



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



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

International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028;

United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030;

United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028.





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.

Ecosystem Restoration in the context of the Decade



Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

“...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

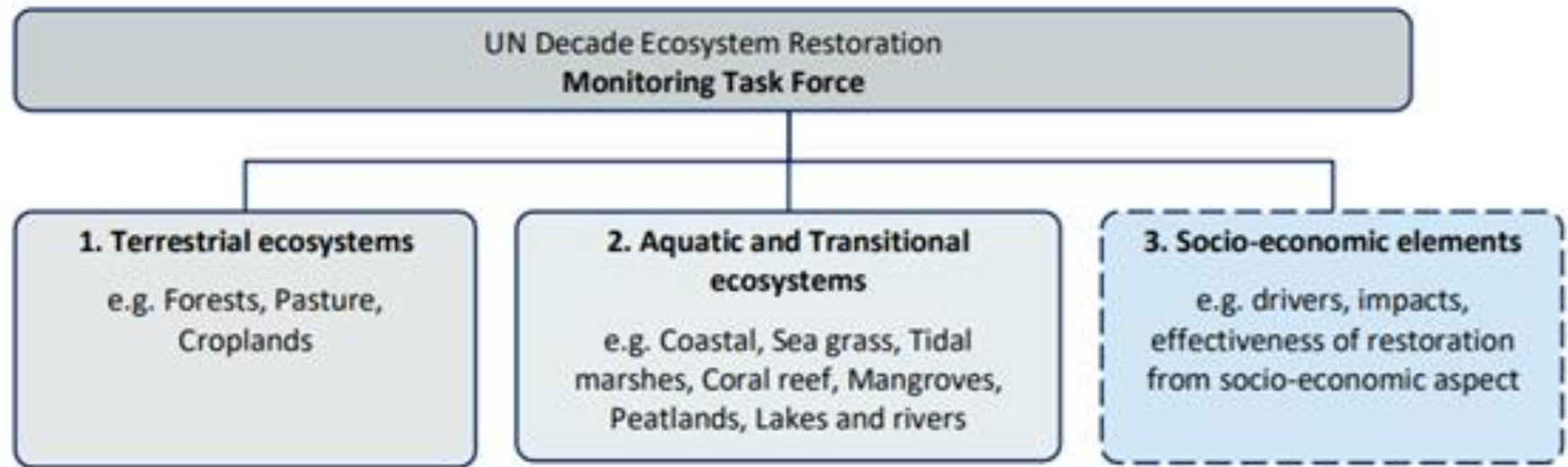
170 technical experts from 60 organizations

- 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





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
communicatio
n

Development
of a
geospatial
disseminatio
n 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.:



Timeframe

Output	Year 2020									
	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Establishment TF and ToRs										
2. Prioritization of ecosystems										
3. Id. Key networks/initiatives										
4. Capacity needs assessment										
5. Knowledge and learning plan										
6. ToRs Flagship products										
7. Collection of good practices										



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Some examples of existing knowledge platforms

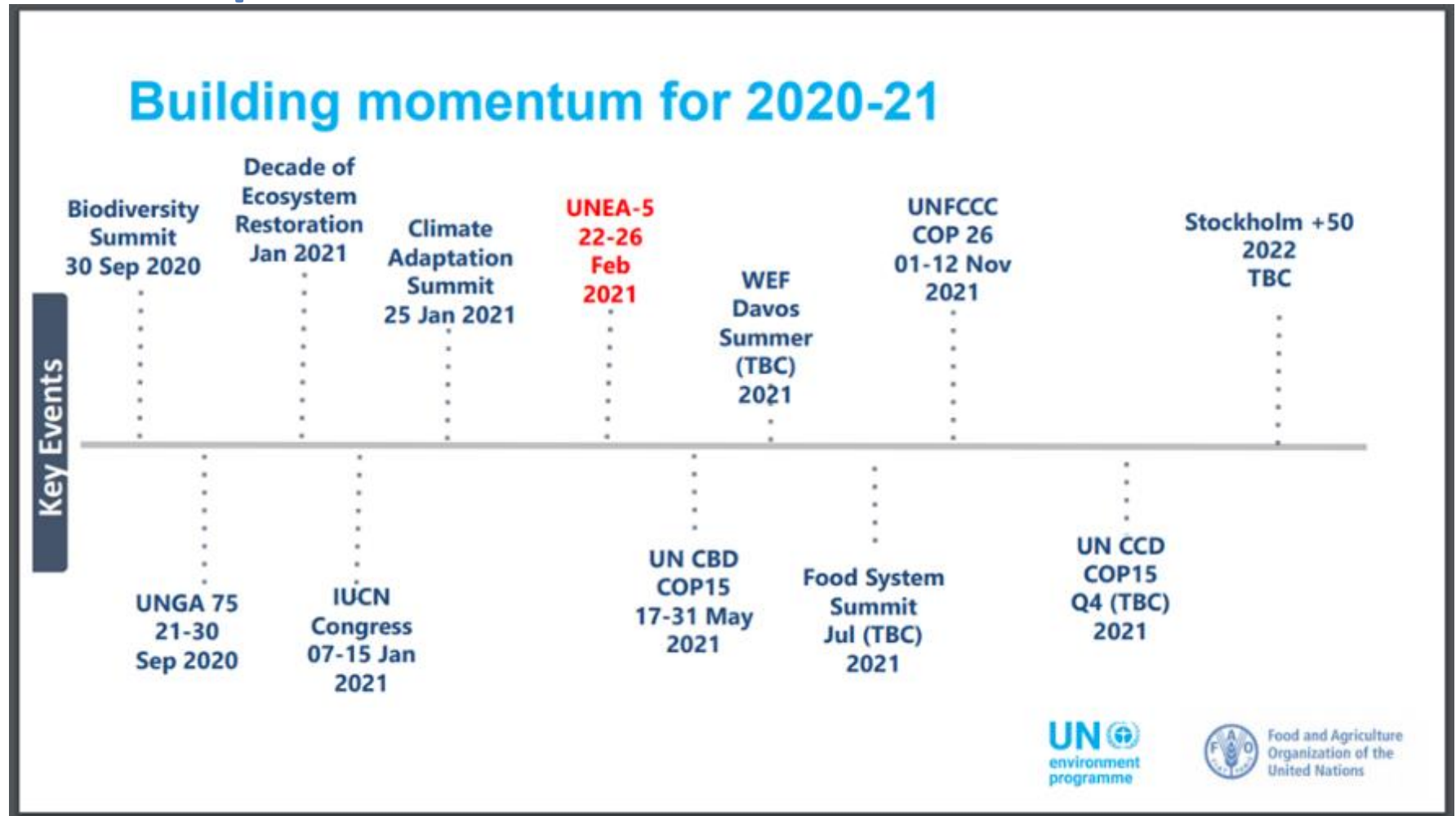
Stock-taking of **33** knowledge-sharing platforms, **9** collect and disseminate good practices systematically from case studies/projects



Source	# GP related to ER	Focus
WOCAT	700 approx.	Global, terrestrial systems
PANORAMA Solutions	231 approx.	Global, several systems
Conservation evidence	393	Global, several systems, includes good/ineffective or harmful practices
LIFE GoProFor	200 approx.	Europe / Forest
RECARE	11	Europe /Soils
REFORM	13	Europe / Rivers and streams
Mangroves for the future	4	Asia-Pacific /Coastal
UNESCO	25	Global, biosphere reserves
FAO (TECA, KORE)		Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers, Resilience

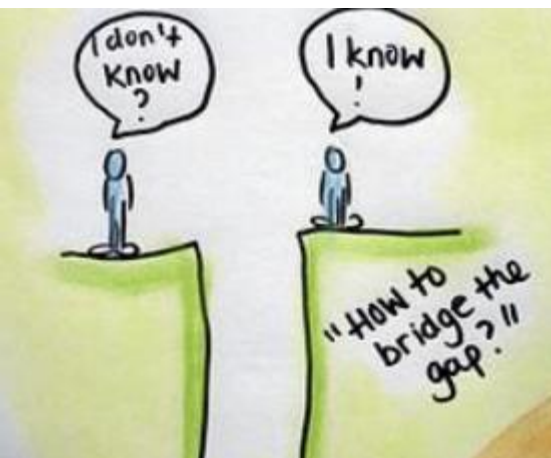


Next steps



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?



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Thank you very much

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