

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 8.5 Restoration and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030¹ was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through resolution A/RES/73/284² on 1 March 2019, “with the aim of supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration”.

FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are co-leading the implementation of the Decade worldwide, ensuring strong cooperation with countries, other UN agencies and partners. FAO is committed to the implementation of the Decade from the perspective of its mandate to make agrifood systems (crop and livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry) 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.

Document COFO/2022/6.5 outlines arrangements for the implementation of the Decade and describes recent progress and developments, with particular reference to the restoration of forest landscapes. It also describes the process used to select promising cases of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration (so-called Flagship Initiatives).

The document also describes the implications of the Decade for the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, as well as the synergies with FAO strategies such as the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

The Committee is invited to:

- encourage Members to:
 - engage in the Decade by establishing and advancing the implementation of ambitious forest ecosystem restoration targets with particular reference to productive landscapes; and
 - submit their forest ecosystems restoration initiatives as Flagships on the occasion of the annual World Restoration Flagship calls launched in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- recommend FAO to:
 - support Members, upon request, with tools, methodologies and capacity development initiatives to scale-up forest ecosystems’ restoration efforts, share good practices and monitor progress; and
 - provide technical support to Members, upon request, to facilitate their access to financial instruments focused on the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration such as the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) or the Integrated Programme on Ecosystem Restoration under the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8).

Tiina Vahanen, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO
Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

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

² A/RES/73/284 (undocs.org)