



## UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (2021-2030)

### *Flagship initiatives*

With a mandate by the United Nations General Assembly resolution [73/284](#), the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#) was successfully launched on World Environment Day, 5 June 2021. Its partner network has grown to over [80 entities](#) ready to 'prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide' and put the UN Decade's [strategy](#) further into concrete **action**, and strengthen a global **#generationrestoration** movement.

As outlined in the [strategy](#) which had been developed based on an open, inclusive, and transparent process with over 2,500 comments received, Restoration Flagship Initiatives of this UN Decade will be identified as the **first, best, or most promising examples of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration** in a country or region, embodying the [10 Restoration Principles of the UN Decade](#). Flagship Initiatives will be instrumental to inspire others to undertake or accelerate restoration at significant scale. Selected Flagships will act as a basis for joint learning across the world and help move commitments to concrete, inspiring restoration action across the globe.

### **What is the rationale behind Flagships?**

Flagships will enable the UN Decade to make Ecosystem Restoration **tangible** for a broad audience and **inspire** a global movement. It will further allow to identify **geographic focus areas** and help [partners](#) to collaborate around the selected Flagships. Flagships 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 that bring together large programmes and stakeholders to discuss results, lessons learned and coordination.

The Flagship Initiatives should represent an important restoration area, in terms of **political importance**, be **representative** and have wider **learning and restoration potential** and **scalability**. Flagships could facilitate coordination, learning, scaling and bring more attention to the area and the obstacles it faces; they should be **strategic** and **innovative** in nature and have the potential for triggering **transformational change**.

UN Decade [partners](#) will also be encouraged to support Flagship Initiatives through their means.

### **How will Flagships be supported?**

1. **Selected Flagship Initiatives**. These are Flagship Initiatives representing different ecosystems and geographic areas with (at least initial) proven restoration results, which can be promoted globally and bring lessons learned to a wider audience. They will be an important source of information and inspiration for stakeholders. The barriers encountered as well as successes achieved in such initiatives will be systematically analyzed and shared by partners, enabling new initiatives to optimize their approaches based on worldwide experiences. They will be presented in the Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly in 2025 and showcased at high-level political events such as the UN General Assembly Opening Week or Rio Convention Conferences of Parties. These Flagships will be featured prominently on the UN Decade website and in events and reports, but UNEP or FAO will **not provide financial or technical support** to these Flagships through the [Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#).

2. **A subgroup of financially supported Flagship Initiatives.** From the above group, a limited number of Flagship Initiatives will be invited to submit an application for funding, where substantial activities on the ground can be supported directly by FAO and UNEP through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Decade, for example through technical assistance at country or regional level. Only developing countries will be eligible, based on available resources. Depending on the country and stakeholder demand and commitment, and on priorities of the [Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#), the interventions to support Flagship Initiatives could include strategic gap filling and the scaling up of dedicated Flagship Initiatives through a range of targeted interventions. **Applications for technical or financial support from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund will be by invitation, and in consultation with FAO and UNEP.**

### **Nomination process**

Member states and Regional Organizations are invited to **nominate Flagship Initiatives** on a rolling basis. Please express your interest through an Email to [restorationdecade@un.org](mailto:restorationdecade@un.org) for being provided the application form and document submission guidance. **Any Flagship Initiative nomination has to be endorsed by a Government entity, or by a Regional Organization for regional Flagships.**

The UN Decade [partner network](#) can provide support to Governments and Regional Organizations in developing countries in nominating such flagships.

Assessment of all received Flagship nominations will be carried out by the UN Decade's [Science Task Force](#) (led by IUCN) and the [Best Practices Task Force](#) (led by FAO) between **March and June 2022**, in consultation with the submitting entities and implementing partners (in case identified). The final approval will be confirmed by the UN Decade's co-leading agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Approval of the selected sub-group of flagships receiving financial support by the [Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) will be given by the Fund's Executive Board.

The first 10 selected Flagship Initiatives, if submitted before **31 March 2022**, will be presented concurrently with the opening week of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations in 2022.

More than one Flagship Initiative per country can be selected, but we will seek to ensure diversity of ecosystems and balance at global scale.

### **Flagship selection criteria**

- ❖ Nominated areas have to be clearly identified geographically;
- ❖ Application of the UN Decade's [10 Principles for Ecosystem Restoration](#): global contribution; broad engagement; many types of activities; benefits to nature and people; addressing causes of degradation; knowledge integration; measurable goals; local and land/seascape contexts; monitoring and management; and policy integration;
- ❖ Significant size or scaling potential and inspirational demonstration value, including lessons learned;
- ❖ Initial success of restoration (at least some of the nominated area already under successful, measurable, and well-documented restoration);
- ❖ Synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions (for marine/coastal projects: synergies between UNFCCC and CBD).

Flagships to receive support by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Decade need to fulfil additional criteria, i.e.

- ❖ Funding only eligible to developing countries;
- ❖ Preference given to cross-border/multi-national Flagship Initiatives;
- ❖ Comparative advantage and added value in terms of expected results and impact of MPTF involvement;
- ❖ High probability of significant results and impact of Flagship Initiative on ecosystem restoration;
- ❖ Other impacts, including impact on biodiversity, climate change mitigation/adaptation and local livelihoods;
- ❖ Identified scaling, replication or broader/global learning value;
- ❖ Application of the UN Decade's 10 Restoration Principles;
- ❖ Proven commitment from partner country.

For any questions or comments, and to discuss a submission of a nominated Flagship Initiative, please contact our teams by email to [restorationdecade@un.org](mailto:restorationdecade@un.org)