

## 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

### **Item 3.5 Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030**

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030<sup>1</sup> (Decade) was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through resolution A/RES/73/284<sup>2</sup> on 1 March 2019. Co-led by FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Decade aims to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.

As per its mandate to lead international efforts to defeat global hunger and malnutrition, FAO takes an active role in framing a vision for the implementation of the Decade, with the main ambition to make agrifood systems (crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, while managing and protecting the environment and the natural resources base that these systems depend upon. Preventing and halting ecosystem degradation and promoting the restoration of production ecosystems are part of these efforts.

Building on an information document<sup>3</sup> presented to the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2020, the document *Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030* outlines arrangements for the implementation of the Decade and describes recent progress and developments within the Decade, with particular reference to the restoration of agricultural production landscapes. It also describes the process used to select promising cases of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration (so-called Flagship Initiatives)<sup>4</sup> for sharing as examples of good practice in the context of the Decade.

The document outlines linkages with the FAO policies and programming frameworks and describes the implications of the Decade for the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its ambition for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind, as well as the synergies with FAO strategies such as the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors,<sup>5</sup> the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

The Committee is invited to:

- *welcome* FAO and UNEP co-leadership to promote the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and the progress made so far;
- *provide* guidance on the implications of addressing the restoration of agricultural production ecosystems within FAO policies and programmes;
- *encourage* Members to engage in the Decade by establishing and advancing the implementation of ambitious ecosystem restoration targets, with particular reference to agricultural production ecosystems; and
- *recommend* Members to support the activities of the Decade and enhance their ecosystem restoration efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

<sup>2</sup> [A/RES/73/284 \(undocs.org\)](https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/284)

<sup>3</sup> Position paper on “Ecosystem Restoration” of production ecosystems, in the context of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (COAG/2020/INF/13): <https://www.fao.org/3/nd425en/nd425en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/38058>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7722en/ca7722en.pdf>

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