

MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND FOR THE UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

On March 1st, 2019, the **United National General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations were given the responsibility to lead the implementation of the Decade in close coordination with their partners.

The full strategy is now available on the UN Decade's website www.decadeonrestoration.org. The UN Decade will be formally launched in 2021, with the aim of sparking a global movement for ecosystem restoration.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 is the financial engine behind the implementation of the strategy for this UN Decade. The primary aims of the Fund are to combat declining biodiversity, support livelihoods and green jobs, enhance natural resource bases, and help societies adapt to and mitigate climate change through restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems globally. In so doing, the Fund will be an important mechanism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Rio Conventions.



The Fund will realise its aims by supporting the following actions:

- **global, regional and local networking;**
- **capacity development;**
- **communication,**
- **mobilisation and advocacy;**
- **documentation of technical knowledge;**
- **dissemination of lessons learned;**
- **upscaling of successful ecosystem restoration initiatives, development and implementation of innovative approaches to financing of ecosystem restoration;**
- **and developing new business models for restoring productive ecosystems.**

The Fund's coverage is global. It will assist the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as catalyst, convener and contributor of critical targeted interventions and highly visible demonstration efforts, with a view to shift risk perceptions and increase overall investment readiness into ecosystem restoration at a planetary scale. It will also provide significant avenues for economic recovery from the current global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Decade can be a catalyst for a new restoration economy which provides jobs and increases supplies of goods and services from healthy ecosystems. It will contribute to limiting the future spread of zoonotic diseases by ensuring ecosystem health and integrity.

The Fund aims to mobilise USD 100 million for the duration of the Decade, noting that the target will be reviewed with the evolution of needs as climate change agreements are forged between nations and as pathways for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic become clearer.

The Fund aligns with the UN development system repositioning, offering a cohesive UN response to national governments through a common funding mechanism for addressing ecosystem degradation globally. It leverages the critical expertise and delivery capacities of UN entities, harnesses the resources of the public and private sectors and offers whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to help close gaps in national plans. In this way, it will drive uptake of nature-based solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

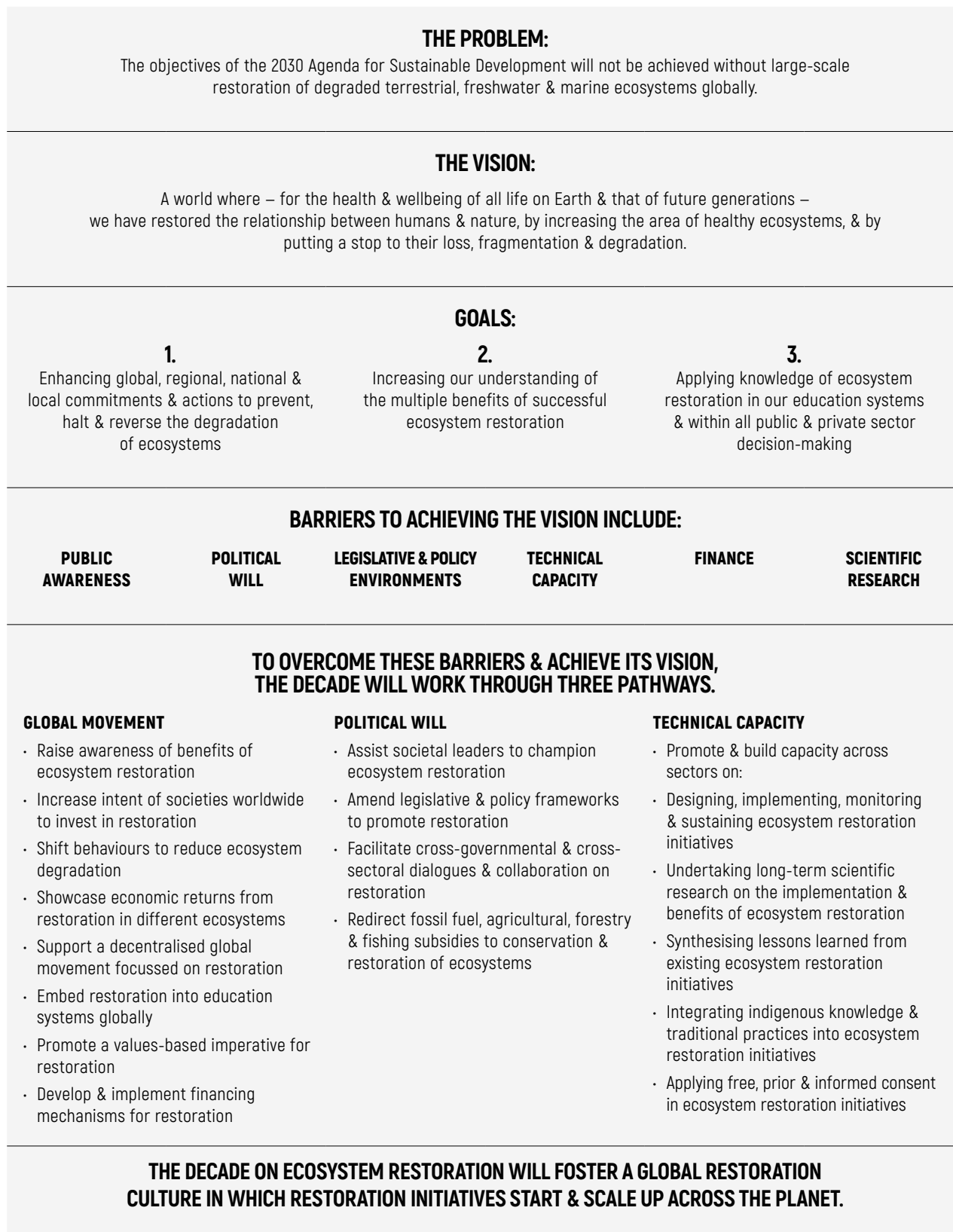


FUND SCOPE AND THEORY OF CHANGE

The overarching vision for the Decade is a world where – for the health and well-being of all life on Earth and that of future generations – we have restored the relationship between humans and nature,

by increasing the area of healthy ecosystems, and by putting a stop to their loss and degradation. The Decade’s Theory of Change is summarised in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. UN Decade Theory of Change





The problem the Decade will address is that the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not be achieved without large-scale protection and restoration of degraded terrestrial and marine ecosystems globally. Its goals are to firstly enhance global, regional, national and local commitments and actions to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, and secondly to increase and apply our understanding of successful ecosystem restoration in formal and informal education and within all public and private sector decision-making.

Barriers to achieving this vision are inter-related and pertain to public awareness, social and cultural norms, economic systems, public and private investment, collaboration amongst stakeholders, technical knowledge and capacity, and land tenure/resource rights.

The Decade will overcome these barriers by: building a global movement that changes societal norms and catalyses investments in restoration at scale; mobilising political will that leads to policy, subsidy and taxation reforms that incentivise restoration at scale; and generating technical capacity within the public and private sector that enables restoration projects across the world to be designed, implemented and sustained effectively.

These interventions – namely building a global movement, political will and technical capacity – will contribute to the development of a global restoration culture and a new restoration economy which greatly accelerates the starting and scaling up of restoration initiatives. The impact will be improved health and well-being for societies worldwide, increased supplies of natural resources, increased biodiversity, greater food and water security, and a stimulus for rural economies in particular.

The Fund is designed to encourage and support strategic interventions, which contribute to an informed and coordinated movement for turning the tide of ecosystem degradation. It will seek to provide constructive avenues for actions, and routes to overcome current barriers

The Fund has three Outcomes, presented in **Figure 2**, which will contribute to the 5-year goal: Countries and other stakeholders (including civil society and private sector) have established policies for and allocated resources to ecosystem restoration and interventions at scale are implemented worldwide.

The Fund as well as the UN Decade have a time horizon of ten years, with a built-in flexibility to seize opportunities as they occur and to focus on drivers for change through a demand-based approach. Detailed plans and results framework will be prepared for specific interventions and on an annual basis.

The major target groups for the Fund cut across the public and private sectors, as well as civil society. The focus will be on supporting agents for change within these groups and seek to move broader groups from being simply aware of the ecosystem degradation to the point of acting to implement restoration.

The Fund will have three main focus areas. Focus Area 1 will provide the UN Decade's Secretariat and other global functions and will specifically build a global restoration movement that accelerates and upscales restoration initiatives. Focus Area 2 will fund strategic national, regional or multi-country on-the-ground actions for investments and capacity building, including within Flagship programmes. Focus Area 3 will enable the monitoring of global and national progress on restoration, and of the contribution of ecosystem restoration to the Sustainable Development Goals. Outcomes and outputs from these focus areas are presented in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2. Outcomes and examples of Outputs of the UN Decade.

OUTCOMES OF THE FUND AND EXAMPLES OF OUTPUTS, WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME 1:

A global movement established and catalysing ecosystem restoration initiatives, political will, exchange of knowledge and cross sectoral collaboration for ecosystem restoration.

- **OUTPUT 1.1:** Public, private and civil society stakeholders are equipped with knowledge on ecosystem restoration opportunities
- **OUTPUT 1.2:** Best practices for restoring ecosystems collected and showcased globally, to shift societal norms and perceptions
- **OUTPUT 1.3:** Good practices / guidelines collated and disseminated to users on ecosystem restoration technics and approaches
- **OUTPUT 1.4:** Cross-governmental and cross-sectoral dialogue take places and collaboration on ecosystem restoration supported
- **OUTPUT 1.5:** Youth engagement initiatives for the UN Decade launched and managed to mobilise support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement
- **OUTPUT 1.6:** Global dialogues held involving Heads of State, and key national sector ministries (Finance, Planning and Development), private sector and civil society to champion ecosystem restoration opportunities
- **OUTPUT 1.7:** Major stakeholder and restoration programmes brought together within the Global Dialogue to identify critical initiatives for solutions
- **OUTPUT 1.8:** Technical studies produced and disseminated

OUTCOME 2:

Increased capacity and capability in private, public sector and civil society for policy reform, to catalyse investments and to access resources are resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship programmes

- **OUTPUT 2.1:** Government and institutions capacity and capability on policy reforms that promote large-scale sustainable ecosystem restoration supported
- **OUTPUT 2.2:** Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives disseminated to ecosystem restoration practitioners globally and application supported in selected areas
- **OUTPUT 2.3:** National and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives (including Flagship programmes) implemented at scale and projects/programmes given access to international and /or private funding (e.g. Impact Funds, private sector NBS investments, LDNF, GCF etc.)
- **OUTPUT 2.4:** Online and face to face capacity building and knowledge sharing events on restoration technics and sustainable business models held with participation by stakeholders and partners involved in thematic/ regional Communities of Practices on key restoration techniques and approaches
- **OUTPUT 2.5:** National/regional policy dialogues and/or regional/national inter-sectoral platforms facilitated
- **OUTPUT 2.6:** Guidelines, e-learning modules, good practices toolkits produced and made available; and targeted technical assistance provided for incubators/business accelerators
- **OUTPUT 2.7:** Reference data on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration made available within the framework of the Economics of Ecosystem Restoration database and other relevant systems to inform investors on ecosystem restoration business opportunities and to catalyse investments

OUTCOME 3:

Results documented and shared, through monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for ecosystem restoration

- **OUTPUT 3.1:** Monitoring and reporting framework developed, tested and made available for restoring terrestrial and marine ecosystems globally – supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation
- **OUTPUT 3.2:** Annual reports on progress in ecosystem restoration using biophysical and socio-economic indicators and global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration produced and made available
- **OUTPUT 3.3:** A global community for restoration monitoring established, comprised of ecosystem experts to enable knowledge exchange and methodologies and to overcome ecosystem specific data, monitoring and reporting challenges
- **OUTPUT 3.4:** Case studies and knowledge products developed and made available on key ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development
- **OUTPUT 3.5:** Targeted monitoring support (capacity development / technology transfer) provided to UN Decade Flagships
- **OUTPUT 3.6:** Restoration stakeholders trained in use of science and technology to inform restoration actions and decision making.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 3 presents the governance structure of the Fund. An Executive Board including UNEP, FAO as well as Donors/Resource partners will be the responsible decision-making body on all financial commitments. A Secretariat will be established jointly with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration core team in UNEP and FAO. The Advisory Board guiding the implementation of the Strategy for the UN Decade will provide technical feedback, feeding latest knowledge to the Executive Board.

Implementing partners in the MPTF will be the entities receiving funding and implementing activities. These will include UNEP and FAO and can include other UN agencies and if decided international organizations, NGOs and other entities approved by the Fund's Executive Board and accredited by the MPTF Office. Administration of funds will be undertaken by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in New York (administered by the UN Development Program), which offers a cost-effective option to pool resources, skills, and interests of different UN agencies, other partners, and multiple donors/investors.

Figure 3. Governance architecture of the MPTF for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

