

**Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UNEP
(Nairobi, 5 March 2020)**

Agenda Item 3: Update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

EU+MS comments

The EU and its Member States would like to thank UNEP and the FAO for this overview of the draft strategy.

We welcome broad consultations with Governments, practitioners, civil society, youth and private sector with the aim of developing an effective and focused strategy that will indeed provide guidance for the prevention, halting and reversing ecosystem degradation – for all terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

The EU and its MS feel that involving all sectors of the society (children, youth, various organisations) is a very thorough and ambitious plan that, if successfully done, can supplement the global process on the post 2020 Biodiversity framework and the efforts that are being done worldwide in the area of ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems.

We are of the opinion that ecological restoration of all degraded ecosystems will improve the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels, as well as reinforce ecosystem resilience, integrity (including connectivity and functionality) and enhance benefits provided to people. Furthermore, ecological restoration should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Ecological restoration however, should not be our sole priority. It is important that simultaneously, work is done to protect existing nature areas and marine ecosystems by preventing further land- and sea use change and ecosystem degradation.

The EU and its MS are of the view that the general approach should be based on the use of knowledge and innovations related to biodiversity, originating from science and practitioners as well as from the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent.
