UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration: Opportunities for grasslands and rangelands ecosystem restoration
United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 1 March 2019

Other Initiatives running under 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development


Structure of the strategy

• Problem
• Vision
• Goals
• Barriers
Problem

• The objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not be achieved without large-scale restoration of degraded terrestrial, freshwater & marine ecosystems globally.
• Scale of restoration required: hundreds of millions of hectares
Vision

• A world where — for the health & wellbeing of all life on Earth & that of future generations — we have restored the relationship between humans & nature, by increasing the area of healthy ecosystems, & by putting a stop to their loss, fragmentation & degradation.
“...refers to a wide **continuum of practices** and targeted ecosystem conditions that contribute to conserving and repairing damaged ecosystems, including, for example, **the restoration of organic carbon in agricultural soils, recovery of overfished stocks, remediation of polluted sites, restoration of ecosystem services, and restoration of biodiversity to a state similar to that prior to degradation**. Crucially, restoring ecosystems increases the supply and quality of ecosystem services over time towards desired states which support national sustainable development priorities...”
Goals

1. Enhancing global, regional, national & local commitments & actions to prevent, halt & reverse the degradation of ecosystems

2. Increasing our understanding of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration

3. Applying knowledge of ecosystem restoration in our education systems & within all public & private sector decision-making
Barriers

- Public awareness
- Political will
- Legislative and policy environments
- Technical capacity
- Finance
- Scientific Research
10 years to restore our planet. 10 actions that count.

1. Empower a global movement
2. Finance restoration on the ground
3. Set the right incentives
4. Celebrate leadership
5. Shift behaviors
6. Invest in research
7. Build up capacity
8. Celebrate a culture of restoration
9. Build up the next generation
10. Listen and learn
Types of Ecosystem Restoration

- Farmlands
- Forests
- Freshwaters
- Mountains

- Oceans and coastal areas
- Peatlands
- Urban areas
Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Task Force

170 technical experts from 60 organizations

- To develop monitoring framework enabling reporting of the progress of restoration efforts.
- Develop and propose a framework for operational monitoring and for reporting the progress and advise stakeholders as necessary;
- Serve as focal point for providing technical guidance;
- Identify ongoing and current initiatives, which monitor and report restoration efforts and existing and emerging monitoring frameworks, including those (being) developed by key partners; and
- Develop Terms of References for sub-task forces for monitoring restoration.
Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Task Force

1. Terrestrial ecosystems
   e.g. Forests, Pasture, Croplands

2. Aquatic and Transitional ecosystems
   e.g. Coastal, Sea grass, Tidal marshes, Coral reef, Mangroves, Peatlands, Lakes and rivers

3. Socio-economic elements
   e.g. drivers, impacts, effectiveness of restoration from socio-economic aspect
Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Task Force

Proposed work plan for 2020-21

- Development of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)
- Development of geospatial modules for monitoring and planning restoration activities for different ecosystems;
- Compilation of case studies in collaboration with Best Practice Task Force and country pilot applications of the FERM
- Knowledge management and communication
- Development of a geospatial dissemination platform
The UN Decade Task Force on Best practices

- Aims at setting the ground for efforts on knowledge capitalization and dissemination, incl. identification of new products

- Under leadership of Decade Secretariat: FAO & UNEP

- A collaborative effort: to date, 85 members from 32 organizations, incl.:

  1. Operationalization of Task Force
  2. Prioritization of ecosystems
  3. Identification of key resource partners
  4. Capacity needs assessment
  5. Development of knowledge and learning plan
  6. Drafting ToRs of Decade flagship products
  7. Collection of good practices
## Timeframe

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Year 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Establishment TF and ToRs</td>
<td>Mar, Jun</td>
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<td>2. Prioritization of ecosystems</td>
<td>Apr, May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Id. Key networks/initiatives</td>
<td>May, Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Capacity needs assessment</td>
<td>Jun, Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Knowledge and learning plan</td>
<td>Sep, Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. ToRs Flagship products</td>
<td>Nov, Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Collection of good practices</td>
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Some examples of existing knowledge platforms

Stock-taking of 33 knowledge-sharing platforms, 9 collect and disseminate good practices systematically from case studies/projects

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th># GP related to ER</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOCAT</td>
<td>700 approx.</td>
<td>Global, terrestrial systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>PANORAMA Solutions</td>
<td>231 approx.</td>
<td>Global, several systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation evidence</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>Global, several systems, includes good/ineffective or harmful practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIFE GoProFor</td>
<td>200 approx.</td>
<td>Europe / Forest</td>
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<td>RE CARE</td>
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<td>Europe / Soils</td>
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<td>RE FOR M</td>
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<td>Europe / Rivers and streams</td>
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<td>Mangroves for the future</td>
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<td>Asia-Pacific /Coastal</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
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<td>Global, biosphere reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO (TECA, KORE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers, Resilience</td>
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</table>
Next steps

Building momentum for 2020-21

- Biodiversity Summit 30 Sep 2020
- Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Jan 2021
- Climate Adaptation Summit 25 Jan 2021
- UNEA-5 22-26 Feb 2021
- UNFCCC COP 26 01-12 Nov 2021
- Stockholm +50 2022 TBC

Key Events

- UNGA 75 21-30 Sep 2020
- IUCN Congress 07-15 Jan 2021
- UN CBD COP15 17-31 May 2021
- Food System Summit Jul (TBC) 2021
- UN CCD COP15 Q4 (TBC) 2021
Some challenges to grasslands restoration

Grasslands continue to be lost at unprecedented rates through conversion to other users and grasslands degradation (approximately 49.25% of all grasslands are undergoing degradation (Gand et al, 2014). .

1. Knowledge gaps
2. (Ineffective) communication
3. Trade-offs as a result of restoration
4. Conflicting management objectives of land users
5. Weak governance (including tenure)

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Spotlight on grasslands

- How can we do better?
- How can grasslands benefit from the buzz of the decade?
Spotlight on grasslands

1. What is important is monitored
2. Community of best practices and pilot country champions of these
3. Data generation
4. Communication
5. Support to livelihoods dependent on these resources
Discussion questions

- Which key partners/partnerships are needed for consolidation of tools and methodologies (monitoring, restoration)

- Are there opportunities for high impact programmes? At what scale? Which funding streams should be targeted?

- How can these benefits translate into improved livelihood opportunities for people dependent on grasslands?
Thank you very much

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