



## Event celebrating the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

### NOW IS THE MOMENT TO RESTORE DAMAGED ECOSYSTEMS.

The FAO and UNEP offices with the United Nations in Geneva invite you to an event in celebration of the launch of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**, to be held virtually on Tuesday, 8 June 2021, 12h00-13h20.

Ecosystem restoration is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including goals on climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water and biodiversity conservation. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 aspires to unite the world behind a common goal of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. Forests, grasslands, croplands, wetlands, savannahs, and other terrestrial habitats to inland, marine and coastal ecosystems and urban environments—all of them are in dire need of some level of protection and restoration.

FAO and UNEP mark the start of this important decade by inviting you to attend an event where experts and specialists will discuss how to act now to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established in the 2030 Agenda – and the ten actions on Ecosystem Restoration needed to do so.

**Where** | Virtual event. Connection link will be sent to registered participants.  
**When** | 12h00 - 13h20 CEST  
**Time** | Tuesday, 8 June 2021

[REGISTER TO THE ZOOM EVENT HERE](#)

## 1 to 10 TEN ACTIONS THAT COUNT

1. Empower a global movement
2. Finance restoration on the ground
3. Set the right incentives
4. Celebrate leadership
5. Shift behaviours
6. Invest in research
7. Build capacity
8. Celebrate a culture of restoration
9. Education for restoration
10. Listen and learn

12:00-12:07	Opening remarks by Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director, Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva, FAO
<i>Panel 1: TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVES</i>	
12:07-12:17	Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO Mr. Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries Division, FAO
12:17-12:22	Ms. Radhika Murti, Director, Global Ecosystem Management Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
<i>Panel 2: SHARING OF PERSPECTIVES</i>	
12:22-12:27	H.E. Mr. Chen Xu, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland
12:27-12:32	H.E. Mr. Asim Ahmed, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland
12:32-12:37	H.E. Mr. Thomas Wagner, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland
12:37-12:42	Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
12:42-13:13	Questions and answers
13:13-13:20	Closing remarks by Mr. Bruno Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)



## The UN Strategy on Ecosystem Restoration

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to end poverty, conserve biodiversity, combat climate change and improve livelihoods for everyone, everywhere. These objectives, encapsulated in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are unlikely to be met unless ecosystem degradation is stopped and ecosystem restoration is undertaken at the immense scale of hundreds of millions of hectares globally. Currently, more political support and technical capacity in both the public and private sectors is needed to invest in the many hundreds of thousands of ecosystem restoration initiatives worldwide that are required to achieve restoration at scale. Not only would such investment contribute to achieving the SDGs, but it would also yield considerable economic returns for a recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and lead to more social, economic and ecological resilience. Based on data from a wide range of ecosystems, for every dollar spent on restoration, between three

and seventy-five dollars of economic benefits from ecosystem goods and services can be expected. UN Member States decided to implement a Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to realise these benefits and to ensure that healthy ecosystems play a critical role towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. This UN Decade will inspire and support governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, children and youth, private sector companies, indigenous peoples, farmers, women's groups, local communities and individuals globally to collaborate and develop the appropriate skillsets for catalysing and successfully implementing restoration initiatives across the world. The support will include: promoting a global movement focussing on restoration; developing legislative and policy frameworks to incentivise restoration; developing innovative financing mechanisms to fund operations on the ground; detailing a values-based imperative to conserve, restore and care for nature; undertaking social and natural science

research on restoration in terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine as well as marine environments; monitoring global progress on restoration; and building the technical capacity of restoration practitioners globally. Although the UN Decade ends in 2030, it aims to create a platform for societies globally to put their relationships with nature on a new trajectory for centuries to come. It is envisaged that this trajectory will include: nature being respected across society; ecosystem restoration taking place over hundreds of millions of hectares and generating millions of new livelihoods; human rights, with a focus on gender equity, youth, local communities, indigenous peoples and future generations, being central to restoration initiatives; global supply chains and consumption patterns being shifted to protect, sustainably manage and restore nature; long-term scientific research being used to guide restoration initiatives; and the value of nature being a central pillar of national systems that assess economic well-being.

### What is Ecosystem Restoration

**Ecosystem restoration** means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact. Healthier ecosystems, with richer biodiversity, yield greater benefits such as more fertile soils, bigger yields of timber and fish, and larger stores of greenhouse gases.

### Types of Ecosystems

From forests and farmlands to freshwater, oceans and coasts, the vitality and diversity of Earth's ecosystems are the basis of human prosperity and well-being.

**Farmlands** - farmlands cover more than one-third of the Earth's land surface and are perhaps our most vital ecosystems to sustain human-kind.

**Forests** - forests and trees make Earth liveable. They provide us with clean air and water. By storing vast amounts of carbon and moderating the climate, they defend against global heating.

**Freshwaters** - Freshwater ecosystems supply food, water and energy, protect from droughts and floods, and provide unique habitat for plants and animals.

**Grasslands, Shrublands and Savannahs** - from Eurasia and Patagonia to Africa and Australia, shrublands, grasslands, and savannahs are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth.

**Mountains** - mountains occupy about a quarter of the Earth's land, harbour most of its biodiversity hotspots and supply fresh water to an estimated half of humanity.

**Oceans and coasts** - we live on a blue planet, and oceans and seas cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth. Oceans feed us, regulate our climate, and generate most of the oxygen we breathe.

**Peatlands** - present in more than 180 countries, peatlands are vital, super-powered ecosystems. Though they cover only 3 per cent of the world's land, they store nearly 30 per cent of its soil carbon.

**Urban areas** - urban areas occupy less than 1 per cent of the Earth's land surface but house more than half of its people. Despite their steel and concrete, crowds and traffic, cities and towns are still ecosystems whose condition profoundly marks the quality of our lives.

Flock of geese at Red Star People's commune  
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