

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Subcommittee meeting  
Tuesday, 13 December 2022  
10:00 – 13:00 & 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)  
Hybrid meeting

**Agenda item 3: Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including flagships selection and announcement processes.**

This background document has been prepared by the Secretariat, to facilitate the discussion under agenda item 3: Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including flagships selection and announcement processes.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#) continues to build a strong, broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and put the world on track for a sustainable future.

The attached note provides an update briefing on the UN-decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including on the selection of flagships.

Delegations are invited to share their observations and recommendations to the Secretariat on the matter.

## **Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including flagships selection and announcement processes**

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#) continues to build a strong, broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and put the world on track for a sustainable future.

Since the latest briefing to the [CPR in December 2021](#), the UN Decade [partner network](#) has grown into over 200 organizations, a new [Action Plan](#) to concretize the UN Decade's strategy is being prepared by the partners, and the continued work of the UN Decade's [Task Forces](#) of Best Practices, Finance, Monitoring, Science and Youth bringing together over 500 experts.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration had entered the implementation phase with the operationalization of the [UN Decade's Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) (MPTF) through the first Executive Board meeting on 16 December 2021 and the launch of the nomination process for the UN Decade's Flagship Initiatives, followed by the subsequent assessment and support processes in 2022. UNEP and FAO would like to thank Germany as the first donor to contribute to the Fund in 2021, and Denmark for a senior secondment to UNEP's Ecosystems Division/UN Decade team, as well as a pledged contribution to the Fund in 2022. The MPTF is open for replenishment therefore co-leads would like to call for relevant contributions to scale up restoration activities and support the Decade's implementation.

### **What are Flagship Initiatives?**

Restoration Flagship Initiatives of the UN Decade are the first, best, or most promising examples of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration in any country or region, embodying the 10 Restoration Principles of the UN Decade. Flagships will enable the UN Decade to make Ecosystem Restoration tangible for a broad audience and inspire a global movement to *scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration* (A/RES/73/284). These geographic focused restoration areas will be featured prominently on the UN Decade's Digital Hub and linked with knowledge products, advocacy and communication tools, and support for convening dialogues with stakeholders to discuss results, lessons learned and coordination.

The Flagship Initiatives represent an important, inspiring restoration areas, and have wider learning and restoration potential and scalability. They facilitate coordination, learning, scaling and bring more attention to the area and the obstacles it faces. UN Decade partners are encouraged to support Flagship Initiatives through their means.

### **Nomination and assessment processes to identify the Flagships**

An invitation to stakeholders in Member States and regional organizations to propose Flagship Initiatives was sent by the heads of the co-leading organizations, FAO and UNEP in early 2022, with the deadline of 31 March 2022.

Assessment of all received Flagship nominations was carried out by the UN Decade's Science Task Force (led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN) and the Best Practices Task Force (led by FAO) between April and June 2022, in consultation with the submitting entities and implementing partners. The final approval was confirmed by UNEP and FAO, whereas the selected sub-group of flagships receiving financial support by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund was confirmed by the Fund's Executive Board.

From 2022 onwards, the call will be repeated taking into account the financial means available and interests from the partners and countries.

### **Support provided to the selected Flagship Initiatives**

The first ten selected Flagship Initiatives, will be launched at the margins of the high-level segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference ([CBD COP15](#)) during the Restoration Day on 13 December. The announcement will be done during a virtual gala on the same day (13 December) at 16.00 East African Time

and streamed live on [YouTube](#) in parallel with a global media campaign and wide online outreach, envisaged reaching millions of people.

They will be also presented in the Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly at its 81st session and showcased at high-level political events.

Following the assessment process, a limited number of Flagship Initiatives has been selected by FAO and UNEP where substantial activities on the ground can be supported directly through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Decade, for example through technical assistance by Implementing Partners at country or regional level. Only developing countries are eligible for support, based on available resources. Depending on the country and stakeholder demand and commitment, and according to the priorities of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the interventions to support Flagship Initiatives could include strategic gap filling and scaling up dedicated Flagship Initiatives through a range of targeted activities as well as partnership building and resource mobilization.

### **UN Decade Action Plan**

Outlined already in the UN Decade's strategy, an [Action Plan](#) has been launched in September 2022 as outcome of consultations with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [partner network](#) in 2021 and 2022 and the collaborative input of the UN Decade core team, Strategy Group, Advisory Board and Task Forces. Moving from strategy to action, this plan aims to mobilise all stakeholders around 12 key priority areas for restoration – the Restoration Challenges - and set ambitious challenge targets for a global #GenerationRestoration movement; contributing to internationally agreed targets where they exist such as biodiversity and climate targets. It allows for the UN Decade partners to take thematic leadership following the UN Decade resolution mandate for wide network leadership and at everyone who wants to be a part of restoring Earth by 2030 in its 'New Power' set-up. This includes policy makers, businesses, NGOs, civil society, scientists, educators and donors. (Co-)leading entities are expected to be confirmed by beginning of 2023.

### **The UN Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly**

The Secretary-General's report to the eighty first session of the UN General Assembly in 2025 will inform on the UN Decade's implementation as well as planning till 2030. Preparatory processes for the report to be initiated in early 2023. The Action Plan will represent a crucial piece in this report through its thematic challenges led by UN Decade partners and addressed to all stakeholders contributing to the achievement of global goals. Flagship activities will be featured as on the ground examples of restoration activities leading to scaling up global efforts and mobilizing #GenerationRestoration.

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