

Concept note

# Building cross-cutting skills and landscapes knowledge for youth leadership

Ahead of and during  
The second Global Landscapes Forum on the sidelines of UNFCCC COP20

5-7 December, 2014  
Lima, Peru



[landscapes.org/youth](http://landscapes.org/youth)

## Background

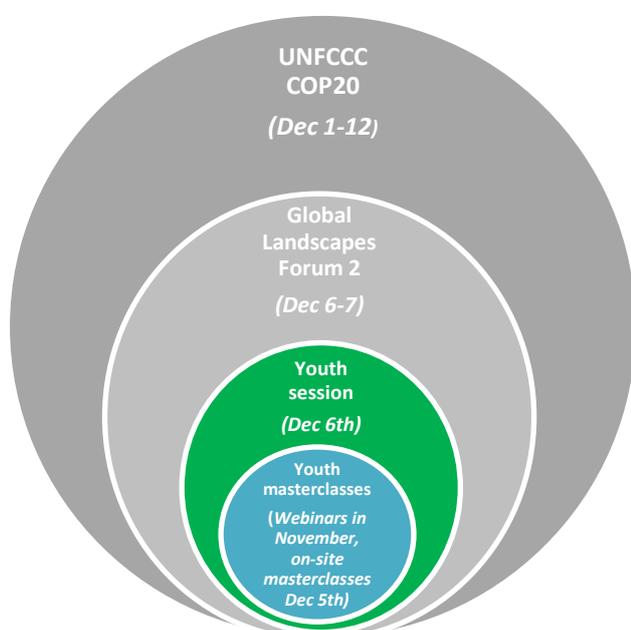
It's widely recognized that young people (defined as 18-30 years old) can be powerful agents of change, using innovative solutions and means to propagate messages and promote economic and social advancement. But despite increasing commitments for youth representation in committees and at conferences, all too often young people are not provided with sufficient mentoring and skill building opportunities to effectively contribute to these discussions and to become better professionals.

Similarly, students and young professionals in different landscapes sectors are not often exposed to concepts of integrated approaches to land use in their curricula or workplaces. Giving these groups a space to discuss such issues will build their understanding and ability to actively contribute to debates around future development and climate frameworks – such as the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and the successor to the Kyoto protocol.

The activities proposed in this concept note have been conceived in the wake of two successful predecessors: The youth session at the first Global Landscapes Forum in Warsaw last year (2013 GLF) and the [special youth session at the Forests Asia Summit](#) in Jakarta, 2014. At 2013 GLF, 10 young professionals from across the world shared their experiences on the challenges and successes in implementing an integrated approach to natural resource management. While it was widely praised as one of the most dynamic sessions, participants recommended that future events apply a more participatory approach - both in terms of capacity building and involvement of young people in the wider GLF program.

Taking this feedback on board, the youth session at Forests Asia was designed to facilitate discussion and debate around the [five themes of the Forests Asia Summit](#): climate change, equitable development, investment, food security and governance. Discussions were led by five 'youth moderators' (selected from 60 applicants) who underwent an extensive mentoring program to build the science of their discussion topic and their ability to facilitate discussions.

While session feedback showed a significant uptake of new skills and knowledge amongst both moderators and participants, session participants requested that capacity building opportunities be made available to a wider group of youth. Feedback also showed that youth messages need to be strengthened – both in term of content and in articulation of ideas. Once again, youth involvement in other aspects of the conference program -was raised as an issue of strong concern.



The 2014 GLF organizing committee has taken on board this feedback and has committed to youth involvement in various aspects of the current conference program, namely:

1. A dedicated youth session where over 200 young people will be able to share their perspectives on the [four themes of 2014 GLF](#); and strengthen their cooperation;
2. Making age a selection criteria for discussion forum speakers and encouraging youth facilitators of [thematic pavilions](#).
3. Provide room and opportunities during sessions to present and encourage cooperation among young participants and youth organizations as well as cooperation among youth organizations and professional organization.
4. A blended masterclass series that will prepare a selected group of youth to contribute effectively to the youth session, the GLF program and to COP20 (see Fig 1).

While the GLF is designed to provide a truly global platform, we will make use of this year's locality and particularly encourage the involvement of young participants and youth organizations across Latin America and Peru. Beyond ensuring participation of regional and local youth forces at the 2014 GLF, we are developing a dedicated partnership strategy with other youth organizations and youth targeted events that take place preliminarily and on the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP 20. This will provide opportunities to enhance cooperation among a range of youth organizations active in the landscape and climate change sector and develop local networks and capacities.

## Objectives:

1. To foster lively discussions and debate around youth perspectives on the four key landscapes issues/themes of 2014 GLF.
2. Share these perspectives and innovative ideas with other participants at the Forum and virtually to as wide an audience as possible.
3. Foster youth cooperation among young individuals and youth organizations at the global, regional and local level in the field of landscapes and climate change with a particular perspective to engage in the post-2015 agreement development and beyond.

## Expected outcomes:

- Significant contributions from youth to 2014 GLF discussions, with clear messages related to the themes of the conference.
- Increased youth awareness about landscape issues and how these relate to climate change and sustainable development.
- Increased engagement between older professionals and youth.
- Increased understanding of youth issues amongst older professionals attending 2014 GLF.
- More youth in leadership roles in 2014 GLF sessions (facilitators, panellists) and at future events and meetings.
- Youth adequately prepared to take on such roles.
- New links, networks and friendships between young participants and youth organizations established.
- Increased cooperation and joint program/project/campaign development among youth organizations in the field of landscape and climate change with a particular perspective to engage in the post-2015 agreement development and beyond.

## Agenda

The youth session will be held on the first morning of the 2014 GLF (prior to the opening keynotes) on 6 December at the Westin Hotel and Convention Center in Lima, Peru. The session will begin with a series of roundtable discussions on the [four themes of the Global Landscapes Forum](#) where youth will form actionable, innovative ideas on key issues. These may range from local case studies to policy and practice solutions, or other creative and innovative ideas for integrated land uses.

These key ideas will then be pitched to a panel of science and policy experts in the form of [a dragons' den](#). To keep the format fun and interesting, pitches may involve a three slide presentation, a headline of what they want to achieve a couple of years into the future, a visual representation of their idea (using play dough, model cars, drawing on a flipchart) etc.

Youth pitchers will then receive feedback from the judges and audience on these ideas. This feedback will be incorporated and consolidated by youth into a summary document that we shall present in a high level session at Day 2 of the Global Landscapes Forum.

The online public will be significantly engaged prior to the event in online discussions around key GLF themes in order to refine discussion topics. The dragon's den will also be livestreamed, with questions and feedback solicited from the online public.

Depending on the demographic of the audience who register for the event, the organizers propose having one English and one Spanish roundtable discussion for each theme and simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish during the dragon's den.

Below is a preliminary agenda (subject to change as the program develops and scoping with youth participants is conducted).

<b>Youth session 2014 GLF</b>	
<b>December 6th</b>	
<b>Westin Hotel and Convention Center, Lima, Peru</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>
08:30 - 08:40	Introduction from MC/inspiring speaker
08:40 - 08:50	<i>Move to roundtables</i>
08:50 - 10:00	<b>Roundtable discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight discussion groups: Two groups of 25 people for <a href="#">each theme</a> (moderated by "youth facilitators").</li> <li>• In final 10 mins, two themes compare ideas to come up with a single pitch per theme</li> </ul>
10:00 - 10:20	<i>Break with entertainment</i>
10:20 - 11:20	<b>Dragon's den (webcast, simultaneous interpreting English &lt;&gt; Espanol)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce expert panel members (representatives from GLF, negotiator, YOUNGO (youth rep to UNFCCC), research organization)</li> <li>• Four "youth pitchers" pitch ideas (4-6 mins each)</li> <li>• Feedback from panel and audience discussion</li> </ul>
11:20 - 11:30	<i>Move back to roundtable groups</i>
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Tweaking ideas</b> Groups reconvene to incorporate feedback from panel, consolidate ideas and brainstorm how to build on these discussions during the rest of GLF.
12:00 - 12:10	<i>Move back to plenary</i>
12:10 - 12:30	<b>Consolidate recommendations</b> Awards (best presentation + people's choice, closing remarks and future directions)

There will be two distinct youth leadership roles related to the youth session:

**Eight "youth facilitators"** who develop and lead the roundtable discussions. These youth could also be trained as thematic pavilion facilitators.

**Four "youth pitchers"** who monitor the discussions but focus more on learning [the art of pitching an idea](#), so they can then distil the main idea from the discussions for the dragons' den.

To equip youth to take on these leadership positions and to provide a group of 40-60 youth with key skills identified by youth session organizers as critical to effective youth involvement in the GLF and COP20, on Friday December 5th, a half day of skill and knowledge building masterclasses will be offered.

Below is a preliminary agenda (subject to change as the program develops and scoping with youth participants is conducted).



Youth masterclasses December 5th Venue TBA				
Time	Program			
08:30 - 08:45	Introduction Recap of webinar learning and pre-conference activities.			
<b>Concurrent masterclasses (15-20 participants in each)</b>				
08:55 - 10:55	<b>(Part 1) Contributing to a discussion</b> <i>Articulating comments and questions.</i>	<b>(Part 1) Understanding climate change and landscapes</b> <i>Building critical political and technical knowledge</i>	<b>(Part 1) How to network</b> <i>In professional settings</i>	<b>How to facilitate a discussion</b> <i>For youth facilitators + thematic pavilion facilitators</i>
10:55 - 11:15	Break			
11:15 - 13:15	<b>(Part 2) Pitching an idea</b> <i>Dragon's den + peer assessed assignment.</i>	<b>(Part 2) Understanding sustainable development and landscapes</b> <i>Building critical political and technical knowledge + peer assessed assignment</i>	<b>(Part 2) How to network</b> <i>In collaboration with other youth groups + peer assessed assignment</i>	<b>How to facilitate a discussion</b> <i>For youth facilitators + thematic pavilion facilitators</i>
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch			
14:30 - 15:00	Debrief focusing on skills learned and how these skills can be put in practice during the 2014 GLF			
15:30 - 16:30	Meeting with youth facilitators and pitchers in preparation for the youth session			

## Approach

The youth session and related activities will be designed to:

- **Give youth a platform** to express their thoughts and ideas on landscape issues and have these ideas represented equally with other stakeholder groups at 2014 GLF
- **Encourage youth to take up various roles in the 2014 GLF program**, such as facilitators of [thematic pavilions](#), discussion forum speakers, effective contributors to various discussions. These roles can only be determined after pavilion and forum hosting organizations are chosen by the GLF organizing committee in October, 2014. Youth will be selected to take on these roles at the discretion of the 2014 GLF host organizations.
- **Masterclasses will utilize blended learning methodologies:** Webinars will be conducted in October and November, aiming to introducing various techniques and scenarios for each masterclass theme. The on-site session itself will build on this learning. A blog series will be launched prior to 2014 GLF with participants encouraged to reflect on what they are learning.
- Encourage **GLF partner organizations with the required expertise to run skill building sessions both before and during the event** (with support from the youth session steering committee). This will achieve several aims:
  - To ground the skill building in real-life case studies, research projects or challenges in landscapes sectors. This will have the added outcome of facilitating a process for partner organisations to tap into youth perspectives and ideas on these relevant issues.
  - To encourage networking and mentoring between youth and more senior professionals.

- To encourage older professionals to better understand barriers to youth contribution.
- **Use innovative session design:** Experiential learning approaches, hypothetical scenarios, peer assist and other interesting methods will be applied.
- **Ensure application of skills learnt** - Master classes will be designed with clear learning objectives and will include tasks that youth participants will need to undertake during 2014 GLF to apply skills learnt. We are exploring indicators such as:
  - 2014 GLF attendees can sign up to have a youth shadow them throughout 2014 GLF, helping youth feel confident to network and participate actively while learning from their mentor (and hopefully their mentor learns something too!);
  - Youth should contribute to at least one discussion significantly;
  - Youth should make at least two professional contacts for which you can provide evidence of possible follow-up
- **Ensure engaged and motivated participants:** Past experience has shown that a competitive selection process ensures more active engagement and contributions, both before, during and after the event. To ensure high quality capacity development, we are going to keep the youth session participation small and targeted, aiming to train between 45-60 youth in total.
- **Explore synergies with other youth groups:** We are currently scoping all youth activities taking place at COP20 to see where areas of potential synergy exist, including ways to use this opportunity to improve youth contribution to the UNFCCC COP20 negotiations. It seems that most youth climate group activities are focused on advocacy; a niche exists for professional skill and knowledge building geared towards young people interested in forestry, agriculture, fisheries, conservation and other aspects of natural resource management.
- **Apply strong monitoring and evaluation processes:** Methods include surveys, stakeholder interviews, most significant change method, diary reflections, assessment of tasks undertaken.
- **Build a network that outlasts the 2014 GLF:** We aim to build a community spirit through an informal get together prior to the session, icebreakers and mentoring approach. IFSA and YPARD in collaboration with CIFOR will be well placed to continue building these relationships in the long-term.
- **Address language barriers:** Recognizing relatively high language barriers among young participants in the region, GLF2 aims to provide simultaneous Spanish translation and other communication support wherever feasible.
- **Gathering and networking throughout the conference:** Prominent youth organizations involved in the 2014 GLF will organize a dedicated youth area in the exhibition hall that will serve as a youth gathering and networking and mentoring meeting point. Professionals will be invited to get familiar with youth activities and youth organizations at the conference. Brief speed networking events and other spontaneous activities will be organized around this area.

**Timeline:**

Month	GLF activities	Youth session activities	Masterclass activities
July		Conduct scoping with other youth groups participating in COP20 and previous youth session participants	
		Finalize concept note and send to potential funding partners	
		Decide on number of participants and how to conduct session registration	
		Design marketing campaign	
			Begin drafting program and start liaising with possible trainers.
Aug	Registration opens	Post call for applications for youth facilitators and pitchers	
		Begin marketing campaign (incl participation in "Prioritizing investment in youth development in post-2015 era")	
		Determine how to collaborate with youth groups	
		Liaise with potential funding partners	
			Continue drafting overall program and liaison with trainers.
Sept	Draft policy briefs completed	Confirm funding partners	
		Continue marketing campaign	
		Organize logistics	
		Brainstorm discussion topics based on policy briefs	Finalize plan for webinars, start preparing training materials
		Prepare guidelines & resources for youth facilitators and pitchers	
		Close applications for youth facilitators and pitchers (28th)	
Oct	Thematic pavilions and DF selected	Select youth facilitators and pitchers (by 12th)	Select masterclass participants
		Link youth with mentors (by 19th)	Finalize training materials and advertise webinars
		Draft list of potential expert panelists (by 19th)	Launch youth blog series
		Post online discussions (w/c 27th)	
		Prepare travel for sponsored participants	

		Liaise with GLF organizers to determine potential youth involvement in thematic pavilions and DFs	
Nov		Invite and brief panelists (w/c 10th)	Begin webinars
		Select opening speaker and MC	Include reflections from webinar participants in blog series
		Mentor youth facilitators and pitchers	Send preparatory materials to masterclass participants
		Continue to coordinate logistics and marketing campaign	
Dec	Run 2014 GLF masterclasses (5th)	Select youth session participants + send discussion brief	Youth conduct various tasks related to 2014 GLF participation (6-7th)
	Run 2014 GLF youth session (6th)	Conduct M&E	

## Steering committee

Role	Lead/s	Tasks
<b>Overall coordinator</b>	 <p><b>Michelle Kovacevic</b>  <a href="mailto:m.kovacevic@cgiar.org">m.kovacevic@cgiar.org</a>  Michelle is a science communicator with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Bogor, Indonesia. She coordinates the knowledge-sharing website ForestsClimateChange.org and coordinates CIFOR's capacity building in communications program. She has experience communicating science across many platforms including social media, print, radio, presenting (to students, policymakers and practitioners) in corporate, academic and non profit settings. Michelle holds an honours degree in neuroscience and a diploma in Indonesian from the University Of Melbourne.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all aspects of youth session and masterclass organization are kept on track</li> <li>• Youth program focal point for 2014 GLF organizers</li> <li>• Lead committee meetings</li> <li>• Lead participant selection, send updates to participants</li> <li>• Liaise with potential program and funding partners</li> <li>• Ensure youth are engaged beyond the session but in GLF core sessions</li> <li>• M&amp;E design and implementation + report</li> <li>• Assist with logistics, travel organisation</li> <li>• Other tasks as required</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	 <p><b>Marina Cherbonnier</b>  <a href="mailto:marina.cherbonnier@ypard.net">marina.cherbonnier@ypard.net</a>  Marina is YPARD's Web and Communications manager (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development). She studied Information and Documentation Sciences in France and completed a Masters in ICT4D (Information and Communications Technologies for Development) at the University of Manchester, UK, in 2010.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead budget development</li> <li>• Liaise with potential funding partners</li> <li>• Assist with logistics, travel organisation for sponsored participants</li> </ul>

<b>Masterclass design</b>	<p><b>Marina Cherbonnier</b> <a href="mailto:marina.cherbonnier@ypard.net">marina.cherbonnier@ypard.net</a></p>  <p><b>Florent Kaiser</b> <a href="mailto:mail@florent-kaiser.de">mail@florent-kaiser.de</a> Florent is a young, passionate forester and a former youth leader in the field of forests. As the former President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) he has contributed to youth engagement to international processes over many years. He has organised numerous youth events at prominent international conferences and is particularly keen to strengthen cooperation among youth organizations and to bridge barriers between youth and older professionals to ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge, skills and innovative problem solving.</p>  <p><b>Bunmi Ajilore</b> <a href="mailto:bunmi.ajilore@yahoo.co.uk">bunmi.ajilore@yahoo.co.uk</a> Bunmi is a passionate advocate for agriculture, climate change adaptation/mitigation, sustainability and youth issues. He is currently a visiting researcher at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia, and a science communicator for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), a YPARD Foresight Ambassador and a member of the GFAR/Foresight Forward Thinking Platform.</p>  <p><b>Sarah Dickson-Hoyle</b> <a href="mailto:sarah.dh.ifsa@gmail.com">sarah.dh.ifsa@gmail.com</a> Sarah holds the position of CIFOR Liaison Officer with the International Forestry Students' Association. She recently completed a Master of Forest Ecosystem Science at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and is currently working as an ecological consultant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide on master class topics</li> <li>• Lead master class development (including pre and post conference engagement activities)</li> <li>• Work with master class trainers to devise appropriate structure and learning methods</li> </ul>
<b>Youth session design</b>	<p><b>Michelle Kovacevic</b> <a href="mailto:m.kovacevic@cgiar.org">m.kovacevic@cgiar.org</a></p>  <p><b>Abby Waldorf</b> <a href="mailto:a.waldorf@cgiar.org">a.waldorf@cgiar.org</a> Abby is a communications and engagement specialist for the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems. She is the managing editor of the Agriculture and Ecosystems blog and has run communications workshops and "dragons den" sessions for regional research centers, universities, NGOs, and government ministries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead session development</li> <li>• Select expert panel</li> <li>• Work with selected youth on discussion and pitch development</li> <li>• Liaise with masterclass design team to ensure appropriate crossover.</li> </ul>

<b>Partnership scoping</b>	<p><b>Florent Kaiser (international partners):</b>  <a href="mailto:mail@florent-kaiser.de">mail@florent-kaiser.de</a></p>  <p><b>Martha Cuba (regional and national partners):</b>  <a href="mailto:m.cubacronkleton@cgiar.org">m.cubacronkleton@cgiar.org</a>  g  Martha Cuba is CIFOR's Communications Coordinator for Latin America and the focal point for media relations in the region. She has worked as an environmental science editor and translator and holds degrees in International Relations, Latin American Studies and Latin American Literature.</p>  <p><b>Paola Coronado Werner (local partners)</b>  <a href="mailto:apaolitagj88@hotmail.com">apaolitagj88@hotmail.com</a>  Paola is the International Forestry Students Association's Latin America Regional Representative. She recently completed her studies in Forestry Engineering at Universidad Agraria La Molina Peru. She has been working in conservancy, biodiversity and forestry service and is based in Lima, Peru.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify youth groups involved in COP/GLF/landscapes sectors and their planned activities before and during COP20</li> <li>• Advise committee of how we might partner with them or participate in their planned activities</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing</b>	 <p><b>Natalia Cisneros</b>  <a href="mailto:natalia.ifsa@gmail.com">natalia.ifsa@gmail.com</a>  Natalia is head of council at the International Forestry Students Association and is based in Lima, Peru. She has a background in forestry engineering and been working with the Peruvian Natural Protected Areas the conservation of biological diversity.</p>  <p><b>Anna-Sarah Eyrich</b>  <a href="mailto:aseyrich@gaealliance.org">aseyrich@gaealliance.org</a>  Anna is part of the Global Agroecology Alliance (GAEA) and is currently participating in a systematic review of climate smart agriculture practices for the world Agroforestry centre (ICRAF). She has a background in agriculture, international development, and environmental science. Her passions lie in learning how to develop systems that integrate youth, agriculture, and food to create sustainable and healthy environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote youth session and masterclass activities via social media, emails, phone calls as necessary to drum up interest.</li> <li>• Update the youth session website: <a href="http://www.landscapes.org/youth">www.landscapes.org/youth</a>.</li> <li>• Design promotional flyer/backdrop for the session (see example at <a href="http://www.forestsasia.org/youth">www.forestsasia.org/youth</a>).</li> </ul>