

MAY 2021

“#GenerationRestoration : YOUth reconnecting with Nature”



On 17 May, UNEP Brussels Office, FAO Liaison Office Brussels and the Youth & Environment Europe (YEE) jointly organized a webinar titled “GenerationRestoration : YOUth reconnecting with Nature” to mark the launch of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) for youth in Europe. Activist and young leaders, including two of the GEO-6 for Youth report, participated in the event to showcase their initiatives, share their involvement in restoration and inspire peers to take action.

YOUTH RECONNECTING WITH NATURE

Jae Nikam
Stockholm Environment Institute

Samanta Espinosa
Fundación Jocotoco

Lefteris Arapakis
UNEP Young Champion of the Earth for Europe

Félix Feider
Youth and Environment Europe

Alina Lehikoinen
International Forestry Students' Association

Tanja Franotović
Directorate-General Environment, European Commission

moderated by:
Alina Gerke
FAO, World Food Forum

#GENERATIONRESTORATION

The event was opened by the Head of the UNEP's Brussels Office, Veronika Šafránková and the Head of Marketing and Communications at FAO's Liaison Office in Brussels, Myrto Arvaniti. They introduced the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) and stressed the urgent need to restore our ecosystems and planet in order to achieve the Global Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030. After the opening remarks, two of the [GEO-6 for Youth](#) authors, Jae Nikam and Samanta V. Espinosa presented the main findings of the report, focusing on chapter 3 and 4, which outline key actions youth can take to contribute to land conversation and restoration. “In order to restore our relationship with nature we need everyone to get involved” concluded Samanta V. Espinosa, “because, alone you can plant a tree, but with the support of your community you can grow a forest.”

Following the GEO-6 for Youth presentation, Alina Lehikoinen, President of International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and Félix Feider, a Support Liaison Officer on Biodiversity at Youth and Environment Europe discussed youth activism and restoration activities they undertake within their respective organizations. Later, Lefteris Arapakis, UNEP's Young Champion of the Earth for Europe, shared his inspiring story of

co-funding [Enaleia](#), which trains fishermen to collect and recycle plastic. The last speaker, Tanja Franotović, a Communications professional at DG Environment, European Commission presented the [Pollinators park](#), a virtual reality experience created to show what the future would look like if pollinators disappeared and to inspire the public to rethink their relationship with nature.

To close the event, the audience was invited to join the global movement [#GenerationRestoration](#) in the run up to [World Environment Day](#) (5 June) which coincides with the official launch of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).

Here are some useful resources on how you can take action and be part of [#GenerationRestoration](#):

- [Take part in this survey](#), collecting inputs of youth from Europe and Central Asia, to better understand ecosystem restoration
- [Read more](#) about the Decade and check out the [World Environment Day Playbook](#) for ideas on what you can do
- [Sign up to join](#) the [#GenerationRestoration](#) Movement and receive updates, news and stories
- Take part in the [#GenerationRestoration social media snap challenge](#) for World Environment Day (5 June) and share your 'snap' between 27 May and 5 June

Please find the recording of the event, [here](#). Access the e-book and read more about the GEO-6 for Youth, [here](#).

IOE-UNEP-ILO: Business sustainability, disruption and recovery in a time of uncertainty



The International Organisation for Employers (IOE) organized a high-level digital conference on 27 May, 14:00 CET, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), offering the latest insights from top UN officials and business leaders on the environmental transition, adaptation to Covid-19 and building back better.

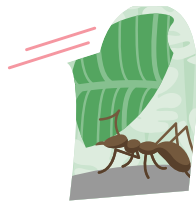
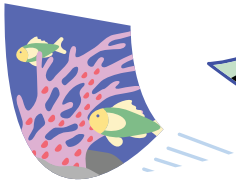
UNEP this year as part of its annual Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report, launched the First of a series of specialized [Briefs for Business](#) that analyse and seek solutions to some of the current health and environmental challenges the world is facing.

IOE published last year a set of [policy recommendations for climate change policy](#). IOE's ambition and vision is bringing robust and scalable business contributions and involvement to the skills and employment challenges brought by Covid-19 and climate change policy, adaptation and mitigation.

In light of these insights, the high-level discussion aims to bring together employers, labour policy and environmental experts to discuss priorities, challenges and opportunities for business in the context of a transition to sustainability and recovery from the current crisis. Authors of the GEO for Business Brief presented the report's findings and discussed with employers' organizations and companies from IOE's network. IOE Secretary-General, Roberto Suárez Santos, UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Joyce Msuya and ILO Deputy Director-General for Policy, Martha Newton opened the meeting.

To listen in on this event please find the link to the recording via YouTube Channel [here](#).

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The UN Environment Programme's Synthesis Report

"Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies"

Side Event at the First Preparatory Committee for the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries
Friday 28 May 2021, 13.00-14:30 hr EST

Preparations for LDC5 involve national, regional and global reviews of all IPoA priorities by all major stakeholders. The outcomes of these inclusive and broad-based reviews will feed into the work of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), whose mandate is to agree on elements of the new Programme of Action for the LDCs that will then be finalised and adopted by the Doha Conference.

The PrepCom 1st. Session took place between May 24 and 28, 2021, where a side event on UNEP's Synthesis Report was held.

The first [UNEP synthesis report](#), "Making Peace with Nature" makes it clear that there is a triple emergency unfolding and that these three issues are interlinked and need to be dealt with together. "These are not just environmental issues, they are economic, development, security, social, moral and ethical issues" - Sir Robert Watson, Report Lead.

The report is an authoritative scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies, compiled by world-class scientists and building on past key major scientific reports (GEO, IPBES, IPCC, IRP, Emission Gap Report). It conveys strong messages about the current model of development degrading the Earth's finite capacity to sustain human well-being and the urgent need for a clear break with current trends of environmental decline in the coming decade. The blueprint calls for ambitious and coordinated action by governments, businesses and people around the world to prevent and reverse the worst impacts of environmental decline by rapidly transforming key systems including energy, water and food so that our use of the land and oceans becomes sustainable. It also communicates how climate change; biodiversity loss and pollution can be tackled jointly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Changes in how we measure progress and wealth and structure our economy to protect the welfare of both current and future generations are critical opportunities presented. Ethiopia is in response to this implementing inclusive wealth accounting for sustainable development. This accounting system gives a more comprehensive overview of the natural resources and other values and will provide an important basis for informed decision making.

The "Making Peace with Nature report", as well as all related documents, such as the executive summary in all UN languages, key messages and various communication products can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

Please find the recording to this session [here](#).

The Making Peace with Nature report is co-funded by the European Union and the Norwegian Ministry for Climate and Environment



the European Union



Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

