



Document title	UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)
Code	2N-4
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2N – Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
Submission date	18.4.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

On the 01 March 2019 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) was declared by the UN General Assembly. The initiative aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. It is intended to promote an aggressive restoration effort which will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss through building resilience, reduces vulnerability and increases the ability of systems to adapt to daily threats and extreme events. The implementation of the initiative is being led by UN Environment and FAO

The Decade, a global call to action, will draw together political support, scientific research and financial muscle to massively scale up restoration from successful pilot initiatives. The Decade will accelerate existing global restoration goals, for example the [Bonn Challenge](#), which aims to restore 350 million hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030. Currently 57 countries, subnational governments and private organizations have committed to bring over 170 million hectares under restoration.

Key ecosystems that deliver numerous services essential to food and agriculture, including supply of freshwater, protection against hazards and provision of habitat for species such as fish and pollinators, are declining rapidly.

Ecosystem restoration is defined as a process of reversing the degradation of ecosystems, such as landscapes, lakes and oceans to regain their ecological functionality; in other words, to improve the productivity and capacity of ecosystems to meet the needs of society. This can be done by allowing the natural regeneration of overexploited ecosystems.

Ecosystem restoration is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly those on climate change, food security, water and biodiversity conservation. It is also a pillar of international environmental conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and the Rio Conventions on biodiversity, desertification and climate change.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

-take note of the information and use it as appropriate.