



## MPTF Terms of Reference

October 2020

## Table of Contents

|              |   |    |
|--------------|---|----|
| <b>I.</b>    | <b><u>Introduction</u></b> .....  | 3  |
|              | <i><u>Empowering all stakeholders to restore Earth</u></i> .....  | 3  |
|              | <i><u>The opportunity</u></i> .....   | 4  |
| <b>II.</b>   | <b><u>Functions of the MPTF</u></b> .....   | 4  |
| <b>III.</b>  | <b><u>Programmatic Scope and Theory of Change</u></b> .....   | 5  |
|              | <i><u>Theory of Change – Achieving Impact</u></i> .....   | 8  |
|              | <i><u>Key principles</u></i> .....  | 10 |
| <b>IV.</b>   | <b><u>Governance Arrangements</u></b> .....   | 11 |
|              | <i><u>Executive Board</u></i> .....   | 11 |
|              | <i><u>Secretariat</u></i> .....   | 12 |
|              | <i><u>The Administrative Agent</u></i> .....  | 13 |
|              | <i><u>The Participating Organizations</u></i> .....   | 13 |
| <b>V.</b>    | <b><u>Fund Implementation</u></b> .....   | 14 |
|              | <i><u>Risk management</u></i> .....   | 19 |
| <b>VII.</b>  | <b><u>Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation</u></b> .....  | 20 |
|              | <i><u>Narrative and financial reporting</u></i> .....   | 20 |
|              | <i><u>Funding Windows 1 and 3 (Global Programming Cycle)</u></i> .....  | 20 |
|              | <i><u>Funding Window 2 (Country and Multi-Country Cycle)</u></i> .....  | 20 |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b><u>Accountability, transparency and public disclosure</u></b> .....  | 20 |
|              | <i><u>Accountability</u></i> .....  | 20 |
|              | <i><u>Transparency</u></i> .....  | 21 |
| <b>IX.</b>   | <b><u>Modification and Expiration of the MPTF</u></b> .....   | 21 |
|              | <i><u>Annex 1: Governance structure</u></i> .....   | 22 |
|              | <i><u>Annex 2: Criteria for selection of Flagships</u></i> .....  | 23 |
|              | <i><u>Annex 3: Example of a Flagship</u></i> .....  | 24 |
|              | <i><u>Support to the large-scale restoration of Africa's Great Green Wall – A Flagship Programme under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030</u></i> ..... | 24 |
|              | <i><u>Annex 4: List of indicative activities</u></i>  |    |

## I. Introduction

### ***Empowering all stakeholders to restore Earth***

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) described in this document will be the financial engine behind the implementation of the strategy for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

On March 1st, 2019, the United National General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (hereafter referred to as the Decade), with the primary aim being to *prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide*. All initiatives within the Decade will consequently have a dual focus on conservation of ecosystems (preventing and halting their degradation) as well as restoring ecosystems (reversing their degradation). UNEP and FAO were given the responsibility to lead the implementation of the Decade in close coordination with their partners. The full strategy for the Decade was developed in an open and inclusive global consultation process and is available on the Decade [website \(www.decadeonrestoration.org\)](http://www.decadeonrestoration.org). The UN Decade aims to support the full achievement of all restoration-related targets that have been set in relevant processes, in particular the Rio Conventions, and within the Sustainable Development Goals.

The MPTF will offer a core instrument throughout the Decade, and will have impacts far beyond 2030. The primary aim of the Fund is to combat declining biodiversity, support livelihoods, enhance natural resource bases, adapt to and mitigate climate change through restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems globally. It will achieve this aim by supporting: global, regional and local networking; capacity development; communication; documentation of technical knowledge; dissemination of lessons learned; upscaling of successful ecosystem restoration initiatives; developing innovative approaches to financing of ecosystem restoration; and developing new business models for restoring ecosystems enabling them to generate economic returns. These investments will also reduce migration and resource conflicts.

The background to the MPTF is that ecosystem degradation across the world is negatively impacting the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, costing more than 10% of the annual global gross product in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The latest IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems documents an unprecedented rate of decline in ecosystems' health and biodiversity. In many regions, loss of soil fertility, loss of wetlands and desertification are the new reality of the landscape. In the case of wetlands, more than 70% of their original extent has been lost over the last century. Such degradation of ecosystems limits livelihood prospects, increases emissions of atmospheric greenhouse gases and limits the supply of ecosystem goods and services that build climate resilience for societies globally.

Investing in ecosystem restoration has proven to generate benefits that are on average ten times the costs of the initial investment, whereas the cost of inaction is at least three times the cost of active ecosystem restoration. Indeed, based on analyses of existing ecosystem restoration initiatives across a wide range of ecosystems, benefit to cost ratios of between 3 and 75 can be expected, depending on the ecosystem and local socio-economic context<sup>1</sup>. Investments in large-scale ecosystem restoration can consequently be a major

---

<sup>1</sup> TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity). 2009. TEEB Climate Issues Update. [www.teebweb.org/media/2009/09/TEEB-Climate-Issues-Update.pdf](http://www.teebweb.org/media/2009/09/TEEB-Climate-Issues-Update.pdf)

economic stimulus for national economies, resulting in a substantial contribution to COVID-19 recovery. With regards to climate resilience, it is estimated that nature-based solutions can provide approximately 1/3 of cost-effective climate change mitigation needed through 2030. Investments in ecosystem restoration could consequently provide a fast-track pathway for countries' transformation to low-carbon societies, and provide some time for transformation of major sectors such as transport, housing, industry and food and energy production. In this context support for women who are responsible 60-80 per cent of food production in developing countries and Indigenous people as stewards of 80 percent of the worlds biodiversity will be of critical importance.

While many examples exist of ecosystem restoration on the ground across the world, these are still limited in scale and often not mainstreamed into national policy frameworks. There remains, for example, a significant gap between the required amount of funding for restoring ecosystems and the amount of public funding available, and private sector investments in ecosystem restoration are still limited.

The scale of investment in ecosystem restoration required for a substantial global impact is likely to exceed one trillion US dollars of public sector as well as private sector funds over the course of the Decade<sup>2,3</sup>. To place this in perspective, global costs of fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies currently exceed several trillions of US dollars annually. Given the costs of ecosystem degradation and the scale of the benefits from ecosystem restoration<sup>4</sup>, investing one trillion US dollars in ecosystem restoration over the period of a decade is arguably prudent and realistic. Indeed, it is a relatively modest starting point (~0.1% of expected global GDP over the course of the Decade<sup>5</sup>), with larger amounts expected to be allocated and reoriented once societies start to experience the expected returns on investments in ecosystem restoration<sup>6</sup>. Such allocations and reorientations (to be made predominantly by national and local governments and the private sector) would include not only direct investments into restoration of terrestrial and marine systems but also shifts in financial flows, subsidies and taxes towards sustainable production, trade and consumption of commercial goods and services.

### ***The opportunity***

---

<sup>2</sup> Restoration of terrestrial and marine environments will need to cover many hundreds of millions of hectares to make a meaningful impact on the well-being of societies worldwide. The estimated cost for restoring 350 million hectares of only one terrestrial ecosystem, namely forest, is USD 837 billion to 1.2 trillion. It is therefore likely that costs for restoration of a wide range of ecosystems above and beyond the 350 million hectares of forest will exceed USD 1 trillion. These costs were reported in: NYDF Assessment Partners. 2019. Protecting and restoring forests: a story of large commitments yet limited progress. New York Declaration on Forests Five-Year Assessment Report. [www.forestdeclaration.org](http://www.forestdeclaration.org)

<sup>3</sup> The total cost of fossil fuel subsidies globally, when taking externalities into account, is estimated to be USD 5.3 trillion per year. See Coady et al. 2015. How large are global energy subsidies? International Monetary Fund Working paper.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2016/12/31/How-Large-Are-Global-Energy-Subsidies-42940>. Total support to agriculture (including support to farmers, general services to the sector, and consumer subsidies) across a sample of 53 countries covered by the latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report was estimated to be USD 705 billion per year during 2016-2018. See OECD. 2019. Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/39bfe6f3-en>.

<sup>4</sup> The costs of ecosystem degradation and benefits of ecosystem restoration are described in detail in reports such as the *Economics of Land Degradation* (<https://www.eld-initiative.org>), *Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (<http://www.teebweb.org>) and the *Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration* (<https://ipbes.net>).

<sup>5</sup> Based on a global GDP of USD 86 trillion in 2019, with 2% annual growth.

<sup>6</sup> The FAO estimates that USD 4.8 trillion would be required to restore 2 billion hectares of land and in so doing achieve SDG Target 15.3 relating to land degradation neutrality. See FAO & Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2015. Sustainable financing for forest and landscape restoration: Opportunities, challenges and the way forward. Discussion paper. Rome.

The past year has seen a change in public opinion on the urgency of climate and biodiversity action, accompanied by a larger awareness of the need to invest in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both from public and private sources. This momentum for an increase in biodiversity and climate funding, for new public-private partnerships and for innovative ways of financing the SDGs is encouraging. We need new, and bold, initiatives, partnerships and programmes that can change the way public and private investments are designed, with a view to channel more funds into nature-based solutions, and we need to support the involvement of women and indigenous groups. To this end, governments will need to introduce new political and regulatory initiatives e.g. on access to land, and at the global level, we need more regulatory clarity e.g. on carbon markets. There will also need to be many investment-ready projects, which are both transformational and sustainable. Finally, to strengthen common purpose and direction, there is a need to convene global dialogues across institutions on critical issues for moving from commitment to action and for showcasing and scaling up good examples of large-scale restoration. The unanimous support from all UN Member States for the General Assembly Resolution on the UN Decade provides a strong basis for coordinated global progress in all these areas.

The Fund will support the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as a catalyst, convener and contributor of critical targeted interventions and highly visible advocacy, communication and demonstration efforts, with a view to shift risk perceptions and increase overall investment readiness into ecosystem restoration at a planetary scale. This aligns strongly with the Decade's aim to act as an engine and connector of the many valuable restoration efforts already undertaken across the globe. It also aligns with the aim to develop a new restoration economy that provides an economic boost globally through the provision of jobs and increased supplies of goods and services in a sustainable manner from healthy ecosystems.

## **II. Functions of the MPTF**

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration provides a unique platform for a coordinated approach to upscale ecosystem restoration efforts worldwide. Through convening a dialogue to discuss experiences and specific barriers in the political and regulatory frameworks it is the intention to inspire decision makers to make major changes that improve the enabling environment for restoration investments at large scale. The broader movement-building, outreach and communication efforts of the Decade, including with youth networks will, in turn, help build public momentum and pressure for such reforms.

A particularly critical stream of action under the Fund will be collaboration and coordination with other existing Funds and Facilities, with the aim of a more coordinated approach to restoration investments globally. There are several pilot facilities that - directly or indirectly - target restoration, such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, UNDP's Lion's Share Fund, several funds of the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. However, there is at present little coordinated action for systematic learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration on project pipeline development and financing of emerging projects. The Fund will provide such a facilitation function, and will also spearhead a coordinated approach to global stakeholder engagement on ecosystem restoration, including through youth networks. By combining the convening mandate of the UN General Assembly resolution with the broad approach and open architecture of the Fund, the Decade will, through its core team, provide the knowledge management,

as well as the facilitation and coordination roles required. The core team, led by FAO and UNEP, will be supported by a wide range of partners to catalyze restoration at scale across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. This work will focus strongly on showcasing Flagship programmes, whilst also promoting replication of existing restoration initiatives, upscaling mechanisms and new initiatives.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund provides the numerous benefits to development partners including:

- Robust needs analyses ensure effective prioritization of activities and strategic allocation of funds.
- There is rapid resource allocation by an Executive Board.
- There are minimal transaction costs for donors (one contribution agreement, one consolidated reporting with clear figures on funds allocations), for governments (one entry point for coordination with the UN) and for the UN (strategic oversight).
- There is enhanced visibility for donors at the global level as a result of a robust communication strategy and clear visibility rules for each donor/contributor to the MPTF.
- Coordination and harmonization of funding allows for several implementing partners and constitutes a joint funding mechanism for donors.
- The global mandate from UNGA on restoration and for FAO and UNEP to take responsibility for its implementation provides an opportunity for FAO and UNEP through the MPTF to provide the services to convene and coordinate key programmes and stakeholders together in a joint global movement.
- Relative to other funding mechanisms, there is a greater probability for effective use of funds and an increased probability of impact.
- There is full transparency, using a public on-line platform Gateway (see <http://mptf.undp.org/>) which contains real-time financial information, and results-based reporting.
- The overhead cost of the Trustee is low (1%).
- There is consolidated reporting of the entire Fund's operation.
- There are lower political and fiduciary risks to all stakeholders due to a transparent and accountable pooling of resources and risk sharing.

### **III. Programmatic Scope and Theory of Change**

The MPTF aims to bring about transformative change and demonstrated progress, ultimately resulting in ecosystem restoration on a large scale across the world and supporting the achievement of the Decade's vision. The structure of the MPTF, its Theory of Change and corresponding programme of work are derived directly from the strategy of the Decade.

The MPTF's design is built upon best practices from the UNSDG pass-through model, which provides the basis for allocating and managing multi-partner pooled funding and joint work. The Fund will consist of three main funding windows (described in the following sections), each with well-defined programme cycles (see following sections).

#### ***The Strategy of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration***

The overarching vision for the Decade is a world where – for the health and well-being of all life on earth and that of future generations – we have restored the relationship between humans and nature, by increasing the area of healthy ecosystems, and by putting a stop to their loss and degradation. The Decade’s Theory of Change is summarized in the diagram below.



## Figure 1. Theory of change for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The Fund – established and administered by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office – will be a tool for the implementation of core and strategic interventions of the Decade’s Strategy. These interventions will be guided by the core team in FAO and UNEP, together with partners. The assumption is that the interventions implemented by the core team will catalyse activities and investments to be taken by stakeholders at all levels, ultimately resulting in ecosystem restoration on a largescale across the world and supporting the achievement of the Decade’s vision and Goals. Further, the MPTF provides the opportunity to ensure the pooling of funding from multiple partners.

The Fund is aligned with the Strategy of the Decade and its theory of change (Figure 1), together with the Strategy for Communication for the Decade (Figure 2) underpinned by the principles of ‘New Power’<sup>7</sup>. It is designed to overcome the set of barriers of the Decade, addressing these as far as they are relevant for the Fund. Such barriers are inter-related and pertain to public awareness, social and cultural norms, economic systems, public and private investment, collaboration amongst stakeholders, technical knowledge and capacity, legal and policy frameworks and land tenure/resource rights.

---

<sup>7</sup> *“New Power”, a book by Henry Timms and Jeremy Heimans published in 2018, describes how social media and digital platforms can result in the formation of powerful self-sustaining movements of organisations and individuals that promote as well as implement transformational changes in societal mindsets. #FridaysForFuture and #MeToo are examples of such movements.*

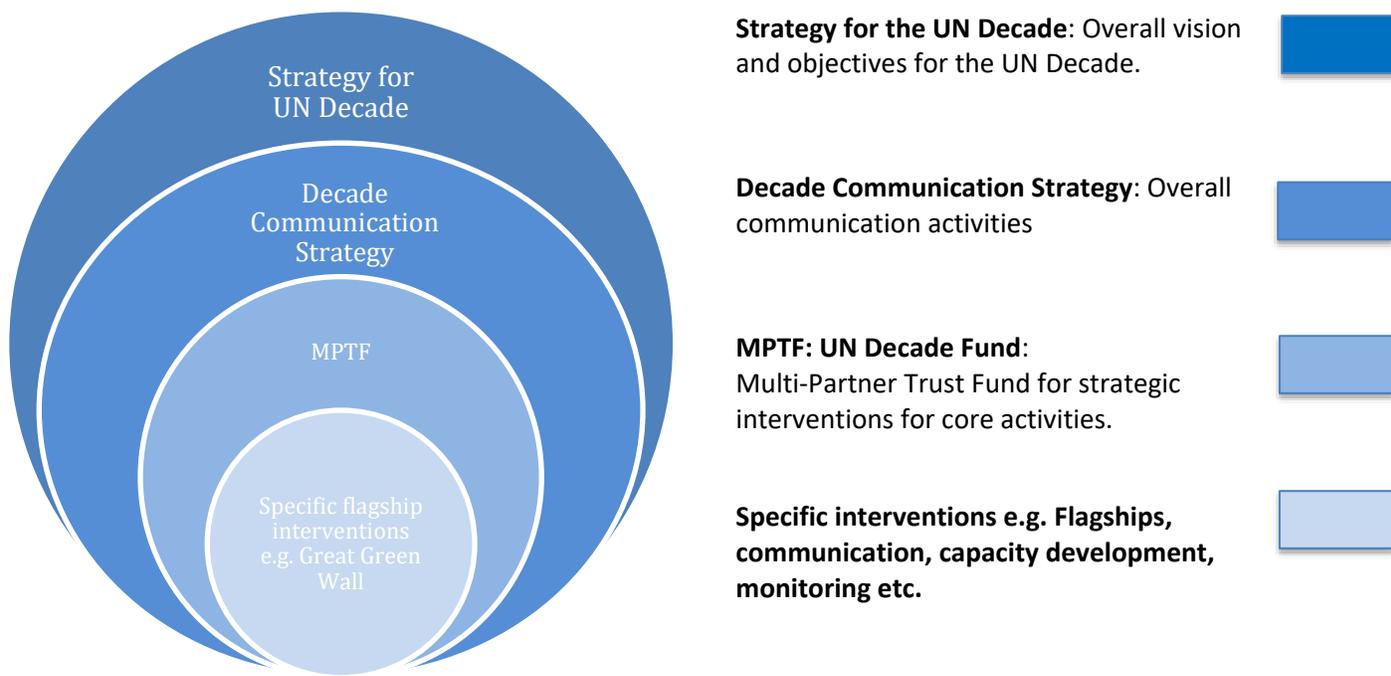


Figure 2. Relationships between the strategy for the UN Decade, the communication strategy for the UN Decade, the MPTF and the specific interventions.

An assumption underpinning the Decade’s strategy is that a movement for restoration and other investments in nature-based solutions is emerging within civil society groups (particularly youth groups), international and local NGOs, governments, and the private sector. The Fund will encourage, inform, build on and capitalize on this emerging movement, with the aim to strengthen capacity, understanding, political will and actions on the ground. In so doing, the Fund seeks to overcome the barriers described in the Decade’s Theory of Change, thereby catalysing major investments in the public and private sectors that lead to large-scale restoration and the achievement of the Decade's vision.

Importantly, the Fund is not designed to be a funding facility that finances all activities needed to implement the full strategy of the Decade; it will rather encourage and support strategic interventions, which contribute to an informed and coordinated movement for turning the tide of ecosystem degradation. It will seek to provide constructive avenues for actions and routes to overcome barriers.

The Fund as well as the Decade have a time horizon of ten years, with a built-in flexibility to seize opportunities as they occur and to focus on drivers for change through a demand-based approach. Detailed plans and results framework will be prepared for specific interventions and on an annual basis.

The major target groups for the Fund cut across the public and private sectors, as well as civil society. The focus will be on supporting agents for change within these groups and seek to move broader groups from being simply aware of the ecosystem degradation to the point of acting to implement restoration and scaling up existing successful efforts. This will be done partly through convening dialogues, providing information,

facilitating learning, and undertaking a coordination process at global, regional and national/local levels. New knowledge and guidance will also be provided through focused and in-depth geographic- and thematic-interventions within a selected number of Flagship programmes. Women and Indigenous people will be important target groups being responsible for large part of food production in developing countries and custodian of major part of the world's biodiversity.

The Decade and the MPTF will address most of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its associated UN Decade of Action, namely ending poverty, conserving biodiversity, combating climate change and improving livelihoods for everyone, everywhere. Indeed, efficient and sustainable ecosystem restoration, complemented by conservation of ecosystems, is uniquely positioned as an intervention that can make major contributions to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the world's agricultural areas, and its mountains, forests, wetlands, coastlines and oceans. Ecosystem restoration will in particular support Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15) by enhancing the quality and area of habitats for wildlife. These habitat improvements will in turn help societies mitigate and adapt to climate change (SDG 13), improve the health of societies in rural and urban environments (SDGs 3, 11), and increase the supplies of clean water (SDG 6) and sustainable food (SDG 2, 12). Investments in restoration that adhere to principles of gender equality and restorative justice will also provide and improve: work opportunities and income streams (SDGs 1, 8, 10, 16); achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5); and cross-sectoral collaboration, learning and innovation on the use of ecosystem goods and services (SDGs 4, 7, 9, 17).

### ***Theory of Change and results framework<sup>8</sup> – Achieving Impact***

Given the intersectoral nature of ecosystem restoration, the holistic Strategy and ToC of the Decade informs the Theory of Change/results framework for the Fund and its programmatic logic, from outputs and outcomes towards contributing to achieve the Goals and eventually the vision of the Decade for ecosystem Restoration is highlighted below:

**The Vision of the Decade:** A world where – for the health and wellbeing of all life on earth and that of future generations – we have restored the relationship between humans and nature, by increasing the area of healthy ecosystems and by putting a stop to their loss, fragmentation and degradation.

***The Fund will contribute to the 5-year goal: Countries and other stakeholders (including civil society and private sector) have established policies for and allocated resources to ecosystem restoration and interventions at scale are implemented worldwide.***

Over the lifespan of the Fund, key progress will be measured through achievement of the following **Outcomes**. Such Outcomes represent a subset of the pathways in the strategy:

- 1) **Outcome 1:** A global movement established and catalyzing ecosystem restoration initiatives, political will, exchange of knowledge and cross sectoral collaboration for ecosystem restoration

---

<sup>8</sup> Finalized Results Framework with indicators and a fully-fledged ToC to be approved by the EB.

**Indicator 1.1:** Number of stakeholder groups (government, private sector, civil society) that have exchanged knowledge via digital platforms and communities of practice

**Indicator 1.2:** Number of times good practices notes downloaded from digital platform

**Indicator 1.3:** Number of young people involved through engagement programmes

**Indicator 1.4:** Number of local actors with attention to involvement of women, kick start and scale successful restoration activities.

**Indicator 1.5:** Number of partner organisations and networks that promote the objective of the UN Decade

- 2) **Outcome 2:** Increased capacity and capability in private, public sector and civil society for policy reform, to catalyze investments and to access resources are resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship programmes

**Indicator 2.1:** Number of partner programmes with on the ground restoration actions being implemented

**Indicator 2.2:** Number of national policy and regulatory reforms and initiatives underway that promote ecosystem restoration within Flagships (Baseline: x, Target: x)

**Indicator 2.3:** Number of cross-governmental and/or cross-sectoral collaborative measures underway benefitting the goals for ecosystem restoration (Baseline:x, Target:x)

**Indicator 2.4:** Number of countries that are applying natural capital accounting in restoration planning and decision making

- 3) **Outcome 3:** Results documented and shared, through monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for ecosystem restoration

**Indicator 3.1:** Number of stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society measuring their biophysical and socio-economic progress and reporting regularly through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration (FERM).

**Indicator 3.2:** Percent annual change in area of ecosystems measured and reported through the FERM

**Indicator 3.3:** Volume of annual financial resources to ecosystem restoration reported through the FERM

**Indicator 3.4:** Number of restoration stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society applying science and technology to inform restoration actions and decision making.

Examples of **Outputs**, which could be implemented and contribute to achieving the Outcomes, are listed below. Technical assistance can be provided across outputs by the MPTF core partners:

- **OUTPUT 1.1:** Public, private and civil society stakeholders are equipped with knowledge on ecosystem restoration opportunities

- **OUTPUT 1.2:** Best practices for restoring ecosystems collected and showcased globally, to shift societal norms and perceptions
- **OUTPUT 1.3:** Good practices / guidelines collated and disseminated to users on ecosystem restoration technics and approaches
- **OUTPUT 1.4:** Cross-governmental and cross-sectoral dialogue take places and collaboration on ecosystem restoration supported
- **OUTPUT 1.5:** Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement
- **OUTPUT 1.6:** Global dialogues held involving Heads of State, and key national sector ministries (Finance, Planning and Development), private sector and civil society to champion ecosystem restoration opportunities
- **OUTPUT 1.7:** Major stakeholder and restoration programmes brought together within the Global Dialogue to identify critical initiatives for solutions
- **OUTPUT 1.8:** Technical studies produced and disseminated
  
- **OUTPUT 2.1:** Government and institutions capacity and capability on policy reforms that promote large-scale sustainable ecosystem restoration supported
- **OUTPUT 2.2:** Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives disseminated to ecosystem restoration practitioners globally and application supported in selected areas
- **OUTPUT 2.3:** National and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives (including Flagship programmes) implemented at scale and projects/programmes given access to international and /or private funding (e.g. Impact Funds, private sector NBS investments, LDNF, GCF etc.)
- **OUTPUT 2.4:** Online and face to face capacity building and knowledge sharing events on restoration technics and sustainable business models held with participation by stakeholders and partners involved in thematic/regional Communities of Practices on key restoration techniques and approaches
- **OUTPUT 2.5:** National/regional policy dialogues and/or regional/national inter-sectoral platforms facilitated
- **OUTPUT 2.6:** Guidelines, e-learning modules, good practices toolkits produced and made available; and targeted technical assistance provided for incubators/business accelerators
- **OUTPUT 2.7:** Reference data on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration made available within the framework of the Economics of Ecosystem Restoration database and other relevant systems to inform investors on ecosystem restoration business opportunities and to catalyze investments
  
- **OUTPUT 3.1:** Monitoring and reporting framework developed, tested and made available for restoring terrestrial and marine ecosystems globally – supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation

- **OUTPUT 3.2:** Annual reports on progress in ecosystem restoration using biophysical and socio-economic indicators and global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration produced and made available
- **OUTPUT 3.3:** A global community for restoration monitoring established, comprised of ecosystem experts to enable knowledge exchange and methodologies and to overcome ecosystem specific data, monitoring and reporting challenges
- **OUTPUT 3.4:** Case studies and knowledge products developed and made available on key ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development
- **OUTPUT 3.5:** Targeted monitoring support (capacity development / technology transfer) provided to UN Decade Flagships
- **OUTPUT 3.6:** Restoration stakeholders trained in use of science and technology to inform restoration actions and decision making.

To achieve the Outputs, several different activities will be implemented through the MPTF depending on the context, the demand and available funding.

Annex 4 lists indicative activities to be funded by the Fund.

As part of its Inputs, the Fund will support engagement with relevant stakeholders, convene technical expertise, develop guidance and standards and mobilize necessary financing and investments to deliver foreseen activities based on the broad global picture and upon individual regional/country contexts.

### ***Key principles***

The work of the MPTF will be guided by the following key principles:

- Adhere to the 4 objectives of the UN Cooperation Framework
- Apply innovative, inclusive and holistic solutions, in a cross-sectoral, cross-political and cross-border cooperation and with an open dialogue pertaining to *inter alia* results, successes, failures, new approaches and financing models.
- Ensure knowledge management and collection of lessons learning to the maximum extent.
- Ensure (where relevant) work is country-led and driven, operating in close consultation and collaboration with governments, as well as other key partners for lasting sustainable outcomes at country, regional and global levels.
- Align all work towards contributing to the objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Focus on achieving the impact goal and delivering tangible and sustainable results.
- Work in a collaborative partnership through the application of the pathways of the Decade's strategy.

- Combine immediate action and longer-term strengthening of evidence-based data, legal frameworks and policies.
- Ensure sufficient capacity building and sustainability of interventions.
- Make full use of institutional mandates, strengths and value-added activities across the participating UN agencies and other partners, without duplication, utilizing existing standards and initiatives, knowledge platforms, groups, panels, networks, lessons learned and South-South cooperation.
- Ensure that a gender and equity lens is applied in all work executed.
- Apply a human-rights based approach.
- Harness and build on credible data and analysis to monitor progress and impact at national, regional and global levels.
- Raise resources in a transparent and collaborative manner and ensure cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

### ***Assumptions***

The MPTF's expected outcomes and impact goal is dependent on the below list of non-exclusive assumptions:

- Ecosystems restoration remains a high-level political priority at global, regional and national levels,
- Resource partners are engaged and provide adequate financing throughout the lifespan of the MPTF.
- Countries and other stakeholders (including civil society and private sector) recognize the value of the pathways of change of the Decade's Strategy and commit to strengthen intersectoral collaboration, domestic resource allocation and communication.
- Capacity and capability are retained and sustained within national institutions.
- Political will and commitment exist to implement and sustain restoration.
- Good governance is prevalent in supported countries.
- National governments have or develop the capability to sustain necessary investments and take ownership of cross-sectoral information and evidence frameworks to generate data and inform policy.

## **IV. Governance Arrangements**

UNEP and FAO have proven records as neutral brokers for partner governments, businesses, financial institutions, and civil society and they have the needed broad-based, state of the art environmental expertise to ensure critical environmental and social risk frameworks for investors. Through their global, regional and national representations, they have a global reach and strong links with governments and financial institutions. This provides a valuable channel for communication. The wide range of activities on landscape restoration undertaken by UNEP and FAO, as well as their local insights and contacts are additional benefits for the programme. For example, FAO's Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, Sustainable Land Management Programme, Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform and contribution to Action Against Desertification initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) are well positioned to support countries to restore degraded landscapes with practices that restore a balance of ecological, social

and economic benefits. The global advocacy and communication role of UNEP will benefit the achievement of the Fund Outcomes, for example by linking to other platforms such as World Environment Day. Lastly, the UN Environment Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a leading reference in the field and will be drawn upon to provide technical financial guidance.

The governance arrangements for the MPTF are based on standard governance arrangements for pass-through MPTFs and UNSDG best practices.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Governance     | Executive Board<br>Advisory Board   |
| Administration | UN MPTF Office  |
| Implementation | Participating UN agencies (PUNOs):<br>FAO and UNEP), as well as any<br>relevant add. UN organizations |

### ***Executive Board***

The **Executive Board (EB)** will be responsible for the overall strategic guidance on the Fund and meets on a six-monthly basis. It will be composed of one representative from each of the two UN organizations (FAO, UNEP), one representative from each Donor/Resource Partner (contributing over 10 mi. USD), 1 donor representative for donor contributing below 10 mi. USD on yearly rotational basis and the UN MPTF Office (ex-officio). The EB will be chaired by one of the two UN organizations on an annual rotational basis and it will have Secretariat support (see next section). The representative of the participating organization that is serving as EB Chair will also designate an alternate Chair.

The EB will be able to call upon ad hoc expertise to provide insight to the MPTF, as necessary, drawing upon an Advisory Board (see below), existing platforms and networks of expertise on ecosystems restoration. Expertise could also be sought from relevant governments, civil society, academia, private sector, regional counterparts, resource partners and UN agencies or other entities, as deemed necessary. Depending on the request of the EB, such experts could participate in the EB meetings as observers.

The main functions of the EB will include:

- i. Providing general oversight and exercising overall accountability of the Fund in accordance with the MPTF’s Operational Manual;
- ii. Approving the strategic direction of the Fund through a multi annual investment plan;
- iii. Approving the Fund risk management strategy and regularly reviewing risk monitoring;

- iv. Reviewing and approving proposals submitted for funding; ensuring their conformity with the requirements of the MPTF Terms of Reference;
- v. Deciding the allocation of funds;
- vi. Requesting fund transfers to the Administrative Agent (signed off by UN member of the EB);
- vii. Reviewing Fund status and overseeing the overall progress against the results framework through monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- viii. Reviewing and approving the periodic progress reports consolidated by the Administrative Agent and the Secretariat based on the progress reports submitted by the Participating Organizations;
- ix. Commissioning mid-term and final independent evaluations on the overall performance of the Fund;
- x. Approving direct costs related to fund operations supported by the Secretariat;
- xi. Approving extensions and updates to the Terms of Reference for the Fund, as required;
- xii. Approving resource mobilization strategies to capitalize the Fund;
- xiii. Convening advisory expertise to provide insight to the EB on ad hoc basis.

### **Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board will be guiding the overall implementation of the Strategy for the UN Decade. The Advisory board will, as such, not be part of the Funds formal management structure. However, in addition to providing advice to the implementation of the overall Decade, it can provide technical sparring to the implementation of the Fund. It will provide technical feedback, feeding latest knowledge to the EB of the FUND. Themes covered by the Advisory Board will include *inter alia*: monitoring; communications and knowledge management; science and best practice; and finance. Importantly, strong linkages between the Advisory Board, the Decade’s core partner organisations, the Rio Conventions and other relevant UN conventions will be established.

### **Secretariat**

The Joint **Secretariat** has been entrusted with the coordination of the Fund. This Secretariat will be composed of dedicated staff from the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration core team in UNEP and FAO and will be tasked with supporting the Fund EB and overseeing the overall operations of the MPTF. The Secretariat will be co-located in Nairobi and will rely on staff from each of the organizations (FAO, UNEP), seconded staff and short-term advisers.

The detailed roles and functions of the Secretariat will be detailed in the Operational Manual of the MPTF and approved by the EB. Budget allocations<sup>9</sup> to cover the costs pertaining to the Secretariat will be approved by the EB and will be charged to the Fund’s account as direct costs, as part of Window 1 (see following sections). During implementation, these costs will be adjusted to: (i) align with recommended UNSDG

---

<sup>9</sup> See Funding Window 1 below.

guidelines and thresholds and, (ii) duly reflect the complexity and multi-stakeholder nature of the work on Ecosystems Restoration.

The Secretariat will provide coordination support for the following functions:

- i. Advising the EB on strategic priorities, programmatic and financial allocations in accordance with the MPTF's Operational Manual
- i. Providing planning, logistical and operational support to the EB;
- ii. Serving as the MPTF's central point of contact and liaises with other UN agencies and other related initiatives and stakeholders. This includes providing vital information for external partners, as well as liaising with existing and potential resource partners to mobilize necessary financing for the Fund;
- iii. As resources are available providing technical support for programme development and implementation to implementing organization;
- iv. Leading the drafting of the Operations Manual and risk management strategy in collaboration with the Participating Organizations and the MPTF Office;
- v. Organizing calls for proposals and convene the necessary technical expertise to appraise such proposals;
- vi. Developing and implementing resource mobilisation in accordance with approved strategies and in collaboration with staff from the Participating Organizations;
- vii. Ensuring the monitoring of projects as well as potential operational risks and overall performance of the Fund (i.e., facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the Fund, draft risk management strategy);
- viii. Consolidating annual and final narrative reports provided by the Participating Organizations and share with the EB for review as well as with Administrative Agent for preparation of consolidated narrative and financial reports;
- ix. Facilitating collaboration and communication between Participating Organizations to ensure that the MPTF's Theory of Change is implemented effectively;
- x. Promoting communication, advocacy and political engagement as well as spearheading communications with external partners regarding the Fund;
- xi. Liaising with the Administrative Agent on fund administration issues, including issues related to project/fund extensions and project/fund closure.

### ***The Administrative Agent***

The Administrative Agent Function will be performed by the MPTF Office in New York (<http://mptf.undp.org/>). The Administrative Agent will be entitled to allocate an administrative fee of one percent (1%) of the amount contributed by each resource partner, to meet the costs of performing the Administrative Agent's standard functions as described in the MOU. The Administrative Agent will conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Participating Organizations (FAO, UNEP) and Standard Administrative Arrangements (SAAs) with contributing partners.

In addition, the Administrative Agent is responsible for the following core functions:

- ❖ Support Fund design.
- ❖ Execute and coordinate all administrative and management functions including the receipt of grant contributions and piloting of the programming cycle.
- ❖ Oversee the design, development, and maintenance of an integrated platform for programme design, management, and reporting.
- ❖ Provide advice and recommendations on implementation performance and cash management.
- ❖ Ensure monitoring and control of operational risks (regularly update the risk monitoring matrix).
- ❖ Administer funds in accordance with the Fund regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.
- ❖ Transfer funds according to directives from the Chair of the Steering Committee.
- ❖ Provide donors with financial consolidated reports.

The AA provides real-time financial data feedback generated directly from its accounting system so partners and the general public can track contributions, transfers, and expenditures.

### ***The Participating UN Organizations***

The Participating UN Organizations include FAO and UNEP, who in turn will engage with other partners. FAO and UNEP will accept full financial and programmatic accountability for their programmes (developed jointly or individually) in accordance with their own rules and regulations and approved as per the programming cycles described below.

The Participating Organizations agree that no activities should be undertaken under the MPTF unless such activities are covered by appropriate arrangements and safeguards including with respect to privileges and immunities.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7 percent.

Should engagement with other UN organizations that can enter into agreements with the MPTF Office be deemed pertinent in the context of this Fund, necessary arrangements will be taken to include these agencies as key implementing partners. The EB can decide to include non-UN organizations (NUNOs) as Implementing Partners, however NUNO access must be approved by the UNDG Fiduciary Management Oversight Group (FMOG).

## **V. Fund Implementation**

The Fund includes the following three Windows:

**WINDOW 1 - Global Programme**

**WINDOW 2 - National or multi-country actions supported in selected countries (including Flagships)**

**WINDOW 3 - Monitoring, reporting and informing on worldwide progress on restoration**

Window 1 will fund global programmes and will build a global restoration movement that accelerates and upscales restoration initiatives and will fund the Decade's Secretariat and others, while Window 2 will fund strategic on-the-ground actions within Flagship programmes and will provide on demand targeted Technical Assistance to achieve Outcome 2. Activities in Window 2 will generate knowledge and awareness, provide tools and insights, establish networks and motivate drivers of change to contribute to a more mature environment for large-scale actions within the Flagship programmes and eventually at a wider global scale. In support of these enabling activities, Window 3 on Monitoring and reporting will provide documentation on the progress towards achieving the overall vision of the Strategy of the Decade, and thereby also provide feedback for assessing and discussing Fund activities and results. Window 3 will enable the monitoring of global and national progress on restoration, and the reporting of the contribution of ecosystem restoration to the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is expected that the insights and learning from the global, regional and national/local dialogues will translate into action by the participating institutions, governments, private sector, and civil society actors and will lead to models to incentivize cross-sectoral cooperation. The dialogues, together with a Digital Platform to be established under Window 1, are expected to provide insights to and deliver instruments for the Flagships programmes. In addition, they will be a channel for information exchange between the Flagships and the wider global restoration community.

A more detailed description of the funding windows is included below:

### ***Window 1: Global Programme***

This window will focus on turning insights and momentum into action, e.g. by providing the Decade and restoration community with a platform for discussion, learning, exchange of information, harnessing of networks and inspiring people to action. The Digital Platform will constitute a centerpiece of the Fund's interventions, providing a major tool for dissemination of information about ecosystem degradation and the costs for different parts of society. It will also highlight future development prospects and establish a catalogue of restoration cases, disseminating best practices, success stories and lessons learned from on-going cases. Opportunities to network, conduct webinars and share technical guidelines on how to approach ecosystem restoration for local groups as well as larger-scale interventions will be provided by the Platform. In addition, it will give a forum for direct discussion and exchange of experiences.

Together with a broader engagement towards social media, the intent is to nurse, inspire and amplify a broader movement, to activate, support and aggregate local restoration activities. Such activities will contribute to overcoming barriers related to awareness, to influence cultural and social norms e.g. on women's access to land, knowledge about how to start restoration, how to scale existing initiatives and with whom to partner. Joint action will be encouraged, networking will be facilitated and individuals as well as communities will be empowered to voice their demands in terms of having ecosystems restored, thereby holding their leaders accountable for providing healthy environments and maintaining functioning ecosystems for current as well as future generations. The Digital Platform will consequently constitute a powerful instrument for disseminating methods and knowledge for designing, implementing and sustaining ecosystem restoration initiatives to ecosystem restoration practitioners globally and Flagship programmes as well as for global and regional Dialogues.

As an additional focus, this window will support convening of cross-sectoral fora and networks to enhance knowledge-sharing, analysis of best practices, dialogues on lessons learned, dissemination of best practices, new research to address gaps. In so doing, it will incentivize and inspire coordinated action among all stakeholders, including a youth movement and women groups, for rapid implementation of large-scale high-quality ecosystem restoration.

In general, the window will allow for funding to flow to all needed global activities for the Decade, including the Secretariat and other technical global work.

**Global, regional and national/local dialogues:** Many new large-scale restoration initiatives are emerging across the world. These initiatives are, however, frequently fragmented, working within silos and at times competing for resources. There is, thus, increasingly an acknowledgment from a wide range of stakeholders that the challenges facing societies globally regarding ecosystem degradation, climate change, loss of biodiversity and associated negative impacts on livelihoods, migration, and conflicts require innovative and holistic solutions. Such solutions will need to be applied in cross-sectoral, cross-political and cross-border cooperation and with an open dialogue pertaining to inter alia results, successes, failures, new approaches and financing models.

The dialogues in this component, which will include terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, aim to overcome the above-mentioned barriers. The leverage of the Decade as a UN General Assembly joint global effort will bring together the major stakeholders and restoration programmes in dialogues focused on solutions. By bringing key players together across professional communities, interests, and countries, it is envisaged that the Decade will trigger new insights, cooperation and innovative solutions, and will establish an important sense of common purpose, thereby overcoming current fragmentation. The dialogues will be about broader policy and regulatory issues, but will also venture into specific themes.

Funding will also be made available for specific pieces of scientific and analytical work to improve understanding on specific issues and provide substantiated solutions. Furthermore, networks of major programmes and initiatives will be established to systematically analyse results and lessons learned to inform the joint dialogue at the Global or Flagship programme level.

Example of specific activities within this component include an annual Global Dialogue Forum held by the Global Landscape Forum, a Generation Restoration Youth Summit held alongside the Global Dialogue Forum, restoration success case studies, and a most innovative project award. Announcements will also be made annually for champion State for Restoration, civil society organization/initiative, private sector/financial agent/initiative. Furthermore, Regional/Flagship fora will be held to coordinate, to discuss approaches and priorities, results and lessons learned and to provide input into high-level political meetings such as the G20 and different Conference of Parties. The Global Landscape Forum will constitute at least one yearly meeting and reporting point. However, the Decade core team will also facilitate interventions during selected international fora such as the Conference of Parties for the Rio Conventions and other relevant events.

***Window 2. National or multi-country actions supported in selected countries (including Flagships)***

The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will at the country and regional level support action on the ground, including by working through Flagship programmes. Depending on the demand, the activities could span from simple advocacy for the Flagship to convening Flagship Dialogues, bringing large programmes and stakeholders together to discuss results, lessons learned and coordination. Activities could also encompass strategic gap filling, support for natural capital accounting, implementation of national adaptation plans, capacity building and awareness-raising on specific activities within a landscape or seascape. Thematic Flagship programmes (e.g. on an ecosystem such as mangroves, coral reefs, mountains, drylands or tropical forests) are likely to have a geographic focus, whilst geographic Flagship programmes (spanning a particular region) are likely to have a focus on a particular theme (see Annex 2 for flagship selection criteria, and Annex 3 for an example of a Flagship programme).

The Flagship programmes will enable the Fund to support interventions on the ground that have high global priority and visibility. It will leverage global attention and support the Flagships of particular political importance that have high restoration and learning value, and where there is both demand for and additional value from the Fund intervention. The aim will be for the Fund intervention to catalyse larger action and/or pursue partnerships. Furthermore, the Fund will provide support for the Flagship Dialogue process described above, and will support a few countries in strategic areas and in areas where important gaps exist, where interventions can catalyze scaling up of activities.

Flagship programmes will reflect different geographic regions and ecological themes, and will support implementation of the Rio Conventions. The four main foci for Flagships will be: 1) High value for biodiversity (focus on CBD objectives); 2) High value for carbon sequestration and/or reduced emissions (focus on UNFCCC objectives); 3) High value for ecosystem-based adaptation/resilience (focus on UNFCCC objectives) and 4) High value for livelihoods, resilience, and sustainable land management (UNCCD). Each Flagship programme will be selected based on specific criteria and expressed demands (See Annex 2 for criteria for selection).

The interventions at Flagship/country level will range from providing meeting points and coordination, to providing attention to a wider audience of the Flagship. Typically, interventions will be performed in partnerships. These could include policy and regulatory initiatives to create enabling conditions for investments, Public-Private Partnerships, pipeline preparation, matchmaking projects with investors, capacity development, concrete interventions on the ground within a landscape approach, and support to local communities through for example GLF Fora at a national level (known as GLFx) and empowerment of women and indigenous groups. Natural Capital Accounting at a national level will also be supported to provide a key instrument for valuing and demonstrating the value of restoration to governments and their populations. Further, seed funding will be made available to overcome barriers for large-scale restoration, such as the preparation of bankable business plans covering the full suite of environmental, social and economic benefits from restoration.

### ***Window 3: Monitoring, reporting and informing worldwide progress on restoration***

This window will focus on the development of a framework for monitoring and reporting the progress of the Decade, with an overall objective of contributing to the UN Secretary-General's reporting on the status of Decade and implementation to the UN General Assembly.

Worldwide progress on ecosystem restoration will be enhanced through the development of a *Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)*, to track the progress of efforts to restore degraded ecosystems on an unprecedented scale. The FERM will identify important indicators for measuring the progress of restoration efforts for all ecosystems through existing reporting frameworks.

The FERM will be developed alongside a *geospatial dissemination platform* that will provide restoration actors with up to date and detailed information across ecosystems and access to robust, up to date geospatial tools and technologies.

A variety of *capacity development* efforts are integrated throughout the Window on monitoring and reporting following the UN approach to develop capacity and transfer technology to decade stakeholders, institutions as well as individual restoration practitioners for long-term and sustained results.

The FERM indicators provide an opportunity to link existing *methodologies, cutting-edge technology, research* and development to enhance ecosystem restoration monitoring. The indicators will require a data driven approach enabled through a centralized online platform, such as [SEPAL](#) - cloud computing resources coupled with use of the innovative technology, that can serve as analytic engines for processing data to assess and monitor indicators in all ecosystems and across sectors.

Based on the FERM, an *Annual Report* on the progress of ecosystem restoration will be produced using biophysical and socio-economic indicators, inclusive of global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration and helping to inform decisions on what restoration action should be undertaken where for maximum biophysical and socio-economic impact

The window will leverage *science and technology* for informing restoration decision making at all scales and for all ecosystems. through user friendly tools and platforms that deliver the best available information to restoration practitioners for informing their actions.

A *Task Force on Monitoring* has been established, comprising 200 ecosystem restoration experts, to discuss and develop the FERM for monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Decade, including the scale and success of restoration efforts taking place globally. Member affiliation has been extended to government agencies, NGOs and academia, while also ensuring appropriate regional representation. This community will further advance and facilitate technology and innovation, through the continued collaboration with the private sector, to ensure that any gaps in restoration monitoring or underrepresented ecosystems are prioritized, and filled. The community will continue to evolve with the needs and shifting demands of the Decade.

The Monitoring window will provide targeted *support for monitoring and inspirational storytelling*, in support of UN Decade Flagships and restoration case studies. This support will aid in *visualizing large-scale restoration success*, through high-resolution satellite imagery.

## ***Programming Cycles***

Considering the MPTF's Theory of Change, an initial five-year costed Global Programme Document 2021-2026 and accompanying results framework will be developed by FAO and UNEP and will be approved by the EB. Biennial Workplans will be developed, highlighting the activities and costing inputs of each Participating Organization and will be approved by the EB in alignment with the strategic vision and approach outlined in the Global Programming Document (2021-2026). A separate costed Global Programme for the Secretariat costs will also be developed by FAO and UNEP and will be approved by the EB, thereby allowing for clear and transparent monitoring of those costs.

Based on the MPTF's expected results, an initial investment of USD 5 million is envisaged to initiate Window 1.

### FUNDING SCENARIOS<sup>10</sup>

| Level of Resources available | Funding requirements WINDOW 1<br>30 % | Funding requirements WINDOW 2<br>50 % | Funding requirements WINDOW 3<br>20 % | Number of eligible programmes |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$ 200 mi                    | \$ 60 mi                              | \$ 100 mi                             | \$ 40 mi                              | 30                            |
| \$ 100 mi                    | \$ 30 mi                              | \$ 50 mi                              | \$ 20 mi                              | 15                            |
| \$ 60 mi                     | \$ 18mi                               | \$ 30 mi                              | \$ 12 mi                              | 8                             |

Three financial scenarios are included for contribution of 60, 100 and 200 mi. USD. During the first year of existence the priorities and implementation plan of the Fund will be adapted to the mobilized funding. Interventions of the Fund will be expanded, as additional funding is mobilized.

Initially (before the official launch of the Fund and of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in early 2021) focus will be on securing funding from a few strategic partners/countries to provide the financial basis for operating the fund and to build a coalition of committed partners, which will have high profile in initiation of the Fund.

Building on the initial support and after the official launch of the Fund, a broader fund mobilization will be initiated by FAO and UNEP. It is furthermore expected that the UN MPTF secretariat will facilitate fund mobilization through its network.

<sup>10</sup> The distribution of budget in the table is indicative. The final distribution of funding will be decided by the EB.

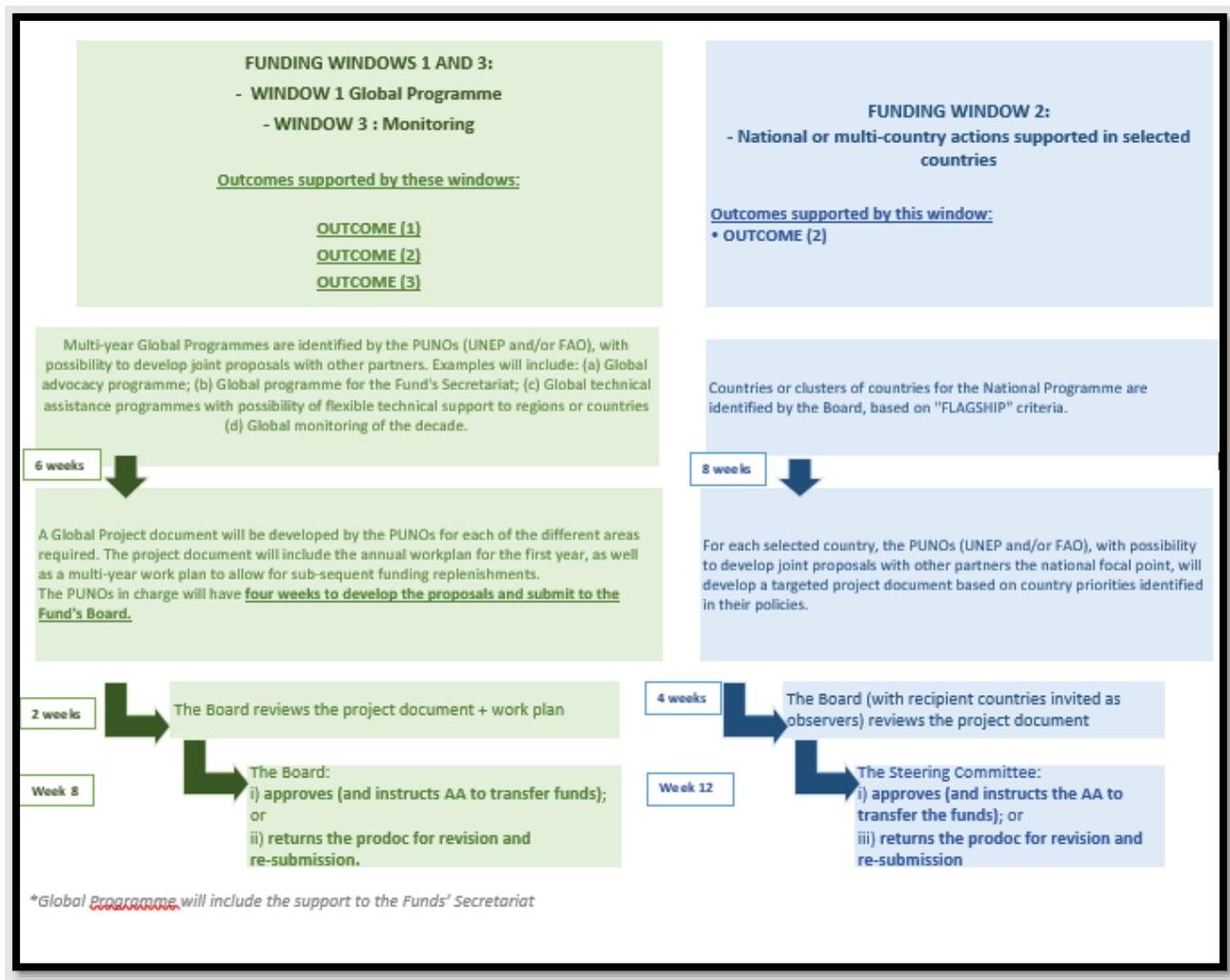
Further, to support multi-country or country actions in the most adequate manner, the Programming Cycle under Window 2 will be activated once the capitalization of the Fund exceeds the threshold of USD 5 million.<sup>11</sup>

Allocation of funding for the Window 2 Programming Cycle will be decided by the EB based on specific Programme documents. Such documents can be prepared with seed funding from the Global Programme Cycle and can be submitted to the EB jointly by the UNEP/FAO or by an individual Participating Organization (UNEP or FAO) with an Implementing partner (further to consultation with Secretariat), depending on the specific country or multi-country scenario. Many programmes could include elements from all three windows. In the case of joint Programme proposals, FAO and UNEP will agree on the lead Organization entrusted with coordinating the preparation of the programme document. All Programme Documents will be based on the principle of national ownership and leadership; furthermore, they will be prepared in support of national priorities.

The programming cycles are summarized in the following chart:

---

<sup>11</sup> *The EB may reconsider this threshold in exceptional circumstances.*



## Risk management

A risk management strategy will be developed by the Secretariat and will take into account the nature of risks in relation to the implementation of the Decade's Strategy. It will define the MPTF's risk tolerance, establish policies in relation to identified risks, and determine the risk treatment through risk mitigation measures or adaptation. This strategy will consider the Programming Cycles for all the funding Windows (1, 2 and 3). Risk monitoring will be done by the Secretariat as part of their regular reporting. Key mitigation or adaptation measures taken in accordance with the risk management strategy and their direct influence on achieving the expected results will be highlighted.

## VI. Contributions to the Fund

To help ensure maximum flexibility and adaption to national priorities, resource partners are strongly encouraged to provide contributions to the MPTF as multi-year, non-earmarked contributions. If due to specific resource partner requirements non-earmarked contributions are not feasible, resource partners may

earmark their contributions to a specific theme or geographical area. The earmarking will be reflected in the Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Contributions to the MPTF can be made by development and resource partners, international financial institutions, foundations and other non-state actors. The Fund will also consider innovative financing sources.

To contribute to the MPTF, resource partners will sign a Standard Administrative Arrangement. Financial contributions to the MPTF may be accepted in fully convertible currency or in any other currency that can be readily utilized. Such financial contributions will be deposited into the bank account designated by the MPTF Office, as stated in the Standard Administrative Arrangement. The value of a contribution payment, if made in a currency other than US dollars, will be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment.

Acceptance of funds from the private sector will be guided by criteria stipulated in the UN system-wide guidelines on cooperation between the UN and the Business Community. The receipt of financing from private sector companies is subject to UNDP’s risk assessment tool for the assessment and approval of funding from non-state actors. Notwithstanding the forgoing, there shall be no engagement with the tobacco or arms industry in connection with the MPTF. Prior to accepting any contribution from a private sector entity, all signatories to the MOU will be consulted by the Administrative Agent. The approval will be given on a non-objection basis within two weeks of the submission of the request to the Participating Organizations by the Administrative Agent.

## **VII. Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation**

### ***Narrative and financial reporting***

The responsibilities related to reporting are gathered and detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Arrangements.

All Participating Organizations will provide annual and final reports on activities and expenditures per a common format and in conformity with UNSDG guidelines for pass-through funds. The reporting template, based on the UNDG standard, will be developed by the Secretariat and approved by the EB. Based on the reports received from the Participating Organizations, the Secretariat will prepare a consolidated narrative report and the Administrative Agent will consolidate the narrative report with the consolidated financial report.

The consolidated narrative and financial report will be submitted to all Contributors to the MPTF and its EB, as per the schedule established in the Standard Administrative Arrangement.

### ***Funding Windows 1 and 3 (Global Programming Cycle)***

Monitoring and Evaluation activities funded under the Windows 1 and 3 shall be undertaken in accordance with the Global Programme Documents (to be approved by the EB), and the related work plans. An evaluation of the Global Programme – at Fund level – shall be undertaken within the initial period 2021-2026 in accordance with the guidance from the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG), focused on attributing impact

and results as per the Theory of Change. Participating Organizations will share information and progress updates on accomplishments achieved, as well as undertake joint monitoring and evaluation, where appropriate.

### ***Funding Window 2 (Country and Multi-Country Cycle)***

Window 2 activities are monitored against the respective programme documents (to be approved the EB), workplans and corresponding results-based frameworks. Depending on the size of such programmes, country-level evaluations may be required.

## **VIII. Accountability, transparency and public disclosure**

### ***Accountability***

Each implementing partner will provide the Secretariat and the MPTF Office with annual and final narrative reports, as well as financial statements in accordance the legal agreements signed with the Administrative Agent.

The Administrative Agent and implementing partners will be audited in accordance with their organizational financial regulations and rules and, in the case of UN Participating Organizations, with the Framework for Joint Internal Audits of UN Joint Activities, which has been agreed to by the Internal Audit Services of Participating UN Organizations and endorsed by the UN Development Group (now called UNSDG) in 2014.

### ***Transparency***

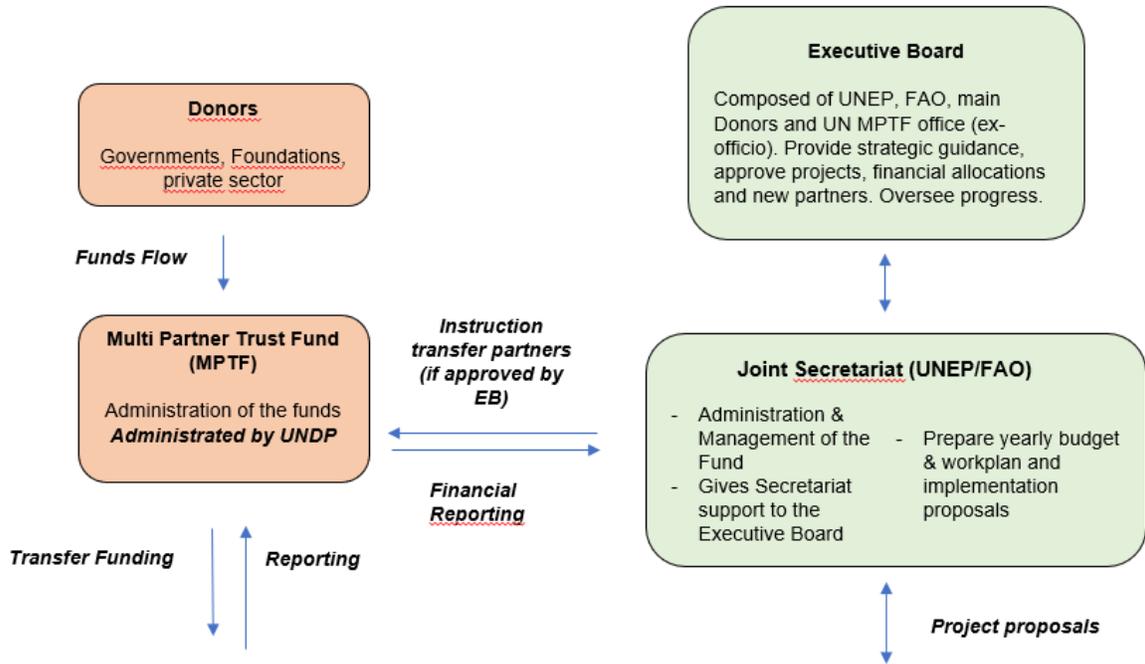
The MPTF Office website, Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>), is a web-based service portal that provides real-time financial data issued directly from the UNDP accounting system. Once established, the MPTF will have a separate page in the Gateway portal which will allow partners and the public at large to track the Fund's contributions, transfers and expenses, as well as access important documents and reports.

## **IX. Modification and Expiration of the MPTF**

The EB will be able to modify any of the provisions of the MPTF's Terms of Reference, including the duration of the Fund. The Fund will have an initial duration of five years. Should the Fund not be capitalized within the first two years, the Administrative Agent, after consultation with the EB, reserves the right to close the Fund.

Any remaining balance in the Fund's account and separate accounts of the implementing partners after the closure of the Fund will be used for a purpose established by the EB and the resource partners, or it will be reimbursed to the resource partner(s) in proportion to their contribution to the Fund, as decided by the Contributor and the EB.

# Annex 1: Governance structure



**Implementing Partners: UNEP and FAO, other UN Agencies and IGOs, NGOs, Development financing institutions, etc.**

*All implementing partners to be approved by Executive Board and accredited by MPTF Office. Programming cycle (proposal proposals to the Executive Board) can be initiated by Implementing Partners, if UNEP and FAO support the proposal.*

## Annex 2: Criteria for selection of Flagships

### **Geographic or Thematic Restoration Flagships will be the organizing principle for the Fund's interventions on the ground.**

The Fund will at the country and regional level work support the scaling up of dedicated Flagship programmes through a range of targeted interventions, including communication, facilitation, knowledge generation, capacity building and other technical support. The Flagship programmes will either have a specific geographic focus, or a thematic focus, or both. Depending on the country and stakeholder demand, and on donor priorities within the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the interventions to support Flagship programmes could range from simple advocacy and global promotion to convening dialogues that bring together large programmes and stakeholders to discuss results, lessons learned and coordination. It could also range from strategic gap-filling (e.g. raising seed money for new or under-funded projects) to specific in-country or regional support, with specific analysis and capacity building (e.g. move towards natural capital accounting; implementation of national adaptation plans; capacity building and awareness-raising for innovative restoration techniques and approaches; and funding restoration activities on the ground within a Flagship land/seascape).

Flagships will enable UNEP and FAO, and their partners, through the MPTF to focus on selected interventions, and at the same time, to make the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration tangible and inspiring for a global movement. The Flagships should represent an important restoration issue, in terms of political importance, be representative and have wider learning and restoration potential and scalability. UNEP and FAO interventions could facilitate coordination, learning, scaling and bring more attention to the issue; they should also be strategic and innovative in nature and have the potential for triggering transformational change and/or scalability.

Initially, the focus will be on a few Flagships and will expand as demand occurs. Flagships will be selected based on the criteria below.

Individual Windows and separate project cycles and financial flows will be established for each individual Flagship, as they are identified, and funding secured.

#### **Criteria for selection of Flagship programmes:**

- Global and/or regional significant political and/or restoration issue.
- High value for biodiversity (focus on CBD objectives)
- High value for carbon sequestration and/or reduced emissions (focus on UNFCCC objectives)
- High value for ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction (focus on UNFCCC objectives)
- High value for livelihoods, including water services, resilience, and sustainable land management (focus on UNCCD objectives)
- Flagships that cover more than one of the Rio Convention key objectives will receive preference
- Relevant for implementation of the Strategy for the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration
- Restoration potential and for triggering transformation and scaling – global, regional and national levels
- Potential for innovation and learning
- Demand from regional and/or national institutions, and national Government(s)
- The documented comparative advantage of Decade partners' interventions and support
- Visibility to the Decade
- Decade support has a high probability for creating results and impact
- Decade support will increase the potential for mobilizing funding

- Contribution to the SDGs

## Annex 3: Example of a Flagship

### Support to the large-scale restoration of Africa's Great Green Wall – A Flagship Programme under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

*This is a concrete example for a Flagship under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the UN Decade. Other flagships, based on the criteria in Annex 2, could include thematic flagships on: mangroves; peatlands/wetlands; coastal and marine ecosystems; biodiversity; implementation of the Post-2020 Global Framework; or other regional programmes. Flagships will be elaborated upon based on country and stakeholder demand and donor interest.*

#### Background

The Sahel region has enormous potential and abundant resources but faces security, institutional, governance and economic challenges that impede progress towards lasting peace and sustainable development. Climate change and ecosystem degradation are further threatening the development and security in the region. There is considerable evidence showing that "rising temperatures, soil erosion, deforestation, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, groundwater salinity, as well as limited adaptability of human activity to climate change"<sup>12</sup> are greatly exacerbating the existing challenges.

Recent assessments by UNEP have demonstrated that changes in the regional climate are already affecting natural resources essential to livelihoods, as well as food security. These changes, combined with social, economic and political factors, are pushing "migration and conflict."<sup>13</sup> Untangling all the factors involved is difficult. There are complex interactions, for example, between inter-communal, natural-resource based conflict, extremism, and governance.<sup>14</sup> A prime example of the outcome of these interactions is the recent surge in Sahel herder-farmer conflicts which has been identified as "arising from climate change" and is acknowledged as "one of the region's most pressing security challenges."<sup>15</sup>

In response to challenges facing the Sahel region, the United Nations has recalibrated its Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and developed a support plan to coordinate UN work. The UN has pledged to: **1.** Prioritize attention to cross-border actions and solutions; **2.** Expand and deepen partnerships, local and external; **3.** Be guided by the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas for sustainable development, which constitute the foundation of peace, security, and prosperity; and **4.** Promote urgent investments in priority areas to help stabilize foundations for peace.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> "Deputy Secretary-General Says the Sahel Must Be among 'Key Entry Points' for United Nations Progress towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals", 16 December 2019, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/dsgsm1381.doc.htm>

<sup>13</sup> *Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel*, UNEP, IOM and CILSS, 2011

<sup>14</sup> *Stabilizing the Sahel: livestock as a driver of regional integration*, Catherine Simonet and Elizabeth Carabine, forthcoming

<sup>15</sup> Deputy Secretary-General's remarks on the situation in the Sahel Sept 2019

<sup>16</sup> "Deputy Secretary-General Says the Sahel Must Be among 'Key Entry Points' for United Nations Progress towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals", 16 December 2019, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/dsgsm1381.doc.htm>

### **The relevance of ecosystem restoration to the Sahel**

As noted above, degradation of ecosystems is central to many of the Sahel region's problems. Nature-based solutions, including ecosystem restoration, will be necessary to address the acute stresses facing many parts of this region.

The Great Green Wall is an **African Union** initiative launched in 2007, which seeks to help Africa's drylands people to build resilience and prosperity by sustaining and restoring agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems. It is currently endorsed by over 20 countries and aims to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification, and transform the lives of millions of people through **large-scale restoration** across North Africa, the Sahel and recently extended to Southern Africa.

Planning, coordination and implementation of the GGW programme is supported by national designated agencies and units, and by several projects and players. However, despite the high-level commitment of the GGW countries and partners, the actual implementation efforts are not yet matching the needs of concerned populations, nor the ambition set by the GGW Initiative to address big challenges of restoring large tracts of degraded land and building the resilience of local communities to climate change. Country-level coordination agencies and infrastructures still lack technical capacities and are unable to mobilize needed investments, to make a meaningful restoration impact at an appropriate geographic scale. Much more can be done to ensure that agro-sylvo-pastoral systems are improved, and producers can effectively develop resilient, sustainable livelihoods through increasing their productivity in the Sahelian landscapes and through accessing markets for the goods produced.

There is an increasing realization that solutions to many of the challenges within the Great Green Wall initiative require an integrated approach across sectors, which breaks down the silos of environment, humanitarian, development, and peace and security communities. Several new political and funding initiatives focus on the integration of Climate, Natural Resources, Migration, and Conflict. These initiatives all recognise that large-scale ecosystem restoration and development of livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural resources are key elements to mitigate some of the problems facing the Sahel and Horn of Africa. Such activities are central to what will be achieved and promoted by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

#### **Rationale:**

A concerted effort is required to help regional partners, national governments, and communities to adapt to the stresses imposed by climate change and ecosystem degradation in a context of regional insecurity. Major investments are needed to restore degraded lands, ensure sound management of water resources, and facilitate a shift towards economic systems and livelihoods that will be sustainable in a significantly warmer climate. The Great Green Wall already provides substantial evidence that large scale restoration work can promote environmental recovery, improve livelihoods, and increase regional cooperation.

---

## The UN's comparative advantage

Desertification and land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss are challenges that require an urgent integrated response. FAO estimated in 2016 the extent of the core area of the GGW for the Sahara and the **Sahel to be 780 million hectares**, with about 21%, an equivalent of 166 million hectares, of agro-sylvo-pastoral lands that are needing ecosystem restoration interventions.

FAO has over the past five years supported rural communities in the Sahel to implement large scale land restoration within the GGW that focusses on increasing income streams and building climate resilience. An approach of agro-sylvo-pastoral land restoration has been developed which is having considerable economic benefits as a result of new income streams from natural resources. This approach targets, in particular, the large numbers of youth and women in the region that in need of employment opportunities. Lessons learnt and results from this successful approach have been summarized in a practitioner manual on *Restoration in action against desertification*<sup>17</sup>. The approach is highly adaptable and provides a cost-efficient blueprint for upscaling ecosystem restoration in the Sahel.

With the mandate from the General Assembly, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and its Multi-Partner Trust Fund, can provide leverage and visibility to the ambitious Great Green Wall effort. Further the Fund will provide virtual as well as in-person meetings points for *inter alia* coordination, learning, networking, dialoguing, and presenting results from the many initiatives, directly and indirectly, supporting the Great Green Wall. Furthermore, the Fund can provide gap-filling as well as support for innovative solutions on the ground.

The UN and its specialized institutions have the necessary mechanisms to restore these degraded lands. Moreover, recent implementing successes of the GGW **on the ground** show that major upscaling is possible. FAO has a country representation in each of GGW countries and has been a longstanding technical partner of the GGW initiative since its launch in 2007. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification has an Africa regional office and focal points in the Sahel countries, and its Global Mechanism has been contributing to the GGW programme in various capacities. UNEP has both its HQ and its Africa Regional office in Nairobi and contributes to the programme in various capacities – not least through environmental assessments and through its environmental networks and partners.

The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration co-leads, UNEP and FAO, bring technical expertise and experience which can guide governments, UN partners and IFIs in the effective development and scale-up of ecosystem restoration. UNEP is already working on an analysis of environment-related risks to peace in the Sahel with field-based entities, including the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the World Bank, UN Resident Coordinators, and UNDP. This work, which combines analysis of environmental trends with field-based efforts to identify viable solutions, provides an important platform for highlighting how ecosystem restoration can promote environment, development, peace and security objectives.

### Potential intervention and results – transformative and scalability perspective:

*Coordinate, convene and exchange lessons*

---

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA6932EN>

1. Act on and coordinate a one-UN response for the Great Green Wall.
2. Advocate and raise the profile of the GGW globally.
3. Support coordination between stakeholders, by providing a platform for dialogue and exchange of information through a Digital Platform and GLF regional meetings.
4. Engage with UN peace and security entities, donors and IFIs to promote investment in ecosystem-based policies for Sahel stability.

*Develop tools, provide analysis and innovative approaches and nature-based solutions*

5. Undertake field-based integrated environmental assessments in three Sahel countries/regions.
6. Prepare science-based policies for ecosystem restoration in the Sahel, led by UN entities and regional partners, in consultation with UN peace operations, Resident Coordinators, ECOWAS.
7. Deliver environmental analyses and sustained environmental policy support to UN peace operations, RCs, governments, and regional entities.
8. Highlight the potential of nature-based solutions to promote peace and development in a priority region, by providing analysis, tools and guidelines and education activities.

*Support investments on the ground*

9. Promote greater, sustained investment in ecosystem restoration in the Sahel, including by IFIs.
10. Build an evidence base and analyse lessons learned regarding ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions in fragile contexts (this could be accompanied by the introduction of natural capital accounting to the Sahelian countries).
11. Support interventions (e.g. project design and fund-raising) for large impact projects.

*Communication*

12. Develop and globally promote a new narrative for the Sahel, to prepare the ground for increased public and private investments into the region and into forest and landscape restoration in particular.

UNEP and FAO will promote forward-looking, climate adaptive approaches to regional problems that are informed by analyses of environmental trends and stresses and their interaction with socio-economic and political pressures. They will work with local partners to identify solutions that are grounded in local realities, supported by regional partners. This integrated approach, which draws on existing relationships with development, peace and security entities, has significant potential to promote ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and restoration in the Sahel.

## Annex 4: List of indicative activities of the fund across all windows

- Establish and engage the Decade’s core partners and networks, including the Rio Conventions, and form alliances to catalyse ecosystem restoration globally.
- Establish and maintain the Decade’s digital platform – to facilitate the formation of a global movement on ecosystem restoration.
- Design and launch communication initiatives – focussing on social, behaviour, and policy advocacy to promote and support the Decade's objectives.
- Within themes and/or flagships areas develop and publish “call to action” on the hub for individuals, governments, corporates and NGOs to contribute to Decade.
- Create a platform on the Digital Hub for individuals and organisation to establish virtual communities that can develop their own calls to action.
- Leverage key events, global moments, and celebration days to advance the Decade's objectives.
- Annual activities undertaken to highlight and showcase successful nature-based solutions initiatives, promote restoration champions, and spur dialogue on necessary actions for upscaling restoration at local and global scale.
- Generate and disseminate a dynamic, regularly updated compendium of knowledge on how to upscale restoration in land and marine ecosystems globally.
- Equip local actors, particularly youth groups, with the starter kit, knowledge, tools, and resources to kick-start and scale successful restoration activities.
- Support knowledge management and public advocacy initiatives to influence governmental policies and business practices.
- Support selected cross-governmental, cross-sectoral and inter-generational collaboration on ecosystem restoration at global, regional and national level. This includes hosting dialogues on trade-offs and benefits of ecosystem restoration using online platforms, webinars, communities of practise, radio etc.
- Conduct cross-governmental and -sectoral global, regional and national dialogues to catalyse ecosystem restoration initiatives. This could include broader policy and regulatory issues, but also specific themes. For example, dialogues on agriculture subsidy reforms, innovative financial models, PES, natural capital accounting, and links between restoration, adaption, livelihoods and when relevant security.
- Within Flagships work with multidisciplinary teams to prepare cases for ecosystem restoration including PPPs. Identify bankable largescale ecosystem restoration projects, assist ecosystem restoration practitioners and prepare bankable business plans and facilitate matchmaking with investors.
- Provide targeted support to incubators / business accelerators through dissemination of guidelines/e-learning modules/ good practices toolkits / targeted technical assistance from the MPTF.

- Support national governments in Policy and Legal Reforms including taxes, subsidies and other incentives, as well as secure access to land/land and water tenure that facilitate and incentivize ecosystem restoration and conservation at scale.
- Support in-depth analyses of case studies on large-scale ecosystem restoration globally, including successes and failures, to identify critical factors leading to success.
- Support development and application of natural capital accounting
- Establish a targeted Technical Assistance Facility (Mechanism) within the framework of the MPTF to support both policy dialogues and inter-sectoral platforms (national/regional), preparation of bankable projects on ecosystem restoration and implementation of Flagship programmes.
- Establish thematic and regional Communities of Practices on key ecosystem restoration technics and approaches and provide financial/technical support to the organization of (i) online and face to face capacity building events/webinars on restoration technics and sustainable business models and (ii) knowledge sharing events such as market places, investment fora, study tours, thematic/regional workshops, scientific conferences etc.
- Collate and disseminate to relevant users at all scales (global/regional/national and local) good practices/guidelines on ecosystem restoration technics and approaches for all priority ecosystems.
- Generate a reliable database on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration e.g. within the framework of The Economic of Ecosystem Restoration initiative (TEER) or other relevant systems to better inform investors on ecosystem restoration business opportunities and to better catalyze investments from private sector.
- Establish the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) in support to the Decade.
- Establish and maintain a FERM geospatial dissemination platform.
- Develop capacity and transfer technology enabling decade stakeholders, governments and institutions to respond to and use the FERM.
- Based on the best-available science and technology identify technical solutions to enable Decade stakeholders to inform, make decisions, monitor and report their restoration actions.
- Generate an annual report on progress in ecosystem restoration, using biophysical and socio-economic indicators, and inclusive of global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration.
- Actively transform information on progress in restoration into global/regional discussions, highlighting of success and problem areas, and potential adjustments of focus areas, priorities and methodologies.
- Identify data and information gaps in restoration monitoring which limit the tracking of ecosystem health, degradation, and restoration. The monitoring of identified ecosystems will be advanced through research and development, involving academia and restoration practitioners.
- Develop a set of ecosystem restoration protocols, tools and training mechanisms for specific landscapes and seascapes. These will include the design, implementation and sustainability of the interventions, and will focus on achievement of ecosystem restoration standards and targets.
- Maintain the Task Force on Monitoring (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb0424en/cb0424en.pdf>) and continue to leverage ecosystem, science and technology expertise in support to the Decade.

- Develop and maintain a community of practice around monitoring ecosystem restoration leveraging multi-disciplinary expertise in support of the Decade.
- Hold an annual forum to advance elements of restoration monitoring and fill identified gaps and needs to advance the global restoration movement.
- Support the visualization of large-scale restoration success, through innovative and high-resolution satellite imagery. Support matchmaking between project and investment through the creation of a pipeline of sustainable restoration investment ideas.
- Monitor and track investments from both public and private sources and measure on the ground impact of such investments in both ecological function and socioeconomic terms, where possible.