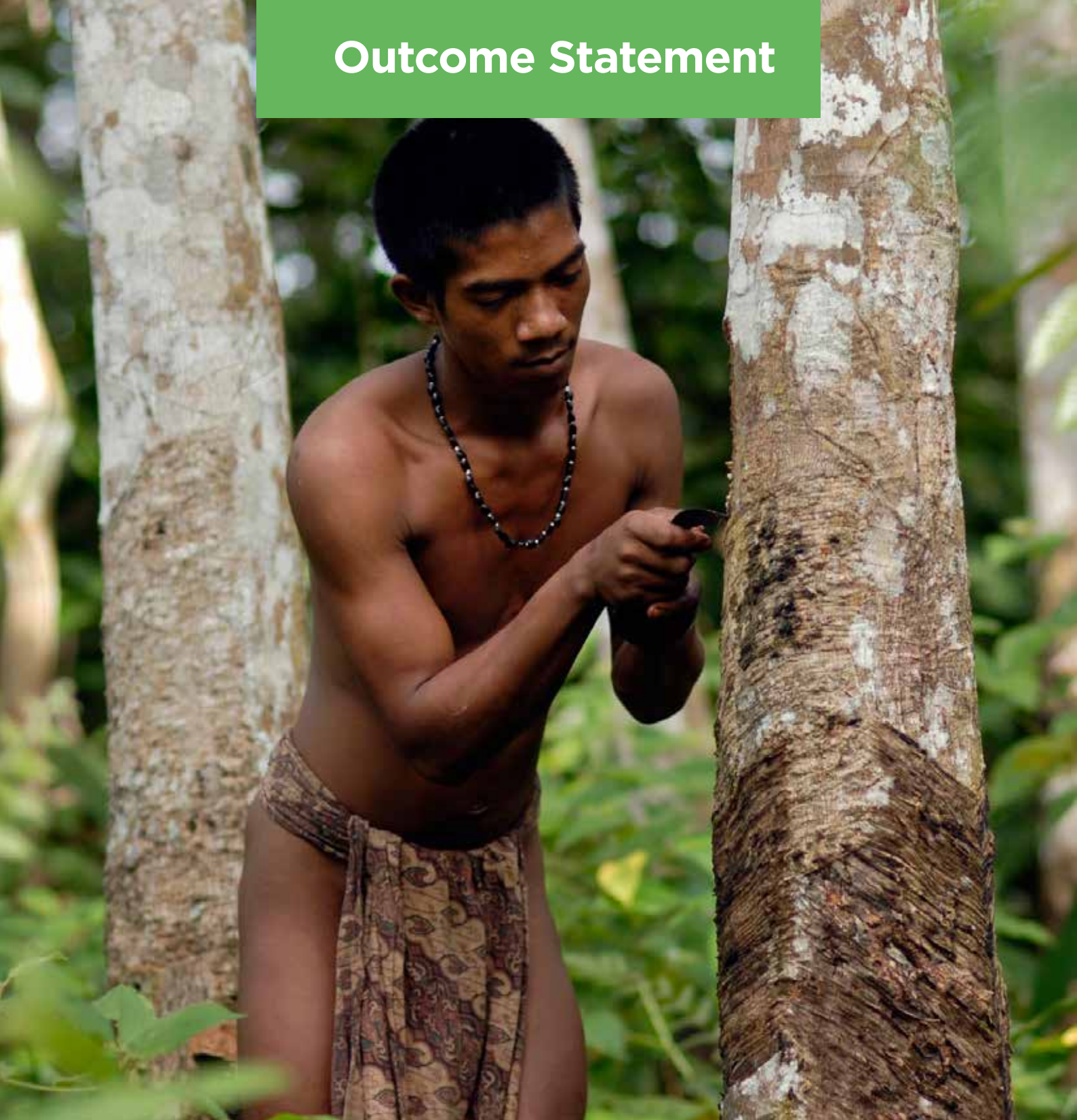


# Outcome Statement



## Global Landscapes Forum

Climate Action for Sustainable Development

16 November 2016 | Marrakesh, Morocco









On 16 November 2016, the fourth annual Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) once again brought together diverse stakeholders working in global landscapes. While the 2015 GLF event in Paris closed with promise due to newly agreed upon global climate and development commitments, 2016's widespread social, environmental and political instability transmits an urgency for collaborative engagement to turn commitment into action.

The 2016 GLF in Marrakesh, a thematic event convened by a cross-sectoral consortium of international organizations, encouraged the exchange of the latest climate and sustainable development knowledge and research that will enable the transition from global commitment to local action. The 12 Discussion Forums, two plenaries, six Launchpads and multiple networking and side events provided the more than 500 participants with ample opportunity to connect and confront pressing climate and development challenges.

## Key outcomes:

- **5,500 participants** in person and online from **95 countries**, including:
  - more than **20 Ministers and Heads of State**
  - **45 organizations** facilitating discussions
- 89% of respondents found the event to be of good or excellent quality
- 59% of respondents indicated they will apply knowledge learned at the GLF to future or current research and work

GLF witnessed commitments to:

- further strengthening **cross-sectoral collaboration** efforts
- increasing **engagement with local stakeholders**
- pushing to mobilize the **private and finance sectors**
- implementing **new technology and tools to increase transparency** and effectively engage the landscape approach
- **engaging one billion people by 2020** in embracing the landscape approach, with the support of the German government.

For more information, visit the [online pressroom](#) and [landscapes.org](http://landscapes.org).



# Making the connections

## Climate meets landscape

“ To achieve real solutions we must look at the bigger picture and think beyond just climate emissions.



**Peter Holmgren**  
Director General  
CIFOR

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calling for a holistic approach and the Paris Agreement enacted in November 2016 following commitments by over 70 countries, the need for coordinated and collaborative efforts to achieve social and environmental progress is clear. Occupying the space between the national – where implementation of global commitments will be conceived – and local – where progress will likely be determined – the landscape has been recognized as an optimal scale for action for food security, adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development.

In his opening address at GLF, CIFOR Director General Peter Holmgren acknowledged that landscapes have historically been considered problem areas, but stressed that this is changing, and we must understand the opportunity landscapes offer and that to achieve real solutions we must think bigger.

Integrated multi-sectoral approaches, which function beyond traditional silos in development, are fundamental to enhancing landscape restoration and sustainability. In this vein, the opening plenary

### What is the landscape approach?

The term “landscape approach” continually eludes simple definition, reflecting its complexity. CIFOR Principal Scientist Terry Sunderland has defined it thus: “In short, the landscape approach as it relates to conservation, agriculture and other land uses seeks to address the increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges that transcend traditional management boundaries. It is not prescriptive, deterministic or siloed in disciplines. It requires multi- and inter-disciplinarity, defying definition and characterization.”<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> For more information, please refer to Sayer et al. 2012, “Ten principles for a landscape approach to reconciling agriculture, conservation, and other competing land uses”

brought together representatives from environment and agriculture ministries, science, indigenous rights and gender experts. Discussions focused on both broader opportunities and challenges for landscape interventions and more refined analyses of landscape processes. Panelists agreed that sectoral approaches to climate and sustainable development will be insufficient on their own, and more integrated planning is required that strikes an equitable balance between growth, poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and food security.

In particular, emphasis was placed on how to employ more inclusive processes of stakeholder dialogue, how to better engage indigenous and marginalized groups and how to ensure climate and sustainable development decision-making processes are more gender sensitive. Finally, the opening session included an important discussion around how science should, or could, be better articulated to resonate more broadly and have greater influence over policy reform processes – including a debate on the appropriateness of science entering the realms of advocacy or emotive narrative.

The opening plenary did not reach a unanimous agreement on these issues, but it succeeded in setting the scene for the Forum and providing the necessary environment for Discussion Forums and Launchpads to consider these issues in greater detail.

“ The gains from integrated sustainable land management are clear to see. It is equally clear these gains will only be possible when we all work together... the landscape approach is the only way we can balance the development needs and the conservation and productivity benefits that each different sector needs.



**Julia Bucknall**

Acting Senior Director  
Environment and Natural Resources,  
World Bank

## Key messages

Even with the diversity of stakeholders and issues being addressed at GLF, there were striking commonalities across the various plenaries, Discussion Forums, Launchpads and other side events. While these messages do not represent a consensus among the Forum as a whole, the following four themes appeared frequently throughout the day and summarize some of the key challenges and opportunities for moving towards more sustainable landscapes.

### 1. Cross-sectoral collaboration

The fundamental requirement for stakeholder collaboration across sectors in order to achieve progress resonated throughout the Forum. In order to realize multiple SDGs, a transition is vital: from sector-based planning to place-based approaches of integrated landscape management that link sustainable development with green growth. There may always be some degree of conflict over land use, particularly in areas of medium to high population density, but collaborative efforts to address such conflict will allow for improved and equitable balancing of multiple land use objectives.

“ We need to look at landscapes in an integrated fashion.



**Erik Solheim**

Executive Director  
UN Environment

The need for cross-sectoral collaboration arose throughout all Discussion Forums regardless of overall theme. Whether in learning from REDD+ experience, in considering the value of models for scenario-building or in collaborating for degraded lands and dryland restoration, there was a common understanding that multi-sector integration enhances advancement and that greater science-policy collaboration is required to move from linear to co-productive knowledge production.



While encouraging and practical examples of cross-sectoral collaboration expediting progress were presented from experiences in Brazil and Costa Rica, many sessions highlighted incentivizing collaboration as a key challenge for sustainable land management. These discussions clarified that instances of failure to integrate effectively are not constrained to one scale, and cross-sectoral challenges are just as commonly encountered at the sub-national as the national level. Collaboration challenges must continue to be a key priority for GLF moving forward.

There is a clear need for both evidence and experience bringing together stakeholders who traditionally have operated in silos, and improving coalition-building and acting thereafter. This is a challenge that must – and will – be tackled. As it was framed in one Discussion Forum, “the gains from integrated sustainable land management are clear to see. It is equally clear these gains will only be possible when we all work together.” The GLF has already displayed the ability to bring together stakeholders that previously may have operated distinctly. The challenge now is to move forward in facilitating working partnerships that can deliver measurable change on the ground.

## 2. Engaging local stakeholders

While this outcome may seem to overlap with cross-sectoral collaboration efforts, the frequency with which this issue was addressed during the Forum warrants further emphasis and a separate discussion.

“Global commitments are not saving local lives.



**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**

Coordinator

Indigenous Women and People’s Association of Chad and Executive Committee, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee

“Indigenous communities aren’t the enemies of development. People and their rights must be a part of development.



**Norvin Goff**

President

Miskitu Asla Takanka (MASTA)

The opening plenary sent a strong message: While panelists recognized that commitments made towards climate and development in 2015 were encouraging, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim of the Indigenous Women and People’s Association of Chad was asked to what extent these negotiations considered the views and needs of local people. Her response suggested that while these efforts are encouraging, global commitments are not saving local lives. She elaborated that while indigenous rights increasingly are acknowledged, negotiations at international fora continue to discuss issues, such as the value of indigenous knowledge, without the presence of indigenous people themselves.

Discussion Forums highlighted the importance of engaging smallholder farmers as stakeholders, proponents stressing that smallholders often are engaged already in developing more sustainable practices and inherently are committed to mitigation and adaptation-based solutions. On an individual basis, smallholders may not appear as central to sustainable progress initiatives – but collectively, they represent a far greater whole than the sum of their individual parts. Ensuring a seat at the negotiating table, engaging local stakeholders in modeling and monitoring processes, making data transparent and publicly available, improving understanding of local social dimensions within landscapes, providing equal opportunities for women and seeking locally relevant entry points for landscape approach implementation are all considered key to empowering local stakeholders and increasing the prospect of long-term engagement.



Local stakeholder perspectives tell us that increased technical support and capacity building for conservation management and development trade-offs are more important than money, or simply being recipients of benefit-sharing mechanisms. While these recommendations provide key insights for how action can translate to opportunity, they also highlight ongoing challenges. We still need to identify, and provide evidence for, the optimal spaces for multi-stakeholder negotiations. GLF discussions proposed that all too frequently local engagement is lacking, and where progress has occurred it is often the case that only a cluster of green commodity supply chains are consulted.

Providing smallholder farmers a seat at the policy making table may be both unrealistic and impractical – and may even lead to further marginalization. However, developing independently facilitated forums where farming co-operatives and village heads can translate and communicate the requirements and objectives of local people and communities may be more effective in stimulating policy change. Moreover, there remains considerable opportunity to improve the means and mechanisms by which local communities are incentivized – and not dis-incentivized – to participate in multi-stakeholder negotiations and sustainable landscape processes. These challenges remain at the forefront for the GLF moving forward.

### 3. Mobilizing the private and finance sector

Identifying how to engage and work with the private and finance sector is a recurrent theme, beyond just this event and throughout GLF's work. The recent commitments of multiple international commodity producers towards greening supply chains and eliminating deforestation have been well recognized. However, to achieve mitigation action and realize long-term sustainable and productive landscapes, further serious change in private sector behavior is required.

“ We are the first generation affected by climate change, and the last that can do something about it.



**Mark Burrows**

Managing Director and  
Vice Chairman

Global Investment Banking Credit Suisse

Forum talks identified that four commodities – beef, soy, oil palm and timber – still account for over 40% of total deforestation. And, despite signs of progress in specific geographies and the development of new private sector collaborative mechanisms, global emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are not declining. Therefore, to achieve sustainable landscapes, private sector engagement is fundamental. However, the onus should not be on the private sector alone, and in turn the private sector should not be expected to replace the roles and responsibilities of local or national governments.

“ There are two worlds: the financial and the public – and that's the problem, they are two different worlds.



**Joost Oorthuizen**

Executive Director

The Sustainable Trade Initiative

When the private sector is committed to behavioral change, these commitments need to be broadly embraced and met with appropriate support and assistance. One case study from Indonesia was highlighted: APRIL Group had embedded commitments to more sustainable landscape approaches within their business model of a 30+-year concession. Beyond their usual remit of production, they are now committed to incorporate forest conservation, non-timber forest product access and extraction and ecotourism opportunities within their concessions. This example provides an opportunity to operationalize a landscape approach that fully acknowledges a long-term commitment. However, the company cited difficulty in gaining the backing of organizations that could provide necessary technical support to facilitate implementation and processes of engaging and incentivizing local stakeholders.



Unlocking private finance was a specific theme at one Discussion Forum, but it was also addressed across GLF more broadly. UN Environment has been working for several years to better understand how private finance and markets can influence implementation strategies towards achieving the SDGs. Despite the estimated billions of donor government dollars that are being invested already in landscape-scale approaches, it is recognized that public finance alone will be insufficient to meet climate and development targets. Furthermore, a reliance on global north governments will also be insufficient as change must be driven by those most directly impacted – often those in the global south.

#### 4. Improving technology, increasing transparency

“ [Transparency] tools are essential in order to move towards more sustainable landscape solutions.



**Matt Hansen**  
University of Maryland

## Identifying opportunities with risk assessment and insurance mechanisms

Despite the need for change driven from local experiences, developing mechanisms that promote the flow of private finance from the global north to initiatives in the south offer considerable potential. For example, in Indonesia, where interest rates are 24%, enabling access to funds from the north where interest rates may be as low as 1-5% could support the development of an enabling environment for smallholders to address current low levels of productivity. However, this also presents significant challenges: Private investors look first and foremost at the risk-return equation. Smallholders operating at forest frontiers may present an opportunity to investors – but there is no historical data to assure investors of their capacity to pay, there is often a lack of smallholder organization to increase influence within the value chain, obstacles may prevent finance reaching the correct groups and smallholders may already be indebted to local loan-sharks.

Risk assessment and insurance mechanisms provide windows of opportunity: Insurance schemes that assume some smallholders will default but not enough to negatively affect the collective within the landscape could provide risk assurances for financiers. Governments also have a role to play in unlocking private finance: by removing barriers, encouraging regulatory reform and providing incentives for non-fossil fuel production systems, they can stimulate change towards a more environmentally friendly and sustainable, green economy. However, such processes are far from straightforward and demand considerable negotiation and analysis of potential trade-offs between, for example, conflicting commitments to economic growth and environmental sustainability.





Continuing its Launchpad tradition, the Forum saw the unveiling of a number of new tools – many of which were specifically targeted at increasing transparency within the land-use sector. Globally renowned remote sensing specialist Dr. Matt Hansen of the University of Maryland identified these tools as essential in order to move towards more sustainable landscape solutions.

“ Full transparency on current emissions are crucial for a successful landscape approach.



**Christoph Thies**  
Forest Campaigner  
Greenpeace

Hansen stressed that the need to learn and extrapolate from the successful experience of Brazil in utilizing Landsat satellite imagery to systematically produce public data streams is both fundamental and long overdue in order to achieve climate commitments. The International Food Policy Research Institute hosted a Discussion Forum that considered, among other topics, the efficacy of transparent, integrated simulation modeling as a science-based tool to inform policy decision-making. While acknowledging that scenario-building models are often wrong, panelists emphasized that the objective is not to predict the future but rather provide information that will enhance our understanding of potential future scenarios – and thus practically inform policymakers.

Open access models combine climate change models with biophysical and broader economic models to geographically differentiate future climate impacts on crop yields. Policymakers can then estimate the costs of climate change in the agriculture sector, identify climate constraints and opportunities and subsequently formulate adaptation and/or mitigation strategies that best account for future impacts.

## Differentiating deforestation impacts of companies in Borneo

GLF saw the launch of an interactive atlas of Borneo developed by CIFOR and partners. The tool utilizes the Landsat archive to enable users to assess the level of company-driven deforestation or avoided deforestation of plantation companies with operations in Borneo. The map is currently limited to Borneo but there are plans to expand. It provides the first opportunity to track deforestation rates caused by plantation companies over four decades – and therefore estimates plantation companies' level of accountability related to deforestation.



## Enhancing visibility of operations within commodity supply chains

The Stockholm Environment Institute and the Global Canopy Program together presented the Transparency for Sustainable Economies (TRACE) tool that enhances the transparency of actor operations along global supply chains. By linking supply chain actors to specific geographies of production, TRACE maps the movement of a range of commodities (beef, soy, coffee, cacao, palm oil, sugar, cotton) all the way from production to consumption. The online interactive platform can assist in assigning responsibility for environmental impacts of supply chain actors and identify where sustainability risks and opportunities exist.



# Outreach and action through communities of practice

## Engaging one billion people and restoring our landscapes

GLF continues to be a platform that encourages regular, continuing engagement between communities of practice in seeking solutions to social, climate and environmental challenges that will deliver more sustainable landscapes. These communities of practice have developed through the six GLF events in the past and the platform's atmosphere of discussion, debate and collaboration amongst practitioners from different sectors working on common themes. GLF will continue

to foster, develop and facilitate networks and communities of communicators, practitioners and local implementers that will act to increase and expand outreach, sources of learning and the core knowledge base of GLF.

The six GLF events over the past four years have been successful in these efforts, as evidenced by a number of commitments and mechanisms to further encourage this type of engagement.





## Germany's partnership with GLF

With joint support from the German Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Economic Affairs from 2017, GLF will maintain a presence in Bonn, Germany for at least the next four years. Priorities and goals for this period are threefold:

1. to extend GLF's outreach to connect and engage with one billion people, encouraging them to acknowledge and embrace the landscape as the optimal scale for climate and development action
2. to witness the active restoration of 200 million hectares of degraded land by 2020, with pledges received for a further 200 million hectares
3. to facilitate progressive policy reform related to sustainable landscapes in at least 50 countries.

While these targets may appear aspirational, ambition is vital in order to realize necessary change in global landscapes that is required to address current climate and development concerns.



We have witnessed the defining of global climate and development objectives, commitments to zero deforestation, government moratoriums, and private sector commitments to green supply chains.

The Forum remains committed to providing the leading global platform for representatives from government, civil society, academia, indigenous peoples movements, finance, media, the private sector and more to protect and restore threatened landscapes. Through events, media and multiple online channels, GLF has connected more than 24 million people and facilitated pledges to restore 148 million hectares of degraded land. This is not our stopping point, however – now is the time to upscale the ambition and achievements of GLF.

Aiding this goal is the newly announced support and partnership of the German government. The coming months will see the formation of a GLF hub based in Bonn, the continued fostering of communities of practice and the clear development and definition of mechanisms by which the new GLF will operate.

“GLF is undoubtedly the global platform leading the debate on sustainable land use and forestry.”



### Jochen Flasbarth

Secretary of State  
Federal Ministry for Environment,  
Nature Conservation, Building and  
Nuclear Safety, Germany

What will not change is GLF's commitment to action, implemented recognizing important cross-cutting issues of rights, gender, finance and the means of measuring progress. There is much work still to do, and the Forum will continue to be the leading global platform to connect, share, learn and act – and develop the strategies that will safeguard and restore our global landscapes.

Join our movement and make the connections.

Cover photo by Heriyadi Asyari  
This outcome statement was prepared by James Reed, CIFOR (j.reed@cgiar.org)

### Coordinating partners



### Strategic partners



### Funding partners



### Session and launchpad hosts



### Exhibition hosts



### Youth in Landscapes Initiative



### Communication partners



### Carbon neutral thanks to the support of

