PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

Leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030: A Multi-Partner Trust Fund

PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

<table>
<tr>
<td>Programme Title:
Leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030: A Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)</td>
<td>Recipient Organizations
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Programme Partner(s):\
Partners | UN Decade on Restoration</td>
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<td>Programme Country: Global</td>
<td>Programme Location (provinces or priority areas): Global</td>
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<td>Programme Description: 5-8 sentence describing the programme's scope and focus.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (the "UN Decade") is designed to inspire a global movement in support of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. This document proposes a five-year global Multi-Partner Trust Fund (the "5- year programme") led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The 5-year programme will be a financial vehicle embedded in and contributing to the wider and overarching UN Decade. It will focus on enabling activities and directing support to countries and partners. The specific actions proposed within the 5-year programme will fall under the larger scope of activities of the UN Decade.</td>
<td>Total Cost (including estimated financial needs):
USD 50 million

Breakdown of Total allocated Cost by PUNO:
<table>
<tr><th>Name of PUNOs</th><th>UN Agency allocations (USD)</th></tr>
<tr><td>UNEP</td><td>25,000,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>FAO</td><td>25,000,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>50,000,000</td></tr>
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<td>Start Date: January 2021

End Date: December 2025
Total duration (in months): 60 months</td>
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Recipient UN Organization United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Name of Representative: Mirey Atallah Head, Nature for Climate Branch, UNEP *Signatu* *Date:* 14/10/2022	**Chair/Co-chair, Executive Board Member** Name: Tiina Vähänen Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO *Signature:* *Date:* 14/10/2022
Recipient UN Organization Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Name of Representative: Tiina Vähänen Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO *Signature:* *Date:* 14/10/2022	

Budget tables: Implementing modalities (Global, Full and Targeted support)

Modality 1: Global Support

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	GLOBAL SUPPORT (ATLAS 00130751)		
	UNEP	FAO	Total
	USD	USD	USD
1. Staff and other personnel	3,883,815	5,120,267	9,004,082
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	170,676	-	170,676
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	85,338	85,338	170,676
4. Contractual services	1,706,756	-	1,706,756
5.Travel	553,575	426,689	980,263
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	867,032	853,378	1,720,410
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	708,304	1,489,822	2,198,126
Total Direct Costs	**7,975,494**	**7,975,494**	**15,950,988**
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	558,285	558,285	1,116,569
TOTAL Costs	**8,533,779**	**8,533,779**	**17,067,558**

Modality 2: Targeted Support

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	TARGETED SUPPORT (ATLAS 00130752)		
	UNEP	FAO	Total
	USD	USD	USD
1. Staff and other personnel	1,006,420	1,341,893	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-	-	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	-	-	
4. Contractual services	1,006,420	-	
5.Travel	167,737	167,737	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	670,947	1,341,893	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	283,741	283,741	
Total Direct Costs	**3,135,265**	**3,135,265**	**6,270,530**
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	219,469	219,469	438,937
TOTAL Costs	**3,354,734**	**3,354,734**	**6,709,467**

Modality 3: Full Flagship support

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	FLAGSHIP SUPPORT (ATLAS 00130753)		
	UNEP	FAO	Total
	USD	USD	USD
1. Staff and other personnel	3,976,687	5,244,595	9,221,282
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	214,539	295,008	509,547
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	413,894	262,230	676,124
4. Contractual services	3,831,046	-	3,831,046
5.Travel	1,379,177	786,689	2,165,866
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	1,825,417	5,244,595	7,070,012
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	612,967	420,609	1,033,577
Total Direct Costs	**12,253,727**	**12,253,727**	**24,507,454**
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	857,761	857,761	1,715,522
TOTAL Costs	**13,111,488**	**13,111,488**	**26,222,976**
Modality 1: Global Support	**8,533,779**	**8,533,779**	**17,067,558**
Modality 2: Targeted Support	**3,354,734**	**3,354,734**	**6,709,467**
Modality 3: Full Flagship support	**13,111,488**	**13,111,488**	**26,222,976**
GRAND TOTAL PROGRAMME	**25,000,000**	**25,000,000**	**50,000,001**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
E&S	Environmental and Social
EB	Executive Board
ECCA	Europe Caucasus and Central Asia
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
ESVD	Ecosystem Services Valuation Database
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FERM	Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring
FOLUR	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration
G20	Group of Twenty
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
MPS	Mountain Partnership
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts
ICRAFT	International Council for Research in Agroforestry
IFC PS	International Finance Corporation Performance Standards IFC PS
ILO	International Labor Organization
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IRP	International Resource Panel
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDN	Land degradation neutrality
LDNF	Land Degradation Neutrality Fund
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSPs	Multi-Stakeholder Platforms
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NBS	Nature-based solutions
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TRI	The Restoration Initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEEA	Systems of Environmental Economic Accounting
SEPAL	System for Earth observations, data access, Processing& Analysis for Land Monitoring
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	Terms of reference

TOC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-FI	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WEF	World Economic Forum
WRI	World Research Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. Programme data

Programme title:
Leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030: A Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

Country / countries of implementation:
Global / Developing country focus

Start and end dates:
December 2021 to December 2025

2. Overview of the UN Decade and Context

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (the "UN Decade") is designed to inspire a global movement in support of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. This document proposes a five-year global Multi-Partner Trust Fund (the "5-year programme") led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **The 5-year programme will be a financial vehicle embedded in and contributing to the wider and overarching UN Decade.** It will focus on enabling activities and directing support to countries eligible for official development assistance according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC). The specific actions proposed within the 5-year programme will fall under the larger scope of activities of the UN Decade, as demonstrated in figure 1 below.

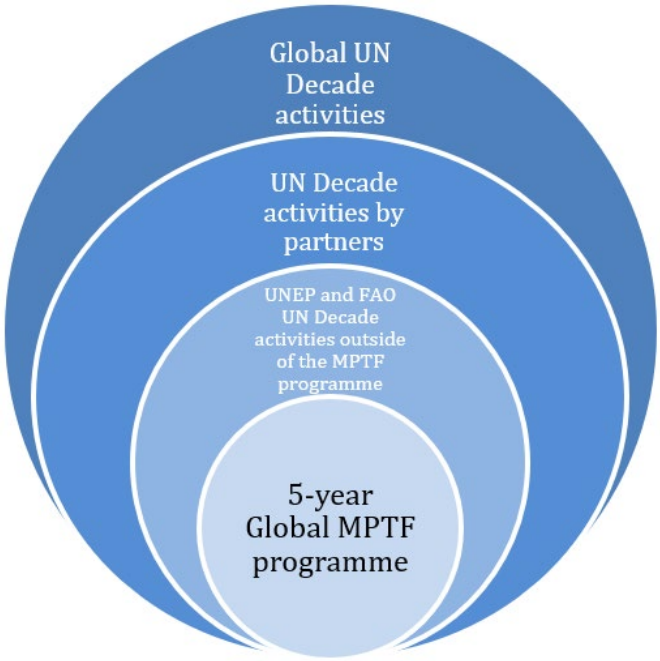


Figure 1: The 5-year programme as a subset of wider UN Decade activities

The different layers are further described in the following sections.

2.1. Global UN Decade Framework and activities by global stakeholders

The UN Decade is based on a global framework consisting of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution, the overall UN Decade strategy and a communication strategy. It is implemented in support of and in collaboration with the Rio Conventions alongside numerous partners. Within this overall framework, the UN Decade aims to create a global movement, encompassing United Nations Member States, private sector and civil society, with the goal of transforming the relationship between humankind and nature. Achieving this ambitious goal requires a joint effort by a multitude of stakeholders around the world, within the 5-year programme.

The vision for the UN Decade is ensuring the health and wellbeing of all life on Earth and that of future generations. This will be achieved by restoring the relationship between humans and nature, increasing the area of healthy ecosystems, and ending ecosystem loss, fragmentation, and degradation. Underpinning this vision are **three main goals** that are at the core of the strategy of the UN Decade:

1. enhancing global, regional, national and local commitments and actions to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems;
2. increasing our understanding of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration;
3. applying this knowledge in our education systems and within all public and private sector decision-making.

Various major collaborative initiatives,[1] which exist in the context of the UN Decade, promote nature-based solutions, environmental education, and country- and regional-level activities. The lead agencies of the UN Decade, FAO and UNEP, play a critical role in coordinating collaboration between these initiatives. For coordination and for creating joint global momentum across social media, the UN Decade hashtag **#GenerationRestoration** is used by all partners. While these initiatives are critical to the UN Decade's success, they mostly fall outside the scope of the programme.

At the global level, this 5-year Programme aims to provide catalytic support to directly enable the UN Decade's success. The programme will:

1. Support awareness initiatives, partnerships, and targeted campaigns to share best practices and lessons on ecosystem restoration with a global audience. This will highlight the importance of ecosystem restoration to billions of people and significantly amplify the reach of the UN Decade.
2. Increase developing countries' capacity to strengthen policies and access restoration resources. The establishment of on-the-ground Flagship Initiatives will advance key local restoration activities, while highlighting global best practices for scale up and replication.

[1] Initiative 20x20, AFR100, ECCA30, the Bonn Challenge, the Global Environment Facility impact programme on Food, Land Use and Restoration (and future GEF-8 restoration programme), various World Bank Funds, the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape restoration, the Global Peatlands Initiative, the One Trillion Tree initiative supported by the G20, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, 30x30 initiative, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, UN Water Action Decade 2018-2028,

3. Document progress on ecosystem restoration through a global monitoring programme. This will ensure that the global dialogue on restoration takes place on a well-informed basis and that decision makers are kept accountable for restoration targets.

2.2 Flagship Initiatives

Geographic restoration Flagship Initiatives will be the organizing principle for the 5-year programme's interventions on the ground. The interventions can be regional and/or national, and support by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund will be confined to countries eligible to development aid according to OECD and OECD DAC. Per the UN Decade strategy:

A restoration Flagship Initiative of the UN Decade should be the first, best, or most promising example of ecosystem restoration, adding value and embodying the 10 restoration principles and inspiring others to undertake or accelerate restoration at significant scale.

Flagship Initiatives will enable UNEP and FAO, and their partners, through the 5-year programme, to focus on selected interventions, while concurrently making ecosystem restoration tangible and inspiring for a global movement. The Flagship Initiatives should represent an important restoration issue, be politically representative and have wider learning and restoration potential and scalability. UNEP and FAO interventions could facilitate coordination, learning from successes and challenges, as well as scaling and bring more attention to the issue; they should be strategic and innovative in nature and have the potential for triggering transformational change and/or scalability. In each Flagship Initiative, the partners will focus their efforts on the specific comparative advantage and added value of the programme.

The UN Decade Strategy distinguishes between Flagship Initiatives, with and without support by the 5-year programme:

- Flagship Initiatives **– all approved Flagship Initiatives.** Flagship Initiatives representing different ecosystems and geographic areas with proven results, which the UN Decade can promote globally and bring lessons learned to a wider audience. These are an important source of information and inspiration for stakeholders. These Flagship Initiatives will be made visible through the UN Decade website and Digital Hub, but they will receive no direct funding or technical support from the 5-year programme.

- Flagship Initiatives **– a subgroup of the approved** Flagship Initiatives. These Flagship Initiatives, in countries eligible to development aid according to OECD DAC, can receive funding from the 5-year programme at two levels. 1) A selected number of Flagship Initiatives can receive a maximum of $200,000 in **Targeted Support**. 2) A limited number of Flagship Initiatives where substantial activities on the ground are relevant can receive **Full Support** ranging from $200,000 to $5 million[2] for more comprehensive support activities on the ground as described in the Results Framework.

[2] This range will be evaluated by the Executive Board in its third regular meeting in light of the demand and number of relevant Flagships

Depending on the country and stakeholder demand and commitment, and on donor priorities, the interventions to support Flagship Initiatives through the 5-year programme could include activities for dissemination of lessons learned and support for regional and national dialogues, strategic gap filling, development of larger funding proposals, a small grants programme, seed funding to overcome barriers and the scaling up of dedicated Flagship Initiatives through a range of targeted interventions. Each supported Flagship Initiative will have a specific geographic focus.

For more details on Flagship Initiative selection criteria and the associated process, please refer to Annex I.

Flagship Initiatives can include activities from all Outcomes as further described in the Results Framework in Chapter 5. The support to Flagship Initiatives will mainly be channeled through Outcome 2, but with substantial support from Outcome 1 and 3. Activities under Outcome 1 and 3 will be closely aligned with the UN Decade Flagship countries and regions and good practices identified as well as the concrete efforts towards monitoring progress.

In addition to supporting the Flagship Initiatives, both Outcome 1 and outcome 3 will include supporting a Global Movement on ecosystem restoration in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution. See chapter 6 and 7 for further details.

2.3 UN Decade activities by partners

Currently, political commitments target the restoration of 1 billion ha of degraded landscapes. The UN Decade strategy estimates that $3 trillion in overall funding by 2030 is needed to achieve this target. This does not account for the costs of coastal or marine restoration, for which no comparable global quantified restoration commitment exists. The 5-year programme must be a strategic catalyst in triggering a wider pool of investments towards restoration. Larger restoration programmes around the world are funded through national governments, development banks, impact investors, the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Major initiatives are implemented by large NGOs, like the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute, the Global Landscapes Forum, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other, smaller global and national civil society organizations. These organizations mobilize support for restoration, fund programmes to prevent, halt and reverse degradation of ecosystems, and help remove barriers for restoration. As such, these organizations and their programmes are critical to bringing restoration initiatives to scale. Domestic funding is also increasingly mobilized for restoration, including in developing countries, such as the watershed restoration programme to secure drinking water for Sao Paulo City in Brazil.

In order to support a broad restoration movement and scale up and replicate activities globally, the UN Decade engages and leverages support from leading global and regional organizations and stakeholder groups working in technical areas. The core team of the UN Decade has developed a layered UN Decade Partnership Framework that includes the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and World Economic Forum, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organizsation (UNESCO), IUCN, WWF, ILO and organizations focusing on indigenous peoples, among others. This diverse network allows different types of organizations and initiatives to form a coalition with common purpose that can actively contribute to the strategic goals of the UN Decade.

Furthermore, five task forces have been established to connect leading institutions, partners and other external entities. These task forces focus on critical restoration-related topics by executing joint activities, facilitating dialogue and developing best practices and guidance. To date, task forces were established on the following topics: Best Practices and Monitoring (both led by FAO), Finance (led by World Bank), Science (led by the IUCN) and Youth (self-organized by Children and Youth Major Group constituencies of UNEP and FAO). A task force on indigenous peoples is being prepared. Additional task forces can be established as needed.

Each of these groups are independent and serve the broad UN Decade. FAO, UNEP and the activities funded by the 5-year programme will facilitate this partnership network and task-force structure through support for strategic initiatives and by leveraging and communicating lessons learned and results achieved. Furthermore, the MPTF programme will engage partners in support for Flagship Initiatives supported by the programme. Through existing communication and engagement practices, UNEP and FAO will seek synergies and coordinate with other funding mechanisms – specifically, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Global Mechanism, the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program and the Green Climate Fund's nature-based solutions portfolio – to support Flagship Initiatives. Philanthropic and private entities will also pledge support.

2.3. Activities by UNEP and FAO outside of the 5-year programme

UNEP and FAO each implement several programmes and initiatives that are of direct relevance for the UN Decade but not directly managed by the UN Decade's Governance Structures nor the 5-year programme[3]. In addition, UNEP implements various communication facilities and initiatives including World Environment Day, Champions of the Earth and the upcoming Young Champions of the Earth Award. Through a system of regional and thematic focal points across all relevant UNEP and FAO divisions and regional offices, there is a close thematic linkage between the restoration initiatives, where the agencies act as convenors or implementers, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, where UNEP and FAO act as lead agencies.

In addition, the 5-year programme will build on and support the existing effort of UNEP's Advocacy and Youth Unit to engage the gaming industry, the global Scout movement and a network of universities and other higher-education units. The Faith for Earth and Interfaith Rainforest Initiative

[3] These include, among others, large restoration-related initiatives such as the UN Food Systems Summit and its coalitions, the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program of GEF, the Restoration Initiative (TRI), the FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Strategy, the FAO Blue Growth Initiative, the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGW), UN-REDD, the Global Peatlands Initiative, the UN Decade on Ocean Science, the United Nations Water Action Decade 2018–2028, the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, the Global Mountain Partnership (MPS) the Coral Reef Fund, the Clean Seas campaign and other work on marine litter, and work linked to the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions.

will also leverage the UNEP VOICES portfolio.

The 5-year programme will build on, communicate, and seek to amplify the lessons learned through all these initiatives.

2.4. The 5-year programme

The budget of the interventions described in the sections above, implemented by various entities in the broader context, is in the billions of dollars. The 5-year programme will be based on a much more limited budget with target funding of $50 million for the first five years and $100 million by 2030. In view of this, it is critically important to design the interventions of the programme to be strategically focused and carefully targeted to ensure maximum impact within the broader context indicated above. The 5-year programme therefore proposes to focus its interventions on areas where it has a comparative advantage, a clear added value and a highly catalytic effect – in other words, to be a key enabler and accelerator of the implementation of the larger UN Decade. The on-the-ground Flagship Initiatives will focus solely on developing countries.

3. Situation analysis[4]

3.1. Major problems linked to the world's ecosystems and their social, economic and environmental implications

Around the world, there is an alarming trend of widespread ecosystem degradation. This poses an increasing threat to key objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, to end poverty, conserve biodiversity, combat climate change and improve livelihoods for everyone, everywhere. These objectives, encapsulated in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are unlikely to be met by 2030 unless ecosystem degradation is stopped. Ecosystem restoration must be undertaken at the immense scale of hundreds of millions of hectares globally. In view of this, it is difficult to overstate the importance of conservation and restoration for all societies across the world. The importance of ecosystem restoration is also illustrated by the myriad benefits of conservation and restoration at global and local scales. This includes securing adequate supplies of potable water, achieving food and nutrition security, storing and sequestering meaningful quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to mitigate climate change, preventing the extinction of a large part of the world's biodiversity and increasing livelihood opportunities by boosting local economies (Strassburg 2020).

The global causes and effects of ecosystem degradation have been extensively researched and documented by bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The causes include, among others, unsustainable production and consumption of agricultural commodities.

[4] The present situation analysis represents the analysis included in the report Becoming *#GenerationRestoration: Ecosystems Restoration for People, Nature and Climate* published by UNEP and FAO at public launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Climate change is both a cause and effect of ecosystem degradation. The causes are described in more detail in section 3.2. below.

The results are clear and alarming: the degradation is negatively impacting the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, pushing the planet towards a sixth mass extinction and costing more than 10 per cent of the annual global gross product in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES 2018). With regards to terrestrial ecosystems: more than 2 billion hectares of land have already been degraded (UNCCD 2015). In some areas, this is a contributing factor for conflicts and migration. Land use change for agriculture, mining and infrastructure development has led to the complete loss of about 10 per cent of global forest cover since 1990 and the degradation of a further 20 per cent of it (World Resources Institute 2020); and degradation currently affects about 12 million hectares of land annually, leading to large quantities of greenhouse gas emissions (3.6-4.4 Gt CO_2) (IPBES 2018), soil erosion, reduced availability of water and adverse effects on local livelihoods.

Eighty-five per cent of the globe's wetlands disappeared in the last 300 years. One fifth of the world's river basins – with the lakes, reservoirs and rivers we depend on to develop sustainably – are experiencing dramatic, above normal, changes in available surface water. Peatlands are especially important wetlands as they store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests. Conserving and restoring them helps slow climate change and reduce the risk of extreme climate events such as droughts and flooding.

The degradation of marine ecosystems is equally concerning. An estimated 40 per cent of the world's oceans have been heavily impacted by pollution, overharvesting of fisheries - with a third of ocean's commercial fish stocks now overfished, and loss of coastal habitats (Halpern 2008) threatening the livelihoods of fisherfolk and coastal communities. Other impacts such as acidification, sea level rise, and rising sea temperatures affect all oceans. The negative socio-economic and biodiversity effects of this marine degradation are extreme, with more than three billion people dependent on marine and coast resources for their livelihoods and protein intake. The market value of these marine resources, all of which are under extreme threat as a result of the degradation, is estimated at $3 trillion per year (UNDP 2018).

Further, poverty is partly a consequence of land degradation and, in certain circumstances, can exacerbate damage to ecosystems. Gender inequality also plays a significant role in land-degradation related poverty (UNCCD 2011). In developing countries, agriculture is the most important source of income for women (ILO 2016), who bear the brunt of degraded soils, unpredictable rainfall and displacement. Although women are often stewards of the environment, for instance lack of secure land rights can increase the likelihood of degradation (Mor 2018), which can in turn expose women and girls to a greater risk of gender-based violence (e.g., when they are forced to travel longer distances to collect fuelwood; Castañeda Camey 2020). Degradation also disproportionately affects indigenous and local communities that depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods (UNEP 2019b).

3.2 Root causes of degradation and major barriers to restoring and conserving ecosystems

The causes of ecosystem degradation and the barriers to restoration are complex and occur at both local and global scales**.** The causes include: poor environmental governance; extreme pressures on ecosystems; marginalization and poverty; unequal land distribution and insecure land tenure rights; unsustainable food systems; higher expected returns of short-sighted unsustainable investments; vested economic and political interests in unsustainable productive systems; global trade of commodities; tradition and limited technical knowledge on how to sustainably manage ecosystems; limited availability of finance for ecosystem management; low social awareness of the dangers of ecosystem degradation; and limited political will to manage ecosystems appropriately.

A particularly important driver of ecosystem degradation is the way we produce and consume food; this has been examined in the recent UN Food Systems Summit, and several Action Coalitions have been formed. A recent report (FAO, UNDP and UNEP. 2021) found that the majority (87 per cent) of $540 billion of support to agricultural producers is either price distorting or harmful to nature and health. One focus of the UN Decade, for instance, will be to shift agricultural subsidies from activities that are harmful for biodiversity, climate and health to activities that restore degraded landscapes and seascapes back into healthy and productive ecosystems.

While being cognizant of the above-described causes of degradation, the Strategy for the UN Decade and the 5-year programme deliberately prioritize focus on ecosystem restoration. The UN Decade Strategy identifies the following barriers to restoration:

- Limited awareness across societies globally of the considerable negative effects that ecosystem degradation is having on the well-being and livelihoods of billions of people, of the costs of this degradation, and of the profound societal benefits that would accrue with major investments in ecosystem restoration;
- Despite the economic benefits that restoration investments would bring to societies, a relatively limited pressure on decision-makers in the public sector to invest in long-term ecosystem restoration initiatives, compared with the pressure to invest in other sectors like health care, education and defense;
- Relative scarcity of and often contradicting legislation, policies, regulations, tax incentives and subsidies that would incentivize a shift in investments towards large scale restoration and towards sustainable production systems, value chains, and infrastructure;
- Limited technical knowledge and capacity of national governments, local governments, international - and local NGOs, and private companies to design and implement large-scale and high-impact restoration initiatives;
- Relatively limited private sector investments in large-scale and high-impact restoration because of the perceived and/or real risks linked to such investments; and
- Limited long-term research, including social as well as natural sciences, that focuses on innovation to improve restoration protocols through time.

Limited enabling environment for investments in restoration

The barrier of limited investments is compounded by high expected rates of return of unsustainable investments, which limits the incentive to invest in restoration, despite the societal benefits of longer-term sustainable investments. The 2021 Dasgupta Review highlights a widespread failure of markets and institutions to integrate the value of ecosystems into decision-making. Because societies have obtained many of their services "free of charge" over a long time, ecosystems are often used unsustainably. The outcome is that the current economic and societal demand for ecosystem services far exceeds ecosystems' ability to supply them. The Dasgupta Report identifies investment in ecosystems as essential to boost the supply of their services and transition to a sustainable economic development pathway.

This is echoed by UNEP's 2021 *State of Finance for Nature* report (UNEP 2021). It highlights the need to close a $4.1 trillion financing gap for nature by 2050. While an increase in public funding would help plug some of the gap, there must be a significant increase in private sector investment in nature-based solutions.
This requires an enabling environment to encourage the channeling of investments into economic activities that benefit from and contribute to healthy ecosystems, including policies and regulations that incentivize and de-risk such investments. Further, the creation of a restorative environment must consider empowering local communities to overcome the many barriers that small-scale farmer face, such as land tenure, access to finance, insufficient technical support, access to markets and more.

Limited monitoring data, information and indicators

Overcoming the above barriers is difficult, as in many cases there is insufficient restoration-related data, information and indicators that would allow the scaling of restoration. Recently initiated tools, platforms and data on where and how to best restore ecosystems promise increased efficiency and impact. This could help governments and other stakeholders to decide where to invest and monitor progress. However, these tools and data are nascent and thus not yet widely available. Monitoring data, information and indicators are well-developed for tracking deforestation and ecosystem/land degradation, and this provides an entry point for monitoring land-based restoration. However, unlike deforestation, restoration is a gradual process, and is intrinsically more difficult to monitor. For marine and aquatic environments, there is very limited monitoring data, information and indicators.

Global capacity needs

To identify what and whose "system-wide capacities" need to be enhanced to achieve the goals of the UN Decade, the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices, a coalition currently comprised of 63 organizations, conducted a global capacity needs assessment. Based on the 1,331 responses received, the survey confirmed the findings of other studies that important gaps still exist in finance mobilization, development of monitoring systems and decision-support tools, integration and documentation of indigenous and traditional knowledge, coordination of efforts for knowledge dissemination, and development of policies that support restoration, among others. The assessment confirms the picture of the above-mentioned barriers and of other assessments. It also underlines the need to strengthen corresponding capacities. Although it provides a broad picture, it will inform the work of the 5-year programme, followed by more specific capacity assessments related to Flagship Initiatives.

The above-described causes, problems and effects on restoration are summarized in the below problem tree.

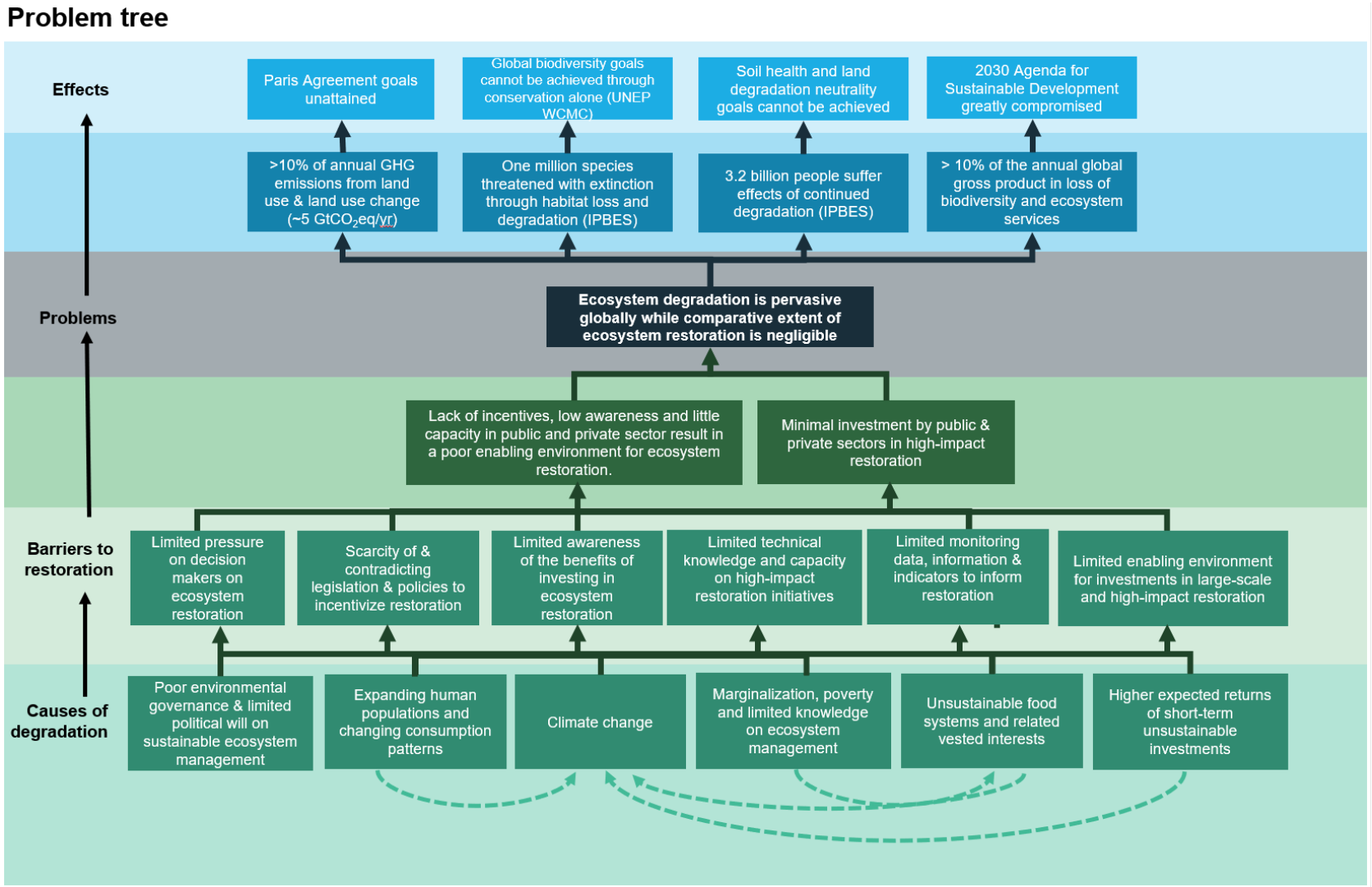


Figure 2: Problem tree on restoration

3.3 Preferred solution: benefits of ecosystem restoration

Restoring the functioning of ecosystems is essential to mitigating climate change, ensuring food security for a growing global population, alleviating poverty and halting biodiversity loss. Restoring degraded ecosystems has tremendous potential to advance the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (IRP 2019a and Ramsar 2018).

The economy. Our economies and societies are embedded in and fundamentally depend on nature. Beyond contributing to the production of many of the goods and services that are produced and consumed in our economies, ecosystems also supply a wide range of essential provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

The cost of inaction is greater than the cost of restoration. Half of the world's GDP is dependent on nature (WEF 2020). There are different estimates of the impact of degradation, but all indicate a large impact. According to Johnson et al. (2020), around $10 trillion in global GDP could be lost between 2011 and 2050 if ecosystem services continue to decline. Ding et al. estimate an even higher **loss of $6.3 trillion per year**. In view of this, every dollar invested in forest restoration creates an estimated $7–30 in economic benefits (Ding et al. 2018), as well as tangible livelihood opportunities.

Food security. On agricultural land, a variety of practices can contribute to ecosystem restoration, including agroecology, climate-smart and conservation farming practices, organic farming, sustainable land management and intensification etc. (CPF 2021; FAO 2020c; HLPE 2019; Mbow et al. 2019). Agroforestry alone has the potential to increase food security for the more than 1.3 billion people currently living on degrading agricultural land (Smith et al. 2019), can reduce soil erosion by 50 per cent and increase soil carbon by 21 per cent (Muchane et al. 2020). In addition, restoration of mangroves, coral reefs, coastal and marine ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems can all help to achieve food security targets. According to the Mangrove Restoration Potential Map, restoring mangroves in 105 countries and territories could add over 60 trillion young fish and invertebrates of commercially valuable species to coastal waters every year (Worthington and Spalding 2018).

Water resources. In catchment areas, restoration can improve the flows and availability of water. Restoration of forests, and other ecosystems (e.g. mountain ecosystems) has the potential to save an estimated $890 million each year in water treatment costs in the world's largest cities (McDonald and Shemie 2014). Improved management within irrigation-fed croplands could, as a single measure, reduce water use by an amount equivalent to the annual needs of 1.4 billion people (Brauman *et al.* 2013). Restoration of wetlands including peatlands and mangroves will also have significant benefits to livelihoods, climate change mitigation and adaptation as well improving biodiversity.

Health and well-being. Although the relationship between biodiversity and infectious disease is not fully understood, the risk of infection rises as land-use change and greater use of wildlife bring people and animals into closer contact (CBD 2020; Everard et al. 2020). This creates opportunities for viruses to "jump species" from other animals to people. It is estimated that roughly 75 per cent of all new and emerging human infectious diseases are zoonotic (Taylor et al. 2001; UNEP and ILRI 2020). Deforestation has been linked to outbreaks of vector-borne diseases such as malaria (Morand and

Lajaunie 2021) and animal-borne diseases such as Ebola (Olivero 2017).

Climate change mitigation. Restoration is a key element of cost-effective nature-based solutions, which potentially can contribute about 30 per cent of the total climate change mitigation needed by 2030 (Griscom et al. 2017). This could involve action to better manage some 2.5 billion hectares of forest, crop and grazing land (restoration and avoided degradation) and restoring over 230 million hectares of natural cover (Griscom et al. 2019). In agricultural ecosystems alone, restoration has the potential to offer one-fifth of the contribution to the climate change mitigation required by 2030 (Griscom et al. 2017; '4 per 1000' Initiative 2018). Restoration and avoiding the conversion of wetland ecosystems, including mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrasses and peatlands, could offer 14 per cent of the nature-based solution to climate change mitigation (Griscom et al. 2017).

Climate change adaptation. Restoration of coastal ecosystems can help communities adapt to climate hazards such as sea level rise, storm surges and associated flooding. Growing evidence shows that healthy mangroves can be an effective defense against the destructive impacts of tsunamis, and can reduce wave heights by 5–30 per cent (Spalding et al. 2014). Restoring coral reefs can have an even more significant impact on reducing wave energy. Ecosystem restoration inland, such as in mountain ecosystems, can also reduce climate-related hazards, such as flooding, soil erosion and landslides linked to extreme rainfall events. Forest restoration on slopes reduces erosion that results from intense rainfall. Finally, ecosystem restoration can help humans adapt to rising temperatures. Restoration of urban green spaces, including parks, can maintain air temperatures 4°C below those of less vegetated areas (Gago et al. 2013).

Security. Investments in ecosystem restoration can be an element of conflict prevention and migration amplified by climate change and overexploitation of natural resources. Between 50 and 700 million people are predicted to migrate because of land degradation and climate change by 2050 (IPBES 2018). Restoration in locations like arid areas can contribute to improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation by reducing resource scarcity, increasing job opportunities and income generation, especially for youth) (IPBES 2018; UNCCD 2018).

Biodiversity. Ecosystem restoration can enlarge the extent of habitats, increase species diversity and restore ecosystem complexity and function over time, as well as support the recovery of individual species populations. The Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact is a movement of Brazilian society that aims to restore 1 million hectares of Atlantic Forest by 2020 and 15 million hectares by 2050. This could double the native forest cover to at least 30 per cent of the original biome area and significantly reverse biodiversity loss (IPBES 2018).

Unfortunately, there is currently insufficient political support, technical capacity and finance available in both the public and private sectors to embark on the many hundreds of thousands of ecosystem restoration initiatives worldwide that are needed to achieve restoration at the required scale. To achieve substantial global impacts relating to water security, carbon sequestration, food security and economic growth of livelihoods, more than $1 trillion of public sector and private sector funds need to be dedicated to restoration over the course of the next decade. To date, such funding has not been made available, despite a significant amount of un-sustainable subsidies for fossil fuels, agriculture, and fishing totaling many trillions of dollars annually. A strong enabling environment, including

policies and regulations, are needed to shift investments towards restoration and secure sustainable production and consumption practices at all levels.

Importantly, governments do not have to trade-off economic priorities and environmental concerns (Mansuy 2020). The restoration agenda can help deliver on multiple goals for livelihoods, food and water security, international trade, poverty alleviation and human rights in parallel (Perring et al. 2018; CPF 2021). However, sustainable restoration requires, among other elements, holistic approaches, engaged and empowered stakeholders, real-world best practice examples to follow and a strong scientific evidence base to monitor and guide restorative practices:

1. Engaged stakeholders: Successful restoration will often require a concerted movement by and empowerment of all key actors in the land or seascape, from the private sector to local and rural communities to youth.
2. Real-world best practices: Inspiring and enabling restoration at scale will require illustrating solutions in practice: Including how to build required capacities (including all types of knowledge); how to develop conducive and coherent policies and regulations across national and sub-subnational levels; and how to overcome investment barriers to mobilize additional funds for restoration.
3. Strong evidence base: Finally, collective restoration action will require stakeholders to readily access consistent geospatial data to allow them to monitor, verify and disclose their progress in restoring degraded ecosystems.

The recently launched *10 Principles for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* focus on inclusive and holistic restoration approaches and will be at the basis of any direct interventions of the 5-year programme. They are being widely communicated across the UN Decade partnership.

The ten principles are:

1. Ecosystem restoration contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Rio Conventions;
2. Ecosystem restoration promotes inclusive and participatory governance, social fairness and equity from the start and throughout the process and outcomes;
3. Ecosystem restoration includes a continuum of restorative activities;
4. Ecosystem restoration aims to achieve the highest level of recovery for biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, and human well-being;
5. Ecosystem restoration addresses the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation;
6. Ecosystem restoration incorporates all types of knowledge and promotes their exchange and integration throughout the process;
7. Ecosystem restoration is based on well-defined short-, medium- and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals;
8. Ecosystem restoration is tailored to the local ecological, cultural and socioeconomic contexts, while considering the larger landscape or seascape;
9. Ecosystem restoration includes monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout and beyond the lifetime of the project or programme;
10. Ecosystem restoration is enabled by policies and measures that promote its long-term progress, fostering replication and scaling-up.

4. Approach and theory of change

4.1 Introduction

The causes of ecosystem degradation and the barriers to restoration are complex and occur at both local and global scales

Given that the dynamics leading to degradation are not mono-causal, any type of one-dimensional response would likely yield limited results. For example, a successful individual local restoration initiative might not inspire policymakers to act until its success is compellingly showcased to the public through a wide-reaching awareness campaign. A public cry for restoration action, however forceful and visible, might not mobilize many private sector investors until they actually see the risk-return profile of a concrete local Flagship Initiative in practice. The public at large and decision makers, despite an abstract sense of urgency, might not be able to demand and set realistic and ambitious restoration targets until they can readily access scientific evidence on status and progress in restoring degraded ecosystems. In other words, to coherently address the drivers of degradation and to transition towards a global restoration pathway, the above elements need to play together.

To address the complex and interrelated drivers of degradation, the 5-year programme proposes a multi-layered intervention approach through which individual components will complement and reinforce each other. They will range from global to regional and local levels and make use of on-site best-practice restoration examples to reinforce a global restoration movement. They will also facilitate the data and evidence needed to multiply impacts.

To achieve this ambitious goal, UNEP and FAO will focus on the role of enablers. Instead of seeking to generate all results themselves, the lead organizations will work with and through partnership networks and task forces. Also, this will create ownership across UN Decade stakeholders and programs; enable partnerships between individual initiatives for the sharing of experiences; showcase successful solutions to inspire other restoration leaders to act; make existing knowledge and commitments accessible and transparent to the public; link implementers and intermediaries of critical initiatives locally and globally; and provide the needed information to Governments and civil society to enable calls for action in critical areas.

In doing so, UNEP and FAO will **concentrate on selected enabling interventions that (i) yield high impact per invested amount, (ii) include a well-defined potential for scaling and learning and (iii) are based on clearly defined results**. This includes global and regional sensitizing and mobilization for ecosystem restoration efforts and selected deep dives into Flagship Initiatives at national and local levels implemented with and through regional, national and local partners to support and showcase solutions in specific ecosystems; combined with monitoring of status of restoration in a joint effort to provide stakeholders with scientific data that enable more ambitious restoration action.

The 5-year programme is well positioned to bring these elements together for learning and coordination while facilitating needed initiatives in the policy, regulatory and economic sphere. While the programme will enable investments in smaller and larger programs, the implementation of these investments will be left to partners who are much better positioned for this.

UNEP and FAO have chosen to distill the above intervention logic into **three distinct outcomes** that are considered critical to support a global movement with direction, to build key connections and capacity and to enable action on an informed basis. Activities will be implemented within and across these three outcomes:

Outcome 1: A global movement on ecosystem restoration established that catalyses restoration initiatives, political will, exchange of knowledge, and cross-sectoral collaboration – with a focus on support for and within flagship countries and regions;

Outcome 2: Increased capacity and capability in private, public sector and civil society for policy reform, to catalyse investments and to access resources are resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship Initiatives.

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.

Outcome 1 will support the dissemination and uptake of the results achieved under Outcome 2 and 3. Outcome 2 will, as part of its country-level interventions, implement elements of Outcome 1 and 3 – dialogue, advocacy, networking and strengthening national monitoring.

Thus, the 5-year programme will support interventions that will **contribute to a globally, nationally and locally conducive environment for restoration** while incentivizing a global restoration movement. This serves to change the management of natural resources while incentivizing larger investment by countries, NGO's, local communities, development partners, financial institutions by showcasing success stories and by providing evidence for the societal benefits of restoration.

In doing so, the proposed 5-year programme is based on a **uniquely comprehensive mandate and comparative advantage**: The programme is (i) underpinned by a UN General Assembly resolution, (ii) defined by the agreed pathways in the UN Decade Strategy, (iii) based on the mandates of UNEP and FAO including UNEP's "United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which includes all UN member-states and (iv) UNEP's mandate for a global environmental policy role with close link to the Rio conventions combined with both organizations' strong convening power and FAO's extensive country representation, and (v) fully harnessing the power of 80+ UN Decade official partners and many more supporters. Altogether, this establishes a unique positioning for UNEP and FAO to take the lead in enabling, incentivizing, and coordinating a comprehensive global programme for restoration, joint learning and action.

4.2. Results Chain Outcome 1

Communication has changed. The internet, but also changing political landscapes and not least the global, interconnected nature of the challenges the planet is facing, have led to messages no longer spreading top-down. Knowledge, attitude, and practices now mostly spread sideways. This trend has been observed in recent research and literature concerned with movement building and behavior change and encapsulated in the term of "New Power".

Change nowadays no longer occurs due to hierarchical processes or traditional stick-and-carrot incentive setting alone. Change is often the result of millions of loosely affiliated sub-groups and up to billions of individuals rallying around a common overarching goal. Rather than making "old power" mechanisms like policy-setting, laws, or finance obsolete, this means that they often only act when encouraged by new power elements, such as the mobilization of individuals across societal groups and behavior change.

By taking a comprehensive approach to ecosystem restoration, based on insights from movement building, New Power and behavior change, the programme will help inspire and enable action for restoration. This also includes guiding, coordinating, and leveraging the UN Decade's network of partners.

Upscaling ecosystem initiatives, increasing political will – and thereby support to such initiatives – and improving collaboration between entities and sectors is a necessary pre-condition to increased scale of restoration and decreased degradation. Aiming to address this, **Outcome 1 will help establish a global movement on ecosystem restoration – with a focus on local action and empowerment of local actors in Flagship countries and regions, thereby supporting Outcome 2 – that helps catalyze support to restoration initiatives through working to increase political will, exchange of knowledge, and cross-sectoral collaboration.** The knowledge basis that informs communication and advocacy goals – for example, increasing transparency around restoration pledges or highlighting gaps in support to restoration efforts – will be derived from global and Flagship monitoring through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) (Outcome 3) as well as lessons learned from implementation in Flagships (Outcome 2).

Communication and advocacy do, however, not work in isolation. The three outputs under Outcome 1 are tailored to work in tandem together with implementation on the ground and monitoring of progress.

Output 1.1 will mobilize public, private, and civil society stakeholders through increased incentives, capacity and collective action for promotion and restoration of ecosystems. It will translate available knowledge into clear calls for globally concerted restoration action, aligned with key policy moments or milestones of the UN Decade. This includes, but is not limited to:

- A campaign to nominate, select and communicate the UN Decade's first ten Flagship Initiatives providing incentives for governments to raise ambitions, citizens to take pride in and support local restoration efforts and media and investors to identify and follow critical restoration efforts.

- Collaboration with mainstream film producers, informal and formal education networks, the gaming industry and street artists (among others) to communicate and garner support for local restoration efforts, with an emphasis on flagship countries and lessons learned from Outcome 2.
- Regular awards and competitions to incentivize, recognize and showcase meaningful restoration efforts, with an emphasis on Flagship Initiative countries and lessons learned from Outcome 2.

Complementing the above, **Output 1.2. will collect and showcase best practices for restoring ecosystems globally**; while guidelines, tools and storytelling across media formats will help shift societal norms and perceptions through increased knowledge combined with emotional appeals and social incentives[5]. Shifting societal norms will increase the up-take by and support to a global movement on restoration and action on the ground – thereby helping achieve Outcome 1. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Development of communication products, messaging and advocacy campaigns around key policy moments that include review and discussion of restoration pledges and relevant policies (incl. UNEA, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD), informed by calls to action based on progress towards the Decade's goals and relevant publications (alignment with Outcome 3)
- Translation of knowledge and evidence (Outcome 2) as well as calls to action (based on Outcome 3 findings) into practical guides and knowledge products tailored to audience groups and developed and disseminated through the UN Decade's Partner Network; as well as
- Elevating, showcasing and promoting concrete restoration examples and lessons learned through storytelling and the on-the-ground production and dissemination of a suite of traditional, social and multimedia assets, for example films, podcasts, media stories, blog posts, infographics and artwork (informed by Outcome 2) and based on the alliances and networks enabled through Output 1.1.
- Establishing media for restoration network with journalist organizations and media networks, with an emphasis on flagship countries, conducting media trainings.

Through this Output, the programme will also hold cross-societal, cross-governmental and cross-sectoral dialogue and support collaboration on ecosystem restoration. Digital and on-the-ground events will help raise ambitions by holding leaders accountable and pointing out where efforts fall short. A public empowered through knowledge and evidence can point out where efforts fall short will increase political will for restoration action – catalyzing political will, in turn, is a key feature of Outcome 1.

Finally, **Output 1.3. will launch and manage youth engagement programmes for the UN Decade**. Competitions and awards, coupled with capacity building, especially in UN Decade Flagship regions and countries, will help incentivize youth groups and initiatives to dedicate their reach to the cause of restoration. The example of climate change shows how recent public pressure – especially through

[5] For literature on shifting of norms and attitudes, see: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1524500418824258 (Green et al.); also see Behavior Change for Nature Toolkit, Behavioral Insights Team (BIT), Rare: https://rare.org/report/behavior-change-for-nature/

youth-led groups such as Fridays for Future – was instrumental in holding governments accountable to agreed goals. This, in turn, can increase support for restoration in these regions, building additional momentum for the global restoration movement as per Outcome 1. Concrete activities include but are not limited to:

- Executing a Young Restoration Champions of the Earth cycle in 2023 (TBD), incentivizing young people to join in restoration efforts, educating about ongoing initiatives and garnering public and investor support, with a focus on young people in Flagship regions
- Developing knowledge and fostering uptake of youth advocacy toolkits
- Capacity building of youth through webinars and on-the ground training
- Establishment of partnership programme with content creators focused on youth (such as YouTubers, youth influencers) in flagship regions and countries.

Taken together, the three outputs will help increase the public's understanding of the urgency to restore ecosystems, motivating it to take direct action in support of restoration. They will also motivate indirect action through partners and networks that enable political advocacy, political choices, and financial and voluntary support to existing restoration initiatives. **All the corresponding outputs thus constitute key ingredients to enable a global movement on ecosystem restoration – and in turn help achieve and reinforce Outcome 1.**

In summary, 5-year-programme-funded activities will aim to support changes in three core areas through strategic interventions. These are in line with the "new power" ladder of engagement, as outlined by Heimans and Timms' seminal work (New Power, 2019), and further dissected in the UN Decade's Communication Strategy:

1. Contribute to an informed global dialogue, through a wide, global public, and those in key regions, especially UN Decade Flagship regions and countries, (see below) about existing knowledge around and commitments to restoration, as well as evolving knowledge and initiatives (see Outcome 2 and Outcome 3) through a variety of tools and initiatives = **Increasing knowledge and shifting attitudes for restoration**
2. Inspire and mobilize a wide global audience and those in target countries and regions to act by distilling targeted messages relating to advocacy, choices and direct support for restoration, and increasing their uptake = **Increasing practices in support of restoration**
3. Supporting and leveraging a network of key partners and allies for restoration through dialogues and platforms for joint action = **Raising ambitions and accountability for restoration.**

The **assumptions** underlying this results chain are that (i) a plethora of knowledge exists on restoration practices and exemplary initiatives, but uptake of this knowledge is still limited; (ii) there is fertile ground in many countries and regions for partners and other restoration stakeholders to build on best practices and lessons generated by the programme; thereby scaling up a movement multiple times larger than what could be directly supported by the programme itself; (iii) a gap exists between positive attitudes on restoration and political pledges on the one hand and conducive policies, investments and empowerment of restoration actors on the other hand, partly because the link between broader restoration goals and actual steps towards implementation, as well as personal choices (in areas where actors have agency) has not yet been widely communicated; and (iv) better

informed citizens, some of whom will become more engaged through personal action, are in turn more likely to hold governments accountable for their restoration commitments and actions. Data on the limited access to restoration information and well-documented examples from the changing discourse around climate change in recent years confirm the accuracy of these assumptions.

4.3. Results Chain Outcome 2

The immense scale and opportunity of restoration around the world requires us to change our approach from project-by-project thinking to systemic, transformational change. An estimated 30 per cent of all lands are degraded (in Africa, about 65 per cent of all land), and 66 per cent of commercial fish stocks are overfished. Governments have already pledged to restore 1 billion hectares of land worldwide (UNEP 2021), an area the size of China. A similar commitment on marine conservation and restoration might emerge. What we need now is inspiration to 'think big' and 'beyond the box'. The UN Decade's Flagship Initiatives, nominated by countries or regional initiatives with the support of UN Decade partners, will be the **first, best or largest restoration examples for which a country or a region would like to become globally known.** They will be a source of inspiration, learning and knowledge sharing across the UN Decade and beyond. They will inform how political, financial, social, and technical barriers to restoration can be overcome. **In line with this, Outcome 2 will exclusively focus on supporting Flagship Initiatives in specific locations around the world**. Flagship Initiatives will be nominated by countries or regional organizations and vetted by FAO and UNEP with the help of the Best Practices and Science Task Forces (see below).

MPTF support on Flagships will be based on demand. This programme enables **five years of joint implementation action, advocacy, and learning, and it is expected to be extended up to 2030.** The modular, demand-driven approach of the programme will enable FAO, UNEP, and partners[6] to respond in a flexible manner to the needs of countries and regions. This will: (i) allow for tailor-made technical assistance, thereby maximizing effectiveness and impact of the support in countries with key landscapes/seascapes of global significance; (ii) ensure strong buy-in and ownership of beneficiary countries, thus reinforcing the potential for impact and long-term sustainability of results and (iii) refine the service offer throughout the lifetime of the MPTF according to actual country demand and attested needs.

In line with this, Outcome 2 will fund strategic actions within Flagship Initiatives in developing countries and will provide on-demand targeted Technical Assistance. Outcome 2 does not foresee to apply a "one-size-fits-all" approach but rather to propose an offer (or "menu") of products and services which can be adapted according to specific country needs and priorities. Therefore, all the elements of Outcome 2 will be proposed exclusively within the support to Flagship Initiatives but will be delivered depending on demand.

The menu of products and services with their corresponding outputs is introduced in the following paragraphs. More details on the menu, including scope and limits, can be found in the results

[6] The 90+ UN Decade partners will also be encouraged to support developing country Governments and stakeholders in all Flagship Initiatives through their own means, outside of the MPTF

framework (Section 5) below.

Complementing Outcome 1, **Outcome 2 consists of increased capacity and capability in private and public sector and civil society for policy reform to catalyze investments and to access resources, resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship Initiatives.** Outcome 2 will seek to catalyze **concrete action on the ground** that can enable the scaling up of restoration and inspire action elsewhere. The Outcome will thereby directly contribute to the goal of the programme, which is that countries and other stakeholders have established policies for and allocated resources to ecosystem restoration and interventions at scale are implemented worldwide.

The outputs under Outcome 2 are subdivided into complementary elements that will **enable restoration on the ground and within Flagship Initiatives – thereby directly contributing to Outcome 2.** Interventions under Outcome 2 take place from the policy level to the ground. They aim at (i) making the **enabling environment** conducive to ecosystem restoration; (ii) establishing the **proof of concept** on the benefits of restoration and (iii) **enabling larger interventions** by ensuring the rapid and wide adaptation and replication of successful models developed through the other two outputs by other restoration stakeholders. Lessons learned through these interventions on the ground will in turn be fed back into the policy level to further strengthen the enabling environment for restoration.

Outputs 2.1 will increase capacity of governments and other institutions for policy reform to promote large-scale sustainable ecosystem restoration. Adding to this, **Output 2.2. will facilitate national/regional policy dialogues and inter-sectoral platforms** for on-the-ground restoration action. The outputs will thereby enable partners, networks, and other stakeholders to advance ecosystem restoration on the ground. Through targeted information on the socio-economic and environmental cost/benefits, landscape/seascapes actors will be better equipped to engage with policymakers to influence both local and national policy frameworks for ecosystem restoration. Policymakers, on their end, will increase their awareness of how policy and regulatory gaps can be addressed. The aim is to make them progressively prioritize ecosystem restoration. The outputs thereby directly contribute to the core elements of Outcome 2.

In this context, interventions under Outcome 1 will provide innovative tools and avenues for these dialogues to take place. Interventions under Outcome 3, in turn, will inform those dialogues and help monitor change in policies and the wider enabling environment for ecosystem restoration.

Complementing these elements, **Output 2.3. of the programme will develop and disseminate methods and knowledge for designing restoration models; Output 2.4. will develop toolkits, guidelines, and other training materials to promote economic viability;** while **Output 2.5 will avail reference data on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration** to inform decision-makers and investors on business opportunities. In doing so, the programme will build on the framework of The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration database and other relevant systems. This will help build the awareness of the financial sector of the multiple benefits of restoration as one of the pre-conditions to unlock additional capital for restoration. The outputs are designed to directly respond to the identified gaps in the capacity needs assessment. **Taken together, Outputs 2.3–2.5 will thereby help share best practices and increase the capacity to catalyze restoration investments as envisaged by Outcome 2.**

Currently, mobilization of financial resources for ecosystem restoration is insufficient due to limited capacity to both develop bankable projects and to assess and value restoration projects. As such, the capacity of economic actors needs to be enhanced to develop viable and investable business plans and models. Financiers also need to better understand the ecosystem restoration context to evaluate investment proposals. In response to this, **Output 2.6 will support scalable pilot ecosystem restoration actions on the ground in selected countries within Flagship Initiatives,** including through profitable and sustainable business models; while **Output 2.7 will help mobilize national, regional and international public and /or private funding sources for restoration.** Outputs 2.6 and 2.7 will thereby create the enabling conditions for restoration actions on the ground and within Flagship Initiatives. Enabling concrete on-the-ground actions within Flagship Initiatives constitute the very core of Outcome 2.

In conclusion, Outcome 2 will enable (I) landscape/seascape actors to adopt good restoration practices on the ground, based on both technical capacity and a stronger enabling policy environment; this will result in (ii) an increase in sound business models in line with best practices; which will in turn (iii) spur allocation of more funds towards ecosystem restoration, from both public, corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) and impact investment sources.

Outcome 2 will be implemented in close collaboration with Outcome 3 to disseminate relevant knowledge / tools on monitoring and reporting restoration progress and restoration benefits to scale up ecosystem restoration on the ground in selected Flagship Initiatives; and it will strongly collaborate with Outcome 1 to communicate on success stories / to organize communication campaigns to scale up restoration on the ground in selected Flagships.

The strategic approach and theory of change under Outcome 2 builds on the **assumptions** that (i) there will be a gradually increasing recognition of the economic importance of restoration reflected in a growing demand for products and services from restorative systems, (ii) increased amounts of investment in restoration can be mobilized through a combination of strengthened enabling conditions including demonstration of on-site cost-effective and scalable best practices, conducive policies and the removal of perverse incentives; and that (iii) the programme's contributions can improve the enabling conditions for restoration on the ground and enable increased engagement including financial flows by partners and other stakeholders beyond the 5-year programme in order to further expand implementation of ecosystem restoration.

4.4. Results Chain Outcome 3

To help stakeholders move from commitments to action and enhance global restoration practices, stakeholders need access to up to date and detailed geospatial data across ecosystems as well as robust, up to date geospatial tools and functionality to share their own restoration progress. Outcome 3 will enable this by developing a framework for monitoring and reporting the progress of the Decade and building capacity for monitoring ecosystem restoration, as well as contributing to the reporting of the progress UN Secretary-General's reporting on the status of Decade and implementation to the UN General Assembly.

Outcome 3 aims to document and share results, through monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for restoration. Outcome 3 seeks to be a catalyst, creating the conditions to enable restoration stakeholders (with a focus on those from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems) to readily access consistent, open-source and validated geospatial data through the FERM.

FERM is an umbrella framework for tracking the progress of efforts to restore degraded ecosystems in the context of the UN Decade. It will also be the basis for selecting key indicators for the reports on the UN Decade to the UN General Assembly at its 81st session; and periodic update reports to the High-Level Political Forum; and for the final report on the UN Decade in 2030.

The **FERM platform** provides an integrated technical solution for restoration monitoring and reporting including a geospatial dissemination platform that will provide a wide range of restoration stakeholders with access to up to date and detailed geospatial data across ecosystems as well functionality to share their own restoration progress through the FERM Registry.

In addition, Outcome 3 will leverage the innovative work of others developing restoration monitoring data, tools and platforms through partnerships developed under the Task Force for Monitoring.

The Task Force for Monitoring has been established to 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. It now comprises over 280 restoration experts from over 100 organizations who collaboratively develop the FERM leveraging partnerships across key restoration actors. Member affiliation has been extended to government agencies, NGOs and academia, while also ensuring appropriate regional representation. The community will continue to evolve with the needs and shifting demands of the Decade.

Building on this work, Outcome 3 **aims to document and share results to inform action, through monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for ecosystem restoration.** This, in turn, has the potential to remove a key barrier to collective action and its measurement while enabling the timely and efficient allocation of collective resources to achieve commitments on restoration. Outcome 3 will thereby help to achieve a core element of the program's overall goal.

Outcome 3 consists of five outputs:

Output 3.1 will establish a monitoring and reporting framework and make it available for restoration. This will be supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology, and innovation. To do so, the programme will establish and strengthen the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) (Global); ensure that restoration monitoring needs of key stakeholders are included in FERM (National); and integrate and strengthen IUCN's Restoration Barometer.

Output 3.2 will establish and manage a global community for restoration monitoring. In doing so, the programme will strengthen the Task Force on Monitoring and other partnerships of expertise in

support to the Decade while engaging key stakeholders from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems, and include information from relevant UN Decades, such as the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Output 3.3 and 3.4 directly contribute to both Outcome 1 and 2 by contributing to (i) informed debate, accountability and decision making that can help advance a global movement (Outcome 1); while (ii) increasing stakeholder's capacity and knowledge to take restoration action on the ground (Outcome 2). These outputs will feed information on the progress, results and challenges of restoration into global, regional and national discussions and decision-making. **This will contribute to documenting and sharing of key results, which constitutes the very core of Outcome 3.**

More specifically, Output 3.3 will produce and make available annual reports on progress in ecosystem restoration. They will use biophysical and socio-economic indicators and best-available data, inclusive of global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration.

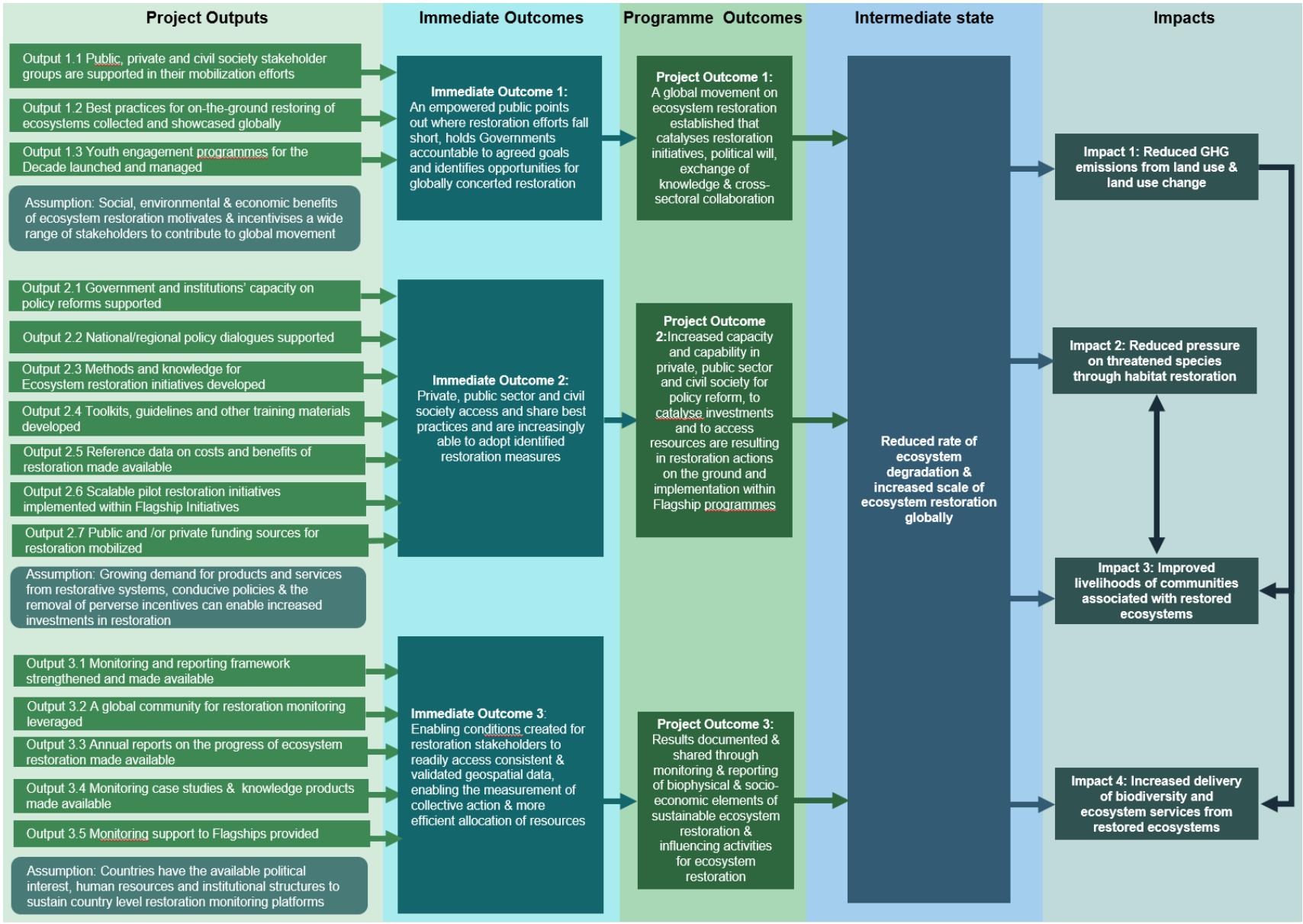
Further, Output 3.4. will include case studies and knowledge products on key ecosystems to address data gaps.

Output 3.5 will **leverage the FERM architecture and build capacity for monitoring the progress of Flagship Initiatives and for informing decision making** e.g., on what restoration action should be undertaken for maximum biophysical and socio-economic impacts. To do so, the programme will prepare monitoring and reporting guidance documents for Flagship Initiatives; support the development of Flagship monitoring platforms; and integrate them into the FERM platform, among others. It will thereby also constitute a pillar to enable science-based actions in Flagship Initiatives as a key enabling element for Outcome 2.

Outcome 3 seeks to be a catalyst, creating the conditions to enable restoration stakeholders (with a focus on those from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems) to readily access consistent, open-source and validated geospatial data through FERM to inform their actions.

The **assumptions** underlying this results chain are that (i) global support to FERM remains strong and government institutions in developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems are supportive to innovative technical solutions; (ii) countries have the available political interest, human resources and institutional structures to support and sustain a country level restoration monitoring platform beyond the time frame and scope of the MPTF program; and that (iii) sufficient funding will be available to fill restoration monitoring gaps in key ecosystems in the mid- and long term; and (iv) a critical number of countries have the political commitment to translate knowledge provide into concrete action for restoration.

The above-described Theory of Change (ToC) is summarized in the following figure.


Project Outputs
Immediate Outcomes
Programme Outcomes
Intermediate state
Impacts
Output 1.1 Public, private and civil society stakeholder groups are supported in their mobilization efforts
Output 1.2 Best practices for on-the-ground restoring of ecosystems collected and showcased globally
Output 1.3 Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed
Assumption: Social, environmental & economic benefits of ecosystem restoration motivates & incentivises a wide range of stakeholders to contribute to global movement
Immediate Outcome 1: An empowered public points out where restoration efforts fall short, holds Governments accountable to agreed goals and identifies opportunities for globally concerted restoration
Project Outcome 1: A global movement on ecosystem restoration established that catalyses restoration initiatives, political will, exchange of knowledge & cross-sectoral collaboration
Output 2.1 Government and institutions' capacity on policy reforms supported
Output 2.2 National/regional policy dialogues supported
Output 2.3 Methods and knowledge for Ecosystem restoration initiatives developed
Output 2.4 Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials developed
Output 2.5 Reference data on costs and benefits of restoration made available
Output 2.6 Scalable pilot restoration initiatives implemented within Flagship Initiatives
Output 2.7 Public and /or private funding sources for restoration mobilized
Assumption: Growing demand for products and services from restorative systems, conducive policies & the removal of perverse incentives can enable increased investments in restoration
Immediate Outcome 2: Private, public sector and civil society access and share best practices and are increasingly able to adopt identified restoration measures
Project Outcome 2:Increased capacity and capability in private, public sector and civil society for policy reform, to catalyse investments and to access resources are resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship programmes
Output 3.1 Monitoring and reporting framework strengthened and made available
Output 3.2 A global community for restoration monitoring leveraged
Output 3.3 Annual reports on the progress of ecosystem restoration made available
Output 3.4 Monitoring case studies & knowledge products made available
Output 3.5 Monitoring support to Flagships provided
Assumption: Countries have the available political interest, human resources and institutional structures to sustain country level restoration monitoring platforms
Immediate Outcome 3: Enabling conditions created for restoration stakeholders to readily access consistent & validated geospatial data, enabling the measurement of collective action & more efficient allocation of resources
Project Outcome 3: Results documented & shared through monitoring & reporting of biophysical & socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration & influencing activities for ecosystem restoration
Reduced rate of ecosystem degradation & increased scale of ecosystem restoration globally
Impact 1: Reduced GHG emissions from land use & land use change
Impact 2: Reduced pressure on threatened species through habitat restoration
Impact 3: Improved livelihoods of communities associated with restored ecosystems
Impact 4: Increased delivery of biodiversity and ecosystem services from restored ecosystems

5. Result framework

The following results framework includes a menu of potential interventions that can be implemented in the 5-year programme based on demand by national and regional stakeholders. As a guiding principle, interventions are oriented towards action on the ground: Outcome 2 will exclusively focus on supporting charismatic Flagship Initiatives in specific locations around the world. Outcome 1 will complement this by raising the profile and prominence of successful action within Flagship Initiatives, among others, thus inspiring more support to similar initiatives and practices elsewhere. Outcome 3 will monitor progress of restoration on the ground and provide data and information that justifies investment for scaled up restoration action in different countries and regions. Thus, projects for Flagships Initiatives will include elements from all three outcomes. In addition to this, Outcomes 1 and 3 also include activities taking place at the global level.

As mentioned, to maximize the impacts of these interventions, UNEP and FAO will focus on the role of enablers. Instead of seeking to generate all results in the below framework themselves, the organizations will work with and through the UN Decade task forces and other partnership networks. Where relevant, the 5-year programme will direct the technical assistance described in the below results framework to the UN Decade task forces to assist them in multiplying their impact.

Objective	**Reverse current negative trends in degradation and enable conservation and restoration globally**
Outcome 1: A global movement on ecosystem restoration established that catalyzes restoration initiatives, political will, exchange of knowledge, and cross-sectoral collaboration – with a focus on support for and within flagship countries and regions	
Outcome indicators[7]:	

[7] Given the nature of this document as a general framework for the 5-year Programme and to allow for the flexibility of a demand driven menu of potential intervention, the results framework does not include specific targets for its indicators. Additional details will be included in annual work plans and Flagship Initiative proposals.

Indicator 1.1: *Number of local stakeholders (from government, private sector, civil society) that have been mobilized into action, with multiplicators tracked on digital platform, individual actions tracked through gamification (see below), and a focus on flagship regions / countries* ***Indicator 1.2:*** *Number of people reached through good restoration practices in line with the 10 Principles for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, science and storytelling, with a focus on content related to UN Decade Flagship countries* ***Indicator 1.3:*** *Number of young people involved through engagement and capacity building programmes, and number of people reached and impacted by youth initiatives – with focus on flagship regions and countries* ***Indicator 1.4.*** *Number of local audiences reached and empowered through national- and regional-level storytelling* ***Indicator 1.5.*** *Number of partner organizations and networks, and their reach, that promote the objective of the UN Decade*		
Outputs	**Indicative interventions**	**Output indicators**
Output 1.1: Mobilization: Selected public, private and civil society stakeholder groups are supported in their mobilization efforts through increased incentives, capacity and collective action for promotion and restoration of ecosystems	Global, regional and country-based campaigning to elevate UN Decade Flagships • Launching and executing Flagship nomination process accompanied by engagement opportunities for global public, citizens within Flagship countries/regions and global and national media Support to targeted large-scale mobilization campaigns could include: • Production and dissemination of digital and non-digital, multimedia campaign products accessible in multiple languages • Establishment of and collaboration with targeted networks and alliances for restoration: ○ Mainstreaming ecosystem restoration in informal education through existing UNEP and FAO cooperation programmes with the Scouts movement ○ Formal education ▪ Generation Restoration University Challenge in collaboration with University of Oxford, UNESCO and selected universities as multiplicators in flagship regions ▪ Curriculum kit development, distribution and familiarization through UN Decade Partners (such as UNESCO's Green School Network" and tracking of multiplicators on digital hub) ○ Gaming industry	Number of local stakeholders (from government, private sector, civil society) that have been mobilized into action

	▪ Collaboration through Playing for the Planet Campaign, mainstreaming activations for restoration through the industry[8] ○ Faith-based community outreach, registration of initiatives through digital hub and training of multiplicators through UNEP Faith for Earth and selected UN Decade Partners working in flagship regions (such as World Vision in the Great Green Wall Region) Journalism and media – building a “Media for Restoration" initiative similar to “Media for Climate”; collaboration with relevant UN Decade Partners (Columbia School of Journalism, regional journalist networks in flagship regions), focus on flagship regions / countries Film industry and content creators • Establishment of digital hub to track, showcase and promote global restoration efforts and use multiplier-effect to reach communities on the ground connected to these larger efforts Creation of active **engagement opportunities** (awards, prizes, structures to support restoration) together with partners and networks, such as: • Gamification of Ecosystem Restoration Practical Guide to track individual contributions[9] • Student and faculty competitions for restoring campuses and schoolgrounds (in line with Generation Restoration University challenge, see above) • Young Champions of the Earth cycle focused on restoration • Annual Restoration Film Award for major movie productions, in cooperation with leading film festivals (such as festivals of the Green Film Network) and a focus on content creation for flagship regions • Restoration Mural production in collaboration with global Street Artists and UN Decade Partners, involving restoration implementers and local citizens, with a focus on flagship regions and countries	

[8] see for example: https://playing4theplanet.org/
[9] An example of now partially dormant gamification from World Environment Day: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/play-game-restore-planet

	• Accompanying media outreach and journalist training around key events and media moments (in line with "Media for restoration" network, see above) **Creation, maintenance and promotion of a digital hub** as online one-stop shop for information and engagement opportunities: • Knowledge and stock take of existing restoration initiatives (in close coordination with Best Practices identified under Output 2.3.) • Creation of community of restoration multipliers, channeling global enthusiasm for restoration to local changemakers and ultimately support efforts on the ground with focus on flagship regions and countries • Functionality as database for funders, content producers, media and policy makers on existing restoration initiatives on the ground **Mass outreach** through media, arts, and culture: • Communication toolkit containing a full suite of content and material is developed that is adaptable to different context and extended for use • Engagement with global and target region audience not reached through Lead Agencies' (FAO and UNEP) contact base through mobilizing network of 100+ partners and restoration multipliers	
Output 1.2: Science Communication and advocacy: Best practices for on-the-ground restoration of ecosystems collected and showcased globally, to shift perceptions and increase uptake by, support to restoration initiatives	**Science-based communication, such as**: • Suite of communication products and media engagement around reports targeted to inform key policy processes and raise ambitions for restoration-related targets: ○ UNFCCC (NDCs) ○ CBD (upcoming post-2020 targets) ○ UNCCD (LDN goals) • Media engagement around key policy moments and breaking findings on restoration • Development of communication assets documenting countries' restoration achievements and the world's progress and translating data for a wide audience, based on data collected through FERM and related reports (Outcome 3)	Number of policy processes informed by science-based communication

	High level 'Our Human Nature Path' with UNESCO • A high level panel of global thought leaders to write the next chapter in the human story – one where humankind has restored its relation with nature[10] **Practical guidelines and tools such as**: • Suite of practical science-based information products made accessible and attractive for wide uptake (for example through gamification, interactive, practical guides) • Focus on communicating lessons learned from flagship countries and regions **Storytelling** around concrete restoration action across media formats such as: • Development and dissemination of radio and television broadcast series targeted at audiences in Flagship regions affected by digital divide, especially within UN Decade flagship regions • Production of sharable and adaptable digital and interactive content to equip restoration multiplicators and UN Decade partner organizations with outreach and advocacy tools • Development of focused content on target regions and countries (Flagship Initiatives) through deliberate selection of stories that will both serve to elevate and amplify local actions, reach local audiences, further a sense of shared mission and inspire global support Strategic planning, production and follow-up of digital and on-the ground **restoration dialogues:** • Restoration dialogues held in conjunction with key policy moments and processes (focus on CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC) • Restoration dialogues broadened to leverage voices of artists, filmmakers and athletes, with focus on UN Decade Flagship Regions and in collaboration with existing partner programmes • Regional and national dialogues focused on restoration Flagship regions and priority areas resulting in new commitments and ambition, transparency and stock take of progress	

[10] under formation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS1l0-Xan8s

	• High-profile global and digital events to inspire global audience in support of restoration, increase transparency and accountability of decision makers	
Output 1.3: Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement, in close collaboration with the UN Decade's youth-led Youth Task Force	Strategic design and running of **Young Restoration Champions of the Earth programme** to meaningfully engage youth as active participants in restoration, including: • Design of programme with focus on Flagship and target regions, together with UN Decade Partners on the ground • Development and rollout of accompanying capacity development component • Media engagement to elevate public awareness of youth solutions in restoration, with special focus on Flagship and target regions Development and wide dissemination of communication tools to **engage youth as channel of communication** • Science-based development of practical guide for youth engagement in restoration (in alignment with collaboration through formal and informal communication channels, see above) • Youth advocacy toolkit for restoration in local to global community and policy fora • Development, design and wide dissemination of networked youth-led lectures and trainings on restoration Creation of **targeted capacity building of youth** for a restoration-based future economy and job market • Collaboration with formal and informal educators • Development of suite of practical guides and science-based products for educators to mainstream restoration in curricula and content **Production and running of digital and multimedia-content** tailored to youth, including through **youth-focused influencers and media outlets**: • Establishment of strategic partnerships with streaming platforms and media channels targeted at young audience	Number of people reached by youth-focused content and capacity building

	• Establishment of partnership programme with young content producers, such as YouTubers, in key Flagship and target regions to develop series of messaging and practical engagement opportunities for young audiences	
Outcome 2: Increased capacity and capability in private, public sector and civil society for policy reform, to catalyse investments and to access resources are resulting in restoration actions on the ground and implementation within Flagship Initiatives **The following menu of potential interventions could be implemented in the selected Flagship Initiatives. The indicated targets will vary as a function on the number of supported Flagship Initiatives and based on the demand of the national / landscapes partners within Flagship Initiatives. The menu is based on the capacity needs assessment led by the Task Force on Best Practices, but will be adapted to each Flagships needs and priorities.**		
Outcome Indicator: ***Indicator 2.1:*** *Number of partner programmes with on the ground restoration actions being implemented as a consequence of supported Flagship Initiatives* ***Indicator 2.2:*** *Number of national policy and regulatory reforms and initiatives underway that prevent ecosystem degradation and promote on-site ecosystem restoration within Flagships* ***Indicator 2.3:*** *Number of cross-governmental and/or cross-sectoral collaborative measures underway benefitting the goals for ecosystem restoration* ***Indicator 2.4*** *Volume of funding directly channeled into national and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives*		
Output 2.1: Government and institutions' capacity and capability on policy reforms that promote large-scale sustainable ecosystem restoration supported	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** **Development, dissemination and uptake of relevant policy case studies and policy briefs** could include the following elements: • Assessments of countries' policies. Reviews to list and understand policies that facilitate and incentivize or hinder restoration and conservation at scale. • Provide targeted policy recommendations, promoting convergence towards best practices, improving implementation of international standards, and support governments build support for concrete reform measures at home. **Capacity development workshops at the Flagship level – engaging for policy reforms could**	Number of national policy and regulatory reforms and initiatives underway that promote ecosystem restoration

	facilitate the participation of economies from a region as a group. They provide a way of reaching large numbers of countries, while anchoring into existing regional structures. **Enhance in-country enabling environment for policy reforms.** This could include: • Country-specific approaches to develop more comprehensive approaches in some strategically important cases. • Support in-country efforts to enhance the enabling policy environment through identification, uptake and strengthening of policies and regulatory frameworks that support restoration.	
Output 2.2: National/regional policy dialogues and/or regional/national inter-sectoral platforms facilitated for on-the-ground restoration action	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** **Policy dialogue on priority ecosystem restoration topics at the Flagship levels** Events at the Flagship level on key restoration issues of interest for several countries could be organized. While some topics related to restoration can be dealt with at the global level, others would be better done at the regional level (according to ecosystem types, language, etc.). As such, regional workshops will be organized over the life of the Program, depending on common interests expressed by countries. **Convening and facilitation of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) could** play a central role in the success of the program. The programme will strengthen the capacity of in-country stakeholders to convene and facilitate MSPs, including at the community level. **Focused regional South-South exchange visits on selected restoration topics.** Through these, the program could stimulate and support the design, execution and dissemination of knowledge from regional exchange visits between countries. These exchange visits will enable in-country stakeholders to share their experiences and best practices.	Number of cross-governmental and/or cross-sectoral collaborative measures underway benefitting the goals of on-the-ground ecosystem restoration
Output 2.3: Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:**	Number of Decade-labelled good practices

developed, disseminated and applied within specific Flagship Initiatives	This output will be focused on the **implementation of the Decade knowledge and learning action plan**. This could include the following elements: • Prioritization of knowledge products on restoration techniques (existing and to be developed) will build on filling the capacity gaps from the capacity needs assessment. For the list of new knowledge products identified, detailed Terms of Reference will be elaborated. • In addition, the output will address the collection and sharing of new good practices for ecosystem restoration, as well as the capitalization of existing ones (through existing knowledge platforms), to be labelled with a "UN Decade badge". • Both the prioritized knowledge products and the labelled good practices, will be referenced on the Digital hub to facilitate their access and wide dissemination across ecosystem restoration practitioners.	
Output 2.4: Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials for SMEs, incubators / business accelerators and investors, developed and delivered through online and in-person events and on-the-ground application supported with targeted technical assistance	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** This output could include the following elements: • **Develop e-learning modules to expand the knowledge and understanding of the larger public on building business case for ecosystem restoration,** on drivers of ecosystem degradation as well as development of case studies on mobilization of finance for ecosystem restoration. • **Restoration entrepreneurs will be identified and capacitated** to better understand the different financial solutions that exist to potentially fund their ventures. Through the relevant incubator services (e.g. the Restoration Factory[11]), these entrepreneurs and project developers will receive practical business and financial capacity-building support in order to build a restoration focused incubation pipeline for further linkage to potential investors/buyers (for example the Restoration Marketplace[12])	Number of entrepreneurs supported in their development and implementation of viable (economically, environmentally, socially) restoration ventures
Output 2.5: Reference data on costs and	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could**	Number of online

[11] Restoration Factory is a UNEP/FAO/IUCN e-learning program that assists restoration entrepreneurs in developing enticing and attractive business models of restoration
[12] The Restoration Marketplace is a UNEP initiative aiming to provide a central place where restoration developers and restoration investors share information in support of a more efficient match-making

benefits of ecosystem restoration made available within the framework of The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration initiative	**include:** **Data collection and database management.** This will include the development of an open-access and comprehensive database on the costs and benefits of specific restoration interventions in a variety of contexts within Flagship Initiatives. **Data analysis and knowledge products.** This will include the following: • Build capacities of restoration actors on key concepts for the economics of ecosystem restoration, data collection and use through: workshops, e-learnings, targeted online/in person support based on demand from partners within the selected Flagship Initiatives • Develop methodologies that allow for easy assessments of the positive impact of ecosystem restoration on ecosystem services values (in partnership with Ecosystem Services Valuation Database (ESVD)) and its contribution to ecosystem accounts (in partnership with SEEA). **Policy impact.** In this context, the programme will: • Develop specific products aimed at public investors and governments that reflect on the foregone benefits of policy inaction on restoration. Once costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration have been accurately accounted for and incorporated in national scenarios for ecosystem wealth (via SEEA accounts), incentives, subsidies for restoration at the national level will be unlocked.	databases storing data on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration
Output 2.6: Scalable pilot ecosystem restoration initiatives implemented in selected countries within Flagship Initiatives	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** To support **scalable pilot ecosystem restoration actions on the ground in selected countries within the Flagship Initiatives,** the programme could: • Provide tailor-made technical assistance to use and implement existing and developed methods on the ground in selected pilot initiatives within Flagship Initiatives (through Outputs 2.3 and 2.4) • Prepare a significant part of the area pledged in the country for large-scale ecosystem restoration	Number of initiatives with sustainable economic model implemented (Restoration Market Access Strategy)

	• Plan and support on-site restoration approaches/interventions of degraded ecosystems on the ground	
Output 2.7 National and international public and /or private funding sources for restoration action mobilized (e.g. Impact Funds, private sector NBS investments, LDNF, GCF etc.)	**Depending on demands and needs within the specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** Based on the policies developed at Flagship level, financing needs to be mobilized to support scaling-up of restoration interventions. This could be achieved through mobilization of public funds (e.g., in-country financial mechanisms and incentives) and support of preparation of bankable proposals: • **Technical support or small grants to prepare ambitious restoration programs** (WB, GEF, GCF, LDCF, Adaptation Funds etc.) • Support countries and local partners to **focus existing public funds on ecosystem restoration** projects / programmes within Flagship Initiatives • **Help establish engagement strategies with market access providers** • **Develop a match-making platform (e.g., the Restoration Marketplace) for project developers and entrepreneurs** to showcase their commercially viable restoration venture to potential investors and buyers. • Provide technical assistance to initiate discussion with impact investors such as LDNF, Moringa, Althelia etc	Volume of funding directly channeled into national and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives investors through (e.g., the Restoration Marketplace)
Output 2.8 Design of Flagship Initiatives	**Depending on the demands and needs related to the design of specific Flagship Initiatives, activities could include:** • In-country and regional consultations • Partner identification and engagement • Preparatory/feasibility studies and assessments, including capacity assessments and institutional assessments.	Number of fully designed Flagship Initiatives for MPTF support
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		
Outcome indicator: ***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 local ecosystems measured and reported through the FERM* ***Indicator 3.3****: Volume of annual financial resources to on-the-ground ecosystem restoration reported through the FERM* ***Indicator 3.4:*** *Number of restoration stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society MPTF produced knowledge products to inform restoration actions and decision making*		
Output 3.1 Monitoring and reporting framework established, strengthened and made available for monitoring on-the-ground restoration – supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation	This output will include the following elements: • **Establish the FERM** providing a monitoring and reporting structure for the UN Decade (Global) • **Strengthen the FERM platform** - providing access to data on restoration progress, and providing access to tools and standards for monitoring restoration at different scales and for enabling efficient technology transfer (Global) • Integrate IUCN's Restoration Barometer with the FERM and expand the scope to additional ecosystems (Global) • Ensure the **restoration monitoring needs of key stakeholders from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems are included in FERM** (through national-level dialogues and South-South exchanges), and that these key stakeholders can use FERM to inform, make decisions, monitor and report their restoration actions through capacity development (National).	Number of stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society measuring their biophysical and socio-economic progress and reporting regularly through FERM.
Output 3.2 A global community for restoration monitoring leveraged to enable knowledge exchange and methodological development to overcome ecosystem specific data, monitoring and reporting challenges	This output will include the following elements: • **Strengthen the Task Force on Monitoring,** leveraging partnerships, science and technology expertise in support to the Decade (Global). • **Hold an annual forum to advance elements of restoration monitoring** and fill identified gaps and needs to advance the global restoration movement (Global). • **Ensure key stakeholders from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems can engage in and inform discussions of the Task Force for Monitoring** (through	Number of key stakeholders from developing economies engaged

	national-level dialogues and south-south exchanges) and are represented in annual forums on restoration monitoring (National).	
Output 3.3 Annual reports on the progress of ecosystem restoration action using biophysical and socio-economic indicators, best-available data, inclusive of global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration produced and made available	To deliver this output, the programme will: • **Produce an annual report on the progress of ecosystem restoration**, using biophysical and socio-economic indicators and the best-available data against indicators, inclusive of global flows of private and public financial investment towards ecosystem restoration (Global). • **Identify critical data and information gaps in restoration monitoring** which limit the tracking of ecosystem health, degradation, and restoration with a focus on geographies represented by developing economies (through targeted national-level workshops and interventions). The monitoring of identified ecosystems will be flagged and prioritized for improvement throughout the decade through research and development, involving national-level academia and restoration practitioners working closely with stakeholders (National). • **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 (Global).	Number of critical data and information gaps filled in developing economies
Output 3.4 Monitoring case studies and knowledge products developed and made available on the monitoring of key local ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development	This output will include the following elements: • **Develop sector-specific ecosystem restoration monitoring standards consistent with international and national standards and deploy in developing economies and critical ecosystems** (Global and National). • **Develop geospatial tools to support estimation of restoration potential** and the prioritization of ecosystem restoration activities versus other land use options (Global). • **Develop a set of ecosystem restoration protocols, tools and training mechanisms for the monitoring of specific landscapes and seascapes** (Global and National). • **Highlight successful restoration projects monitoring for joint learning of all actors** at national level (National)	Number of communication pieces on case studies and knowledge products
Output 3.5 Targeted monitoring support (capacity development / technology transfer) provided to on-the-ground UN	To deliver this output, the programme will: • Prepare **monitoring and reporting guidance documents for Flagship Initiatives.**	Number of Flagships received technical support

Decade Flagship Initiatives	• Support the **development of monitoring platforms for Flagship Initiatives** and integrate them into the FERM platform (deployment of FERM geospatial architecture to Flagships). • Flagship FERM platform deployments will be transferred, institutionalized and operational at the regional and country level taking into consideration regional and national capacities and contexts. • **Populate project registry under the Flagship Initiatives and integrate them into the FERM Registry** to ensure key restoration project interventions are geospatially referenced. • **Provide technical assistance for capacity development and technology transfer of the FERM platform** as well as relevant monitoring tools. • **Enable collaboration with academia and ecosystem specific monitoring experts** to improve capacity development and creation of knowledge products and case studies at the national and local level. • **Support data collection for baseline setting** and remeasurement to track progress (biophysical and socio-economic).	

6. Links between programme outcomes

The different outcomes in the programme complement each other on various levels. Specific complementarities and links include:

Links and complementarities of Outcome 1 and Outcome 2
By unleashing and directing a movement, as outlined in Outcome 1, the capacity of actors to scale up restoration and decrease degradation in Flagships and beyond will increase. Political will can contribute to more investments into restoration, as well as to policies that are conducive to both limiting degradation and upscaling restoration – thereby contributing to on-the-ground restoration action under Outcome 2. Exchanging knowledge across entities and sectors will further strengthen capacity of government, private sector and non-state implementers and partners to lead on ecosystem restoration. At the same time, improved information sharing vis-à-vis the public can help shift knowledge, attitude and practices linked to restoration, which can influence the demands that citizens will pose towards leaders from public and private sector and these actors' accountability towards agreed restoration goals.

Restoration initiatives across the world exist, but they are generally underfunded and undervalued. Making successful initiatives more prominent, while underlining what constitutes "good" restoration, will enable citizens to support restoration efforts themselves, make choices in favour of restoration, and raise their voice for restoration. In this context, Outcome 2 will surface relevant examples and provide guidance on good practices, while Outcome 1 will focus on better communicating and disseminating these examples and practices through methods such as artwork, PDFs, movie productions, guidelines and gamification). Outcome 1 will, in turn, raise the profile and thus support of successful efforts through celebrity outreach, storytelling, high-profile events and more.

Links and complementarities between Outcome 1 and Outcome 3:
There are three main links and complementarities: Improved data availability and quality concerning restoration targets will increase transparency and can enable a more informed citizenry to hold key actors accountable. A global movement that is well informed about restoration achievements and degradation trends will also help to spread key messages "sideways", thus informing more people outside the core group that are supportive of restoration. Through channels like citizen science or big data, monitoring and reporting can be improved further. Success breeds success: communicating the initial restoration successes of Flagships will depend on accurate monitoring of results.

While ambitious global and national restoration commitments exist through various international and regional streams (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, Bonn Challenge), these are still mainly focused on terrestrial ecosystems, and have not reached the level of awareness that climate commitments have. As such, citizens are largely unaware of the promises their own countries have made, in how far they lived up to them and what needs to be done to improve delivery against and quality of restoration goals.

A concrete example is the World Environment Day: international media outreach around World

Environment Day and the launch of the UN Decade has led to uptake in 42,000 media stories by globally and nationally important outlets. The key message – which was taken up by prominent outlets like *The Guardian* and *Le Mond Diplomatique*, to name a few – is that, based on the UN Decade flagship report *Becoming #GenerationRestoration*, countries have so far committed 1 billion hectares to restoration, an area larger than China. This simple and straightforward message resonated with media and readers. In fact, a digital interactive produced to communicate the report and its findings provides the first-ever source for citizens to quickly access the restoration commitments their countries have made.

Going forward, this evidence-based call to action must be strengthened and further amplified. In this context, Outcome 3 can assess countries' achievements towards their goals, as well as their quality, by visualizing restoration progress through high-resolution satellite imagery. Activities under Outcome 1 – such as campaigns and press releases aligned with major policy moments – amplify these messages and create clear calls to action. Likewise, communication and advocacy efforts under Outcome 1 will help citizens and policymakers to hold their governments accountable and can thereby increase pressure to raise ambitions where needed.

Links and complementarities between Outcome 3 and Outcome 2

Outcome 3 and 2 are complementary in ensuring that capacity development and the generation of knowledge products is guided by the best available data, and where possible is directly linked to the FERM platform. For example, Output 2.5 on the costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration is closely linked and will be jointly implemented with Output 3.5, which will develop geospatial tools to support estimation of restoration potential and the prioritization of ecosystem restoration activities versus other land use options.

Implementation at scale (Output 2.6) will be supported by data and information justifying investment and for monitoring progress of restoration actions implemented on the ground. This will be done through the annual reports on the progress of ecosystem restoration using biophysical and socio-economic indicators, based on the best-available data, under Output 3.3.

Conversely, to the extent possible, interventions under Outcome 2 will be implemented in close collaboration with Outcome 3 to ensure that field level activities are disseminated through the FERM platform for transparency and accountability.

In addition, Outcome 3 includes a specific package of support through Output 3.5, which will provide direct monitoring support to UN Decade Flagship Initiatives. This package will leverage the FERM architecture for monitoring the progress of Flagship Initiatives and for informing decision making e.g., on what restoration action should be undertaken for maximum biophysical and socio-economic impacts. It will thus constitute a pillar to enable science-based actions in Flagship Initiatives as a key enabling element for Outcome 2.

7. Project cycle

The 5-year programme provides the framework for activities of UNEP, FAO and partners. The programming of the funds is carried out through the preparation of concept notes, project documents and workplans, which will be submitted to the Executive Board by UNEP and FAO through the Joint Secretariat. The Executive Board can approve different types of project documents and workplans at the level of global/multi-region/multi-country, regional/multi-country and/or country.

The Joint Secretariat for the UN Decade will prepare concept notes and project documents for Flagship Initiatives[13].

Further, the Joint Secretariat will prepare one consolidated annual workplan and budget. This will include activities across the three outcomes divided in:

- sections for Global level Activities (Global advocacy and monitoring)
- sections for activities within Flagships initiatives (across all outcomes)

Eligibility criteria: Support for Flagship Initiatives can only be provided to countries that are eligible for development assistance according to OECD DAC.

The workplan will include an outputs-based budget as well as a budget following UNDG budget categories. Yearly technical/narrative reporting will be conducted against the output-based budget.

The Flagship Initiatives, the annual workplan and budgets will be aligned with the 5-year programme Results Framework and contribute to its indicators. Funding for Outcomes 1 and 3 will be decided by the Executive Board based on annual workplans. Funding for Outcome 2 will be decided by the Executive Board based on specific concept notes and project documents. On an annual basis, budget, and activities in support of the Flagship Initiatives will be included in the annual workplan and approved by the Executive Board. All Documents will be prepared by the Joint secretariat.

Concept notes and project documents for Flagship Initiatives can be prepared with seed funding from the Global Programme Cycle and can be submitted to the EB by UNEP/FAO jointly or individually or with an implementing partner. In case of joint programmes, FAO and UNEP will agree on the lead Organization entrusted with coordinating and preparing project documents. All Project Documents will be based on the principle of national ownership and leadership; furthermore, they will be prepared in support of national priorities.

7.1 Modalities of support

[13] For the AA (MPTF office), those correspond to separate Atlas projects, for FAO “baby” accounts within the single project document.

In order to implement the 5-year programme's regional-, multi-country- and country-level Flagship Initiatives and global activities within the three outcomes in the most adequate manner, three modalities of support are envisaged:

1. **Global support**
   This support modality will be used for global interventions in Outcome 1 and 3 for advocacy, communication, dialogues and for monitoring.

Support for Flagships Initiatives including:

2. **Targeted support for Flagship Initiatives – maximum of $200,000 per initiative**
   Support can be provided to promote Flagships Initiatives globally and bring lessons learned to a wider audience. This support can also be used for a targeted, rapid intervention, such as unblocking a specific bottleneck like legislative frameworks or governance issues in a specific Flagship. Further, support can be provided to overcome specific obstacles (e.g. a specific piece of legislative change required) and bring Flagships to scale. A maximum of $200,000 can be allocated to Flagship Initiatives located in countries eligible for development aid according to OECD DAC.

3. **Full support for Flagship initiatives – maximum of $5 million per initiative**
   The 'full support' option to Flagships is still a rather small (maximum $5 million) intervention compared to the overall funding needs of most large-scale restoration efforts, which usually range in the hundreds of millions. Therefore, support to Flagship Initiatives will consist of strategically selected interventions (see list in Section 6 - Results Framework). Each Flagship support will be tailored to the specific context of the Flagship, which will usually require an inception phase. The support can, if feasible, include a small grant facility, which can be channelled through national/local institutions to enable innovative activities in civil society and at the community level, youth initiatives, dialogues, advocacy and other activities that can strengthen a local restoration movement and related activities. A maximum of $100,000 can be approved per small grant allocation. Corresponding small grant envelopes and respective budget allocations are approved by the EB, as part of a larger Flagship Initiative concept.

These modalities will support the implementation of the three outcomes of the programme. Different preparation processes will be applied for global activities across Outcomes 1 and 3 and for Flagships Initiatives.

7.2 Global Activities – Outcomes 1 and 3

The programming of Global Activities will be conducted through submission of annual work plans and budgets following a designated template and within the results framework of the 5-year Programme. Each annual workplan will include a brief chapter on status of budget and progress during the previous year. The joint secretariat will prepare the annual workplans.

Steps	Action	Output	Responsible	Duration
Step 1: Preparation	Preparation of an annual workplan and budget for Global Activities. The workplan will be based on previous year's results	An annual workplan and budget	Joint Secretariat in cooperation with relevant departments of UNEP and FAO	6 weeks
Step 2: Approval	Joint Secretariat forwards annual workplan to Executive Board two weeks in advance of meeting. Executive Board assesses and approves the workplan based on previous year's results	Approval of annual workplan and budget	Joint Secretariat Executive Board	3 weeks
Step 3: Implementation	These would vary depending on the specific need of the flagship	Depending on the flagship initiative	UNEP, FAO National partners	1-2 years
Step 4: Reporting	Joint Decade Secretariat in cooperation with relevant department of UNEP and FAO prepares an annual narrative and financial report comparing results to approved workplan Executive Board discusses and approves annual report	Annual narrative and financial report	Joint Decade Secretariat with input from relevant departments in UNEP and FAO Executive Board	4 weeks 3 weeks

7.3 Flagship Initiatives in support of multi-country (regional) or national activities – Outcome 1, 2 and 3.

Flagship Initiatives can be supported through targeted support (up to $200,000) or full support (maximum of $5 million). The project cycle for targeted and full support to flagship initiatives will differ.

Flagship Initiatives - Targeted support ($200,000 max)

Flagship Initiatives for targeted support will be selected from a global list of Flagship Initiatives selected by UNEP and FAO based on a Global Call

Step	Action	Responsible	Output	Duration
Step 1[14] Global call for flagship initiatives	Invitation to submit proposals is sent out	Decade secretariat	Submitted proposals for flagships	12 weeks
Step 2 Approval of list of Flagship initiatives	Science Task force and Best Practices taskforce assess submitted Flagships and propose a global list of eligible Flagships	UNEP and FAO approve global list of Flagships	Global list of Flagships	4 weeks
Step 3 Approval of budget for targeted support to Flagships	FAO and UNEP propose a budget envelope for targeted support to Flagships as part of annual workplan and budget	Executive Board approves	Approved budget envelope	4 weeks
Step 4 Identification, scoping and approval	Request for support from countries Applicant prepares 5-10 page concept note FAO and UNEP assess and nominate countries for support	Executive board approves list of countries for support	List of Flagships Initiatives with approved support	6 weeks
Step 5 Implementation	The project document will be executed through the integrated yearly workplan and budget, with a section dedicated to each Flagship	Applicant, UNEP, FAO	Activities implemented	1 year

[14] Step 1 and 2 is part of Global Action. No flagships at this stage will receive flagships

Step 6 Closing	Results reported as part of annual reporting Dissemination of results	Applicant, UNEP FAO	Dissemination of results and lessons learned	6 weeks

Flagship Initiatives – Full support ($200 000 to $5 million)

Step	Action	Responsible	duration
Step 1: Identification	Based on Flagship criteria a short list of Eligible Flagships[15] will be prepared by UNEP and FAO, based on applications from OECD-DAC eligible countries and on a representative mix of regions and ecosystems A 5–10 page concept note will be prepared for each eligible Flagship including TOR and budget for detailed design	Joint Decade Secretariat Joint Decade Secretariat in cooperation with partners	4 weeks
Step 2: Approval of shortlist	Concept not(es) with TOR and budget send to Executive Board Executive Board takes decision on which Flagships to further design and approves concept note, TOR and budget for design	Joint Secretariat Executive Board National partner can take part as observer	6 weeks
Step 3: Scoping[16] and design	Joint scoping, consultation, feasibility studies and design of Project document for Full Flagship initiative	Joint Secretariat Dedicated national and or regional partners	8 weeks
Step 4: Review and consultation	a. The draft project proposal consulted with national partners. b. The Project proposal will undergo internal review in UNEP and FAO.	Joint Decade Secretariat Joint Decade Secretariat, to be	6 weeks

[15] Short list will as a general rule be taken from the Global list of eligible Flagships. However, to ensure that the decade take advantage of important Flagships not submitted, FAO and UNEP can propose Flagship Initiatives to the Executive Board

[16] If decided by Executive Board members, the Executive Board Members can be consulted during the process

	c. The project proposal will be sent for approval by the national partner. d. The draft project proposal will be forwarded to the EB for approval. e. The EB approves and instructs the transfer of funds or returns the proposal for revision.	approved by Strategy Group Joint Decade Secretariat Joint Decade Secretariat Executive Board with participation of national and or reginal partner as observer	
Step 5: Implementation	The project document will be executed through the integrated yearly workplan and budget, with a section dedicated to each Flagship	Joint Decade Secretariat in cooperation with partners and partner country institutions	2-5 years
Step 6. Closing	FAO and UNEP will prepare an exit strategy and upon completion a completion report will be prepared. Results and lessons learned disseminated	Joint Secretariat in cooperation with Partners Joint Secretariat in cooperation with UNEP/FAO comms units	6 weeks

All project proposals will be based on the principle of national ownership and leadership; furthermore, they will be prepared in support of national priorities.

In the case of joint project proposals for Flagship Initiatives, FAO and UNEP will agree on the lead organization entrusted with coordinating the preparation of the project proposal.

To ensure that Full Support activities to Flagship Initiatives have sufficient time to be completed before the end of the lifetime of the 5-year programme, activities will be front-loaded so that no large programs are approved towards the end of the 5-year programme period, unless funding for a second phase of the MPTF is approved.

The project cycle is therefore designed to enable the completion of programming within the first two years of the establishment of the 5-year programme, with its remaining lifetime being fully dedicated to implementation, consolidation, evaluation, and collection of lessons learned. This approach assumes the availability of predictable and sufficient pledges, as well as upfront provision of resources for the technical assistance, policy advice and quality assurance of all approved projects.

A template for Project Proposal for Flagship Initiative receiving Full Support will be elaborated and

included in the operational manual. The project proposals should have a maximum length of 25 pages.

8. Safeguards

In collaboration with FAO, UNEP leads on REDD+ safeguards under the UN-REDD Programme in 64 developing countries. Experience from this work, among others, will inform the risk mitigation and avoidance strategy of the 5-year programme.

Based on this, support by the 5-year programme to Flagship Initiatives will be conditional on Flagship Initiatives having strong safeguards policies in place, with corresponding decision-making processes. All Flagship Initiatives will need to present evidence of (i) a gender-responsive environmental and social (E&S) risk management compliant with International Finance Corporation Performance Standards (IFC PS) 1 - 8 and with relevant national and subnational policies, laws and regulations of target geographies; and (ii) procedures to implement E&S risk management, i.e. how activities within Flagship Initiatives will be screened for risks, and how to implement corresponding planning, monitoring and reporting.

9. Budget

Below is a preliminary summary budget indicating the budget distribution between the three outcomes based on the direction linked to available funding and yet to be mobilized funding. The budget will be detailed in yearly workplans guided by the outputs indicated in the Log Frame and based on available funding. It is based on **an estimated budget of $50 million per five years. A revised budget will be presented for the second meeting in the EB.**

5-year tentative budget	Total cost
Output 1.1 Mobilization: Public, private and civil society stakeholders are mobilized through shifted attitudes, increased knowledge and supportive practices regarding ecosystem restoration opportunities	
Output 1.2 Science Communication and dialogue	
Output 1.3 Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement	
Outcome 1 tentative budget	9.0
Output 2.1 Government and institutions capacity and capability on policy reforms that promote large-scale sustainable ecosystem restoration supported	
Output 2.2 National/regional policy dialogues and/or regional/national inter-sectoral platforms facilitated	
Output 2.3 Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives developed, disseminated and applied within Flagship Initiatives	
Output 2.4 Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials for SMEs, incubators / business accelerators and investors, developed and delivered through online and in-person events and application supported with targeted technical assistance	
Output 2.5 Reference data on costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration made available within the framework of The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration database	
Output 2.6 Scalable pilot ecosystem restoration initiatives implemented in selected countries affiliated to Flagship Initiatives	
Output 2.7 National and international public and /or private funding sources for restoration mobilized (e.g. Impact Funds, private sector NBS investments, LDNF, GCF etc.)	
Output 2.8 Preparation of full design of Flagship initiative	
Outcome 2 tentative budget	26.5
Output 3.1 Monitoring and reporting framework developed, tested and made available for restoring degraded ecosystems – supported by a geospatial	

dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation	
Output 3.2 A global community for restoration monitoring established, comprised of ecosystem experts to enable knowledge exchange and methodological development to overcome ecosystem specific data, monitoring and reporting challenges	
Output 3.3 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 3.4 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 Flagship Initiatives	
Output 3.6 Restoration stakeholders trained in use of science and technology to inform restoration actions and decision making	
Outcome 3 tentative budget	9.0
Total tentative budget all outcomes	44.5[4]
3 % Direct cost for UNEP (Secretariat function)	1.5
7 % Indirect cost for UNEP and FAO	3.5
1 % Administrative fee for Administrative Agent	0.5
Total tentative budget for 5-year programme	50

Concrete activities on the ground will focus on Targeted and Ful support for Flagship Initiatives and budgeted with inputs across Outcome 1, 2 and 3. Activities on the ground will be confined to Countries eligible to receive Development Aid according to OECD DAC criteria.

Decisions related to budget allocation in Workplans (and Flagships) will be the responsibility of the EB. This includes decisions on how to allocate funding for targeted and Full support for Flagship Initiatives. Workplans including budget will be prepared according to the template to be included in the operation manual.

Annexes

I. Criteria and process for selecting Flagship Initiatives

Rationale

Geographic Restoration Flagship Initiatives will be the organizing principle for the 5-year programme's interventions on the ground. Flagship Initiatives will be understood as:

"the first, best, or most promising example of ecosystem restoration, adding value and embodying the 10 Restoration Principles, and inspiring others to undertake or accelerate restoration at significant scale".

As a point of departure, all Flagship Initiatives should support the UN Decade's General Assembly Resolution and the UN Decade strategy. In addition, there should be diversity in the regional distribution of Flagship Initiatives as well as diversity in the ecosystems that they target.

UNEP and FAO will offer **incentives for Member States to submit proposals, in particular** political visibility, such as being showcased in the Secretary-General's report to the United Nations General Assembly at its 81st session and at high-level political events such as Stockholm+50 and UNGA Opening Week. Flagship Initiatives will benefit from being featured prominently on the UN Decade's online and social media presence until 2030 and at key international events. The Digital Hub will provide specific chapters for these Flagship Initiatives with dedicated knowledge products and toolboxes, advocacy and communication support, exchange and network opportunities, and receiving special attention by the partner network. They will further act as a basis for geographic-specific joint learning opportunities.

Flagship Initiatives 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 tangible and inspiring for the global restoration movement. The Flagship Initiatives 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 be strategic and innovative in nature and have the potential for triggering transformational change and/or scalability. In each Flagship Initiative, the partners will focus their efforts on the specific comparative advantage and added value of the programme.

The 90+ UN Decade partners will also be encouraged to support developing country Governments and stakeholders in all Flagship Initiatives through their own means, outside of the MPTF.

Following a call for nomination (see details below), Flagship Initiatives will be selected in line with the following description:

- **Flagship Initiatives - all Flagship Initiatives.** Flagship Initiatives representing different ecosystems and geographic areas with proven results, which this Programme can promote globally and bring lessons learned to a wider audience. These are an important source of information and inspiration for stakeholders. The barriers encountered as well as successes achieved in such initiatives will be systematically analyzed and shared by partners, enabling new initiatives to optimize their approaches based on worldwide experiences. **No funding from the MPTF** will be provided for these types of Flagship Initiatives per se.

Out of these selected Flagship Initiatives, a **subgroup of Flagship Initiatives** will be selected and invited to apply for support by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund:

- **Sub-group of Flagship Initiatives.** A limited number of Flagship Initiatives where substantial activities on the ground can be supported directly by the 5-year programme. These Flagship Initiatives can receive support through two modalities: 1. A selected number of Flagships initiatives can receive a maximum of $200,000 in **targeted support**. 2. 5-8 Flagship Initiatives can receive **full support** in the range of $3–5 million for more comprehensive support activities on the ground.

Flagship Initiatives receiving full support ($3–5 million) will be selected by the Executive Board of the Fund. Funded activities will either be implemented by the co-leading agencies UNEP and FAO and their Regional Offices or through allocations by these two entities to implementing partners.

Depending on country and stakeholder demand and commitment as well as donor priorities within the 5-year programme, the interventions for 5-year-programme-supported Flagship Initiatives could e. g. include activities for dissemination of lessons learned and support for regional and national dialogues, strategic gap filling, development of larger funding proposals, a small-grants programme, seed funding to overcome barriers and the scaling up of dedicated Flagship Initiatives through a range of targeted interventions. Each Flagship Initiative will have a specific geographic focus.

Flagship Initiatives will be selected based on the criteria outlined below. It is expected that Flagship Initiatives run over serval years and can vary in duration. A separate project cycle is defined for MPTF-supported Flagship Initiatives. For approval, Flagship Initiatives with a budget above $1 million will require a separate proposal to the Executive Board, while flagship with budgets below $1 million will need a concept note of up to 10 pages. For Targeted Support (max $200,000 per Flagship), UNEP and FAO will submit a request to the Board to fund an envelope of support on which the agencies can draw based on the demand from Flagship Initiatives in developing countries.

Criteria for selection of Flagship Initiatives

Eligibility criteria for all Flagship Initiatives.

For all Flagship Initiatives, the following selection criteria will apply. The detailed assessment framework applied in line with the below criteria will be produced in the first quarter of 2022.

Assessment of a first round of received Flagship nominations will be carried out by the UN

Decade's Science Task Force (led by IUCN) and the Best Practices Task Force (led by FAO) between **April and June 2022**, in consultation with the submitting entity. Thereafter on a rolling basis. They will be assessed based on the following criteria and comply to the greatest extend possible and promote the UN Decade's 10 Principles for Ecosystem Restoration:

Geographic criteria:

- Clearly identifiable geographically, of significant size or scaling potential, and show inspirational demonstration value (for marine/coastal projects, size can be smaller than for terrestrial projects)
- Tailored to local ecological, cultural and socioeconomic contexts, while considering the (public) benefits associated with the larger landscape or seascape

Probability of success criteria:

- Initial success of restoration: part of nominated area already under successful, measurable, and well-documented restoration
- Well-defined short-, medium-, and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals
- A clear pathway for scaling up with an identification of critical barriers to scaling and potential/needed solutions
- Incorporation of multiple types of knowledge and promotion of exchange and integration
- Contribution to the Goals of the Rio Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Inclusion of monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout (and beyond) the lifetime

Eligibility criteria for 5-year-programme-funded Flagship Initiatives

A sub-group of the Flagship Initiatives in developing countries – eligible for development aid according to OECD DAC classification - will receive technical and financial support by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

As such, they require **additional** selection criteria, design, and approval processes. These are complementary to the criteria for all Flagship Initiatives.

The 5-year programme will seek to ensure a representative distribution both geographically and in terms of targeted ecosystems.

The initial screening and assessment of Flagship Initiatives will be carried out by the UN Decade Science Task Force and the Best Practices Task Force and all eligible Flagship Initiatives for MPTF support will be presented for selection by the Executive Board of the Fund. The assessment framework based on the below criteria will be drafted in the first quarter of 2022.

Criteria for Flagships initiatives receiving targeted support (max $200,000)

- Innovative with high learning and demonstration value
- Potential for replicability
- Strong national ownership
- Potential "quick wins'" in terms of removing a major bottleneck with a small investment (e.g. increasing political will through increased visibility of the Flagship)
- Added value in terms of leveraging and/or results of 5-year programme involvement and opportunities for UN Decade partners to support the countries
- High probability that seed funding from the 5-year programme will result in larger intervention and/or impactful outreach
- Inclusive and participatory governance with local communities and institutions for long-term impact and effects of livelihoods and ecosystems

Criteria for Flagship Initiatives receiving full support ($3–5 million):

- High probability of significant results and impact of Flagship Initiative on ecosystem restoration
- Coalition of supporters and stakeholders
- Strong national and local ownership
- Achieve the highest level of recovery for biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, climate change mitigation/adaptation, and livelihoods and emergencies
- Identifying and addressing the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation
- Impact on policy changes and measures fostering replication and scaling-up
- Preference given to Flagship Initiatives with cross-border/multi-national potential or impact

Nomination and selection process

Flagships without five-year programme support

An open invitation to Member States and Regional Organization to nominate Flagship Initiatives will be sent by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of UNEP in December 2021. After an expression of interest, nomination guidelines will be shared, and nominations will be received by FAO and UNEP through a simple online form together with a mandatory official endorsement letter by the submitting government entity or Regional Organization. Member States/Regional Organizations can submit more than one nomination.

Regional/multi-country Flagship Initiatives must be endorsed by a government entity of each participating country, or by a regional organization with a mandate covering the countries of the submitted Flagship Initiative. Partners of the UN Decade are encouraged to support governments and regional organizations throughout the nomination process, as well as in the further implementation of the Flagship Initiative. Co-submissions by UN Decade partners will be recognized positively in the selection process.

Once the UN Decade core team at FAO and UNEP has confirmed completeness of received Flagship

Initiative submissions, the substantial assessment of each submission will be carried out by the UN Decade's Science Task Force (led by IUCN) and the Best Practice Taskforce (led by FAO). As a result of the assessment, they will provide a recommendation to FAO and UNEP.

Final approval for Flagship Initiatives will be given by the Strategy Group of the UN Decade composed of senior officials by FAO and UNEP.[17]

An initial deadline is set for the first call: 31 March 2022. However, the call/invitation will be repeated each year and might move to an open-ended call. As such Member States can propose Flagship Initiatives on a continuous basis.

5-year-programme-supported Flagship Initiatives

These Flagship Initiatives will be selected as a subset of UN Decade Flagship Initiatives.

Targeted support (max. $200,000) will be approved by the Strategy Group of the Decade based on a budget envelope approved by the Executive Board of the MPTF. The Executive Board will oversee whether the criteria have been applied. It is proposed that a maximum of 10 Flagship Initiatives can receive targeted support within the first 5 years of the MPTF, subject to available resources and capacity of FAO and UNEP. If demand is higher, this number will be reconsidered.

Full support for Flagship Initiatives ($3–5 million), including country selection, will be approved by the Executive Board of the MPTF. The approval will be based on recommendations from the Joint Programme Secretariat (UNEP and FAO). No new Initiatives will be selected and initiated after year three of this 5-year programme unless funding for a phase 2 (2025–2030) of MPTF is confirmed.

Before Flagship Initiatives are approved, all eligible countries within one given Flagship Initiative are notified by the UN Decade core team. It is important to note that, because of resource limitations, **not all eligible countries within a Flagship Initiative might benefit from direct support from the 5-year programme.**

Initial fast tracking of 2–3 Flagship Initiatives. Due to time –constraints, and to fast-track an early initiation of Flagship Initiatives for MPTF funding, concept notes for the first 2–3 Flagship Initiatives will be directly proposed by FAO and UNEP to the first Executive Board meeting of the MPTF in December 2021. If approved, the full Flagship Initiative concept and workplan will be presented at the second Executive Board meeting in 2022. It will be based on consultation with regional organizations, Member States, and stakeholders outlined in the initial concept notes.

[17] As of 2 December 2021, the Strategy Group is composed of the three UN Decade coordinators: Tim Christophersen, Head of Nature for Climate Branch, UNEP; Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, FAO; and Eduardo Mansur, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO.

II: Introduction to FERM

Geospatial tools already included in the FERM include SEPAL, Collect Earth, Collect Earth Online, a Peatland Restoration Monitoring Module, a Satellite Time Series Module, a Forest Restoration Planning Tool, and modules for monitoring SDG indicators. The FERM includes an indicator database which enables the identification of indicators for measuring the progress and benefits of restoration efforts, depending on scale of the intervention (regional, country, sub-national, local) and the goals and objectives of restoration. FERM design and architecture is already in place, having been collaboratively developed through the Task Force for Monitoring through a consensus process.

The FERM platform

The FERM platform provides an overarching monitoring platform for the UN Decade. FERM-related interventions under the MPTF will focus on continued innovation and technical development to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting of critical degraded ecosystems, with a focus on national implementation in developing economies, and in support of UN Decade Flagship Initiatives. The MPTF will also support the continued leveraging of partnerships through the Task Force on Monitoring.

The FERM platform will be closely linked to the UN Decade Digital hub, which is an online one-stop shop for information and engagement opportunities. This integration will enable users to cross-reference up-to-date information on restoration initiatives and their progress in the form of statistical or geospatial data.

The FERM platform provides an opportunity to link existing methodologies, cutting-edge technology, research, and development to enhance ecosystem restoration monitoring. The measurement of indicators will require a data driven approaches enabled through cloud computing resources coupled with use of innovative technology that can serve as analytic engines for processing data to assess and monitor indicators at different scales and in all ecosystems. SEPAL, one such centralized online platform, enables accurate, efficient, and cost-effective monitoring and reporting of forest and land cover. It is already applied for restoration monitoring and provides unparalleled access to satellite data (via Google's Earth Engine and other sources) and supercomputing power to computers and mobile phones. Developed in collaboration with the World Bank and NASA, and with financial support from the governments of Finland and Norway, SEPAL has over 7,000 users from 185 countries across the globe.

Reporting

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. Data and figures to become available in such reports will highlight areas where restoration interventions are successful in terms of extent, quality and cost-efficiency of restoration and associated benefits as well as areas where further efforts or resource input will be required to overcome biophysical, economic or political constraints and challenges. This will help to inform decisions by stakeholders at various geographical levels on what restoration action should be undertaken integrating biophysical and socio-economic costs and impacts.

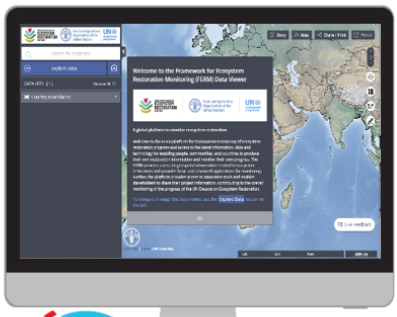
Capacity development and technology transfer

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 of successful restoration interventions on the ground. Key stakeholders for capacity development and technology transfer will be from developing economies and critical degraded ecosystems.

FERM platform development status and future plans

2021

- **FERM minimum viable product** (MVP) launched in June – limited functionalities available e.g. visualizing data layers www.data.apps.fao.org/ferm
- Limited number of **monitoring tools** linked and made available (e.g. SEPAL, Open Foris Collect Earth)



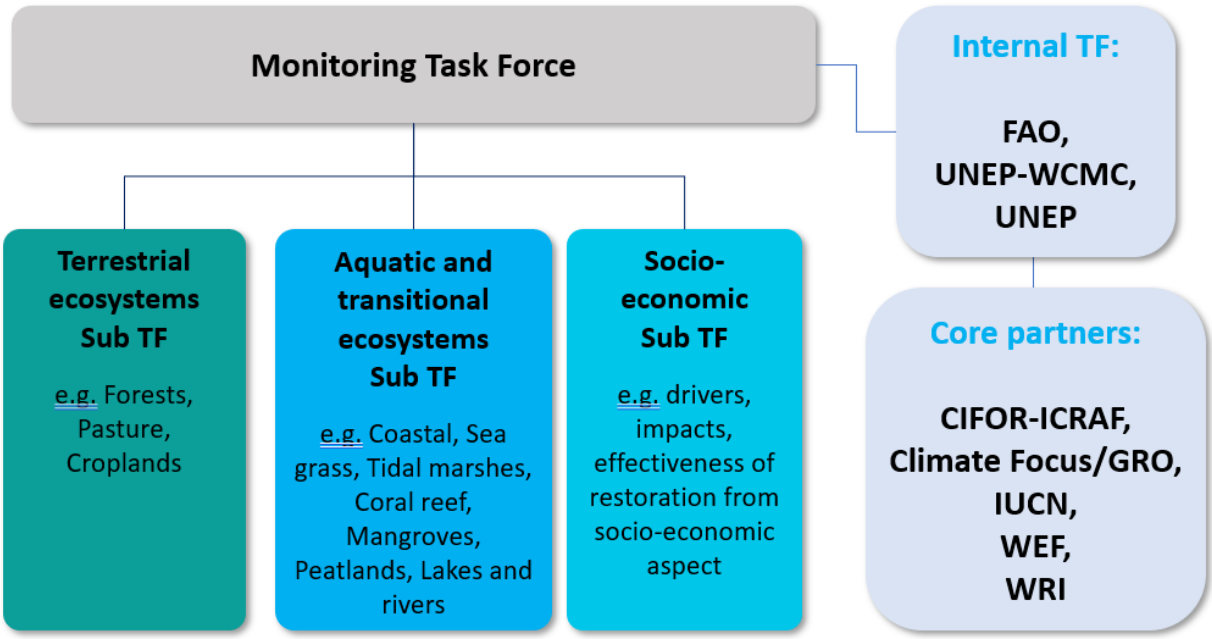
FRAMEWORK FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION MONITORING

2022 - 2025

- **FERM Registry** function will be added – to integrate and be interoperable with other restoration platforms (e.g. FAO's DRIP – Dryland Restoration Initiative Platform)
- More **tools and platforms** for restoration monitoring and planning will be linked, ingested and made available on FERM platform
- **Guidelines** for restoration monitoring linked and made available
- Start testing **country level deployment**
- **Indicator database** will be made available for reporting the progress of restoration actions – for both Global and project levels
- Fully linked to the Decade Digital Hub

2026 - 2030

- FERM platform deployment in Flagships and some other countries/regions
- Restoration data for reporting made available on FERM platform (e.g. live updates)
- Strengthen FERM functionalities with feedback from countries and users

Task Force on Monitoring – structure and core partners

- Over 270 technical experts from 100 organizations engaged with a shared vision (as of May 2021)
- Experts divided into **three Sub Task Forces** for discussion in specific areas
- **Internal TF** move forward on coordination and day-to-day tasks
- Close collaboration with **Core partners** for TF activities implementation