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# UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

**Enhancing capacities for effective ecosystem restoration:  
The FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices**

Andrea Romero, Consultant, FAO  
20 July 2022



# BACKGROUND

**To prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide**

**March 2019:** UNGA Resolution adopted

**September 2020:** Strategy and visual identity released

**Lead agencies:** FAO and UNEP

[www.decadeonrestoration.org](http://www.decadeonrestoration.org)



# VISION

A **world** where — for the health & wellbeing of **all life on Earth** & that of **future generations** — the **relationship** between humans and nature has been **restored**, where the area of **healthy ecosystems** is **increasing** and where **ecosystem loss**, fragmentation and degradation has been **ended**.

*Full strategy available online:*

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



10 years to restore our planet. 10 actions that count. Every single day.

Against a backdrop of environmental crisis, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a chance to revive the natural world that supports us all. A decade may sound like a long time. But it is these next ten years that scientists say will count most in the fight to avert climate change and the loss of millions of species. Here are ten actions in the [strategy of the UN Decade](#) that can build a #GenerationRestoration.

Further resources



[Read full strategy](#)

## 1. Empower a global movement

The UN Decade's overarching goal is to stop and reverse the destruction and degradation of billions of hectares of ecosystems. It is a daunting task. It gets even more complicated given the immense diversity of ecosystems and the threats they are facing: from lush forests threatened by land-grabbers and wildfires to agricultural soils so eroded that they may only carry a few more years of harvests. No single entity can steer the course in this endeavour. The [UN Decade is therefore designed to connect and empower](#) the actions of the many. Groups and individuals can get informed about restoration opportunities in their area. They can join an initiative already underway or start their own.



# ACTION PLAN



An **initial draft** of Action Plan has gone through consultation with **partner network** in November and December 2021.

A **draft** Action Plan will go for **public consultation** for a final Action Plan by 2022.



# STATUS



Countries have already pledged to restore more than **1 billion hectares** – an area larger than China – as part of their commitments to **Sustainable Development Goals and Rio Conventions**

## BUT...

- little is known about quality of restoration and progress towards goals
- restoration success stories and lessons learned not shared widely

**= Not enough action on the ground!**



# FOR MORE ACTION: WORLD RESTORATION FLAGSHIPS

BECOMING A  
RESTORATION FLAGSHIP  
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
DECADE ON  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION  
(2021-2030)



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# CALL FOR COUNTRIES TO NOMINATE WORLD RESTORATION FLAGSHIPS

“The first, best, or most **promising examples** of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration, embodying the **10 Restoration Principles of the UN Decade**, and **inspiring** others to undertake or **accelerate** restoration at **significant scale**”



Jake Davies, Project Seagrass, UN Decade Supporting Partner

The UN Decade's first vessel, run by Partner Project Seagrass, used for restoring seagrass beds off the coast of Wales (United Kingdom)

# CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- a) **Country demand and endorsement**
- b) **In line with the UN Decade's 10 Principles** for Ecosystem Restoration
- c) **Measurable and documented results**
- d) **Demonstration value**, lesson learned potential, global and/or regional relevance
- e) **Significant size**, either of achieved or planned restoration, or **of scaling potential**



GLOBAL  
CONTRIBUTION



BROAD  
ENGAGEMENT



MANY TYPES  
OF ACTIVITIES



BENEFITS TO  
NATURE AND PEOPLE



ADDRESSES CAUSES  
OF DEGRADATION



KNOWLEDGE  
INTEGRATION



MEASURABLE  
GOALS



LOCAL AND LAND/  
SEASCAPE CONTEXTS



MONITORING  
AND MANAGEMENT



POLICY  
INTEGRATION

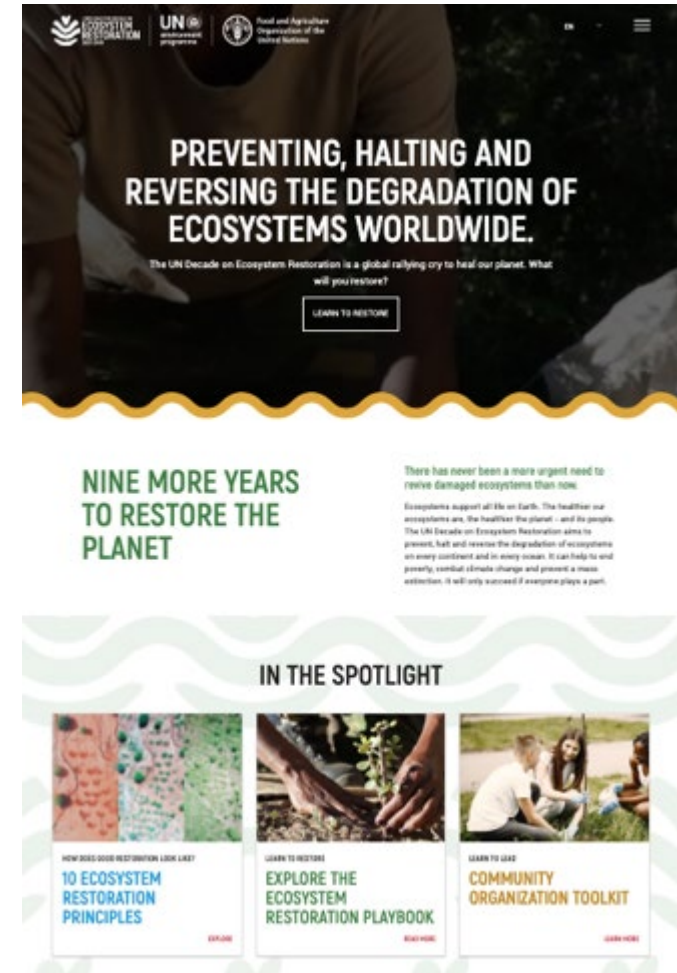
TEN PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERPIN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



# MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (MPTF): FUELING THE FLAGSHIPS

**Multi-Partner Trust-Fund (MPTF)** was created in 2021 by FAO and UNEP

The ambition: to raise **100 million USD by 2030** to support the implementation of the UN Decade Strategy and its flagships



# MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (MPTF): OUTCOMES



## **Outcome 1:**

**A global movement** on ecosystem restoration established

## **Outcome 2:**

**Catalyze investments** resulting in **restoration actions on the ground** and implementation within Flagship Initiatives.

## **Outcome 3:**

**Monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements.**



# GOVERNANCE



**STRATEGY  
GROUP**

**5 TASK FORCES**

**PARTNERS**

**ADVISORY BOARD**

# Five taskforces established to support implementation of the UN Decade



Taskforce on Monitoring led by FAO



Taskforce on Best Practices led by FAO



Science taskforce led by IUCN



Finance taskforce led by the World Bank



Youth taskforce facilitated by UN Major Group for Children and Youth



# BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE UN DECADE VISION



**Political will**

**Legislative & policy  
environments**

**Scientific research**

**Public awareness**

**Finance**

**Technical capacity**





# A TASK FORCE ON BEST PRACTICES

Preparing the ground for the UN Decade  
on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030



# THE TASK FORCE ON BEST PRACTICES

**A collaborative effort on knowledge dissemination and capacity development**

To date, **258** members from **110** organizations, incl.:



# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

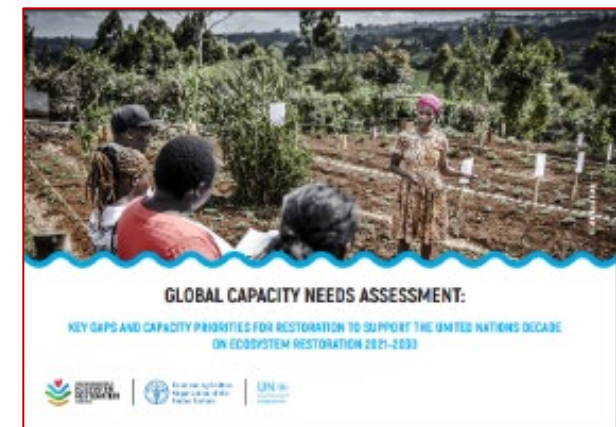
## Publication: **Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to guide the UN Decade**

- **Ten principles\*** applicable across all sectors, biomes, and regions
- [Freely available online](#)
- **Translations:** Already available in SP. Versions in FR, AR and CH to be released shortly.



## Publication: **Global Capacity Needs Assessment - Key gaps and capacity priorities for restoration to support the UN Decade**

- **Global online survey** disseminated in 7 languages, 1331 responses
- [Freely available online](#)



\* In partnership with IUCN CEM & SER, collaboratively with UNEP, CIFOR-ICRAF, WWF & Ecohealth Network.





**PRINCIPLES FOR ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION TO GUIDE THE UNITED  
NATIONS DECADE 2021-2030**

# Ten Principles for Ecosystem Restoration



## PRINCIPLE 1:

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE GOALS OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS



## PRINCIPLE 2:

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROMOTES INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL FAIRNESS AND EQUITY FROM THE START AND THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS AND OUTCOMES



## PRINCIPLE 3

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INCLUDES A CONTINUUM OF RESTORATIVE ACTIVITIES



## PRINCIPLE 4:

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AIMS TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RECOVERY FOR BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND INTEGRITY, AND HUMAN WELL-BEING



## PRINCIPLE 5

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ADDRESSES THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION



# Ten Principles for Ecosystem Restoration



## PRINCIPLE 6

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INCORPORATES ALL TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE AND PROMOTES THEIR EXCHANGE AND INTEGRATION THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS



## PRINCIPLE 7

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IS BASED ON WELL-DEFINED SHORT-, MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS



## PRINCIPLE 8

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IS TAILORED TO THE LOCAL ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXTS, WHILE CONSIDERING THE LARGER LANDSCAPE OR SEASCAPE



## PRINCIPLE 9

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INCLUDES MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT AND BEYOND THE LIFETIME OF THE PROJECT OR PROGRAMME



## PRINCIPLE 10

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IS ENABLED BY POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT PROMOTE ITS LONG-TERM PROGRESS, FOSTERING REPLICATION AND SCALING-UP



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## GLOBAL CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

KEY GAPS AND CAPACITY PRIORITIES FOR RESTORATION TO SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE  
ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030



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environment  
programme



# Stakeholder group representation

**I: Governments, NGOs and others at international and national levels**

- National governments
- National NGOs
- Int. development partners and independent consultants
- Int. and regional organizations, networks and initiatives

**II: Governments, NGOs and CBOs at subnational and local levels**

- Local and subnational government, field extension services
- Local and subnational NGOs and CBOs

**III: Research and Education**

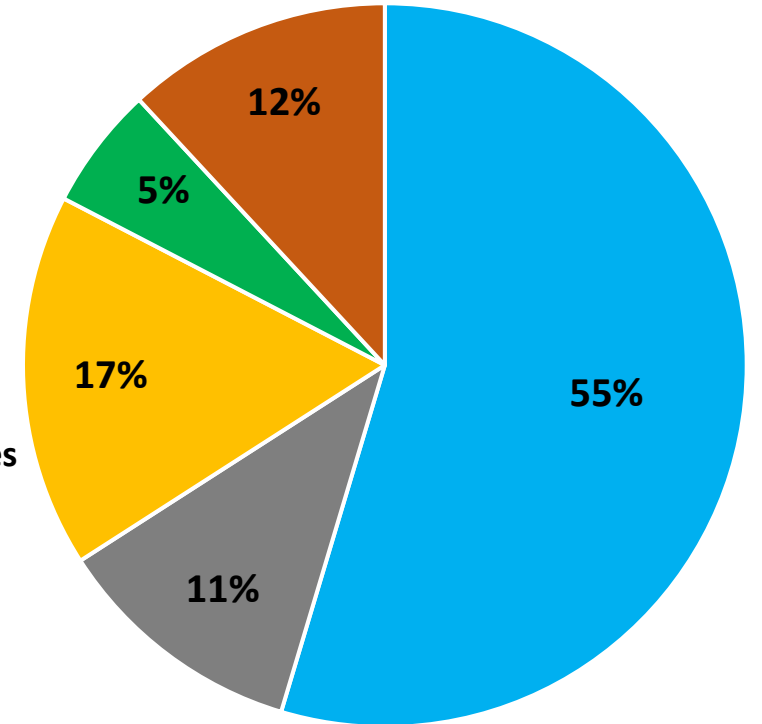
- Research and academia
- Primary and secondary education

**IV: Investors, donors, private sector and others**

- Cooperatives, private sector, including small and medium enterprises
- Finance sector
- Development banks

**V: Land users, communities interest groups**

- Land users or small-scale producers
- Community group members
- Indigenous peoples organizations
- Women's advocacy organizations and women's groups
- Other community and local-level interest groups



■ Group I ■ Group II ■ Group III ■ Group IV ■ Group V

# Key areas for capacity development

Developing capacities of individuals and organizations across sectors and scales

## 1) Financing



## 2) Stakeholder engagement



## 3) Technical capacities



## 4) Policy





# ONGOING EFFORTS

## 1. Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration (SoPs)

**Launch:** CBD COP 15 (December 2022)

- Ten principles for ecosystem restoration
- Stock-taking of existing SoPs
- Global/Targeted consultations

## 2. Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan

**Launch:** CBD COP 15 (December 2022)

- Gaps identified through capacity needs assessment
- Stock-taking of knowledge products and capacity development initiatives
- Global/Targeted consultations

## 3. Framework for Dissemination of Good Practices

**Launch:** FAO-GLF Digital Forum (29 Sept. 2022)

- Template for systematic documentation of good practices aligned with ten principles for ER
- Collaboration with other platforms (WOCAT, Panorama, etc.)

Building on:



JOIN #GENERATIONRESTORATION

THANK  
YOU



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**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030



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