

January 2021

One World, One Health

Recommendations
to harness the
power of landscapes



Global
Landscapes
Forum

Preamble:

Open letter from youth

We, the youth of the world, have a plan for the health of the people and of our planet.

The current patterns of production, consumption, landscape degradation and pollution have led to the many challenges that all generations are collectively facing: particularly the biodiversity, climate and health crises.

As youth, we are already taking action on these issues. Now we urge world leaders, decision-makers, civil society organizations, and individuals to recognize the importance of sustaining a healthy planet and address the inevitable products of our capitalist and colonial system.

We must achieve a world where all communities have access to restore and practice stewardship over their landscapes.

We need to find the resources and tools that are grounded in inclusive knowledge to build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world for current and future generations.

We need everyone to realise that the Earth's health is our health, and that having a safe place to call home is not an option, but a fundamental human right.

We demand transparency

We call on all governments to legislate for greater transparency within the operating systems of industries and sectors directly and indirectly connected with climate change, biodiversity and health.

A lack of transparency and free access to accurate and adequate data is hiding highly unsustainable supply chains, creating uncertainty around environmental impact assessments, fostering greenwashing tactics, and impeding civil society's ability to expose misinformation. Governments need to consider nature as an additional stakeholder and integrate the environment into all decisions. We wish to see biodiversity agreements, policies and legislative tools that will ensure that those actors who are responsible for harming our environment are held accountable, in order to safeguard human rights, including indigenous rights, in their implementation, and to guarantee the protection of environmental defenders



We demand transformative education

We call on all actors to recognize the complexity and interconnectivity of the ongoing crises and their countless implications, and to prioritize transformative education.

We need transformative education to facilitate our reconnection with nature and to ensure that we value nature through personal and collective experiences. Transformative education should be informed by different ways of knowing, and it should focus on biological diversity, cultural diversity and heritage, and overall sustainability. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities can inform and shape transformative education, as they hold knowledge for studying and understanding the drivers of these crises, as well as for exploring the ways forward. Transformative education should be integrated into all educational systems and be promoted in informal education settings.

We demand inclusion

We call on all actors to understand that the key to resilience is found in diversity, not only in our ecosystems, but in our agricultural practices, our societies, and in our decision-makers.

Pressures on biodiversity can vary, depending on local context, and therefore require a locally-led approach to biodiversity planning and protection. Rights-based approaches should inform conservation, restoration and sustainable resource use while acknowledging that the rights of local communities and the integrity of local ecosystems are intrinsically interconnected. Indigenous Peoples, smallholding and landless agricultural producers, as well as local communities, must have their rights respected and the necessary resources to make informed decisions regarding the management of lands and waters. Sustainable agricultural practices are essential to food security and biodiversity protection, promoting peace and stability - particularly in regions where the impacts of the climate crisis are experienced unequally. Respecting the cultural and intellectual property rights of knowledge holders, is necessary for realizing a resilient present and establishing a sustainable future for people and the planet. A pathway for this can be the meaningful integration of extensive pre-existing Indigenous and local knowledge systems into global frameworks, policies, and programs.

We demand transformative action

We call on all communities, decision makers and the whole of society to recognize that the immediate, severe and disproportionate impacts of the biodiversity and climate crises require concerted and immediate transformative action.

The relationship between humans and the environment has never been more important. It is time we recognize our collective contribution to the socio-ecological crisis. Women, youth, children, and Indigenous Peoples, are among the many groups often marginalized in this crisis, leading them to become the most vulnerable and the most victimized. These communities need representation in governance to ensure that their needs are met today and in the future. Decision-makers and leaders must work together to immediately act upon the drivers that degrade the Earth's health and subsequently, human wellbeing. We also call on all governments to meaningfully engage with youth and youth-led networks, to learn, understand, and apply the actions necessary to achieve a just and equitable future in harmony with nature.

The mobilization of youth networks and organizations can be the catalyst for collective and robust action across all sectors and levels. Through advocacy, grassroots movements, and networking, we have been able to harness the power of our communities to share knowledge and promote actions needed for the future we want. We strongly believe that fostering inclusivity, diversity, and intergenerational equity, ensuring environmental justice and mainstreaming gender-responsiveness are crucial to overcoming the challenges we are facing. We, the youth, are committed to working diligently for our common present and future. We invite all generations, all world leaders, decision-makers, and the whole of society to join us in sustaining a safe, radically inclusive and healthy planet for all.



Setting the scene

How can we harness the power of landscapes to achieve biodiversity and restoration ambitions for 2030 and 2050?



Before the COVID-19 pandemic began, the environmental community had declared 2020 the “super year for biodiversity”, with a series of international sustainable development events scheduled throughout the year to set the agenda for the upcoming United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). Although most events were postponed until 2021, the environmental community has continued its advocacy for a sustainable present and future while governments try to bend the curve of the health crisis. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) released and updated the **zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**, which lays out pathways to halt biodiversity loss and promote resilient ecosystems towards achieving the CBD’s 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”¹. Meanwhile, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – supported by core partners, including the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)² – have released a strategy for the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**. Global and regional initiatives, including the **Bonn Challenge**, **Africa’s AFR100 Initiative**, **Latin America’s Initiative 20x20**, the **New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)**, the **UN Decade on Family Farming** and others align with this vision and support activities of the CBD and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Activities accompanying the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration are opportunities for the GLF community to strengthen these guiding frameworks. During the **GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 One World, One Health (28-29 October 2020)**, GLF held space for actors from across

¹ The 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature” was agreed to during the 10th Conference of the Parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 (in Nagoya, Japan). The 2050 Vision reads: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

² GLF is the world’s largest knowledge-led platform dedicated on sustainable land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement <https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/>



sectors to explore the relationship between biodiversity and health. The event encouraged the world to harness the power of landscapes for transformative change towards radical inclusivity and sustainability.

Recommendation objectives

The GLF community consists of thousands of scientists, environmental practitioners, policy-makers, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth, financial services, private corporations and the wider public from 7,400 organizations and 185 countries who have participated in GLF activities. This community will be instrumental in successfully contributing to the implementation of biodiversity action plans, monitoring progress on global restoration efforts and sustaining momentum for building knowledge on the nexus between biodiversity and health beyond 2030.

Recognizing the potential of the landscape approach³, GLF and Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)⁴ facilitated the co-creation of the present GLF Biodiversity Policy Recommendations. This report aims to:

- Synthesize the perspectives represented in sessions of the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference;
- Summarize recommendations and supporting pathways to achieving key paradigm shifts that offer guidance on harnessing the power of landscapes to achieve biodiversity and restoration ambitions for 2030 and 2050.

This report outlines five thematic blocks, each describing a key paradigm shift and complementary recommendations and pathways:

- Paradigm shifts speak to the big-picture, systemic changes needed in societal thinking and structure;
- Recommendations highlight changes in direction that policy must make to progress paradigm shifts;
- Pathways provide concrete examples of frameworks and tools to pursue recommendations.

Throughout the text, certain key terms and claims are linked to related publications and sessions from the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference that can provide further context and clarification, with full citations provided in the sources section. The full methodology, a review of other select policy responses, list of contributors to this work and comments on the recommendations from organizations and members of the public can be found in the **appendix**.



³ "‘Landscape approaches’ seek to provide tools and concepts for allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals...[Sayer et al. 2013 define] 10 summary principles to support implementation of a landscape approach...[that] emphasize adaptive management, stakeholder involvement, and multiple objectives." (Sayer et al., 2013)

⁴ YIL is a network that engages thousands of young professionals and students who are in the pursuit of intergenerational environmental justice, including biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration and building sustainable landscapes <https://youth.globallandscapesforum.org/>

Recommendations and pathways towards key paradigm shifts

1 Health and the landscape approach

Paradigm Shift A

Integration of the Landscape Approach and the One Health Approach across all sectoral policies and actions

The coronavirus pandemic has given a new scale of visibility to zoonotic diseases. COVID-19 has raised acute awareness of the **fragility of life on Earth** and our dependence on a healthy planet. After decades of denial, modern Western science has started to explore what IPLCs have been advocating for years: nature and humans are interdependent. Many experts and community leaders have called for closer collaboration between advocates of the landscape approach and the One Health approach. The **landscape approach** describes the need to **balance competing land use demands for the benefit of human well-being and the environment**. Meanwhile, the One Health approach⁵ explores the **interconnections between animal, ecosystem, planetary and human health**. The integration of these two approaches across all sectoral policies can enable a more holistic understanding of the drivers of the current crises.

5 One Health is a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach, cutting across boundaries of animal, human, and environmental health, is needed to understand the ecology of each emerging zoonotic disease in order to undertake a risk assessment, and to develop plans for response and control. (Mackenzie & Jeggo, 2019)

Recommendation 1

Include public health perspectives in landscape and ecosystem management

To spearhead sectoral policies that address ecosystem, human and animal health as One Health at the landscape level, the climate and biodiversity loss crises must be understood as pressing public health concerns. Decision-makers, managers and practitioners across sectors should explicitly include public health experts, including traditional knowledge holders, with other experts in all stages of landscape management policies and activities. Panelists in a session hosted by the **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)** during the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference highlighted several case studies from Africa, Latin America and Asia that provide examples of existing multi-level efforts to integrate a One Health approach into landscape-level management. Narok county in Kenya, for example, is partnering with government ministries, agro-veterinarians, international organizations, NGOs and pastoralists to address the spillover of wildlife-borne disease in the Maasai Mara ecosystem.⁶

6 This strategy reflects efforts throughout East Africa to build and expand "One Health centers", which aim to coordinate and provide guidance for multi-sectoral partnerships on a regional basis, especially to enable "One Health extension personnel". For further reading, see: (Hassell et al., 2020)



Pathway I

Referring to the ten principles of the landscape approach to identify where public health perspectives can support landscape governance

The **ten principles** of the landscape approach can provide entry points for integrating public health perspectives into landscape governance. In tandem, the principles highlight the importance of looking across sectors, scales and needs; ensuring that all stakeholders are responsible, informed and involved; all levels of impact considered and all uses of the landscape acknowledged. Applying the lens of these principles would push public health efforts to be more adaptive to changes in landscapes and more transparent. The recommendations that follow in this report speak to several of the preliminary lessons learned from efforts to operationalize landscape approaches, reviewed in a book released by the Collaborating to Operationalize Landscape Approaches for Nature, Development, and Sustainability (COLANDS) initiative in a related [session at the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference](#).⁷



7 (Reed et al., 2020)

Pathway II

Mainstreaming food practices that build on the nexus between biodiversity, climate and health

Food systems are a promising vector for catalyzing and sustaining landscape changes that bring social and ecological benefits. **The Crop Trust** suggests food systems offer a particularly promising avenue for shifts in local practices at scale, given holistic institutional support across governance levels. The case of **governance in the Greater Virunga Landscape** illustrates the promise of food systems as areas for collaboration between public health experts, ecosystem managers and practitioners to address multiple challenges. Alternative agricultural principles can act as frameworks and tools to guide practices on the ground. **Agroecological principles**, for example, are increasingly recognized in major institutions as means to transform agriculture and promote biodiversity through identifying mutually beneficial interactions between different plants and animal species (**10 Elements of Agroecology, 2018**). These approaches can also contribute to holistic strategies to build long-term soil fertility, healthy agro-ecosystems that **conserve and enhance agrobiodiversity**, secure livelihoods, and promote food sovereignty and political participation of local and regional food producers. Strategies can include measures such as incentivizing retailers⁸ to work with local communities and promote agroforestry to improve quality and yields, while reducing potentially expensive or harmful inputs like certain fertilizers and chemical pesticides.

8 For instance, successes in promoting local livelihoods, biodiversity and restoration from the example of the model used by **CARICO Café** in Uganda.

2 Finance

Paradigm Shift B

Mobilization of finance to support best practices for biodiversity

Policy and financial incentives for private capital flow to biodiversity-positive investments and concrete regulations encouraging best practices from the private sector are necessary to address biodiversity loss. Principles of **participation, accountability, transparency and adaptability** can steer financing structures towards supporting management objectives that address multiple benefits from the landscape. Such benefits include but are not limited to human well-being, food production, climate resilience and biodiversity safeguarding. Both the private and public sector should focus on mobilizing finance that targets positive synergies between biodiversity, development and prosperity. A **2020 report by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency** suggests that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can encourage the contribution of the private sector in achieving biodiversity targets by supporting collective sectoral voluntary commitments and strengthening accountability and progress tracking mechanisms.



Recommendation 2

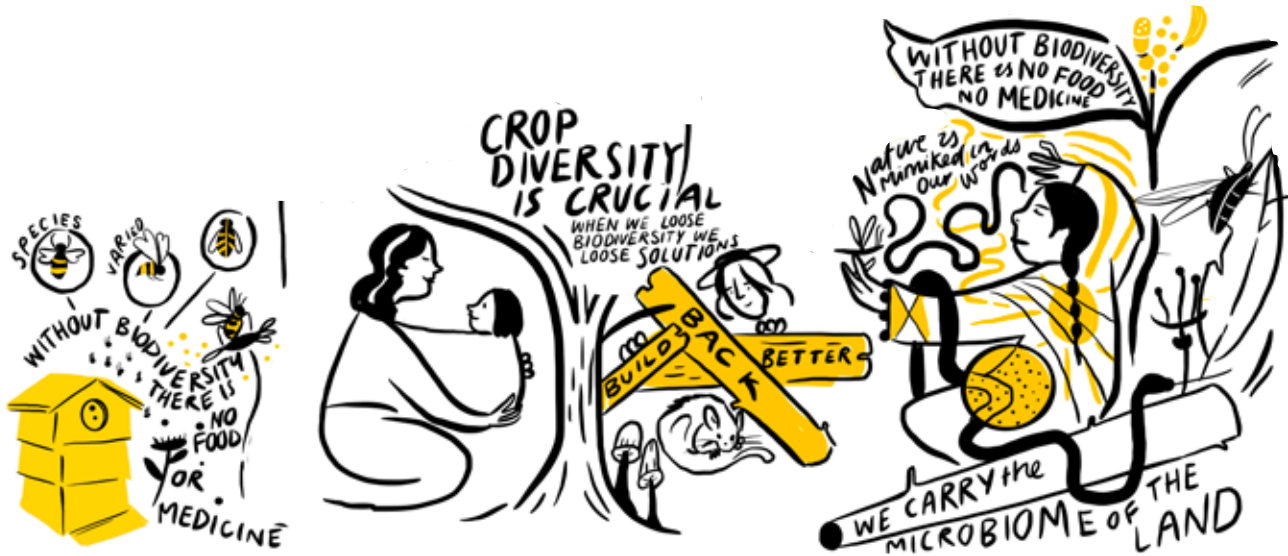
Transform financial structures for conservation and restoration, especially through re-targeting of subsidies and stimulating youth employment

Financial structures must better serve local sustainable livelihoods. Incentives harmful for biodiversity should be reallocated and mobilize the resources should be mobilized to realize international conservation and restoration ambitions. National governments, in collaboration with regional and local governments, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society, can:

- Redirect **harmful subsidies** to local ecosystem and livelihood needs. This would also help to fill the USD 700 billion funding gap for biodiversity over the next decade, an estimate presented in a recent report by **the Paulson Institute** during GLF Biodiversity (Deutz et al., 2020).
- Consider economic stimulus measures that **promote youth capacity building and employment** in conservation and restoration at scale.
- Promote **sustainable procurement, investment and supply-chain infrastructure**.

Emphasize holistic measures of prosperity that encompass more complex indicators than current ones. This can be accomplished, for example, by considering natural capital rather than solely relying on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as Luxembourg's Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development Minister Carole Dieschbourg **advocates**.





Recommendation 3

Enable community ownership of decision-making structures and resource flows

Ensuring equitable participation in landscape governance and safeguarding fair benefit sharing are vital steps in achieving the biodiversity ambitions. To sustain progress beyond 2030, the GLF community urges greater focus on supporting and promoting community ownership of decision-making processes and resource flows. Specifically, stronger measures are needed to **promote community ownership of financing mechanisms**, food systems and greater agency in value chains. Engaging with the growing number of landscape networks to build on local initiatives – such as those promoted through the **Hindu Kush Himalaya call for action** – is a particularly promising **entry point to mainstream best practices**. Additional promising measures include enhancing capacity of, and framework support for, **community-based business and young professionals for employment**, and building local processing and distribution infrastructure to shorten value chains.



Pathway III

Reforming financial institutions and instruments for greater inclusivity, transparency, accountability and sustainability in accessing finance for small scale actors

Gaps in access to finance for conservation and restoration initiatives and sustainable livelihoods for smallholders, especially in the Global South and for youth, women and IPLCs, continues to impede progress towards climate, biodiversity and wellbeing goals. Pursuing this report's recommendations requires the establishment of new - and support for existing - financial structures that connect local people and initiatives with **necessary capital from diverse sources**. These funding sources can include, but are not limited to, public private partnerships (PPPs), ecological fiscal transfers (EFT) and conservation trust funds (CFTs). When assessing project viability, managers of financing instruments can enable greater access to low-interest loans by including considerations of the risks of biodiversity loss, climate change and health crises. COVID-19 recovery strategies present an opportunity to accelerate the reform of these mechanisms. Green bonds and public-private collaborations present further opportunities to mobilize finance at scale. Building on lessons from programs like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), **well-informed and equitable payments linked to environmental services** could support transitions to sustainable livelihoods. Vital to the success of these mechanisms is the transparent flow of information at all levels and stronger channels for public accountability.

3 Knowledge

Paradigm Shift C

Decolonization of conservation and restoration language, knowledge and actions

Though many efforts to promote biodiversity are well-intentioned, the approach of many institutions to conservation and restoration is rooted in colonial frameworks that separate humans from nature and cause harm to IPLCs. The GLF community emphasizes the need to **decolonize conservation**⁹ and restoration and **upscale the stewardship of local and Indigenous initiatives to the landscape level**. Recommendation 4 and pathway IV describe examples of the structures necessary to support other recommendations and pathways in this report that would contribute to promote IPLC knowledge, rights and ownership - thematic that were also brought forward by the recently released **Local Biodiversity Outlook 2**.

Recommendation 4

Commit support to, and engage in, inclusive knowledge-sharing platforms

Dialogue and collaboration across sectors and governments is necessary to generate and sustain political support to achieve restoration and biodiversity goals. As seen in the scientific community's recent **mobilization of resources in the face of COVID-19**, close cooperation and **knowledge exchange** is vital for **evidence-based decision-making and action** at a pace and with the effectiveness on par with the severity of the interconnected climate, biodiversity and health crises.

Dialogue that informs decision-making in ways that can address global and local needs requires holding space for participants to provide consent, building trust and a transparent flow of communication at all governance levels. Platforms that facilitate global, regional and national cross-sectoral cooperation and knowledge-sharing can contribute to these objectives, with enough institutional resource support and committed

collaboration and engagement of institutions, governments, policy-makers and civil society. Online platforms that are currently in development, such as the **Rainforest Alliance's LandScale** initiative, can provide non-state actors with a mechanism for collaboratively monitoring sustainable landscape production models over time. Previous sections of this report highlight the need for knowledge-sharing platforms to strive for decentralized governance that spans sectors, regions and governance levels and actively seek greater inclusion of expertise representing all stakeholder needs, especially knowledge from IPLC, women and youth.

Pathways IV

Enriching transformative education, including pedagogy rooted in indigenous and local knowledge systems, to foster ecosystem stewardship

Formal and informal education systems must commit to placing farmers, IPLCs, women and youth at the center of efforts, recognizing their roles as agents of change and biodiversity knowledge holders. These systems must also reflect the fact that all learners have the right to connect their education with their lived reality. A **white paper and corresponding session** led by Nia Tero provide examples of how Indigenous and traditional biodiversity practices can provide abundance and foster interconnected thinking. In a similar vein, the **Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) response** to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework proposes that governments, civil society and educators should work with knowledge holders to mainstream pedagogy rooted in indigenous and local knowledge systems in a way that addresses the needs and respects the rights of local communities and ecosystems. Early lessons from the development of national-level strategies to mainstream the contributions of these knowledge systems in other sectors, such as the example of **eco-tourism in Peru** presented during the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference, could inform education strategies. Landscape governance and public health experts can offer relevant knowledge to inform curricula to explicitly incorporate a focus on equipping learners, **especially youth**, with the capacity to think critically, collaboratively and holistically to find and apply solutions to environmental and social challenges.

9 Decolonizing conservation is used here to refer to a radical shift in thinking and doing, a decolonization of previously accepted notions of conservation, natural ecosystems, and wilderness. For further reading see this reading list from the University of British Columbia (UBC): <https://geog.ubc.ca/news/decolonizing-conservation-a-reading-list/>

4 Rights

Paradigm Shift D

Environmental justice and intergenerational equity mainstreamed across all sectoral policies and actions

The continuing degradation of biodiversity disproportionately impacts the livelihoods of communities and individuals, especially those belonging to marginalized groups such as IPLCs, rural people whose lives revolve around local natural resources, people in areas most vulnerable to the climate crisis and women and girls. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be done without the free, full and effective participation of all actors, especially of younger generations. Over the past few years, young people have increasingly engaged in addressing global challenges, with young leaders across the globe pushing for transformative change towards sustainability. Dismantling systems of capitalism, colonialism, cognitive injustice and white supremacy to pursue environmental justice and promote intergenerational equity are prominent advocacy points for youth organizations working with biodiversity, like those represented in GLF Biodiversity's youth delegation. A **session** led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Tenure Facility and the Forest Peoples Programme during the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference suggested that embracing these calls for change across global biodiversity decision-making processes can help scale local stewardship to the landscape level, reversing trends of environmental exploitation, protecting rights and meeting needs.



Recommendation 5

Promote the application of rights-based approaches in sustainable development and upholding rights

The GLF community emphasizes the need for policy makers to operationalize **rights-based approaches for sustainable development**, which can help clarify how decision-makers uphold rights and justice issues when developing frameworks, projects and activities for landscape management.. Such approaches can help to **ensure that rights holder participation** is meaningful and that **free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is properly obtained**. Pathways V and VI highlight some of the specific rightsholder perspectives that are integral to the successful implementation of a rights-based approach and can ensure that the protection of rights and biodiversity mainstreaming are mutually reinforcing.

FROM PLANETARY BOUNDARIES TO PLANETARY OPPORTUNITIES



OUR PLANET is A BALANCE SYSTEM



Pathway V

Including IPLC rights in biodiversity frameworks

The GLF community identified several specific categories of rights that relate to IPLC's lands, territories and resources, including related procedural rights¹⁰, which these communities believe should be more explicitly in international frameworks for biodiversity. These include, but are not limited to:

- recognition of land tenure rights of IPLCs;
- formalization of customary rights;
- recognition of the rights of IPLCs to produce, including rights to fair prices and benefit sharing models;
- recognition of, investment in and support to the roles and rights of IPLCs, especially through participation in local issues across governance levels;
- cultivation of inclusive financial instruments to support capacity-building of IPLCs. Diverse approaches to funding that are transparent, encourage participation at the local level and localize financial flows are prudent;

Enabling decision-making in spatial planning and area-based conservation and restoration measures by, for example, leading in participatory resource mapping, **with the specification that data and technologies be in the hands of communities.**

¹⁰ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Article 18 – with supporting clarifications in Articles 27, 30, 33, 34 and 40 – and Nagoya Protocol Articles 6, 12, 13 and 18 (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) (The Nagoya Protocol, 2011).

Pathway VI

Applying gender-responsive approaches to conservation and restoration

Women and girls, especially rural and Indigenous women, play critical roles in natural resource management and are the main **holders of traditional and biocultural knowledge**. Thus, fostering the equitable and **active inclusion of women and girls' voices, needs, priorities and knowledge** is crucial to ensuring that conservation, restoration and sustainable use efforts can have long term effects. At the same time, the biodiversity crisis and gender-blind conservation and restoration measures impact women and girls in ways that are distinct, often disproportionate, to men. This is because women and girls are often marginalized in decision-making processes and are subject to other pervasive gender-based inequalities. This makes gender mainstreaming a crucial component of promoting rights and justice within the decision-making and implementation processes for biodiversity management. To address environmental challenges, all policies and frameworks at all levels of engagement need to apply gender-responsive approaches and incorporate recognition of **the right of all people, regardless of their gender, to a healthy and safe life.**



5 Community-led transformative change

Paradigm Shift E

Transformative change towards collective action for biodiversity embraced

IPLCs, agroforestry practitioners, civil society organizations, governments and other actors have made some progress in securing funding for biodiversity-positive actions and mitigating the rate of extinction. Despite these successes, most efforts have been ambiguous and fragmentary. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) calls for moving away from scattered actions and fear, to an era defined by **transformative change** - a profound, systemic and strategic change in our actions, values and policy, that can support a new Earth-positive reality (Chan, 2020). In order to build novel, practical paths of action to restore resilient and equitable landscapes and foster sustainable benefits for communities, all actors and sectors need to unlearn old assumptions and habits, and relearn through **transformative education** how to **integrate efforts at the landscape level** and generate solutions that meaningfully target intersecting inequalities to the biodiversity crisis.

Recommendation 6

Scale local initiatives and successes, in lieu of imposing solutions top-down

Centering local actions and stewardship in responding to crises can mitigate potential consequences and transboundary implications of coercive or top-down solutions. Upscaling locally managed initiatives can have a multitude of benefits including tackling local environmental challenges and addressing those that are global. IPLCs, traditional and local knowledge holders, have developed knowledge and innovations cultivated over generations of close relationships with local landscapes, that can address environmental challenges. Supporting the capacity of local researchers, stewards and storytellers, especially youth, paired with safeguards for community autonomy over knowledge, can ensure this **knowledge can continue to be passed**

down to future generations and guide stewardship and responsibility over sustainable use of resources and landscapes. Tools for intra- and inter-community learning can help in building capacity within communities while promoting community ownership of solutions, measures and actions. Traditional knowledge holders, especially elders and women, can work with youth to create understanding within communities about what knowledge should be shared externally, which would also define the basis for others obtaining proper FPIC to use such knowledge.

Recommendation 7

Support communities which have the most at stake in the climate, health and biodiversity crises to own development discourse

Marginalized communities must be supported in maintaining space in international fora to ensure novel concepts related to addressing global challenges, do not become co-opted at their expense, such as by becoming mere marketing buzzwords (greenwashing), once these concepts are taken up in new sectors, such as in business or in intergovernmental agencies.. The GLF community - particularly youth and IPLC participants - noted the risks from the **loss of community ownership over concepts** such as “nature-based solutions”, “transformative change” and other paradigms in which marginalized communities have high stakes.

Pathway VII

Developing and implementing communications strategies that consider differing entry points to biodiversity, restoration and health, through targeting multiple narratives and levels of understanding

The diversity of narratives, worldviews, local contexts and circumstances, create differences in framing global issues and their local drivers and impacts. Some framings might not be receptive to some of the rhetoric often used in international decision-making fora. The

importance of conservation and restoration practices can become more accessible through reducing technical jargon and using language that matches degrees of understanding and interest of diverse audiences. Varied and accessible communication formats can help inspire diverse groups to connect with biodiversity and restoration. Diverse actors should also contribute to creating the language, framing and storytelling for communicating these global issues. Specific pathways to creating space for local voices in international fora include highlighting the right to Indigenous media under the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and **putting Indigenous, local, women and youth storytellers** and storytelling at the center of multi-sector platforms.

Pathway VIII

Strengthening international landscape networks

International landscape networks can nurture local initiatives and contribute to landscape governance arrangements that support **sustainable landscape management**, as well as inclusive and legitimate spatial decision making. Implementing recommendations and following pathways included in previous sections of this report, such as transforming finance relevant to conservation and restoration as well as committing to inclusive knowledge-sharing platforms, can strengthen these landscape networks. Subsequently, these **networks can further support the local ownership of concepts**, needs and debates and their representation to regional, national and international levels of decision and policy making.

Looking forward to a decade of action

During the GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020, the GLF community came together to highlight the intertwined relationship between biodiversity and health. As we are gearing up for a decade of action, the Global Landscapes Forum and the GLF community will be further exploring the above policy recommendations for guidance on how to harness the power of landscapes to achieve biodiversity and restoration ambitions of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)**, meet the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and realize the CBD's **2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature"**.



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Global Landscapes Forum

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