Conference Brief

Global Landscapes Forum

CIFOR

World Agroforestry

Hybrid Conference
GLF Africa 2026
Rangelands

6–7 May 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya and online worldwide | **bit.ly/GLFAfrica2026**
#GLFAfrica

Why rangelands and pastoralists, and why now?

Rangelands cover 54% of the world's land surface and sustain the livelihoods of 1.2 billion people and up to 500 million pastoralists. They support 60% of global food production, store a third of Earth's terrestrial carbon, and deliver up to 70% of livestock feed.

In Africa alone, pastoral systems support over 100 million livelihoods and contribute nearly 40% of agricultural GDP. These landscapes are also home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna, and host community, private, and public nature conservancies, which are critical sources of revenue through tourism.

But despite their immense value, rangelands and pastoralist systems remain undervalued, underfunded, and misunderstood. Half of the world's rangelands are at risk of degradation due to the climate crisis, conflict, land fragmentation, misguided policies, and underinvestment.

All too often, pastoralism is seen as a barrier to development rather than a model of resilience and prosperity. We cannot build a just, prosperous, and sustainable world without rangelands and pastoralists.

The United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) – and the time is now to put these often-forgotten landscapes and communities on the map.

What is GLF Africa Rangelands about?

Building on the Global Landscapes Forum's decade-long legacy of driving sustainable landscapes, the event will connect over 5,000 participants across Africa and the world, bringing together voices from the landscapes, including pastoralist leaders, policymakers, investors, researchers, innovators, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth.

Through high-level plenaries, interactive sessions, policy dialogues, investment roundtables, innovation exhibitions, knowledge sharing, cultural showcases, and global media outreach, the conference will:

- Elevate the agency of rangelands and pastoralism in climate, biodiversity and food system discourses.
- Showcase science-driven solutions, cutting-edge AI and disruptive tech, local innovations and traditional knowledge.
- Advocate for policy and investment commitments to restore degraded rangelands.
- Strengthen alliances and lay the ground for resilient rangeland and pastoralist livelihoods, economies and ecosystems.

Key themes

- Climate resilience and bridging the Rio Conventions in rangelands: Lessons for thriving under uncertainty
- Restoring rangeland health: Tackling land degradation and biodiversity loss
- Land, water and governance: Securing rights, reducing conflict and fostering cooperation
- Nature economy and livelihoods: Unlocking value chains, financing community-led conservation, (eco)tourism and payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- Science, technology and Indigenous knowledge: Harnessing AI, biotech and traditional wisdom

Expected outcomes

- A conference declaration outlining global priorities for rangelands and pastoralists
- A knowledge synthesis report with evidence and solutions for scaling.
- Policy recommendations
- Partnerships mobilizing finance and joint action for restoration, resilience and livelihoods.

What can GLF Africa 2026 do for rangelands?

GLF Africa 2026 is a unique opportunity to elevate rangelands and pastoralism from the margins to the mainstream. Together, we can unlock their potential for climate resilience, livelihoods and sustainable prosperity.

By supporting GLF Africa 2026, you will:
- Align with impact: climate action, food security, biodiversity and peace.
- Showcase leadership: brand visibility across GLF's network of 65+ million people.
- Invest in solutions, from restoration to regenerative economies and inclusive governance.
- Seize opportunities for partnerships, sponsorship and engagement

Beyond the bubble: engaging the unexpected

We break the bubble of traditional rangelands and conservation circles and reach new and unexpected audiences, essential to shaping Africa's landscape future. Ahead of GLF Africa 2026, the campaign will build momentum through regional and global events, connecting diverse audiences across Africa and around the world. Building on the past seven editions of GLF Africa, it brings together 7,500 online and onsite participants, reaches 50 million people, and engages more than 2 million through media outreach, social media, influencer collaborations, live conversations, and inspiring ThinkLandscape stories.

The place for voices of the landscapes

Ahead of GLF Africa: Rangelands 2026, the GLF Africa Community & Action Assembly will bring together youth, grassroots leaders, and GLFx networks from across Africa to spotlight rangelands as vital ecological and cultural systems. The week-long gathering will provide space for reflection, learning, visioning, and solidarity, featuring a field visit to local rangeland communities, dialogues, storytelling, and an Africa Landscape Dialogue that bridges traditional and scientific knowledge. The Assembly will amplify local voices and co-create strategies to position rangelands and pastoralist communities at the heart of Africa's development agenda.

Here are some ways to get involved:
- Join the Knowledge Committee to frame the conference, set the agenda and develop key messages
- Host a plenary session, expert session, launchpad or exhibition booth/pavilion to showcase your work
- Join the road to GLF Rangelands IYRP 2026 campaign and share it with your networks to boost participation
- Join the Communications Committee to shape narratives and discourses around rangelands and pastoralism in Africa and beyond
- Suggest speakers and relevant thematic priorities to shape the narratives emerging from the conference
- Support cultural and creative activities, including moderating or facilitating sessions
- Support or sponsor a solidarity session

To learn more about the GLF Africa 2026 conference, please get in touch with Amos Amanubo, the GLF Africa Regional Coordinator (A.Amanubo@cifor-icraf.org).
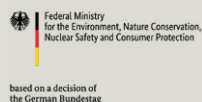
To explore partnerships, sponsorships, or participation, contact Marina Brunale, the GLF's Partnerships Lead (M.Brunale@cifor-icraf.org)

About 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 (SDGs), Paris Climate Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and committed to the landscape approach. 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 livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter members: CIAT, CIFOR-ICRAF, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FAO, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IPAM Amazonia, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, SouthSouthNorth, TMG-Think Tank for Sustainability, UNCCD, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL).

Funding partners