



Global
Landscapes
Forum

GLF Amazon

The Tipping Point Solutions from the Inside Out

Online and around the world

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In September 2021, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) will host the largest global conference on the Amazon biome, and how we can preserve and restore the biological and cultural diversity of the world's largest humid tropical forest.

The GLF Amazon event comes while the world watches in trepidation as 40 percent of the Amazon [nears the tipping point](#) before it degrades from canopy rainforest into savannah – a catastrophe for human well-being and planetary health that can still be prevented if the world acts *now*.

The [GLF event](#) is also leading the conversation as the world advances towards the 30th anniversary of the historic Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992. That event stands as a reminder of an earlier moment when individual countries realized that issues of sustainability and the future of the planet were too great for a single nation to confront that cooperative global action was the only realistic approach and solution. Since that first Earth Summit, many other, similar forums and platforms for collective action around shared concerns and interests have developed, creating opportunities for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and agencies to come together in a common cause.

The GLF's two-day digital conference will be packed with plenaries, interactive sessions, launchpads, networking opportunities, learning journeys and more. A dedicated media training session for journalists from across the Amazon and a social media bootcamp will develop capacity and amplify reach and impact.

The Amazon Biome is defined as the area covered predominantly by dense moist tropical forest with relatively small inclusions of several other types of vegetation such as savannas, floodplain forests, grasslands, swamps, bamboos, and palm forests. The biome encompasses 6.7 million km² and is shared by eight countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname), as well as the overseas territory of French Guiana. The complete watersheds expand beyond the biome and sometimes include adjacent biomes (dry forest, cerrado and puna).

Source: WWF

Why the Amazon?

The Amazon Biome boasts one of the largest collections of cultural and biological diversity on Earth. It is home to more than 350 ethnic groups, including peoples of Afro-descent, who are some of the most vulnerable in the Western hemisphere. It is also home to numerous tribes of Indigenous Peoples, 60% of which remain largely isolated from the rest of society. It is also home to over 10% of biodiversity we know on this planet - including many endemic and endangered species.

The 6,600 km long Amazon river is one of the two largest rivers on Earth. It discharges over 15% of the world's total river discharge into the oceans. The Amazon basin is home to the largest number of freshwater fish species in the world.

The Amazon's canopy cover helps regulate regional climate through forest dependent hydrological cycles. The Amazon contains 90-140 billion metric tons of stored carbon, the release of even a portion of which would accelerate global warming significantly.

Together with Andean and lower-altitude mountain forests, the tropical rainforest provides vital ecosystem

services such as food, water and medicines, and holds spiritual significance for millions of people.

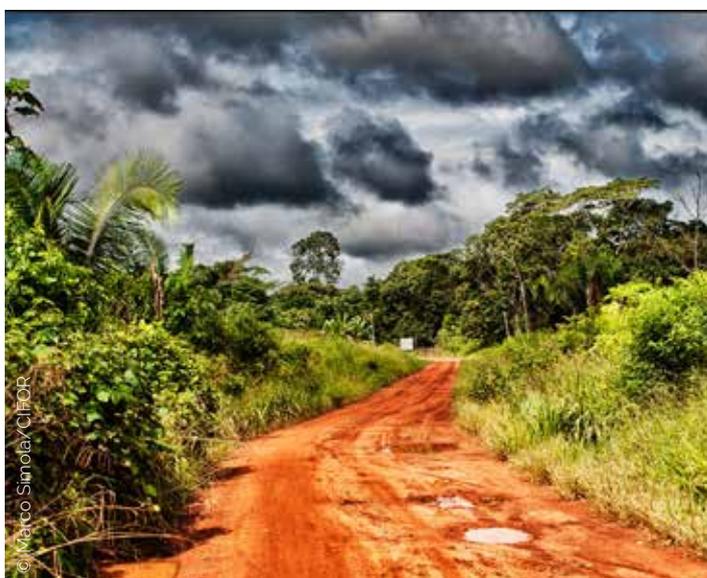
However, large-scale extractive activities, industrial agriculture and weak governance are threatening the Amazon's unique biocultural diversity. Over the past 50 years, [we lost 17% of the tropical forests in the Amazon](#). Human and land rights violations are on the rise, as is the threat to environmental defenders.

COVID-19

The global pandemic has side-tracked conservation efforts and fueled an alarming surge in [deforestation](#). Meanwhile, [populations and local communities](#), who are traditional environmental stewards, have been specially hit by the disease. COVID-19 has called into question the relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world. In doing so, it has brought into sharp focus the need to transition towards a more sustainable, equitable and resilient global economy, starting today.

An ecological tipping point

Finding sustainable pathways for the Amazon is imperative as deforestation, climate change and increased forest fires are dangerously driving the ecosystem close to [a tipping point](#). There is no time to lose. The science warns that deforestation must not exceed 20-25% to avoid transgressing an irreversible tipping point. Earth systems modeling shows that 50-60% of the eastern, southern and central Amazon rainforest would be replaced by degraded savannas and dry forests if the Amazon system were to flip to a [new vegetation-climate equilibrium](#). The [solutions](#) must urgently address the synergistic effects of climate and land use change to avoid an irreversible change to the Amazon rainforests.





Building on existing knowledge – solutions from the inside out

Building on the continuum of lessons learnt from the enforcement of protected areas, Indigenous reserves and community forests, established through the support of global, national and initiatives, an integrated, transboundary and rights-based approach to the territories within the Amazon is needed to catalyze these efforts. An inclusive, equitable bioeconomy which secures rights will offer a space for grassroots, indigenous groups and local communities and institutions to be connected to global processes and technologies. Only then can the Amazonian landscapes balance unconstrained development and fortress conservation with new innovations and old practices to realize a sustainable and equitable bioeconomy.

The two-day digital conference will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and perspectives of key actors across the Amazon Biome. Together with local and regional actors, we will convene interconnected dialogues from local to global to leverage the latest evidence, innovation and business cases, convene partnerships, generate public support, and help build propositions to balance competing land-use demands between forestry, agriculture and restoration across the Amazon Biome.

The conference will highlight and build on the many successful local initiatives ready for scaling and replication, while also highlighting, learning from, and addressing the challenges which are immanent in multifunctional and transboundary territorial planning approaches.

GLF's contribution

We build upon our successful [GLF Biodiversity: One World One Health Digital Conference](#) in which the power of multiple disciplines to work together to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment can be achieved.

Topics will include:

- The contemporary biocultural identity in the Amazon Biome and how it can contribute to securing the future of the landscape.
- Lessons learned on cross-sectoral land-use planning in the Amazon Biome.
- The role of technological innovation and community leadership in securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Innovative local approaches that can be brought to scale and replicated.
- Governance and financing solutions for an equitable, inclusive and sustainable bioeconomy.
- The potential for synergies between existing coalitions and movements.

Themes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solutions rooted in the biocultural of the Amazon • Securing land rights for all • An equitable, resilient bioeconomy • Addressing the key drivers of forest degradation and loss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory frameworks • Long-term landscape financing and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) transboundary governance • The role of technology |
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Youth

Youth are amongst the leading defenders of the Amazon, sometimes, at great personal risk. In collaboration with the [Youth in Landscapes Initiative \(YIL\)](#), GLF's Restoration Steward on forests in Argentina and the affiliated organization ([Proyecto Reserva Natural Monte Alegre](#)), GLFx chapters and other local youth organizations, young people will take part in GLF Amazon and the pre-event workshops and, importantly, will help shape the event itself, bringing up the needs and perspectives of the local youth and the activist spirit.

Why GLF?

Founded by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Bank and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with 30 leading development organizations as [Charter Members](#), the GLF is the world's largest and fastest-growing knowledge-led platform on sustainable land use. It seeks to create a movement dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The GLF has connected nearly 10,000 organizations, over 215,000 participants and reached more than one billion people from 185 countries.

Sponsorships opportunities

Partner with GLF to scale and support critical contributions to positive change while receiving global exposure and recognition for sustainable practices, supply chains and investments. Forums leverage the communication and digital marketing capacity of GLF, CIFOR-ICRAF, plus [30 GLF Charter Members](#), engaged partners, and networks of outstanding speakers and participants. The [GLF Biodiversity](#) event, the largest digital forum globally in 2020, reached 35 million

people via social media channels and an estimated 300 million through global media such as The Guardian, Sydney Morning Herald, BBC and CBC, where GLF event speakers are regularly featured.

Together, the GLF partnership will boost awareness among the public of the biocultural crisis facing the Amazon, and show solutions, while leading into and contributing to the initiatives across the Amazon to realize a prosperous, equitable and resilient bioeconomy.



Contacts

For information on sponsorships and other opportunities to support the work of the Global Landscapes Forum, please contact **Nina Haase**.
Mobile number: +31 617518388
Email: n.haase@cgiar.org

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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 livelihood initiatives, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment, (TMG) Think Tank, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

Funding partners

