



CIFOR-ICRAF

Europe strategy

CIFOR-ICRAF is more than a research and development institute: It is a union of the best minds to find nature-based solutions for our current crises using forests, trees and agroforestry systems. Based in 25+ countries worldwide with 800 research and development staff and through 40+ years of trusted science and proven innovative approaches, CIFOR-ICRAF demonstrates trees' potential to transform our collective challenges into opportunities.

In partnership with governments, academia, civil society, the private sector and communities, CIFOR-ICRAF delivers solutions to safeguard biodiversity, stabilize our climate and transform food and nutrition security that work for people.

Since 2023, the organization has established a Europe Directorate in Bonn, Germany, as the hub for its Europe-based researchers. It links to our work in the Global South and is home to the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) secretariat – the world's largest knowledge-led platform on sustainable and inclusive landscapes.



© Kelvin Trautman/CIFOR-ICRAF

Why Europe?

In 2023, Europe faced the most extreme heatwave in recent history whilst confronting an immense energy crisis and a war on its doorstep. This presented an obstacle to the continent's Green Deal agenda, as political challenges and concerns about the cost of living competed for priority.

There are barriers to reaching broad segments of society, a need for more context-specific knowledge, and combating harmful narratives on the transition to a decarbonized, biodiversity-friendly economy. While the European institutional landscape is home to some of the oldest and most prestigious agriculture and forest research institutions, there is a need for applied research organizations that deliver scalable solutions for land-use transformation.

Europe is just beginning a new policy era that does not penalize farmers for having trees. Landscape thinking and landscape approaches are mostly absent. At CIFOR-ICRAF, our experience, knowledge, and partnerships on landscape approaches and nature-based solutions across various Global South countries – many of which have struggled with climate change impacts for years – are now highly relevant.

Our new directorate allows for a new leverage point from which to feed insights from our partners into European discourse to improve functioning and support and mitigate negative effects before they emerge, given that actions in Europe have direct consequences for the Global South through business ties and policies affecting countries and people.

The European Union Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive compels large companies and public-interest entities to disclose information on their ESG performance annually. Under the Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products, any operator or trader who places commodities on the European Union market, or exports from it, must prove these do not originate from recently-deforested land or contribute to forest degradation. The European Union's Renewable Energy Directive triggered the massive expansion and investments into oil palm and is fueling the debate about the sustainability of woody biomass.



Why us?

CIFOR-ICRAF has more than four decades of on-the-ground experience in European sourcing landscapes, working alongside the communities that produce fibre, timber and agriculture products for European consumers. We offer our knowledge, evidence and partnerships to ensure that European agriculture, trade and energy policies will leave no one behind.

We **promote social cohesion, collective action, and the participation of youth organizations** by linking European decision makers – who influence land-use change in the Global South through public donors and the private sector – with the knowledge and expertise accumulated by CIFOR-ICRAF project portfolios and partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

We actively help to **build understanding and maximize the positive effects of current European policies** (such as the Green New Deal, Farm-to-Fork, and zero-deforestation regulations) on Global South countries.

We work with commodity-producing countries and people to **mitigate negative effects emerging from European policies**, development programs designed in Europe, and the business practices and operational setups of European companies – and to exploit emerging opportunities from these dynamics.

We add value through our **unique perspective and our experience bridging farmer-researcher divides**. Technically, this includes using our Option by Context approach, recognizing diversity, and choosing components (eg. tree species) to meet specific conditions. Process-wise, it involves researchers, farmers, and activists working closely together, supporting farmers to learn and embedding research in an action framework. These lessons and practices have been learned through 40+ years of work in the Global South.

We leverage our expert networks and extensive forest restoration and afforestation knowledge to support our partners in Europe to develop a blueprint for the future forest of Europe supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, but also preservation of Europe's cultural and ecological landscapes.

We are experienced in **creating immersive outreach communications to connect with all stakeholders**, convening transformative digital and in-person events, strategically linking the European Union directorate programs to European events, facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements, and providing multimedia communications advice and services. With the GLF secretariat hosted in Bonn at the European directorate, we have access to a powerful platform with 33 charter members, which is already well recognized and harnessed by the governments of Luxembourg and Germany to support their ambitions. Opportunities include connecting with the GLF Youth in Landscapes initiative's 60,000+ youth and tapping into CIFOR-ICRAF's knowledge, data and capacity development and GLF's Landscapes Academy to access and develop learning programs and courses.

We work collaboratively through our existing European partnerships and extensive alumni adding value and complementing existing networks and programs.



By tapping our strengths...

CIFOR-ICRAF offers a unique combination of a solid scientific basis and vast experience in applying this to real-world development programmes and projects. As a recognized independent partner, we bridge policy and practice. The landscape approach, for which we are well-known, negotiates individual needs and wider targets. We offer:



Expertise in participatory research embedded in action



The presence and recognition of the GLF and its 31 charter members



Trusted partnerships across European sourcing landscapes in the Global South



A track record of experience and expertise in working with European partners in the Global South



Experience as an independent research organization with expertise in outreach and uptake of knowledge



Expertise and capacity in engaging various actors for co-learning and co-design of practices



Proven and recognized experience in landscape approaches and landscape governance

...we help solve problems on the ground

CIFOR-ICRAF's activities explicitly consider the different political entities in the region: the national governments of the 27 European Union Member States and European Union-associated countries, as well as the European Commission with its different departments. Through our international office in Bonn, we work through three main thematic areas to solve European problems:

CIFOR-ICRAF

The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) harnesses the power of trees, forests and agroforestry landscapes to shift the trajectories of three global issues – biodiversity, climate change and food security – supported by our work on equity and value chains.

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Jalan CIFOR, Situ Gede, Bogor Barat, Bogor, 16115, Indonesia
Email: cifor@cifor-icraf.org
Web: www.cifor.org

World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, PO Box 30677, Nairobi, 00100, Kenya
Email: worldagroforestry@cifor-icraf.org
Web: www.worldagroforestry.org



Explore more



CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers



Global Landscapes Forum
globallandscapesforum.org



Resilient Landscapes
resilient-landscapes.org

Global Landscapes Forum

Resilient Landscapes