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A TASK FORCE ON BEST PRACTICES

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



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

UN 
environment
programme

#GenerationRestoration

Why a task force?

Unsustainable land use and the destruction of natural ecosystems have contributed to global land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss. To prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).

All ecosystems, terrestrial and aquatic, have the potential to be restored. For the UN Decade, ecosystem restoration encompasses a wide continuum of activities that contribute to protecting intact ecosystems, avoiding further degradation and repairing degraded ones. It means that restoration can happen in many ways and that it is not always possible – or desirable – to return an ecosystem to its original state. In that case, the goal is to optimize ecosystem functions and services, and to improve management practices and governance.

To support the implementation of the Decade, a **FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices** was established. This task force focuses on **shaping the knowledge component of the UN Decade**, including capacity development efforts and capitalization as well as sharing and dissemination of good practices for restoration in all ecosystems.

Outputs

A roadmap was collaboratively developed around **seven outputs**:

- **Output 1:** The task force is operational, with clear terms of reference and representatives from key technical organizations.
- **Output 2:** Ecosystems and geographies where knowledge capitalization will be focused at the first stage are prioritized.
- **Output 3:** Partners are identified, and ways to interact with them to share, collect or generate knowledge are agreed upon.
- **Output 4:** A capacity needs assessment is undertaken at the global level for all stakeholders involved in ecosystem restoration.
- **Output 5:** An action plan on knowledge and learning is developed and approved by the task force, based on the results of the capacity needs assessment.
- **Output 6:** The terms of reference for a shortlist of flagship products elaborated for the UN Decade are developed.
- **Output 7:** Good practices are collected and/or capitalized according to pre-agreed formats, endorsed and made available through the UN Decade digital hub and other partners' websites and resources.



Main achievements

Output 1: The task force is operational, with clear terms of reference and representatives from key technical organizations. A group of 117 members from 43 global leading organizations in the field of knowledge capitalization and dissemination joined the task force on a voluntary basis to contribute to the achievement of the outputs. The task force is also coordinating with other relevant efforts, including the UN Decade task forces on monitoring and science.

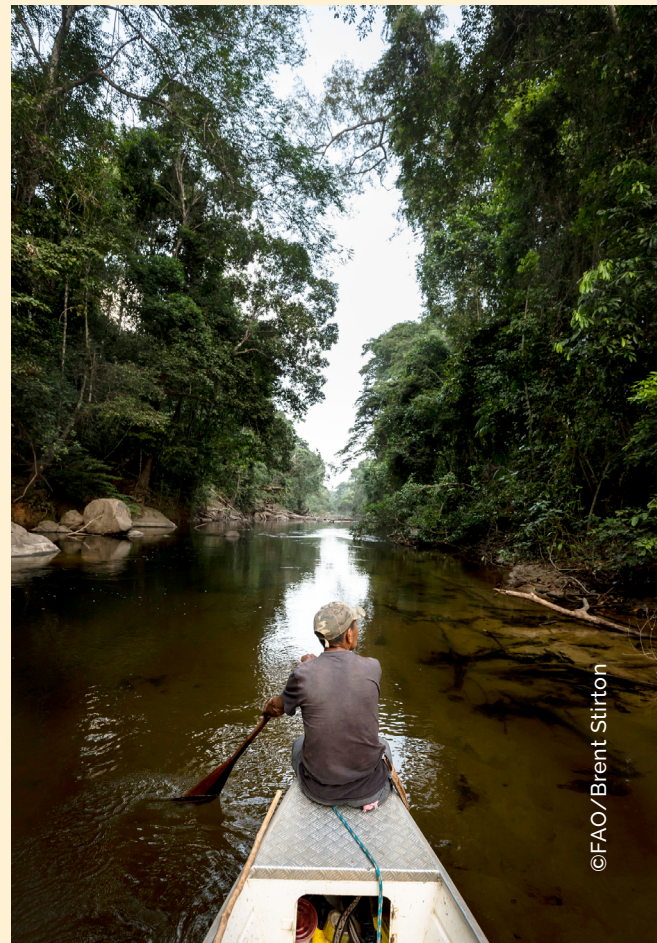
Output 4: A capacity needs assessment is undertaken at the global level for all stakeholders involved in ecosystem restoration. An online survey was developed, tested and presented at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Biodiversity Digital Conference (more than 700 participants). It served as the basis to develop a global capacity needs assessment aimed at identifying what and whose “system-wide capacities” should be enhanced to achieve the UN Decade's goals. In particular, the assessment intends to:

- provide a baseline of existing capacities;
- help identify strengths, gaps, needs and barriers to achieving global restoration goals;
- guide the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's capacity development efforts, to the benefit of all involved, by helping to shape a knowledge and learning action plan (**Output 5**).

Output 7: Good practices are collected and/or capitalized according to pre-agreed formats, endorsed and made available through the UN Decade digital hub and other partners' websites and resources.

To successfully scale up restoration, practitioners need to easily access good practices. To do so, the task force is currently:

- **Capitalizing and availing of existing good practices:** A stock-taking of **knowledge platforms** that collect and disseminate validated good practices in different ecosystems is ongoing to facilitate their access by linking these existing platforms to the UN Decade digital hub and guiding the users to the most relevant content according to their needs.
- **Collecting of new practices:** Preparation of the long-term **process of collecting new practices during the UN Decade, including agreement on a template, review process and dissemination strategy.**



How can you collaborate with us?

Strong cooperation with partners and stakeholders involved in restoration is key to fulfilling specific needs for successful ecosystem restoration across the globe. You can be part of the effort by supporting the **collection and dissemination** of good practices, sharing widely the template, existing good practices databases and other knowledge resources among your networks.

Contacts

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For more information on the Task Force on Best Practices visit the webpage:

www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/our-work/gl/tfbp

