

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

Terms of Reference of the Finance Task Force

Objectives of the Finance Task Force

The Finance Task Force will provide an authoritative reference point for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The Task Force will provide the backstop for the UN Decade's Advisory Board and Strategy Group, including through supporting or peer-reviewing the work of other Task Forces (on Best Practice, Monitoring, Science, and Youth).

It will tackle issues that are key to build the enabling environment for successful restoration including not only financial incentives but also socio-economic aspects/criteria, policies and governance, to harness the opportunities in scaling up public and private resources for Landscape Restoration, providing unlocking large implementation potential ecosystem restoration. While maintaining its technical and scientific independence, the Finance Task Force will work closely within the UN Decade's governance structure, provide inputs to the work of other Task Forces, and select topics to cover in coordination with the World Bank (WB), the Strategy Group, Advisory Board, and with the other Task Forces of the UN Decade.

The Task Force can choose to address specific topics selected in coordination with the UN Decade Strategy Group, Advisory Board, and Task Forces and produce written advice the selected topics. In addition, the Strategy Group (UNEP/FAO), in consultation with the WB, can mandate the Finance Task Force with specific tasks on which it will report back to the Strategy Group or to the Advisory Board. The Finance Task Force should only focus on topics of greatest strategic importance for the success of the UN Decade, drawing inter alia on the list of topics in the UN's Decade strategy and priority topics and/or identified by the Strategy Group or Advisory Board as a result of the Decade's implementation.

The outputs of the Finance Task Force will be written advice that will help ensure that restoration actions aligned with the Decade are consistent with and build upon the best current understanding of ecosystem restoration from the perspective of natural and social Finance. These outputs will offer balanced perspectives and schools of thought, responding to the current demands of ecosystem restoration and ready to be taken up into practical implementation.

The Task Force can also function as sounding board for the Advisory Board or the Strategy Group of the UN Decade, and to the Executive Board of the UN Decade's Multi-Partner Trust Fund, upon their request.

Finance Task Force activities

The Finance Task Force can achieve their objectives through a variety of means, including:

- Peer-review outcomes of the other Task Forces or key publications in the context of the UN Decade;
- Convene expert groups with additional participants tailored to the specific topic (e.g. tenure governance PPPs, fiscal reforms, financial incentives mechanisms, financing and regulatory instruments, risk mitigation), to be addressed;
- Organize public workshops or webinars and for broader technical audiences (e.g. 'Communities of Practice') and decision makers from the private and public sector, to advance understanding based on the advice produced by the Task Force and expert groups; as well as technical events by invitation only;
- Issue recommendations to relevant bodies and platforms, such as IPBES and IPCC, for inclusion of relevant restoration topics into forthcoming assessments;
- The Chair, Co-chair and members of the Finance Task Force can represent the Task Force at events or meetings organized on topics related to the UN Decade.

Operation and coordination of the Finance Task Force

The operation of the Task Force is subject to available resources. The World Bank convenes and organizes the Finance Task Force on behalf of the co-lead agencies of the UN Decade (FAO and UNEP). The Finance Task Force will be set up and operated in consultation with other official partners of the UN Decade. As needed, the Task Force will invite and coordinate with other UN Decade Task Forces, partners, and stakeholders to address respective items, especially as identified by the Strategy Group or Advisory Board.

The Task Force is encouraged to report regularly on its activities and provide advice and recommendations to the UN Decade's Coordination Group and to the UN Decade's other Task Forces.

Finance Task Force composition

Membership and appointments

The Finance Task Force is part of the official governance of the UN Decade while maintaining independence with regards to its composition and written advice and recommendations. It is comprised of experts in issues related to ecosystem restoration, including an understanding of enabling conditions and cross-cutting topics.

Members will be selected considering geography, gender and type of expertise to keep a well-balanced set of inputs and views. It is recommended that the membership of the core Task Force does not exceed 20 people. Task Force membership is of two years, subject to renewal. Appointments will be made by invitation only from the World Bank, including through suggestions by UNEP or FAO. The Finance Task Force members will bring together a range of skill sets, including members with:

- Experience in financing restoration and risk mitigation (short- or long-term)
- Experience on land governance issues
- Experience with balancing views within volunteer groups of experts
- Experience in using Finance and practice to advance policy objectives
- Experience with links between financial instruments and broader regulatory instruments
- Strong communications abilities across cultures, disciplines and regions.

Chair

The World Bank as the lead organization of the Task Force will nominate a Chair and Co-chair for the period of two years, subject to renewal.

Quorum

Quorum is reached when at least one third of Task Force members and the Chair or Co-Chair are present. With their prior approval, meetings of the Task Force (e.g. sub-groups) can be held without the Chair or Co-Chair.

Frequency of Meetings

The Task Force is to decide the frequency of the meeting. However, it is encouraged that it meets at least quarterly per annum or as required by the Chair. Meetings should be held virtually.

Notice of Meeting

Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed and supporting papers, will be forwarded or notified to each member of the Task Force and any other person required to attend, no later than ten working days before the date of the meeting.

Additional experts

Task Force members will nominate additional experts to participate in topic-specific Expert Groups to offer more specific input and expertise as needed.

Changes to these Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference can be changed by the UN Decade Strategy Group, in consultation with the World Bank.