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MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030: A Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Programme Number: DER00 MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00130753; 00130752; and 00130751 	<p><i>Global (with flagships activities at country level)</i></p> <p>The three main goals that are 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</p>
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 	
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: Multi-Year Target 50,000,000 Committed: 33,565,512 Budget: 28,817,066 Received: 19,564,783 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO: 9,809,488 UNEP: 9,755,295 <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <p>Government Contribution</p>	<p>Fund established: 25 November 2020</p> <p>Overall Duration UN Decade 2021-2030</p> <p>Start Date⁵ 01.04.2022</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ 31.12.2026</p>

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

(if applicable)	
TOTAL:	Current End date ⁷ 31.12.2026
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Report Submitted By
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Natalia Alekseeva ○ Title: Coordinator, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration ○ Participating Organization (Lead): Secretariat, UNEP ○ Email address: Natalia.alekseeva@un.org

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

List of acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
ART/TREES	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions / The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
BwN Indonesia	Building with Nature Indonesia
CADC	Central America Dry Corridor
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEOS	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
CKLAP	Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan
COFO	Committee on Forestry
COP	Conference of Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FERM	Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring
FLR	Forest and Landscape Restoration
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative
GLF	Global Landscapes Forum
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ILC	International Land Coalition
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN-CEM	International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
PDF	Portable Document Format
RESULT	Restoration and Sustaining Landscapes Together
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SEEA	System of Environmental Economic Accounting
SER	Society for Ecological Restoration

SICA	Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (Central American Integration System)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
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-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN Decade	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WRI	World Resources Institute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the reporting period, covering year 3 of implementation, key results were achieved under all 3 outcomes of the MPTF, in line with the commitments made in the 5-year Programme Document and with the detailed workplans/documents submitted to the Executive Board.

Outcome 1 continued to give momentum to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade) through communication, advocacy and building a global movement. During the reporting period, seven flagships were launched, bringing to a total of seventeen flagships launched, with ten World Restoration Flagships inaugurated in 2023. Furthermore, the UN Decade participated in various meetings, including the sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), 2024 World Environment Day, the 16th Conference of Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16), the 16th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and 2024 UN General Assembly. The UN Decade held various events in these meetings, to advocate for the role of ecosystem restoration as a cross-cutting contribution to the three Rio Conventions and to provide a platform for the World Restoration Flagships to showcase their achievements and lessons learnt. Beyond in-person events, the UN Decade has continued to drive a global movement through its online platforms and social media presence: for example, 17 episodes of the RESTORE mini-documentary series were seen by over 5 million people on YouTube alone. To date, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration brings together over 300 partners, with the website reaching over 700,000 views and its newsletter going to 35,000 subscribers.

Outcome 2 focused on advancing knowledge dissemination and capacity development products developed by the Task Force on Best Practices (Output 2.3.1-2.3.4; 2.4.1), as well as practical implementation of such practices via the UN Decade Flagships and activities carried out by the partners (including under the Action Plan). It was the first year of implementation for the Flagship initiatives that received targeted support (output 2.3.4) and the Flagship initiatives that received full support i.e. CADC, SIDS and GGWSSI (Output 2.6.1-2.6.3). More details on the progress are presented within the report below. This year the new call for Flagships was launched and the assessment of nominations was conducted by the review panel, comprised of external experts (mainly coming from the Task Forces) as well as UNEP and FAO teams (output 2.6.4).

Towards outcome 3, the Task Force on Monitoring, led by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was requested by CBD to lead on the reporting and guidance for Target 2 indicator, area under restoration, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Target 2 provides a quantitative target for the UN Decade and ensures a concrete implementation mechanism for supporting the reporting and monitoring of ecosystem restoration. FAO is working collaboratively and closely with all Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC), other MEAs and key organizations (UNEP, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, Ramsar Convention, IUCN, WRI, SEEA, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, WWF and ICRI) to shape consistent and relevant guidance on this target. The direct beneficiaries of the work on Target 2 are the CBD Parties (196 countries) and indirectly, broader communities that will benefit from consistent guidance and data on global ecosystem restoration.

I. Purpose

In line with the 5-Year Programme Document, the three main goals at the core of the strategy of the UN Decade are: 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.

Activities are being 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 catalyze investments and to access resources 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.

2024 saw the end of the 1st year of implementation of the 3 full Flagships which include: 1) the CADC flagship (led by FAO, with participation of UNEP); 2) the GGW flagship (led by FAO, with participation by UNEP); 3) the SIDS flagship (led by UNEP, with participation by FAO). Furthermore, seven Flagships, launched in 2023, also received Targeted Support grant helping them to scale their ecosystem restoration activities. The UN Decade also issued its second call for Flagship nominations and received 202 applications. Assessment was completed, and currently the review is on-going to confirm the flagships to be announced in 2025 and beyond.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

For the reporting period, all results set out in the work plan and budget approved by the first, second and third Executive Board meetings (and inter-sessional exchange) were achieved. What is more, envisioned key performance indicators were either fully achieved – or, in most cases, surpassed with remarkable over-achievements in many areas.

Below is a brief description of the Outputs and Outcomes that were due to be achieved during the reporting period, in accordance with the workplan, as well as remarks on adjustments to the workplan, if any.

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.

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.

1.1.2 Communication assets developed for selected flagship countries.

Seven new Flagships were launched at a packed [gala](#) event, “Gala of Hope”, at the sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) that took place from 26th February to 1st March 2024 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The event agenda brought together representatives from the winning initiatives – including ministers, scientists, community and indigenous leaders – with UN officials, celebrities and inspirational youth voices. The Gala embodied the spirit of sustainability and innovation, with the new World Restoration Flagship awards being produced by a local company in Kenya, using baobab seeds and recycled wood. For the first time, a technical workshop took place alongside UNEA-6, giving the seven new World Restoration Flagships the opportunity to learn from each other and to interact with Task Forces and UNEP and FAO teams. Collectively, the seven Flagships aim to restore almost 40 million hectares across 20+ countries. As of 2024, the UN Decade had a total cohort of 17 Flagship initiatives. UNEA-6 also saw the launch of a new call to countries to nominate World Restoration Flagships, and the announcement of a [new Young Champions of the Earth cycle](#).

Photo 1: Gala of Hope event



The Gala of Hope celebrates a new group of UN World Restoration Flagships – the world’s most successful examples of healing the planet. © UNEP / Kiara Worth

Communication products were developed for the seven new Flagships, which were issued in regional and national languages. The UN Decade Communication team worked with UNEP Regional Offices as well as FAO Country Offices on distributing news about the Flagships within countries. The global UN platforms also picked up and shared the winning World Restoration Flagships. Celebrity endorsements were run on the celebrity's channel, in collaboration with UNEP and the winning initiative, to guide more users to the Flagships' social media profiles.

The Flagship assets, including their full profiles, can be found online [here](#), along with [social media assets](#) and the [mini-documentary series](#). The assets include:

- Social media cards for each of the first ten Flagships
- One mini-documentary per flagship (7-10 minutes)
- One Press Release per Flagship
- One Feature story published and shared through UNEP, FAO and UN channels per Flagship
- One celebrity endorsement per Flagship, recorded by a celebrity close to the Flagships region or passionate about its theme

1.1.4 UN Decade Flagship Announcement - global campaign

The global campaign for the seven UN World Restoration Flagships was fully prepared and delivered in 2024.

Season 1 and 2 of [RESTORE](#) – the mini-documentary series offering a deep-dive into the Flagships are available online in multiple languages. On YouTube alone, the series has been watched by over 5 million viewers. Episodes are also used in school classrooms, at universities, international events, and by the portrayed Flagships for fundraising and policy discussions. At the world's largest Science Film Festival, the series won the Prize of the Jury, and at the Spanish Science Film Festival “Lab me Crazy”, the episode on the Living Indus was awarded a prize. Selected RESTORE episodes are also currently part of the “Save Land” art exhibition at Germany's Federal Art Gallery (Bundeskunsthalle) in Bonn.

Media coverage and journalism interest in the UN Decade Flagships has continued to grow in 2024, as a result of continued communication efforts and the high-profile platform and branding which the UN Decade provides. Prince William's Earth shot Prize in the “Restoring and Protecting Nature” category went to World Restoration Flagships in two consecutive years, first [Accion Andina](#), then [Altyn Dala](#) initiative.

Photo 2: Accion Andina Targeted Support Flagship



A woman planting a tree as part of the reforestation activity for the Acción Andina flagship. Accion Andina is a social movement to save the Andean forests, home to one-sixth of all plant life on the planet. The initiative ultimately aims to protect and restore a forest area of one million hectares by 2045. ©UNEP/Todd Brown

Highlights from the global campaign around the seven 2024 World Restoration Flagships include:

- Over **16 million impressions** on UNEP social media.
- **3,033 articles** published in 1,681 media outlets across 113 countries in 12 languages
- **600 attendants** at UNEA 6 Gala of Hope (above capacity), thousands following livestream
- Celebrity Endorsement Videos with **3 million views on Instagram alone**
- **Country interest** to step up efforts, showcase successes, leading to doubled number of applications to second call.

The effectiveness of the 2024 global communication campaign and the strength of the brand of the World Restoration Flagships was clearly demonstrated when double the number of Flagship applications were received in response to the second call for Flagships. 202 applications were received, of which more than 80 were endorsed by the governments as highly relevant, and close to 30 were assessed to be of high quality by the review committee. Other assessment criteria included:

- Clearly identifiable geographically
- Initial success of restoration: compliance with [UN Decade principles](#) to demonstrate that part of the nominated area is already under effective, measurable, and well-documented restoration

- Potential for upscaling
- Potential for learning and replicability
- Additional probability of success.

1.1.5 UN Decade Flagship Announcement – national / regional campaigns

Global Flagship Outreach was accompanied by national and regional campaigns supported through World Restoration Flagship teams themselves, as well as local UNEP and FAO offices, and through some of the UN Decade's 300+ partners.

The media campaign for the seven 2024 World Restoration Flagships reached 113 countries and appeared in articles in 12 languages. Among the 1,681 outlets that covered these seven Flagships were leading national and regional papers such as, but not limited to, El Comercio, Peru's biggest newspaper, and Kenya's The Nation, the most widely read paper in East Africa. Around 60% of news coverage came from non-English outlets, Peru and Ecuador. Both countries are part of the winning Flagship Acción Andina.

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

1.2.2. Existing grassroots restoration networks are activated, i.e., communities of action, connected to the Digital Hub to support the UN Decade's objectives and engaged with the larger partners' community.

Photo 3: Restoration Day - CBD COP 16



The High-level Opening Session at Restoration Day during CBD COP16 highlighted ecosystem restoration as a shared goal across the Rio Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Combatting Desertification, with three ministers in attendance. ©UNEP

As a supporting partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the International Land Coalition (ILC) is leading the implementation of Action Plan 5.1 on Community-Led Ecosystem Restoration. On 30 July 2024, ILC launched a dedicated project aimed at enhancing the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' contributions to ecosystem restoration, and at strengthening their engagement in national, regional, and global restoration processes. Between July and December 2024, some notable achievements included the recognition and evidence building on the contribution of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to the goals of Ecosystem Restoration and the initial development of a living database of case studies showcasing community-led restoration practices. Through strong collaboration between the ILC and the UN Decade Secretariat, the partnership successfully contributed to two major multilateral environmental events: CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16. At CBD COP16, ILC presented a side event focused on the role of secure land tenure in supporting biodiversity outcomes. At UNCCD COP16, a total of seven events were organized and co-organized with the support of Indigenous Peoples, Local Community organizations, and their allies. These events provided an essential platform to advance the message and build momentum on rights-based conservation and community-led ecosystem restoration, while elevating the visibility of pastoralist communities and their critical role in protecting and restoring rangelands globally. A suite of communication materials was also developed and disseminated through both ILC and UN Decade

channels, helping to amplify key messages. These efforts have contributed to expanding the involvement and promotion of Indigenous People and Local communities in the restoration agenda.

Photo 4: UNCCD COP 16 United Nations Land Conference



The largest and most inclusive United Nations land conference (UNCCD COP16) wrapped up in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
©UNEP

1.2.3 Digital hub content population

The UN Decade's digital hub became fully operational in 2024. Branded as [Ecosystem Restoration Hub](#), the online space allows interested visitors to search for and connect with restoration initiatives on the ground. Moreover, it provides space for the UN Decade's partners to showcase the restoration actors they are working with, and highlights key information shared by the initiatives. To date, over [70 restoration initiatives](#) are registered on the hub, representing over 3,000 people restoring and more than 30 million hectares under restoration. More improvements are planned on the digital hub to be communicated in the next report.

1.2.5 Digital content creation and outreach

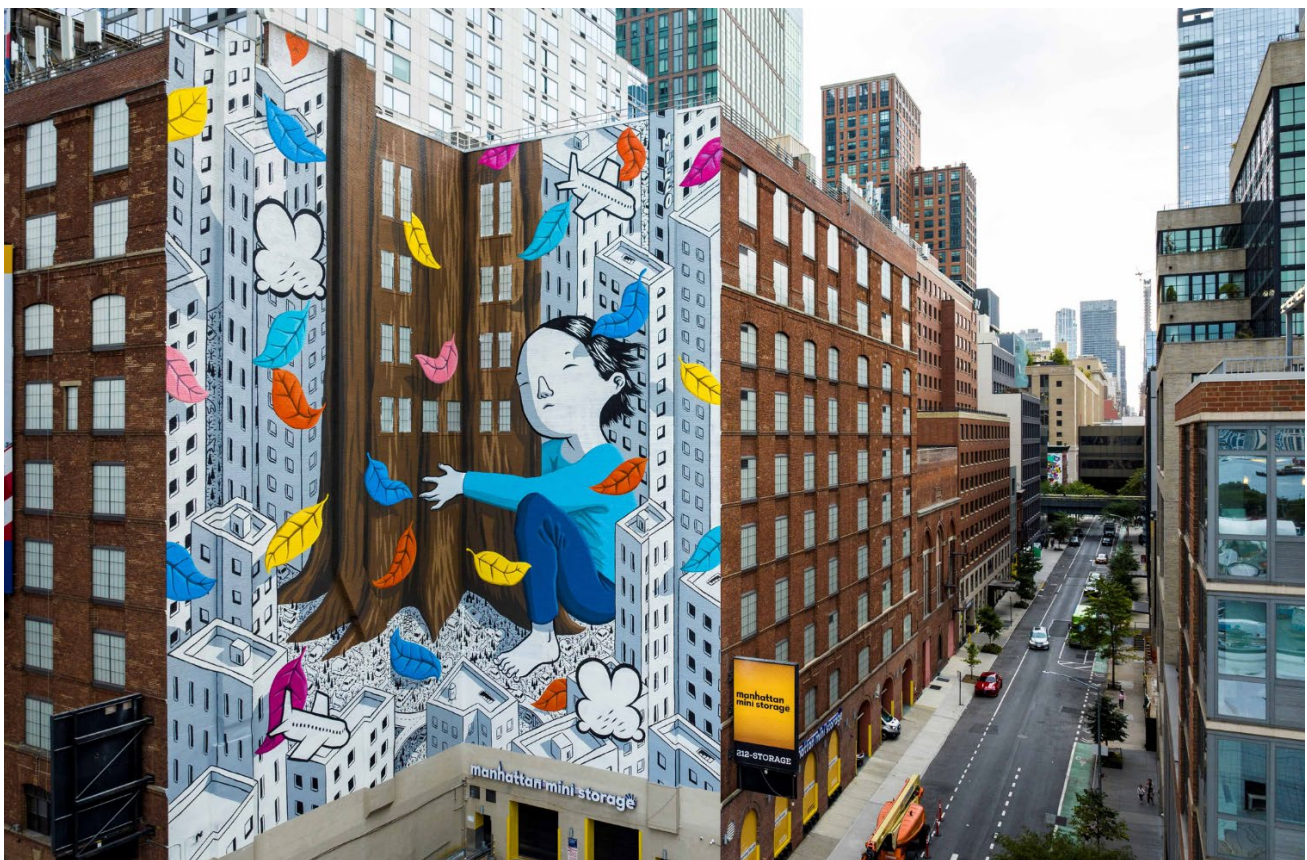
In 2024, the digital content creation and outreach, overachieved, with the UN Decade's website and digital hub registering:

- 738,145 web views

- 157 [events](#) around the UN Decade from 49 partners
- 93 [webstories](#) from 24 partners
- 33 new [publications](#) from 13 partners
- [Learning sessions](#):
 - 1 Learning Session on AI + Restoration
 - 800 registered participants
- [Newsletters](#): 13
 - 12 monthly newsletters + 1 special edition on CBD COP16
 - Going to a list of 35,000+ subscribers

Further campaigns included new Generation Restoration murals in New York and Seattle. The [Seattle mural](#) was done together with the official “Generation Restoration City” to commemorate World Environment Day and celebrate Seattle’s marine restoration successes, while the street art in New York was unveiled alongside the UN General Assembly at key locations as part of an [outdoor museum](#). All artworks are permanent, and, together with an audio app, reach over 100 million passers-by a year.

Photo 5: Urban Restoration Mural, New York



This foldup mural in the heart of Manhattan reminds us of the role natural urban spaces play in people’s lives. They offer a break from urban hustle and bustle and have been linked to improvements in mental health. ©UNEP/ Urban Restoration Mural by Millo

The 2024 World Environment Day had a historic estimate of 4,000 events held worldwide, with a focus on Land Restoration and Fight against Drought and Desertification, in support of the UN Decade

on Ecosystem Restoration under the motto of “We are Generation Restoration” for its science-based messages and calls for action. The Practical Guide outlining everyday actions for land restoration was downloaded 45,000 times and its social media content was viewed over 420 million times by 37 million people. Both street art and World Environment Day activities came at no extra cost to the MPTF and were realized due to strong UN Decade partnerships. Additionally, UN Decade teamed up with CIFOR-ICRAF for a soil restoration laboratory, where hundreds of High School students had hands-on experience in soil restoration.

In the lead-up to CBD COP16, the UN Decade ran a campaign introducing the first breakdown of the GBF into [actions for the general public](#). The campaign was backed by engaging social media assets, and a PSA [video narrated by Gisele Bündchen](#). Overall, 1.4 million people saw the video, 60,000 accessed the related web resources and social media posts saw high interest, with over 200 engagement per post on average.

Output 1.3: Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement

1.3.1 Generation Restoration University Network

A [university network](#) in support of the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has grown to date to include 728 universities from 103 countries and over 1,000 student ambassadors (combining the 2023 and 2024/2025 cohorts).

[Case studies](#) and success stories include the Dawson College’s (Canada) initiative to engage students and faculty in identifying 1,000 species on campus in 1,000 days (aiming to highlight biodiversity in urban settings), or a bat protection initiative at Université de Béjaïa, Algeria (raising awareness of these important species).

Based on more than two years of experience running the Generation Restoration University Network, we recommended a change to the original target - *onboarding a total of 5,000 Universities* - to focus on more specific objectives, including:

- **Onboarding 750** universities in the wider network, across 100+ countries
- **450 students** participating in the student ambassador programme (2024-25 cohort)
- **5 green skills workshops** offered to students on biodiversity topics
- **5 key guidance documents** developed and shared with universities and/or students in support of their nature positive journeys
- **Restoration curricula development** with up to **10 selected universities**

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

Output 2.3: Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives developed

Outputs developed by the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices

2.3.1 Disseminating the UN Decade Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration:

The [Standards of Practice](#) provide over 300 recommended practices to assist restoration practitioners with application of the [UN Decade principles](#) in restoration projects. In March 2024, the publication was officially released online on the FAO and UN Decade websites, and a webinar was co-organized with IUCN-CEM and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) to advertise the publication. In addition, two dedicated sessions were organized including representatives from some flagship initiatives (i.e. Regreening Africa, Trinational Atlantic Forest Pact and Altyn Dala) during the CBD COP 16 and the UNCCD COP 16 to promote the publication and get feedback on a concept note for the development of a multi-tool platform to support their adoption.

2.3.2 Implementation of the UN Decade Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan (CKLAP)

The [CKLAP](#) was published online in 2023. In 2024, implementation of work plans for five capacity development initiatives part of the CKLAP started, highlighting the following key results:

- Initiative 1 - Professional Platform for Education and Learning: a survey was launched to take stock of existing capacity development initiatives focused on or closely relevant to ecosystem restoration. 76 responses were collected, which will be complemented with targeted searches and used as a basis to draft a concept note with the functionalities of the platform in 2025.
- Initiative 3 - Community-based ecosystem restoration mechanism: a survey was launched to identify champion communities in restoration-related income generation, obtaining 55 responses. In 2025 champions will be selected based on geographic and sociocultural criteria and invited to share their lessons learned and experiences at various community-focused activities to inspire others.
- Initiative 4: Indigenous Peoples Restoration Approaches initiative: preparation of a stocktaking to be conducted in 2025 to map key programmes and projects and any other development initiatives that were (in the past 10 years) or are presently being implemented by or with Indigenous Peoples on ecosystem restoration.
- Initiative 5 - Exploring pluralistic extension advisory services: a call for case studies on pluralistic extension advisory services on ecosystem restoration was launched to be closed in 2025. Selected case studies will be published in a compendium and presented at global events to facilitate global knowledge sharing during 2025.
- Initiative 6 – Restoration Policy Facility: preparation of a call for collection of good practices on policy coherence to be launched in 2025.

2.3.3 Advancing and populating the framework for dissemination of good practices for restoration

The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)⁸ platform includes a registry and a [search engine to document and disseminate good practices](#). By 2024, the FERM search engine for good practices linked approximately 2,000 good practices from four collaborating platforms: 1,611 in English, 255 in French, and 115 in Spanish. A total of 32 practices were submitted through FERM, of

⁸ Additional information, on FERM, is found under Outcome 3 of this report

which 18 were approved and published. A group of 68 restoration experts are part of the review panel of practices collected through FERM.

A digital review portal is under development to be operational in 2025 to enhance data organization, streamline reviews, and ensure long-term sustainability of good practices dissemination. Final data inputs are being completed, after which the review panel will be invited to test the system.

Translation of the FERM Registry (into French, Spanish and Portuguese) is in progress to be ready in 2025.

A communication strategy has been developed to enhance visibility and engagement in FERM's collection and dissemination of good practices.

The team also participated in the following events to disseminate the above products and promote collaboration with the Task Force on Best Practices' activities: Accelerating Nature-Based Solutions Conference (March 11-15, Zambia); IUFRO 2024 World Congress (23-30 June, Sweden); 14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration (26-30 August 2024; Estonia); GLF AFRICA 2024: Greening the African Horizon (9 Sept., online).

2.3.4 Outputs developed by Flagship initiatives that received targeted support

The approval process of ten flagships proposed to receive MPTF targeted support was conducted. Three of the targeted flagships were announced in 2022 during the CBD COP 15 in Montreal (Building with Nature in Indonesia, Namami Gange and Multi-Country Mountain Flagship), while the remaining seven flagships were announced during UNEA-6 in 2024 (Terai Arc Landscape, Restoring Mediterranean Forests, Regreening Africa, Mangrove Regeneration in Sri Lanka, Living Indus in Pakistan, African Farmers Transforming Food Systems and Accion Andina). Based on the needs and activities proposed by the ten flagships in 2023 for which the targeted support will be used, work plans were developed in 2024, and their state of implementation is summarized as below.

Photo 6: Pakistan Living Indus Targeted Support Flagship



Local community and society group members are crafting glaciers to regulate water flows of Pakistan's Indus Basin, which has been rapidly degrading, are gaining momentum through the Government of Pakistan's Living Indus initiative. ©UNEP/Todd Brown

- **Living Indus** in Pakistan targeted support is focused on the development of a restoration plan for the Nareri Lake project, located in the Lower Indus Basin. Ongoing efforts include conducting a survey using ROAM methodology for assessing opportunities and gaps for restoration, and the collection and analysis of good practices in the context of Nareri Lake restoration.
- **Regreening Africa** targeted support aims to build on the achievements of the Regreening Africa Flagship, specifically to distill knowledge, share key lessons and pitfalls of a large restoration initiative, to explore novel insights from household surveys and to share restoration data, in support of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) and the MPTF. Letter of Agreement was signed with CIFOR-ICRAF. Moreover, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) planned for and held two online youth dialogues and produced a report launched at UNCCD COP16. In addition, CIFOR-ICRAF and FAO teams interacted at the UNCCD COP16 to participate in one other's events on the Great Green Wall and the UN Decade Flagships Integration of Regreening Africa data into the FERM and data integration was completed. Stakeholder engagement with evidence approach for Regreening Africa reflections was completed. Data analysis is ongoing with a brief to be prepared in early 2025.

- **Restoring Mediterranean Forests** targeted support aims to showcase all effective post-fire restoration practices being used in the region that could be replicated in different areas and will set the basis for regional collaboration. To that end, a survey was launched to collect good practices on post-fire restoration in the Mediterranean region. An in-person knowledge sharing event in Cairo (Egypt) is under preparation to be held in 2025.
- **African Farmers Transforming Food Systems** targeted support aims to i) update existing training and extension materials ensuring they are responsive to current gaps and needs for practitioners and smallholder farmers; and ii) develop training materials to promote the adoption of best practices following Trees for the Future's (TREES) Forest Garden Approach and allowing for large-scale dissemination through the training of trainers and online learning. During 2024, a contractual agreement (Letter of Agreement) was signed with Trees for the Future and an Agroforestry Extension Services Manual was developed to be disseminated in 2025.
- **Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal** signed an agreement (Letter of Agreement) with WWF Nepal. Ongoing activities of the targeted support include i) revising national/sub-national policies for restoration through developing/revising landscape strategy and action plan of the Terai Arc Landscape; ii) contributing to local and national capacity building of communities and government agencies to upscale restoration implementation on the ground; iii) documenting best practices and learnings of the restoration initiatives made during last two decades in the Terai Arc Landscape to be shared to the wider audience; and strengthening a multi-stakeholder partnership to upscale restoration interventions and landscape conservation to reduce biodiversity loss and climate change impacts.
- **Building with nature in Indonesia** target support aims to inspire landscape propositions and foster stakeholder dialogue through dissemination of the lessons learned from the Building with Nature Indonesia flagship. The technical support provided is intended to generate interest and build capacity among national stakeholders, enabling the Building with Nature approach to become a viable option for ecosystem restoration activities in Indonesia. The project objective achievement is on-going with progress made in 2024. More specifically, the project identified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and knowledge products of BwN Indonesia, and began creating new dissemination products based on stakeholders' needs. Moreover, there was identification of the community groups in Demak that will benefit from the project. The process of identifying multi-stakeholder platforms in Demak District and Central Java Province commenced through meetings with several local stakeholders. The program also received visits from external parties, including Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia, to the BwN Indonesia demonstration site in Demak District.
- **Restoring the high Andes** targeted support aims to contribute to the efforts of bringing back forests and water to South America's high Andes. This will be achieved through i) design and launch of Regional Restoration and Conservation Trust Fund for the Andes; design and implementation of regional communications strategy and strengthening Accion Andina's monitoring, verification and reporting mechanism. In 2024 a consulting firm was hired to lead in the design of the Trust Fund. Moreover, a coordinated media campaign with international public relations agency and for a reforestation event was carried out with the community of Aquia in Peru. The event covered the restoration milestone of planning 150,000 trees in a single day. Several

regional media outlets covered the event. The improvement on the existing MRV protocols is ongoing with the integration of a water impact monitoring framework.

In addition, a second call for flagships was launched at UNEA-6, with 202 applications received, of which 80 were endorsed by the governments as highly relevant and close to 30 assessed to be of high quality. The selection process is to be concluded in 2025.

Output 2.4: Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials developed

2.4.1: Outputs developed by the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices

A concept note for developing a multi-tool web-based platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration was finalized after consultations with members of the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices and with participants of a session held during the CBD COP 16. The service provider to develop the platform in 2025 was identified. The platform will include three tools: i) a searchable navigation tool for exploring the Standards of practice; ii) an e-learning course to train users on the concepts and use of the Standards of practice; and iii) a decision support and project assessment tool.

Output 2.6: Scalable pilot restoration initiatives implemented within Flagship initiatives

2024 saw the successful first year of implementation of the 3 full flagship support initiatives. A description of key activities and achievements are highlighted below.

2.6.1 Design and implementation of the Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) Flagship Initiative

Photo 7: Central America Dry Corridor Full Flagship



In El Salvador, communities nurture seeds in a nursery as part of the Central America Dry Corridor flagship. Central America Dry Corridor spans six countries, using traditional farming to boost productivity and biodiversity in challenging conditions. © Tapi Story Productions/UNEP

- The mapping of actors and ongoing initiatives related to restoration in the Dry Corridor was conducted, with highlights included below:
 - More than 100 participants from more than 80 institutions in 7 countries were involved (surveys and interviews).
 - A Database was developed, including 117 initiatives and 320 stakeholders in the territory.
 - Restoration targets of the 117 initiatives were mapped: 1.9M ha; 44% in productive rehabilitation activities in crops and pasturelands. However, interventions are being implemented along the entire restoration continuum.
 - The mapping reported direct and indirect drivers of land degradation being climate change (41%), inadequate cropland management (38%) and inadequate pasturelands management (25%).
- The Regional technical workshop was successfully held on 8-9 October 2024, in Guatemala City, with highlights provided below:
 - Kicked-off technical activities with partners, collected relevant information and established the basis for a community of practice.
 - 82 participants, from 46 institutions, were in attendance.

- Evaluation results (50 people): 90% satisfied / very satisfied; 95% evaluated the thematic content as very good / excellent; 87% very interested in continuing to participate in community of practice.
- The Work plan and budget for 2025 were validated with key partners and are currently under implementation.
- Meetings of national coordination platforms on environment-agriculture in the 3 pilot countries (AFOLU national roundtables) are under preparation.
- The draft flagship communication and visibility strategy was elaborated, with validation process to be held during the first quarter of 2025.
- The Draft analysis of barriers and enabling conditions for scaling up restoration in Dry Corridor countries was elaborated. 131 people, from 87 institutions, participated from national governments, NGOs and research and/or academic institutions. A total of 45 barriers were identified and organized into 6 categories (policy and governance; financial, planning/implementation, environmental, legal/property, sociocultural). Most of the barriers were related to policy and governance, and planning/implementation. Priority barriers were: 1) lack of involvement of local institutions and stakeholders in the formulation of restoration projects; 2) lack of articulation and/or coordination among decision-makers; 3) lack of financial products adapted to restoration; 4) low profitability and long-term rate of return for restoration activities; and 5) limited access to restoration-related financing. Environmental and socio-cultural barriers were considered low or no importance.
- Successful experiences and financing opportunities were compiled with mapping of key actors, financial institutions, products and incentives with potential impact on restoration having been initiated.
- Restoration interventions activities took place to include selection of intervention sites in the 3 pilot countries, which were agreed upon with the governments, for these local partners and beneficiaries were identified, dialogues to establish synergies were held and productive systems were defined to include basic grains, agroforestry, silvopastoral and forestry.
- Similarly, there were restoration monitoring activities carried during the reporting period including diagnosis of restoration monitoring in the pilot countries, consultations with relevant stakeholders on proposed regional reporting indicators and actions with FERM developers on interoperability between monitoring systems, whereas Regional Environmental Observatory (regional) and FERM (global) inputs were coordinated. In addition, there were activities to carry out analysis of technical and technological requirements for interoperability between monitoring systems already operating in pilot countries and SICA's Regional Environmental Observatory and analysis of country capacities to monitor restoration.

2.6.2 Design and implementation of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Flagship Initiative

Photo 6: Small Island Development States Full Support Flagship



Local communities from Comoros engaged in Small Island Development States. Small Islands Developing States supports ridge-to-reef restoration and blue economic growth in Comoros, St Lucia, and Vanuatu to help communities recover from COVID-19. These low-lying islands face rising seas and inland degradation, prompting ambitious efforts to restore both coastal and inland ecosystems. ©Frank Papushka/UNEP

- In relation to project team and coordination, National coordination structures were established in all the three pilot countries. More specifically, in Vanuatu, National Coordinator was recruited and being hosted by the Government. The National Coordinator is ensuring strong national ownership and embedded governance. In Comoros, National consultants were engaged, with coordination being anchored in the Directorate General of Environment and Forestry. In Saint Lucia, Small-Scale Funding Agreement and workplan were finalized. Recruitment of the National Project Manager is underway.
- The three countries achieved and progressed in reference to planning and technical groundwork as explained below:
 - In Saint Lucia, project planning and validation mission was completed in Nov 2024, resulting in full alignment with the Global SIDS Flagship Framework.
 - In Comoros, revision of the National Blue Economy Strategy was initiated. Sustainable Blue Economy Readiness Assessment is underway with coastal ecosystem services assessment launched.

- In Vanuatu flagship framework was contextualized for national priorities through close collaboration with Government partners such as Fisheries, Forestry and Tourism departments.
- There were various achievements under tangible impacts and community engagement in the three countries as elaborated below:
 - Comoros: Developing partnerships for community-based actions - including co-management of the Coelacanth Marine Protected Area (MPA) and mangrove restoration - highlighting local engagement and ecosystem stewardship in practice. Moreover, contracts between FAO and the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries were initiated (to be finalized in 2025).
 - Saint Lucia: Pending the start of the new government financial year in April 2025, when the Government of St. Lucia can receive project funding. In the interim, recruitment is underway for a National Project Manager to ensure readiness for immediate implementation once funding is released.
- Various activities and achievements were realized and some initiated related to strategic alignment and resource mobilization, as further explained below:
 - UNEP-GEF adaptation project, signed Dec 2024, is being aligned with the SIDS Flagship to ensure synergy in coastal EbA efforts.
 - Joint coordination planned for programmatic integration, efficiency, and scale of impact in St. Lucia. Joint GEF/Flagship workshop planned for May 2025 to leverage areas of synergy and ensure cross-pollination and a holistic coordinated approach in the SE. Coast.
 - FAO is exploring additional funding to complement on the ground restoration actions in Vanuatu.
- Monitoring and evaluation: Ongoing country capacity scoping is being conducted to evaluate existing capabilities for ecosystem restoration monitoring across pilot SIDS to identify gaps, strengthen national M&E systems, and align with FERM. In Comoros, the methodological framework for ecosystem service valuation is currently under development. This includes establishing a more robust monitoring and evaluation baseline to inform long-term tracking of restoration outcomes and socio-economic benefits. An inter-SIDS capacity-building workshop focused on FERM application for planning and reporting is in the early planning stages. The workshop will promote peer learning and support harmonized use of the platform across participating countries.
- Restoration Factory Plan for 2025

Preparations are underway to launch the Restoration Factory pilot cohort in Saint Lucia, with an initial intake of 40 ecopreneurs. This action-oriented incubation program is tailored to support the growth of restoration-based enterprises through capacity building, mentorship, and investment readiness.

A scoping phase- in partnership with UNEP's network and local incubators will inform the design of the program by identifying ecosystem restoration opportunities, local market dynamics, and potential implementing partners. Following this, Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs) will be trained in the Factory's pedagogy and technology, enabling them to effectively guide participants throughout the incubation journey.

Selected ecopreneurs will receive structured support to refine and grow their eco-enterprises, culminating in a pitch event for potential investors and access to grant support for top ventures. This initiative aims to enhance the survival rate and commercial viability of Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) engaged in restoration, while also strengthening local incubation ecosystems.

The program will be rigorously monitored, with indicators focused on both business development and restoration outcomes, including market access, scalability, and ecosystem impact. The Saint Lucia pilot is a key step toward scaling the eco-preneurship across other SIDS.

2.6.3 Design and implementation of the Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Flagship Initiative

Photo 9: Great Green Wall Full Support Flagship



A woman in Niger plants moringa in a garden supported by the Great Green Wall. This flagship restores Africa's savannas, grasslands, and farmlands, helping communities adapt to climate change and curb desert expansion. © Artisan Productions/UNEP

Progress was reported in the different countries as detailed below:

- In Burkina Faso, the project team was put in place and is operational. Various activities were finalized to include letters of Agreement with the GGW National Coordination, regional

councils, FLR activities planning for 3 years in 5 communes and baseline study, led by technical partner ISESTEL. The first pool of IGAs were selected in the 5 communes. 165 applications received and 9 organizations selected between 3 200 USD and 9 700 USD for each small grant. Second pool of IGAs is planned for 2025/2026. Draft annual workplan and budget for 2025 ready. Discussions are ongoing with partners on the implementation process.

- Similarly, in Niger, the project team is now in place. Baseline study was finalized, conducted by technical partner ICRISAT. The first round of IGAs were processed in the 5 communes. 130 applications were received; 18 organizations selected between 5 000 USD and 10 000 USD for each small grant, with 78% women as direct beneficiaries. The second round of IGAs planned for 2024/2025. Update of communal development and investment plans is ongoing in collaboration with other projects. Work is planned with NGOs/civil society to temporarily implement FLR investments. The draft annual workplan and budget for 2025 are ready.
- Extensive work has been ongoing with eco-entrepreneurs, for which some key highlights are provided below:
 - In order to build local capacity for sustainable business development in ecosystem restoration, the training tool - Restoration Explorer- has being used.
 - In Burkina Faso, project implementation is taking place in 4 municipalities. 504 applications were received, where 63 people were selected and trained, 2 incubators are delivering the program. Moreover, small grant allocation was initiated with FAO determining financial framework.
 - In Niger work is on-going in 5 municipalities. 100 participants enrolled and completed training, with 2 incubators delivering the program. Post-training follow-up is planned in 2025 to identify the most promising eco-entrepreneurs for small grants.
 - All participants in both countries indicated commitment to business development and seeking additional funding, demonstrating strong interest in scaling up. We would like to report a low dropout rate, indicating strong demand for further support.
- Regional activities under the flagship include:
 - The contractual arrangement (Letter of Agreement) was signed with UNCCD GW Accelerator to support its implementation.
 - Progress was made on M&E activities including participation of both national project teams in a workshop in Ouagadougou on the use of the GW Accelerator platform; development of the flagship M&E framework harmonized with the FERM, GW Accelerator platform, AFR100 framework and national frameworks. The workshop on M&E best practices is planned to be conducted in 2025.
 - Resource mobilization highlights include participation of both national project teams and incubators in a workshop in Ouagadougou on private sector engagement for the GW; participation in UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh with ecopreneurs and incubators; development of resource mobilization strategy and project proposals following pledges and engagements, and participation in the organization of a GW Accelerator donor conference.
 - Letter of Agreement being drafted with the Pan African Agency for the GW – signature is planned for April/May 2025 including monitoring activities and knowledge management.

2.6.4 Identification of potential new Flagships initiatives

The second call for nominations of World Restoration Flagships was launched by FAO and UNEP from February to May 2024, receiving 202 nominations that cover all types of ecosystem categories: forest (24%), followed by farmlands (14%), wetlands and peatlands (12%), grasslands, shrublands and savannas (11%), freshwater ecosystems (11%), montane ecosystems (10%), oceans and coasts (9%), and urban / peri urban areas (8%).

All proposals were subject to a pre-screening process that involved the following criteria: i) government endorsement; ii) part of the nominated area already under restoration; and iii) clearly identifiable geographically. After the pre-screening, 113 proposals were disqualified including 26 that were identified as “tests” and therefore incomplete nominations, 83 due to lack of government endorsement (endorsement letter not submitted or not signed), three that did not describe activities on the ground and one that was a duplicate. This ended up in a list of 89 proposals that qualified and were shared with the review panel for assessment. In terms of regional representation, most of these proposals were submitted from Latin America and the Caribbean (38), followed by Asia-Pacific (18), Africa (14), North America (6), West Asia and Middle East (7), and Europe (4). In addition, two proposals included a multiregional scope.

The assessment of the 89 nominations was coordinated by the core team of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices and carried out by a review panel of 22 members from the UN Decade Task Forces on Best Practices, Monitoring and Youth, as well as UNEP and FAO focal points. A list with 35 nominations with a score larger than 7.5 was shared with the UN Decade Strategy Group to assist the selection of new flagships in 2025 and beyond.

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

Output 3.1: Monitoring and reporting framework established, strengthened and made available for monitoring restoration – supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation

In 2024, a major milestone for the outcome 3 included the launch of the document, *'Delivering Restoration Outcomes for Biodiversity and Human Well-being: Resource Guide to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework'*, which was launched at UNCBD COP16. It is a collaborative publication from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). This guide is specifically designed to support countries in achieving Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The guide is available as a PDF, interactive online document, and has been translated into an e-learning course to make the materials accessible.

The FERM platform and registry, launched in 2022, have been continuously updated in collaboration with the Monitoring Task Force to align to the Target 2 indicator methodology. In 2024, the FERM search engine for initiatives was launched, integrating more than 300 initiatives with areas under restoration from different platforms, including the FERM Registry, Nature Commitments Platform, the SER Restoration Resource Center, RESULTS Asia-Pacific, and the Brazilian Restoration and Reforestation Observatory. Other 2024 FERM updates also included project versioning with change

tracking for improved data transparency and reliability and the integration of AURORA monitoring indicators including restoration goals and custom indicators.

The FERM registry was made available to a broad audience and by the end of 2023 had close to 400 registered users (Indicator 3.1.1). By December 2024, the registry had grown to 1,011 total users. A dedicated email was created for FERM support and user feedback online and through trainings has been recorded and subsequently included in the development plan of the platform (Indicator 3.1.3). Geospatial data, particularly of the FAO GEF Portfolio, were ingested into the FERM registry. Training was organized for the GEF project managers, providing introductory capacity development on the functionality of the registry. Interoperability through data mapping and APIs have been established between the FERM Registry and Nature Commitments Platform, the SER Restoration Resource Center, RESULTS Asia-Pacific, and the Brazilian Restoration and Reforestation Observatory. Interoperability is in progress with the Restor Platform and IUCN's Restoration Barometer (Indicator 3.1.2). The e-learning course was launched in November 2024 and includes a step-by-step tutorial of the FERM (Indicator 3.1.4). In 2024, extensive tutorial videos for using the FERM were created to provide capacity development support and learning opportunities. In 2024 the FERM geospatial platform was updated to integrate new geospatial capacities from Open Foris Earth Map, enabling advanced geospatial analysis over areas under restoration. Agreements with Restor and IUCN's Restoration Barometer are exploring how data can be shared across platforms to compile a global dataset on areas under restoration (Indicator 3.1.5). The FERM dashboard prototype was developed in 2024 and will be tested with countries to support KM-GBF Target 2 reporting in the coming years (Indicator 3.1.6).

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

The Task Force on Monitoring has continued to grow in membership in 2024 with 30 new members and a total of 437 members. Four task force meetings were convened in 2023, providing the opportunity for members to learn about FERM development and guidance for reporting and monitoring on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Target 2, as well as to share knowledge among members of the Task Force (Indicator 3.2.1). Notably, six task force meetings and knowledge sharing sessions were convened in 2024, sharing the work of the task force and culminating in the recognition and clear mandate of the task force to technically support the Rio Conventions, with recognition in UNCBD and UNCCD COPs decisions. The meeting and knowledge sharing sessions convened in both hybrid and online modalities included: the technical session, *Innovation is advancing ecosystem restoration as a powerful nature-based solution to multiple global challenges* at International Day of Forests, SBSTTA26 side event on *Restoration Monitoring*, World Forest Week side event on *Empowering communities, restoring landscapes & conserving ecosystems*, Task Force Virtual Meeting update, *Restoration Day* at CBD COP16 and the official side event on *Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring* at CBD COP16 (Indicator 3.2.1). Additionally, participation and presentations in relevant workshops in 2024 included the AFR100, Initiative 20x20, the European Conference on Ecological Restoration, Brazilian Conference on Ecological Restoration, RESULTS Asia-Pacific meetings, the GEF-8 Global Coordination Project for the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program, the Restoration Learning Academy, the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, GGW Data Task Force, the Global Mangrove Watch workshop, the Group on Earth Observation

conference, the Freshwater Challenge, the Ramsar Advisory Group and the Committee on Earth Observation (CEOS)/ CBD joint meeting on monitoring biodiversity.

Sub-task forces and working groups of the Task Force on monitoring were convened regularly in 2024 to collaboratively draft key guidance materials. The freshwater working group of the Task Force on monitoring met five times in 2024 to produce guidance on monitoring and reporting guidance for freshwater ecosystems which will be published in 2025. The Target 2 working group met regularly in 2024, from two to four times per month to produce the Target 2 Resource Guide which was launched at CBD COP16.

Output 3.3: Annual reports on the progress of ecosystem restoration 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

Headline indicators for global level monitoring through annual reports were launched in 2022. In 2023, annual reporting on global restoration progress draft outline was developed (Indicator 3.3.1). In 2024, the strategy for reporting on restoration progress shifted to supporting countries in data collection for the 7th national reports of the CBD in 2026. Official reports on restoration progress will be available after February 2026. Metadata for monitoring CBD's KM-GBF Target 2, area under restoration, was updated in June 2023 and subsequently in March 2024 with inputs from the Target 2 Working Group (Indicator 3.3.2). Development in the FERM registry was aligned to the metadata to facilitate ongoing data compilation and support reporting for Target 2. A mockup version of dashboard was created and consulted internally in 2024. The dashboard will be tested with countries in 2025 (Indicator 3.3.3). Additionally, in 2024, the State of Finance for Nature Report – Restoration Finance was published and found that restoration finance needs to quadruple from 2022 levels of US\$64 billion to US\$296 billion by 2030 to reach global restoration targets while contributing to climate and biodiversity goals. The report aims to provide policy makers, businesses and financial institutions with an evidence-based snapshot of the significant gap between current finance flows to restoration and investment needed to tackle ecosystem degradation (Indicator 3.3.4).

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

In 2023, pilot countries were identified and in partnership with CIFOR-ICRAF, a plan was developed to produce knowledge products on the monitoring of key local ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development. Pilot country work was carried out in 2024 with additional support from the Government of United Kingdom through the AIM4Forests Project. National dialogues to support NBSAPs formulation related to ecosystem restoration and data collection and monitoring towards national ecosystem restoration reports were held in Kenya, Peru, Burkina Faso, and Vietnam (Indicator 3.4.1). Full reports of the workshops, outcomes and recommendations will be available in early 2025. In addition, to support countries in using the spatially explicit decision support tool for planning tree and forest restoration called se.plan, training that was delivered to eight countries in 2024. A regional training in May 2024, co-organized by partner NASA-SERVIR, provided exchange and learning opportunities for 50 participants from 7 countries as well as from national and regional organizations and research centers including from Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Philippines. Additionally, an in-depth

training on se.plan was provided to Nigeria, focusing on Ondo and Cross River states with consistent support in 2024 on restoration planning (Indicator 3.4.3). A website dedicated to se. plan was launched in 2023 and updated in 2024 and includes a story-map and a video featuring how the Vietnamese government is utilizing se.plan for forest restoration planning. A new website on FAO's corporate website was created for the ecosystem restoration monitoring work to increase visibility and promote knowledge sharing. Additionally, a newsletter, titled '*The Restoration Radar*', was launched in October 2024 to disseminate updates on restoration monitoring and the work of the Task Force on Monitoring. Four impact stories were published on the ecosystem restoration monitoring website to highlight successful restoration project monitoring and progress (Indicator 3.4.4). Additionally, eight news stories on ecosystem restoration monitoring were published in 2024. An e-learning course was launched in November 2024 and included an introductory and interactive webinar. The e-learning course is available through FAO's e-learning academy.

Output 3.5: Monitoring support (capacity development / technology transfer) provided to on-the-ground UN Decade Flagships

In 2024 seven new flagships were announced. In 2024, training was given to the focal points on how to upload geospatial data in the FERM registry, and how to document good restoration practices. These flagship initiatives were spotlighted in the FERM geospatial platform and the home page. Further support was provided to full support flagships: Central American Dry Corridor, GGW, and SIDS. (Indicators 3.5.1, 3.5.3 and 3.5.5).

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

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 initiatives

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 1.1.2: Communication assets developed for selected flagship countries Baseline: 10 Planned Target: 10 Achieved Target: 17	<p>Due to the successes in outreach, best practices, monitoring and implementation resulting from the first call for UN World Restoration Flagships, MPTF donors provided support to a second call to member states. This call was launched with UNEA 6 and resulted in 202 submissions. The selection process started in 2024 to be finalized in 2025.</p> <p>Communication asset production of the 17 flagships was completed.</p>	<p>The planned target had already been surpassed with existing funding due to the request for additional flagships (17 instead of 10 World Restoration Flagships)</p>	<p>Flagship online profiles linking to multilingual assets Mini-documentary series with subtitles in up to 7 languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RESTORE Season 1 ○ RESTORE Season 2 <p>Multilingual social media assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2022 World Restoration Flagships ○ 2023 / 2024 World Restoration Flagships
Indicator 1.1.4: UN Decade Flagship Announcement – global campaign Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20 million people reached Achieved Target: 4+ billion people reached	<p>17 communication packages for 2022 and 2023/2024 World Restoration Flagships have been prepared and released within the reporting period.</p> <p>Social media assets for 2022 and 2023/2024 launches: At least 36 million impressions on UNEP's channels, and a reach of 34 million through partner's channels</p> <p>Global, regional and national press kits for 2022 and 2024: over 4 billion readers reached through 4,500+ media articles in 1681 outlets, 113+ countries and 16 languages</p> <p>Documentary series of 17 episodes: Over 20 million viewers online and</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved.</p> <p>A collaboration with the world's largest Science Film Festival allowed for additional in-person screenings of the documentary series in 15 countries, attended by 800,000+ visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media data tracking (internal systems) • Media reach tracking (through Meltwater) • Google Analytics • YouTube and Weibo data • Film Festival official reports

	<p>screenings at the world’s biggest science film festival, where it won the Jury Prize, as well as Spain’s “Lab me crazy” science film festival, where the Living Indus episode won a prize</p> <p>Digital interactive map: over 150,000 users</p> <p>Celebrity announcement videos in support of World Restoration Flagships, including from Jason Momoa, Gisele Bundchen, Edward Norton, Felipe Toledo and others</p>		
<p>Indicator 1.1.5 UN Decade Flagship announcement – national/regional campaigns Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 50 million people national media reach Achieved Target: 2.8 billion people national media reach</p>	<p>An estimate of 60% in 2024, non-English media pick up stories around the Flagships, with especially wide reach in the Flagship countries of China, Pakistan, India, Peru and Brazil. It can be estimated that at least 3 billion people were potentially reached (based on outlet readership numbers) in flagship implementation countries</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved.</p> <p>The multilingual media campaign for the seventeen World Restoration Flagships was highly successful. This was partially also due to the good uptake of the photo-story by Reuters for the first cohort, which then helped with national-level distribution</p>	<p>Media reach tracking (through Meltwater) – detailed list of all media in excel, available upon request</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Digital Hub Content Population Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 500 Achieved Target: 3,215</p>	<p>The Digital Hub has gone live, featuring 71 initiatives, which in turn report 3,215 restoration.</p> <p>Onboarding processes are ongoing, linking the wider online community to more restoration initiatives and the implementers behind them.</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved.</p>	<p>Digital Hub front-end and back-end data: https://hub.decadeonrestoration.org/</p>

<p>Indicator 1.2.5: Digital content creation and outreach</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: 4 content types (Newsletters, webstories, events, multimedia)</p> <p>Achieved Target: 4 content types (Newsletters, webstories, events and multimedia)</p>	<p>1 website acting as digital hub for the restoration movement successfully managed.</p> <p>2024 breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 738,145 web views • 157 events around the UN Decade from 49 partners • 93 webstories from 24 partners • 33 new publications from 13 partners • Learning sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 Learning Session on AI + Restoration ○ 800 registered participants • Newsletters: 13 (12 monthly newsletters + 1 special edition on CBD COP16) • Going to a list of 35,000+ subscribers • Multimedia: 10 new videos, including the ten World Restoration Flagships and a special video PSA in the leadup to CBD COP16 with Gisele Bundchen 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Analytics • Google Scholar • Drupal data (Content Management System) • MDirector data (Newsletter management)
<p>Indicator 1.3.1: Generation Restoration University Network</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: 5,000</p> <p>Achieved Target: 728</p>	<p>A university network has been established together with the UNEP Education team and Oxford University. It now spans:</p>	<p>The target has not yet been reached due to the shift in priorities for the UN Decade team, namely a focus on selecting and announcing</p>	<p>Nature-Positive Universities Network Data collected and analyzed by Oxford University</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 728 universities• 108 countries	<p>additional World Restoration Flagship (27 instead of 10), which comes with substantive workload for the team.</p> <p>However, the collaboration between universities is advancing well and significant actions could already be captured in data and case studies across continents.</p> <p>Request for Modification of Target*</p> <p>Based on the experience made with the universities, as well as onboarding of new partners (eg CIFOR-ICRAF) and related opportunities, we propose a change in the target: Rather than going wide – having 5,000 universities simply sign up – we propose rather to go deep with the universities we have, as well as additional ones.</p> <p>That would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 160 university pledges• 750 universities in the wider NPU network, across 100+ countries• 450 students participating in the student ambassador programme (2024-25 cohort)• 5 green skills workshops offered to	
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		<p>students on biodiversity topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 key guidance documents developed and shared with universities and/or students in support of their nature positive journeys • Restoration curricula development with up to 10 selected universities 	
<p>Indicator 1.3.2 Youth Voices and Spokespeople engaged Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3 Achieved Target: 0</p>	<p>The UN Decade Team, together with UNEP's social media team, has prepared a content creator strategy to include young, influential voices, including from Flagship countries and regions, as well as particularly influential young voices on the environment on social media.</p>	<p>The target could not yet be reached due to the shift in priorities for the UN Decade team, namely a focus on selecting and announcing additional World Restoration Flagship (27 instead of 10), which comes with substantive workload for the team.</p> <p>However, a strategy is in place, and outreach to potential young content creator voices has started.</p>	<p>Content creator programme strategy available upon request</p>
<p>Indicator 1.3.3 School / teacher engagement packages Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 500 Achieved Target: 0</p>	<p>The UN Decade Team, together with partners like UNESCO, UNICEF, the Foundation for Environmental Education, Rewilding Academy and Plant for the Planet is developing and sharing education material for schools, teachers and students.</p>	<p>The target could not yet be reached due to the shift in priorities for the UN Decade team, namely a focus on selecting and announcing additional World Restoration Flagship (27 instead of 10), which comes with substantive workload for the team.</p>	<p>Strategy PowerPoint deck available upon request</p>

		However, a strategy is in place, and outreach to educators and institutions has started.	
Indicator 1.3.4 Young Champions of the Earth – Generation Restoration Focus Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1 Achieved Target: 0.5	A Young Champions of the Earth cycle focused on Generation Restoration, with a link to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Global Biodiversity Framework has been launched at UNEA 6.	The target has not fully been achieved yet, as the new Young Champions Cohort has not been publicly launched.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Champions of the Earth website: https://www.unep.org/youngchampions/ • Young Champions of the Earth Press Release: https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/wanted-youth-tackling-triple-planetary-crisis • Young Champions of the Earth call launch video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlzBaoazqdU

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

	<u>Achieved Indicator Targets</u>	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.3: Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives developed, disseminated and applied within specific Flagship Initiatives Indicator: 2.3.1 Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration published on the UN Decade website Baseline: 0 Planned Target: A publication on Standards of practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration developed in consultation with members of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices, the global restoration community and Indigenous Peoples, including a summary version and a full version	Summary and full version of the Standards of Practice published online after global consultation with the restoration community and Indigenous Peoples.		Full version Standards of Practice published online (link) Summary version Standards of Practice published online (link)

<p>Indicator 2.3.2 Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the UN Decade published on the UN Decade website</p> <p>Baseline:0</p> <p>Planned Target: A publication on the Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan drafted in consultation with members of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices and UN Decade partners</p>	<p>Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the UN Decade, including eight capacity development initiatives tailored to different stakeholder groups, published on the UN Decade website</p>		<p>Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the Decade published online (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.3 Framework for dissemination of good restoration practices developed and embedded in the FERM platform</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: Framework for good practices fully operational by 2023, integrated in the FERM platform to allow direct documentation of good practices from restoration initiatives previously registered in the platform and well as dissemination of good practices collected by three allied platforms: GoProFor, Panorama Solutions, and WOCAT</p>	<p>Framework for dissemination of good restoration practices fully developed and embedded in the FERM platform, allowing for direct documentation of good practices through the FERM Registry and dissemination of more than 2000 good practices from collaborating platforms through the FERM common search engine</p>		<p>FERM Registry (link)</p> <p>FERM Common Search Engine (link)</p>

<p>Indicator 2.3.4 Work plans or letter of agreement elaborated with each Flagship receiving targeted</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: A work plan developed by each flagship outlining the activities to the undertaken during 2024 - 2025</p>	<p>The approval process of ten flagships proposed to receive MPTF targeted support was conducted in 2023. Based on the needs and activities proposed by flagships, work plans for 2024-2025 were developed.</p>		<p>Work plan or letter of agreement per each flagship receiving targeted support</p>
<p>Output 2.4. Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials developed</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.1 Concept note describing the functionalities of a multi-tool platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration developed</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: A concept note for developing a multi-tool web-based platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration is drafted based on consultations with members of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>A concept note for developing a multi-tool web-based platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration was finalized and approved by the lead organizations (FAO, IUCN-CEM and SER) in October 2024 after consultations with members of the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices and with participants of a session held during the CBD COP 16.</p>		<p>Concept note approved by the lead organizations (FAO, SER and IUCN-CEM)</p>
<p>Output 2.6 Design and implementation of Flagship Initiatives</p> <p>Indicator 2.6.1 Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) Flagship Initiative designed and under implementation</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Under the leadership of FAO Subregional Office of Mesoamerica, the work plan for the first year (2024) of the CADC flagship was implemented.</p>		<p>Technical workshop organized in Guatemala on 8-9 October 2024. <u>For the pilot countries</u> (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras): Projects with synergies, intervention sites, production systems and local partners identified for implementing restoration</p>

<p>Planned Target: Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) Flagship Initiative designed based on broad consultations and submitted to Executive Board for approval</p>			<p>activities; Assessment of national monitoring systems and opportunities for interoperability with regional and global platforms is ongoing. <u>Regional activities:</u> Consultation with relevant actors on proposal for regional reporting indicators; Mapping of ongoing restoration initiatives and stakeholders finalized; Draft communication strategy and draft report on barriers and enabling conditions for upscaling restoration in the Dry Corridor developed. Ongoing mapping of key financial instruments, actors and institutions with potential impact on restoration.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.6.2 Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Flagship Initiative designed and under implementation</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Flagship Initiative designed based on broad consultations and submitted to Executive Board for approval</p>	<p>Under the leadership of UNEP HQ, the first year (2024) workplan for the SIDS Flagship was partially implemented.</p>		<p>In Vanuatu, national ownership was strengthened through the appointment of a dedicated National Coordinator, hosted by the government marking the establishment of a national coordination mechanism.</p> <p>In Saint Lucia, a successful Planning and Validation Mission in November 2024 led to full alignment on the Global SIDS Flagship Framework. A Small-Scale Funding Agreement and work plan were finalized, and recruitment for a National Project Manager is underway in preparation for implementation.</p> <p>In Comoros, technical progress includes the revision of the</p>

			<p>National Blue Economy Strategy and the launch of a coastal ecosystem services assessment. Community initiatives, such as mangrove restoration and co-management of the Coelacanth MPA, are already underway.</p> <p>Globally, the SIDS Flagship is now aligned with the newly approved UNEP-GEF Adaptation project to enhance synergy and impact.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.6.3 Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Flagship Initiative designed</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Flagship Initiative designed based on broad consultations and submitted to Executive Board for approval</p>	<p>Under the leadership of FAO, the work plan for the first year (2024) of the GGWSSI flagship was implemented.</p>		<p><u>For Burkina Faso:</u> Project team in place; Letters of Agreement with the GGW National Coordination, regional councils and ADCT finalized; FLR activities planification for the 3 years finalized in the 5 communes; discussion ongoing with partners on the process for implementation; first pool of IGAs selected in the 5 communes, second pool of IGAs planned for 2025/2026; baseline study finalized; draft annual workplan and budget for 2025 ready. <u>For Niger:</u> Project team in place; Baseline study finalized; update of communal development and investment plans ongoing in collaboration with other projects; work planned with NGOs/civil society to temporary implement FLR investments; first round of IGAs processed in the 5</p>

			communes, second round of IGAs planned for 2024/2025; draft annual workplan and budget for 2025 ready. <u>Regional activities:</u> Letter of Agreement signed with UNCCD GGW Accelerator (270kUSD) and Letter of Agreement being drafted with the Pan African Agency for the GGW.
Indicator 2.6.4 List of additional flagships eligible to receive communication and/or targeted support shared with the UN Decade Strategy Group Baseline: 0 Planned Target: List of new flagships eligible to receive communication and/or targeted support shared with the UN Decade Strategy Group for selection process in 2025.	Assessment process of 89 government-endorsed nominations received from the second flagship call was conducted by an expert panel and coordinated by the core team of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices. A list of 35 eligible nominations (with a score larger than 7.5) was shared with the UN Decade Strategy Group to assist the selection process in 2025.		List of pre-selected flagships shared with UN Decade Strategy Group

OUTCOME 3⁹: Results documented and shared, through monitoring and reporting of biophysical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for ecosystem restoration

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.1: Number of stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society measuring their biophysical and socio-economic progress and reporting	Indicator 3.1: By the end of 2024, there were over 1,000 registered users, representing a variety of stakeholder groups.	Country reporting through the FERM is aligned with the GBF Target 2, and countries will submit their reports in 2026.	Target 2 Resource Guide homepage (link) Target 2 Resource Guide PDF (link) Target 2 Resource Guide interactive Online document (link)

⁹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>regularly through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration (FERM)</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Area under restoration of local ecosystems measured and reported through the FERM</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: Volume of annual financial resources on-the-ground ecosystem restoration reported through the FERM.</p> <p>Indicator 3.4: MPTF produced knowledge products to inform restoration actions and decision making.</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline</p> <p>Planned Target: Catalyze the global restoration community with monitoring and reporting guidance and platforms to contribute to the restoration of 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.2 will be reported through the 7th national reports, due in February 2026</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: financial resources are not measured through the FERM</p> <p>Indicator 3.4: The flagship document of 2024 for the Task Force on Monitoring was the Target 2 Resource Guide and e-learning course. The Monitoring Task Force produced various types of knowledge products in 2024 to inform restoration actions and decision making and distributed them during a series of events: CBD COP16, UNCCD COP16, World Forest Week, International Day of Forests, SBSTTA26, AFR100, Initiative 20x20, Best Practice Task Force, the European Conference on Ecological Restoration, Brazilian Conference on Ecological Restoration, RESULTS Asia-Pacific meetings, the Global Coordination Project for the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program, the Restoration Learning Academy, the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, GGW Data Task Force, the Global Mangrove Watch workshop, the Group on Earth</p>		<p>Target 2 e-learning (link)</p> <p>FAO's work on ecosystem restoration monitoring (link)</p> <p>FAO's work on GBF Target 2 (link)</p> <p>Roadmap for Target 2 publication (link)</p> <p>Target 2 indicator metadata form (link)</p> <p>Roadmap for Target 2 workshop report (link)</p> <p>Contribution to CBD Target 2 Quick Guide (link)</p> <p>Monitoring Task Force Briefing Note updated (link)</p> <p>The FERM user guidance document (link)</p> <p>FERM tutorial videos (link)</p> <p>8 news stories published in 2024 (link)</p>
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	<p>Observation conference, the Freshwater Challenge, the Ramsar Advisory Group and the Committee on Earth Observation (CEOS)/ CBD joint meeting on monitoring biodiversity. A new website was established to disseminate these knowledge products, including the Target 2 Resource Guide, the Target 2 e-learning course, the updated Roadmap for Target 2, the instructional video series on FERM, and four impact stories . Additionally, 2 living documents were updated (briefing note, FERM user guide).</p>		
<p>Output 3.1 Monitoring and reporting framework established, strengthened and made available for monitoring restoration – supported by a geospatial dissemination platform, capacity development, science, technology and innovation</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1 FERM Registry developed and tested by restoration stakeholders</p> <p>Baseline: No platform for reporting ecosystem restoration</p> <p>Planned Target: Full operational version of the FERM registry developed and launched during 2023</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: In 2024, the FERM registry was improved in terms of user interface and functionalities.</p> <p>By the end of 2024, there were over 1,000 registered users, representing a variety of stakeholder groups.</p> <p>The FERM user guidance document updated to reflect the latest developments.</p> <p>Training was provided to 189 people involved in FAO GEF projects on using FERM and injecting GEF project data.</p>		FERM available at (link)

<p>Indicator 3.1.2 Integrate geospatial data from other restoration monitoring platforms</p> <p>Registry Baseline: no</p> <p>Planned Target: Workflow for integration of Collect Earth assessments developed in 2022; QA/QC protocols agreed in 2023; Data integration complete for Annual report</p>	<p>Interoperability through data mapping and APIs have been established between the FERM Registry and Nature Commitments Platform, the SER Restoration Resource Center, RESULTS Asia-Pacific, and the Brazilian Restoration and Reforestation Observatory. Interoperability is in progress with the Restor Platform and IUCN's Restoration Barometer</p>	<p>The target for integration with Collect Earth was achieved in 2023 and new platform interoperability has been established</p>	<p>Updates available on the FERM search engine (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.3 Strengthen the FERM platform based on a user survey.</p> <p>Baseline: FERM platform MVP launched in 2021</p> <p>Planned Target: Updated FERM platform launched with operational FERM registry in 2023</p>	<p>FERM platform has been further developed to align with the Target 2 metadata, including feedback from users. A dedicated email address was set up to receive and respond to user needs – FERM-support@fao.org.</p>		<p>Updates available on the FERM platform (link)</p> <p>The FERM user guidance document updated to reflect the latest developments (link)</p> <p>Roadmap to Target 2 workshop report (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.4 E-learning course on monitoring restoration for efficient capacity development</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline</p> <p>Planned Target: E-learning course launched with updated FERM registry and platform in 2023</p>	<p>E-learning course developed and launched in November 2024 with a dedicated webinar.</p>		<p>Target 2 e-learning (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.5 Headline indicators for global level monitoring identified, consulted with Monitoring TF and other key experts. Workflows with custodian agencies documented</p> <p>Baseline: No global indicators for ecosystem restoration</p>	<p>In 2024, the FERM geospatial platform was updated to integrate new geospatial capacities have been developed with Open Foris Earth Map, enabling advanced geospatial analysis over areas under restoration. Agreements with Restor and IUCN's Restoration Barometer are exploring how</p>		<p>Target 2 indicator metadata form (link)</p> <p>FERM geospatial (link)</p> <p>New FERM geospatial developments – FERM Earth Map integration (link)</p>

<p>Planned Target: A set of indicators that can explain the progress of restoration actions across all ecosystem types globally in 2022; Workflow for FAO's FRA and its contribution to monitoring forest restoration established in 2022; Annual review of indicators in December 2023 and annually thereafter for dashboard and annual report</p>	<p>data can be shared across platforms to compile a global dataset on areas under restoration.</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.1.6 A live dashboard for restoration monitoring developed, tested and made available on FERM platform</p> <p>Baseline: No dashboard available</p> <p>Planned Target: Live dashboard available in 2023</p>	<p>Dashboard functionality available through the FERM geospatial: https://data.apps.fao.org/ferm</p> <p>An updated and more advanced Dashboard will be developed in 2025 and tested with countries. The dashboard development is aligned to the timeline of CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2 reporting.</p>		<p>Dashboard functionality available through the FERM geospatial: https://data.apps.fao.org/ferm</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1 Meetings of Monitoring Task Force convened</p> <p>Baseline: 5 Task Force meetings between 2020-2021</p> <p>Planned Target: At least four meetings of the full TF per annum – at least two meetings of sub-TFs per annum</p>	<p>Indicator 3.2.1: 6 Task Force meetings conveyed: The technical session, <i>Innovation is advancing ecosystem restoration as a powerful nature-based solution to multiple global challenges</i> at International Day of Forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SBSTTA26 side event on <i>Restoration Monitoring</i>, - World Forest Week side event on <i>Empowering communities, restoring landscapes & conserving ecosystems</i>, - Task Force Virtual Meeting update, 		<p>International Day of Forests, Technical session: <i>Innovation is advancing ecosystem restoration as a powerful nature-based solution to multiple global challenges</i> Recording (link) Website (link) SBSTTA 26 Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024 – Website (link) Recording (link)</p> <p>COFO World Forest week, <i>empowering communities, restoring landscapes & conserving ecosystems</i> Website (link) Recording (link) Virtual Meeting Monday, 28 May 2024</p>

	<p>- <i>Restoration Day</i> at CBD COP16 and</p> <p>- the official side event on <i>Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring</i> at CBD COP16</p> <p>The freshwater working group of the Task Force on monitoring met five times in 2024 to produce guidance on monitoring and reporting guidance for freshwater ecosystems which will be published in 2025. The target 2 working group met regularly in 2024, from two to four times per month to produce the Target 2 Resource Guide which was launched at CBD COP16.</p>		<p>Recording: (link)</p> <p>Restoration Day CBD COP 16</p> <p>30 October 2024 : Tracking Progress and Building Capacity: New Guidance and Tools Website: (link)</p> <p>COP16 side event</p> <p>25 October 2024</p> <p>Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring website: (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2.2 Forum on technology and innovation for restoration monitoring in 2024</p> <p>Baseline: First technology and innovation forum held in 2021</p> <p>Planned Target: Forum in 2024</p>	<p>Indicator 3.2.2: Forum on technology included in COP16, as the side event, Monitoring Ecosystem Restoration.</p>		<p>COP16 side event</p> <p>25 October 2024</p> <p>Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring website: (link)</p>
<p>Output 3.3 Reports on the progress of ecosystem restoration 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</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.1 Report consulted with the UN Decade EB (or management team)</p>	<p>Output 3.3.: The Target 2 Resource Guide was launched in October 2024 and provides comprehensive guidance to enable countries and stakeholders across society to report on ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.1: A report will be drafted in 2026 based on official government reporting</p>		<p>Target 2 Resource Guide homepage (link)</p> <p>Target 2 Resource Guide PDF (link)</p> <p>Target 2 Resource Guide interactive Online document (link)</p> <p>Target 2 e-learning (link)</p>

Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: A draft outline developed by June 2023; First report by December 2024	on restoration progress. Guidance and support will be provided to countries to enhance and accelerate monitoring and reporting on ecosystem restoration.		
Indicator 3.3.2 Develop Information Note for monitoring CBD Target 2 (restoration) through working group of the TF Monitoring Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Near final Information Note in 2022	Indicator 3.3.2: Indicator metadata updated in March 2024		Target 2 indicator metadata form (link)
Indicator 3.3.3: Support monitoring and reporting against CBD restoration target 2 (restoration). Area under restoration and connectivity reported through the dashboard (3.1.6) Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Support to CBD reporting processes for the 7 th national reports – due in February 2026	Indicator 3.3.3: Direct support provided to 5 countries, Kenya, Peru, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Vietnam. Dashboard mockup developed and consulted internally. Data compilation is ongoing. The dashboard will be tested with countries in 2025 to support the 7 th national reports.		
Indicator 3.3.4 Data for Investment flows and jobs from restoration actions captured and reported Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Analysis and narrative developed for a report by 2024	State of Finance for Nature Report published in 2024		State of Finance for Nature Report (link)
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	Indicator 3.4.1 National dialogues in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Brazil, Vietnam and Peru. Regional restoration monitoring coordination through participation with AFR100 and	.	Pilot projects with CIFOR-ICRAF (link) Restor and FERM partner to support restoration monitoring (link) Restoration Barometer and FERM partner to support restoration monitoring (link)

<p>Indicator 3.4.1 Critical data and information gaps in restoration monitoring identified and actioned</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Research and development commissioned to fill critical data and information gaps by 2024</p>	<p>Initiative 20x20, and RESULTS Asia-Pacific meeting. Knowledge products have been drafted with CIFOR-ICRAF and will be published in 2025 on the monitoring of key local ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development</p> <p>Additionally, agreements with Restor and with IUCN support countries in filling critical data and information gaps.</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.4.2 Develop sector-specific ecosystem restoration monitoring guidelines (e.g. restoration and removals accounting for ART/TREES)</p> <p>Baseline: No guidance available Planned Target: One guidance note published (ART/TREES) by 2026</p>	<p>Progress will be reported in 2025/2026</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.4.3 Develop and apply geospatial tools to support estimation of restoration potential considering biophysical and socio-economic costs and benefits</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: se.plan application for estimating cost-effective restoration in 10 countries by 2024</p>	<p>At least 8 countries directly supported in 2024, and 10 countries supported in 2023.</p> <p>Regional training in providing training and exchange for 50 participants from 7 countries as well as from national and regional organizations and research centers including from Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Philippines.</p>		<p>Se.plan website (link) Story map of restoration potential analysis in Vietnam (link) Partner impact story from government of the Philippines after se.plan regional training (link)</p>

	<p>Delivered an in-depth training on se.plan to Nigeria with consistent support in 2024 on restoration planning.</p> <p>A website dedicated to se.plan was developed and updated.</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.4.4 Highlight successful restoration projects monitoring for joint learning of all actors</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Two impact stories published by 2024</p>	<p>The FERM search engine of good restoration for restoration initiatives was launched in 2024, featuring over 400 initiatives. Four impact stories were published in 2024. Eight news stories published in 2024.</p>		<p>FERM search engine for initiatives and good practices (link) Ecosystem Restoration monitoring homepage (link) Monitoring impact stories (link) 8 news stories published in 2024 (link)</p>
<p>Output 3.5: Targeted monitoring support (capacity development / technology transfer) provided to on-the-ground UN Decade Flagships</p> <p>Indicator 3.5.1 Deploy FERM architecture to full UN Decade Flagships (GGW, SIDS, Central America Dry Corridor)</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: FERM technical deployment proceeding in line with flagship work plans by 2024</p>	<p>Indicator 3.5.1: Targeted support and dedicated training provided to the full UN Decade Flagships in GGW, SIDS, and Central America Dry Corridor to deploy FERM architecture.</p> <p>The focal points from the 17 global restoration flagships were trained in using the FERM and supported in providing geospatial data in the FERM registry and highlighted in the FERM platform and the home page.</p>		<p>FERM geospatial platform (link) FERM home page (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 3.5.2 Coordinate and align with stakeholders and actors working on restoration and restoration monitoring in full Flagships</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline</p>	<p>Coordination with full flagships to support restoration monitoring with key stakeholders and actors.</p>		

Planned Target: Work plans agreed with key stakeholders and actors by 2024			
Indicator 3.5.3 Populate FERM registry for full Flagships to ensure key restoration project interventions are geospatially referenced Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: FERM registry populated and publicly available for full Flagships by 2024	The focal points from the full Flagships were trained in using the FERM and supported in providing geospatial data in the FERM registry and highlighted in the FERM platform and the home page.		Example: Indonesia flagship FERM home page (link)
Indicator 3.5.4 Support full Flagships in setting baselines, measuring progress and regularly reporting progress (biophysical and socio-economic) Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Baseline data, Regular monitoring and reporting against baselines by 2025	Progress will be reported in 2025		
Indicator 3.5.5 Provide (on-demand) targeted support to endorsed UN Decade Flagships to ensure adequate geospatial information for monitoring progress Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: 10 requests for Targeted Support in 2 years by 2025	Data from the 17 global restoration flagships integrated and spotlighted in the FERM geospatial platform and the FERM home page.		FERM geospatial platform (link) FERM home page (link)

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration donor-led Mid-Term Review commenced in 2024, to be finalized in 2025. Update to be provided in the 2025 report.

In response to the request by the UN CBD Conference of the Parties and its decision 15/13, a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on progress up to August 2024 in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 was submitted under item 13 of the provisional agenda (on cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions) during COP16 in Cali.

[The report](#) “Progress of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030” provides information on the main activities conducted by the co-lead agencies (UNEP and FAO) and partners of the UN Decade as well as outlines implementation gaps and comes up with potential actions by Parties and Supportive organizations in order to scale up restoration efforts and to bring to life the vision of the UN Decade where everyone has a role to play.

IV. Looking ahead

UN Decade is approaching its mid-point in 2026, and relevant consultations with the Strategy Group, Advisory Board, other bodies and the partners were initiated in 2024 in order to identify priority directions and activities for the second half of the Decade, as well as to start preparations of the Secretary-General report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session on the status of the implementation of the resolution A/RES/73/284, including its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Relevant developments and updates to be highlighted in the 2025 report.