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MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030: A Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Programme Number: <i>DER00</i> MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00130753; 00130752; and 00130751 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p>Global (with flagships activities at country level)</p> <p>The three main goals that are the core of 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 decisions</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 50,000,000 Committed: 33,565,512 Budget: 30,485,379 Received: 30,485,379</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO: USD 17,012,228 UNEP: USD 13,473,151 	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration: 2021 – 2030 Start Date 01.04.2022 Original End Date 31.12.2026</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>04.06.2025</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <small>FAKT_IKI MTE_MPTF_Final Rep</small> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <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

List of acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
API	Application Programming Interface
ART/TREES	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions / The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asia Nations
BwN Indonesia	Building with Nature Indonesia
BGI	Blue and Green Islands
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany
CADC	Central America Dry Corridor
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resource Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAD	Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (Central America Commission on Environment and Development)
CFA francs	Communauté Financière Africaine
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
CI	Conservation International
CKLAP	Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan
CONABIO	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity – Mexico)
COP	Conference of Parties
COTENA	Comisión Técnica Nacional
DSD	Department of Sustainable Development
EB	Executive Board
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FERM	Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
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
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLF	Global Landscapes Forum
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MSP	Marine Spatial Plan
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NCA	Natural Capital Accounting
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECMs	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
ORT	Online Reporting Tool
PDF	Portable Document Format
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RRA	Rapid Readiness Assessment
RESULT	Restoration and Sustaining Landscapes Together
RIS	Ramsar Information Sheet
SBE	Sustainable Blue Economy
SBE-TF	Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SCOOPS ADESD	Société Coopérative Simplifiée / Association pour le Développement Économique et Social Durable
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SER	Society for Ecological Restoration
SICA	Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (Central American Integration System)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIGI	Sistema de Información Geográfica Institucional
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TREES	Trees for the future initiative
UN	United Nations
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCCD PRAIS	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN Decade	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
YTF	Youth Task Force

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration ignited a powerful global movement, under outcome 1, that brought together governments, communities, youth, civil society and the private sector in unprecedented ways to champion ecosystem restoration. Momentum surged through the launch of ten new UN World Restoration Flagships across major UN events, backed by vibrant storytelling that reached millions through global and local media, social campaigns and the *RESTORE* documentary series. Public engagement deepened through initiatives such as the Generation Restoration Schools programme, large-scale restoration murals, and a popular pledge tracker that inspired over 10,000 individual commitments. Youth leadership flourished with a revitalized Youth Task Force, new microgrants attracting more than 750 applications, and youth-driven events across global platforms. At the same time, the Partners Network expanded to 326 organizations whose collective efforts are restoring over 10 million hectares, growing more than 100 million trees, and supporting coastal recovery across 80,000 km²—all while engaging youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities at scale. Together, these actions demonstrate a growing, people-powered movement that is elevating political will, strengthening collaboration, and accelerating restoration efforts across the globe.

Outcome 2 registered solid progress in 2025, with countries strengthening the policies, institutions, and partnerships needed to scale ecosystem restoration. Major reforms advanced across all Flagships—from Comoros' Marine Spatial Plan covering 9,276 ha and validation of its Sustainable Blue Economy frameworks, to strengthened cross-ministerial coordination in the CADC region and landscape-scale governance advances like Central Asia's Ak-Ilbirs Ecological Corridor. Countries deepened technical capacity through good-practice systematization, trainings on the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), applied learning platforms, and community-level exchanges, while new investment flows—including USD 250,000 for seagrass restoration in Vanuatu—helped translate policy progress into concrete, scalable restoration action.

Outcome 3 made strong strides in improving how ecosystem restoration progress is monitored, reported and shared globally. FERM significantly expanded its functionality and uptake—with over 1,800 users from 100+ countries—introducing multilingual features, improved usability, geospatial data tools, and a new data-review interface to support reporting under CBD Target 2. Interoperability advanced across major restoration platforms and national systems, reducing reporting burdens and enabling more consistent, transparent data flows. Knowledge exchange was strengthened through active convening of the UN Decade Task Force on Monitoring, regional dialogues in Asia-Pacific and Latin America, and global events such as SER2025 and SBSTTA27. Countries and partners benefitted from updated guidance, improved indicator

frameworks, expanded Target 2 e-learning, and practical tools such as se.plan, which support evidence-based planning by identifying where restoration can deliver the greatest impact. . Monitoring case studies, publications, and impact stories were widely disseminated, while targeted technical support enabled all full Flagships to improve geospatial data, reporting readiness, and alignment with KM-GBF Target 2—bringing the number of Flagships registered in FERM to 27 and helping document 68 million ha committed to restoration and 18 million ha under active restoration.

I. Purpose

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration provides a global framework to accelerate efforts to prevent, halt, and reverse ecosystem degradation, with strong emphasis on restoring livelihoods, building resilience, and supporting countries to meet the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Guided by the 5-Year Programme Document, the Decade focuses on three core goals: expanding restoration action at all levels; strengthening understanding of restoration’s ecological, social and economic benefits; and ensuring this knowledge informs education systems and public- and private-sector decision-making.

Activities advance these goals through three outcomes: building a global restoration movement (Outcome 1); strengthening institutional capacity, policy reform and financing for large-scale restoration (Outcome 2); and improving the transparency and consistency of global monitoring and reporting (Outcome 3).

By the end of 2025, donor support through the MPTF ensured well-running global movement with more than 300 partners on board, Action Plan developed (and being in the process of update to reflect recent developments), and full-fledged advocacy public campaign and communication activities to showcase practical restoration examples and opportunities. These were complemented by the technical and expert support via Task Forces and dedicated learning sessions, trainings and workshops to advance knowledge management and capacity building.

On the ground three full UN World Restoration Flagships—the Central America Dry Corridor, Great Green Wall and Small Island Developing States—advanced implementation, strengthened cross-sector coordination, mobilized additional finance and scaled restoration action. Seven additional (smaller scale) flagships were supported through targeted grants, demonstrating the catalytic impact of donor investment and the palette of different restoration actions.

It all has been strongly supported by the reporting, data collection and monitoring activities, well-coordinated under the UN Decade structures and beyond, strategically aligned with the GBF Target 2 road map and other international reporting processes, to proof the restoration case and demonstrate practical results across different ecosystems, regions and partners.

Together, these achievements position the UN Decade as a high-impact, donor-leveraged platform that strengthens country leadership, drives innovation and accelerates restoration outcomes essential for climate resilience, biodiversity recovery and sustainable development.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

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.

2025 marked a pivotal year for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. With the programme approaching the halfway point toward the Decade’s goals—and those of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the SDGs—the urgency to unite people behind restoration has never been greater. Across the year, momentum grew as countries, communities, youth, civil society, and the private sector rallied behind the shared vision of healing ecosystems for the benefit of people and planet.

1.1.1: Development and dissemination of communication asset packages for UN World Restoration Flagship

In 2025, the UN Decade brought the stories of ecosystem restoration to life through a new generation of communication assets developed for UN World Restoration Flagships. Ten new Flagships were supported through tailored multimedia packages—including videos, photo stories, press features, web stories and social media campaign assets—co-created with governments, partners and local storytellers.

These materials highlighted the people behind restoration efforts, from community leaders to youth and Indigenous Peoples, making global ambitions tangible and relatable. Produced and rolled out in advance of and during major global events across 2025, these assets ensured that restoration stories were widely shared while remaining grounded in local realities and experiences.

1.1.2: Implementation of global, regional and national communication campaigns to promote ecosystems restoration

Building on these storytelling efforts, the UN Decade rolled out coordinated communication campaigns across global, regional and national levels throughout 2025, significantly amplifying the visibility of ecosystem restoration. Major international moments—including the UN Ocean Conference (June 2025), the World Food Forum (October 2025) and the UN Environment Assembly (December 2025)—served as key platforms to showcase Flagship initiatives and galvanize global attention. At the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, three marine and coastal flagships were launched; the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative in East Africa, the Mexico Islands Restoration programme, and the Mar Menor restoration initiative in Spain. At the [World Forum](#) in Rome, four additional flagships were recognized, including Collaborative Rangelands Restoration in Jordan, the multi-country Restoration Initiative across Africa and Asia, Revitalization Korea’s Forests

from Fire and Bamboo-based restoration initiative supporting landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods. Ahead of the [UN Environment Assembly](#) in Nairobi, three further flagships were highlighted, including the Shellfish Reef Building Program in Australia, the Respectful Returns Initiative in Canada, and a landscape restoration initiative in South Africa rooted in Indigenous and Community-led practices.

At the same time, campaigns were adapted and implemented across Flagship countries over the course of the year, ensuring messages resonated locally and reflected national priorities. This integrated approach linked global advocacy with local action, helping to build sustained momentum and strengthen ownership of restoration efforts across regions.

1.1.3: Number of people reached through global and national media campaigns and communication initiatives

These combined efforts translated into a significant expansion in reach and awareness over the course of 2025. As a result of the launch of the ten flagships, [communication](#) around the UN Decade generated over 490 media articles across 365 outlets in 48 countries and in seven languages, reflecting strong global uptake. Importantly, 45% of this coverage originated from within Flagship countries themselves, including Spain, South Korea, Mexico and Kenya—demonstrating strong national ownership and local resonance of restoration narratives. Media coverage spanned the full spectrum, from tabloids to leading national newspapers and scientific journals, highlighting the broad relevance of ecosystem restoration across diverse audiences.

Digital campaigns further amplified this reach, generating more than 62 million social media impressions, while the *RESTORE* documentary series attracted approximately 12 million viewers globally (the highest viewership to date) during its 2025 rollout. On social platforms, community-centred initiatives—such as bamboo-based restoration and The Restoration Initiative—resonated particularly strongly throughout the year, reflecting growing interest in locally driven solutions that deliver both environmental and socio-economic benefits. Together, these efforts brought ecosystem restoration into mainstream conversations, engaging millions of people globally.

1.1.4: Global Campaigns and public engagement initiatives:

Several major public-facing initiatives further energized the global restoration movement in 2025:

- Generation Restoration Schools Initiative: Launched to introduce tailored restoration lesson plans into 500 schools across more than 50 countries, reaching hundreds of thousands of students.
- Appointment of Frida Amani as the first UNEP Advocate for Ecosystem Restoration, bringing East Africa's youth voice and creative energy to the Decade.
- Global campaign on Generation Restoration Cities, celebrating 24 cities restoring seven ecosystem types for the benefit of 75 million residents.
- Young Champions of the Earth (#GenerationRestoration edition), spotlighting youth-led innovations such as biodegradable packaging from water hyacinth and plant-based leather alternatives.

- Large-scale public art campaigns, including restoration murals in London, New York and Chicago, engaging millions with messages on clean air, forests, rivers and youth entrepreneurship.
- Ecosystem Restoration Laboratory at UNEA-7 in Nairobi, where thousands of visitors engaged in hands-on restoration learning through interactive exhibits – from oyster reef filtration to “restoration wheel of fortune”.

1.1.5: Strengthening the UN Decade Partners Network and collective impact

By the end of 2025, the UN Decade Partners Network had grown to **326 organizations**, spanning governments, civil society, academia, private sector entities and community-based groups.

A partner review (101 responses) showed that NGOs make up most of the network (73%), followed by private sector actors (14%) and other institutions (13%). Partners are active across all regions, with the strongest representation in Europe, Asia–Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the highest number of restoration projects in Asia–Pacific (41), Africa (40) and Latin America and the Caribbean (36).

While partners identified challenges such as limited funding, capacity constraints and the need for stronger technical support, progress remained strong: 74% reported being on track, and 15% had already achieved their objectives.

Collectively, partners contributed to bringing over 10 million hectares under restoration or sustainable management, growing more than 100 million trees, and improving management across 80,000 km² of coastal waters, with interventions spanning all major ecosystem types.

These efforts remained strongly people-centred, with over 85% of partners engaging youth, more than 90% partnering with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and a widespread emphasis on native biodiversity, community leadership and locally tailored solutions.

1.1.6: Number of Stakeholders mobilized through flagship initiatives, partner networks and public engagement mechanisms

This growing visibility was matched by a significant expansion in stakeholder engagement and concrete opportunities for collaboration and investment throughout 2025. The UN Decade Partner Network grew to 326 organizations, spanning governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. These partners reported tangible contributions during the year, including the restoration of over 10 million hectares, the planting of more than 100 million trees, and improved management of critical ecosystems.

Increased visibility of Flagship initiatives during 2025 campaign moments also began to unlock new partnerships and financing opportunities. For example, the Comprehensive Island Restoration initiative in Mexico was connected to a potential private sector funder following its promotion through the Flagship campaign. Similarly, an investor supporting Thicket Restoration in South Africa noted that increased visibility during the year helped catalyse additional private investment, emphasizing that *efforts to raise the profile of restoration played an important role in unlocking private capital*.

Public engagement platforms, including the Ecosystem Restoration Hub and pledge campaigns, further enabled participation throughout 2025, resulting in over 10,000 individual pledges. Together, these efforts demonstrate how increased awareness is translating into tangible action—mobilizing stakeholders, strengthening partnerships, and contributing to the scaling of restoration globally.



Photo 1: Participants celebrated three new UN World Restoration Flagships at a packed Gala of Hope at the UN Environment Assembly



Photo 2: The highest ecosystem restoration mural yet draws attention to the importance of forests for cities. It includes Illinois's state animal, and accompanying information (plaque, QR code and app) highlight the forests surrounding Chicago. (Artist: Super-A)

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

In 2025, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration significantly expanded its reach and engagement worldwide. The UN Decade's website connected with over half a million people, serving as a central platform for updates, resources, and stories from across the movement. Throughout the year, it featured:

- 72 web stories, contributed by 60 partners
- 94 events, hosted by 34 partners
- 24 publications, produced by 16 partners
- 22 new videos, highlighting restoration action and impact

A key tool for mobilizing public participation—the Ecosystem Restoration Hub—continued to grow. By the end of 2025, it showcased 103 active restoration initiatives, involving 172,309 people working to restore and bring 33 million hectares of land and water ecosystems under recovery.

To inspire individual action, the UN Decade team launched an updated gamified pledge tracker on Mother Earth Day (April 2025). This user-friendly tool guides people through simple, meaningful restoration actions they can take in their daily lives, while also recording their commitments. Since its launch, over 10,000 personal pledges have been submitted.

The IUCN-led Science Task Force was revived and provided an authoritative scientific reference for the UN Decade, producing, collating, and conveying concise information and concepts of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem restoration based on rigorous evidence. By the end of 2025, the Task Force produced several knowledge products, among them a guidance document called “Incorporating Scientific Knowledge as an Ally in World Restoration Flagships” for integrating scientific knowledge into Flagships implementation plan, two case studies on the World Restoration Flagships - “Lessons and challenges of a restoration flagship: The Trinational Atlantic Forest Pact” and “Ganga River Restoration as a Pathway for the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Insights from India’s Namami Gange Flagship Programme”.

This Task Force had regular meetings and exchanges with the UN Decade partners and Flagships, as well as coordinated its activities with other Task Forces – such as the Monitoring one and Best Practices, to scale up technical support and synergize across knowledge products and documents.

Output 1.3: Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement, in close collaboration with the UN Decade’s youth-led Youth Task Force

Young people continued to be one of the most powerful driving forces behind the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in 2025. This year saw the launch of a renewed Youth Task Force (YTF)—a vibrant group of 25 young leaders from every region of the world who brought fresh ideas, bold energy, and a shared commitment to restoring the planet. One of their first major milestones was developing a new 2025–2027 roadmap, setting out clear priorities for empowering youth networks, growing restoration skills, advancing research, strengthening partnerships and financing, and fostering innovation and co-creation.

Throughout the year, the Youth Task Force made their presence felt across the global restoration community. They led and supported a range of activities—from an online “Generation Restoration” training session that equipped young people with practical skills, to an official event at the Youth Environment Assembly that brought together more than 140 participants both in-person and online. They also helped spotlight young innovators at the World Food Forum and shared youth perspectives on restoration across seven major global platforms, including UNEA-7, UNFCCC COP30, and the Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum. Their outreach stretched into digital spaces too, with growing youth networks on social media and a mailing list connecting young restoration champions around the world.

One of the most exciting achievements of 2025 was the launch of the Youth Task Force Microgrant Programme, announced during the Youth Environment Assembly in Nairobi. The enthusiasm was immediate and overwhelming: more than 750 youth-led organizations applied for the chance to receive one of the ten microgrants to support restoration projects—most of them based in the

Global South. This response showed not only the incredible passion of young people, but also the demand for resources that help bring their ideas to life.

To better understand and uplift youth-led restoration globally, the YTF also began developing a policy paper to document the contributions, challenges, and needs of young restoration practitioners. A global survey was shared across youth networks in 2025 to ensure that young voices—and the realities they face on the ground—shape the recommendations.

Together, these efforts show how young people are not just participants in the UN Decade—they are leaders, innovators, problem-solvers, and key partners in shaping a healthier future for all. Their energy continues to inspire the wider restoration movement and strengthen the global momentum for change.

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

This output was developed and supported by the FAO-led Task Forces on Best Practices and Monitoring.

Effective restoration depends on strong knowledge, practical guidance, and accessible tools. In 2025, the UN Decade advanced several initiatives to improve how restoration is planned, carried out, and shared across regions and stakeholders.

2.3.1 Promoting Adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice

Following the release of the UN Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration in 2024, 2025 focused on ensuring these guidelines reach the people who need them most—practitioners, policymakers, community groups, and restoration leaders around the world. Efforts included developing a new web-based multi-tool platform (see section 2.4.1 below), ongoing translation of the publication into French and Spanish, and showcasing the Standards at major global conferences, such as the 20x20 Annual Meeting in Chile (8 - 11 April), the 10 European Botanic Gardens Congress in Italy ((22-26 September), the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in the United States (30 September – 4 October), the IUCN World Conservation Congress in the UAE (9 – 15 October), and 1st Mexican Congress and 7th Ibero-American and Caribbean Congress on Ecological Restoration held in Mexico (26-29 October). Each event helped raise awareness and build momentum for using the Standards as a common foundation for high-quality restoration work worldwide.

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

The UN Decade continued advancing the Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan, strengthening skills and learning opportunities across communities, youth networks, and restoration practitioners.

- *Initiative 1* – Professional Platform for Education and Learning: A zero-draft concept for a global learning platform was prepared, outlining the tools and functions that will support online training and professional development from 2026 onward.
- *Initiative 2* – Youth Education and Learning. A new restoration module within the *Forest Kids Game* was launched at the World Conference on Ecological Restoration, and a hands-on discovery station and masterclass were held during Junior World Food Day—bringing restoration awareness directly to children and families.
- *Initiative 3* – Community-Based Restoration Mechanism: From 55 applications, nine Champion Communities from Senegal, Mali, Uganda, Benin, Brazil, and India were selected through a multi-step process. Their good practices were published on the FERM platform, and more than 200 participants joined a multilingual webinar celebrating their achievements. A first global knowledge exchange in December spotlighted Senegal’s experience with village savings clubs, strengthening grassroots learning.
- *Initiative 5* – Pluralistic Extension and Advisory Services: Seventeen case studies were assessed to identify effective models for restoration advisory services across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Twelve were shortlisted for publication in a forthcoming compendium, which will be supported by a global webinar series in 2026.
- *Initiative 6* – Restoration Policy Facility: A global call for examples of strong policy coherence was launched, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive report to be developed in 2026–2027.

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

FERM expanded significantly in 2025, linking users to approximately 2,300 good practices in English, French, and Spanish across four collaborating platforms. During the year, 61 new practices were submitted directly through FERM, of which 42 were approved by a review panel of 94 experts.

Work also progressed to integrate the Forest Knowledge Gateway into the FERM search engine, with completion expected in early 2026. The FERM Registry was made available in French, Spanish, and Portuguese in 2025, improving accessibility across regions. A new digital review portal, currently under development, is planned for release in 2026 to streamline expert review and long-term data management.

Throughout 2025, the UN Decade team promoted these tools and collaborative processes at key international events, including the 20x20 Annual Meeting (8–11 April, Chile); Beyond SUPERB in Leuven, Belgium (8–9 September 2025); the European Botanic Gardens Congress (22–26 September 2025, Italy); the World Conference on Ecological Restoration (30 September – 4 October

2025, USA); and the Mexican/Ibero-American Restoration Congress (26–29 October 2025, Mexico).

2.3.4 Outputs developed by Flagship initiatives that received targeted support

Targeted support to UN World Restoration Flagships helped deepen evidence, strengthen monitoring systems, and share practical restoration lessons.

Regreening Africa: Regreening Africa is a large-scale initiative working across eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to restore degraded lands by helping farmers adopt sustainable, tree-based restoration practices—such as Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), tree planting, and soil and water conservation. The initiative blends scientific evidence, community engagement and policy support to transform drylands into productive and resilient landscapes. Support concluded in June 2025 with several key accomplishments:

- A science-based knowledge brief summarizing five years of restoration insights, including ecological and socio-economic findings.
- Integration of Regreening Africa’s data into FERM, supporting global reporting.
- A case study on how engagement with scientific evidence can strengthen decision-making in complex landscapes.

An additional brief on the importance of evidence integration in restoration, particularly in the Global South.

These outputs were shared widely, including at GLF Africa, which reached millions through online and media engagement.

African Farmers Transforming Food Systems (TREES): TREES supports African smallholder farmers to transition from vulnerable, low-productivity systems to resilient “Forest Garden” agroforestry models. By combining trees, crops and income-generating species, the initiative strengthens food security, restores soils, improves biodiversity and expands livelihood opportunities across farming communities. In 2025, TREES advanced agroforestry capacity building by:

- Developing a new Forest Garden Technical Manual—available in English and French—co-created with farmers and based on 30 years of field experience.
- Beginning development of an online Agroforestry Extension Course, with content drafted for release in 2026.

Restoring Mediterranean Forests: This initiative brings together countries across the Mediterranean region to strengthen post-fire restoration in forest landscapes increasingly affected by climate change. By documenting best practices, building regional capacity and improving integrated fire management, it helps countries plan, restore and protect fire-impacted ecosystems more effectively. Work focused on improving post-fire restoration capacity:

- Preparation of a regional report and an e-learning course on post-fire restoration.
- Inclusion of post-fire practices in the State of Mediterranean Forests 2025 report.
- Regional workshops held in Morocco, Türkiye, and Italy to promote effective fire management and restoration.
- Integration of post-fire restoration into the Mediterranean Forest Initiative.

Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal: The Terai Arc Landscape initiative works to restore and reconnect forest and grassland ecosystems across one of Nepal's most biodiverse regions, supporting both wildlife conservation and community livelihoods. Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, the initiative strengthens landscape-level planning, monitoring and policy implementation. Progress under a partnership with WWF Nepal included:

- A draft Terai Arc Landscape strategy and action plan, informed by extensive community and provincial consultations.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder coordination and monitoring through government forest offices and protected area authorities.
- Recruitment of a consultant to document and share restoration lessons by 2026.

Acción Andina: This initiative is a community-led movement working to restore native forests across the Andes and improve the well-being of the people who depend on them. Over the past year, the initiative made strong progress in building the skills, systems, and partnerships needed to attract new investments and expand restoration work. After a careful review, the study showed that creating a Trust Fund was not the best option right now, and therefore the team shifted toward more practical financing pathways and began engaging potential supporters around promising options such as Peru's Obras por Impuestos programme and Payment for Ecosystem Services. Acción Andina also strengthened its visibility as a UN World Restoration Flagship through regional campaigns, new fact sheets, and digital stories celebrating restoration efforts across several countries. With improved governance and stronger monitoring systems now in place, local partners are better equipped to access future funding and accelerate forest restoration where it matters most. The Flagship implementation was completed in 2025.

Building with nature in Indonesia: Building with Nature Indonesia is an award-winning initiative that restores mangroves and strengthens coastal communities by working with nature rather than against it. Through the UN Decade Targeted Support, the project helped share this innovative approach more widely and build the skills needed to scale it across Indonesia. New videos, translated guidelines, and more than 35 knowledge products were produced and shared nationally and globally, reaching thousands and gaining visibility in major international reports. Public consultations led to two landscape-level restoration proposals for Cirebon and Demak, which helped secure new donor support and sparked meaningful dialogue with policymakers and financial institutions. Local groups also benefited from hands-on training and Bio-Rights support to diversify livelihoods and engage in village-level policy processes. Multi-stakeholder platforms were strengthened, new roadmaps and business cases were developed, and international exchanges brought countries together to learn from Indonesia's success. Together, these efforts expanded capacity, collaboration, and momentum for nature-based coastal protection. Implementation of this flagship was completed in 2025.

The Multi-Country Mountain Flagship, consisting of restoration efforts and activities across the Kyrgyz Republic, Uganda, Rwanda and Serbia, has continued to progress. One highlight is the proper formalization of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Strategic Plan (2024-2033) which was developed by the Greater Virunga Transboundary Cooperation (GVTC) with partners. The plan

includes outcome milestones on ecosystem restoration - one strategic activity of which is to support conservation and restoration of priority corridors. In Kyrgyzstan, key highlights include the Bayboosun initiative gaining designation as a Protected Area of local significance, and the establishment of the Ak-Ilbris Ecological Corridor. The Bayboosun initiative has legally approved boundaries exceeding 20,000 hectares and an established protection regime regulating land use and conservation measures. The protected area was created by the local self-government authority, which delegated management to the Public Foundation “Bayboosun,” ensuring legal recognition and community-based management. UNEP contributed to the operationalization of local ranger units, strengthening their capacity to implement protection measures and biodiversity monitoring for the Bayboosun initiative, which enhances on-site enforcement and prevents ecosystem degradation within the flagship landscape. “Bayboosun” is the first officially recognized protected area of local significance in the Kyrgyz Republic, representing a concrete regulatory reform that secures long-term ecosystem restoration and conservation. Under the Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation (CAMCA) Project, the Ak-Ilbris Ecological Corridor covers approximately 800,000 hectares and has been established with an agreed management regime aimed at securing landscape connectivity and coordinated conservation measures across administrative and sectoral boundaries. The corridor spans a mosaic of land categories, including pastures, forest lands, hunting concessions, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), state protected areas, and community-based conservation territories. By defining shared conservation objectives and spatial priorities, the Ak-Ilbris corridor has created an operational platform for cross-sectoral cooperation within a single ecological framework.

Output 2.4: Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials developed

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

In 2025, the UN Decade made important strides in making restoration guidance more practical and accessible to people working on the ground. A major focus of the year was the development of a new multi-tool web-based platform that will help everyone—from community groups to technical experts—better understand and apply the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration, which were first released in 2024.

This new platform brings together three user-friendly tools: Explore, Apply, and Learn, each designed to meet people where they are in their restoration journey.

The Explore Tool: The Explore tool helps users easily navigate the Standards of Practice. It allows anyone to search by keywords, filter topics by theme, and connect to additional guidance through a growing library of resources. Whether someone is new to restoration or looking for a very specific recommendation, this tool helps make the Standards simpler and more intuitive to use.

The Apply Tool: Created for project teams, the Apply tool supports decision-making at different stages of restoration:

- For new projects, it guides users through relevant practices and produces a draft project plan that teams can customize.
- For existing projects, it helps assess how closely their activities follow recommended best practices.

This tool ensures that quality standards are applied from planning through implementation—something many practitioners highlighted as a need during consultations in 2024–2025.

The Learn Tool (E-Learning Course): To help users build deeper skills, a new e-learning course—the Learn tool—was developed throughout 2025. The course includes an introduction and six lessons that cover the entire restoration process, from assessment to monitoring and evaluation. Real case studies are woven into the lessons so learners can see how the Standards are applied in practice. To ensure a strong technical foundation:

- A 48-member expert group was formed in 2025.
- The course objectives, target audience, and full outline were completed in 2025.
- Technical content for the introduction and the first four lessons was drafted and shared for expert review in 2025.
- The first instructional design draft for the course introduction was produced in late 2025 and is now being refined.

Presentations and Feedback in 2025: Early beta versions of the Explore and Apply tools were presented at two major events to gather real user feedback:

- 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, Denver, USA (30 September – 4 October 2025)
- 1st Mexican and 7th Ibero-American Conference on Ecological Restoration, Linares, Mexico (26–29 October 2025)

These sessions sparked thoughtful discussions and provided practical suggestions, which are now being integrated ahead of the testing phase planned for May 2026. The full platform launch is scheduled for CBD COP 17 in October 2026.

Output 2.6: Scalable pilot restoration initiatives implemented within Flagship initiatives

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

In 2025, the CADC Flagship Initiative continued to build momentum across Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, strengthening the region’s ability to plan, finance, monitor, and scale restoration in some of the most climate-vulnerable landscapes in Central America. Throughout the year, partners worked collaboratively to advance policymaking, technical training, community engagement, and monitoring systems that will shape the 2026 work plan and budget, which were validated and are already under implementation.

Key areas of progress achieved under the CADC flagship initiative in 2025 include:

Strengthened coordination between environment and agriculture: Throughout 2025, dialogue and coordination between the environmental and agricultural sectors were significantly strengthened in all three pilot countries. In El Salvador, the team supported COTENA (the AFOLU National Technical Commission) in advancing a joint environmental–agricultural agenda. A diploma course was also delivered, helping 96 government officials deepen their knowledge of climate change, ecosystem restoration, and related topics.

Strengthened political support and policy alignment for restoration: A full communication and visibility strategy was completed and rolled out during 2025 to share clear messages about the CADC Flagship, the value of restoration, and the benefits it brings to communities and productive landscapes.

Three important policy-support documents were finalized in 2025, helping embed restoration more firmly in national and regional planning:

- Articulation of UN Decade principles with AFOLU 2040 Regional Initiative and the SICA Regional Climate Change Strategy (2024–2030)
- Barriers and enabling conditions for restoration in the region
- Recommendations for integrating UN Decade restoration principles into national and regional initiatives

Advanced restoration finance planning and investment pathways: By late 2025, a detailed mapping of financial institutions, products, and incentives for restoration in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador was completed. Building on this, investment plans for productive ecosystems are currently being developed and refined, alongside ongoing facilitation of public–private dialogue on restoration finance.

Strengthened knowledge sharing and documentation of good practices: During 2025, the team completed the systematization of six good practices (with two more nearing completion), and four have already been submitted to the FERM platform for wider sharing. A virtual community of practice is also being consolidated to continue exchanging restoration knowledge across sectors and countries.

Enhanced restoration capacity and implementation in productive landscapes: Pilot restoration actions advanced across the three CADC countries in 2025, focusing on restoring productive and arid landscapes. Activities included:

- Three national workshops—one per country—on productive restoration, monitoring and evaluation
- Ten field schools and training exchanges with small producers (6 in El Salvador, 2 in Honduras, 2 in Guatemala)
- Ongoing development of a compendium of good restoration practices for productive systems

These efforts helped local technicians and producers strengthen their skills while encouraging cross-country learning.

Strengthened regional monitoring, data systems and reporting capacity: A regional diagnosis of national monitoring systems and information platforms was completed in 2025, helping identify gaps and opportunities for harmonization. To support interoperability, an API was developed to connect national monitoring systems with the FERM platform. Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama received technical support to prepare their data for transfer once final approval is granted by FERM developers.

To further strengthen reporting, the Integrated Information Management System (SIGI), in Spanish, was designed in 2025. This new system will help countries collect, organize, and analyze restoration data, and will support the production of a regional CADC restoration progress report in 2026. SIGI is expected to be initially rolled out in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, and Costa Rica.

Finally, countries worked together in 2025 to develop a typology of restoration practices (now under review) and to establish minimum monitoring criteria and indicators that will lead to harmonized regional reporting. The first harmonized CADC restoration report is expected in 2026.

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

During the reporting period, the SIDS Restoration Flagship has made substantive progress across its three pilot islands Comoros, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu advancing ecosystem restoration and Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) transitions. Implementation has focused on strengthening national ownership, institutional anchoring, participatory governance, policy reform, and building the enabling conditions required for long term economic transformation, couched in restoration.

2.6.2.1 Comoros

Overview of Progress

During the reporting period, the SIDS Restoration Flagship supported the Government of the Union of the Comoros in strengthening ocean governance and embedding ecosystem restoration within national development planning. Significant progress was made toward establishing the policy, institutional and planning frameworks required to advance a ridge-to-reef Sustainable Blue Economy transition. A key milestone was the validation and socialization of the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for the Coelacanth National Park, placing 9,276 hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems under improved management. The MSP introduces a participatory governance framework that aligns biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihoods, establishing spatial zoning for ecosystem protection, restoration priorities and sustainable use by coastal communities. In parallel, the Flagship supported the revision and technical validation of the National Sustainable Blue Economy Policy and Implementation Framework, embedding ecosystem restoration within national economic planning and strengthening cross-sectoral coordination across fisheries, environment, planning and finance.



Photo 3: Stakeholders from fisher and user-groups, park management and local community leaders in consultations and participatory-planning and mapping exercises for the Coelacanth National Park's Marine Spatial Plan and validation. Photo: FAO

Key results achieved in Comoros in 2025 included:

Completion of the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for the Coelacanth National Park - 9,276 ha under improved management

- Among the few such examples in the Indian Ocean, Comoros' Coelacanth National Park has launched a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) under the SIDS Restoration Flagship. This milestone signals a new way of governing the ocean: not through restrictions, but through dialogue, inclusion, and shared stewardship. The plan brings together government agencies, fishers, women's cooperatives, youth groups and scientists to chart how marine space can support both biodiversity and livelihoods.
- The MSP serves as a blueprint for coexistence, ensuring coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass meadows remain healthy while creating zones for artisanal fishing, eco-tourism and aquaculture. The plan establishes clear spatial zoning, community co-management mechanisms, and an adaptive review system. It aligns biodiversity conservation with livelihood diversification, pollution control, and climate adaptation. aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water).
- The MSP process was highly participatory and inclusive, involving fishers, local authorities, coastal communities, village associations from 15 localities, eco-guards, civil society and technical experts.
- Structured consultations and validation workshops enabled agreement on zoning arrangements balancing conservation priorities with sustainable livelihoods, particularly fisheries co-management. This, through spatial responses which include:
 - Strict protection zones safeguarding coral reefs and turtle nesting sites
 - Restoration areas prioritizing mangrove restoration in Ouroveni and Simamboini, coral gardening in Chindini, and dune stabilization along key beaches.
 - Sustainable use of zones supporting small-scale fisheries and eco-tourism under community co-management agreements.
 - Coastal protection corridors banning extraction of sand aggregates to halt erosion and rebuild natural defenses.
- By aligning spatial regulation with scientific evidence and community knowledge, the MSP creates a living framework: dynamic, evidence-based, and grounded in continuous

monitoring. The process strengthened local ownership of ocean governance and provides a replicable model for participatory marine planning in SIDS contexts.



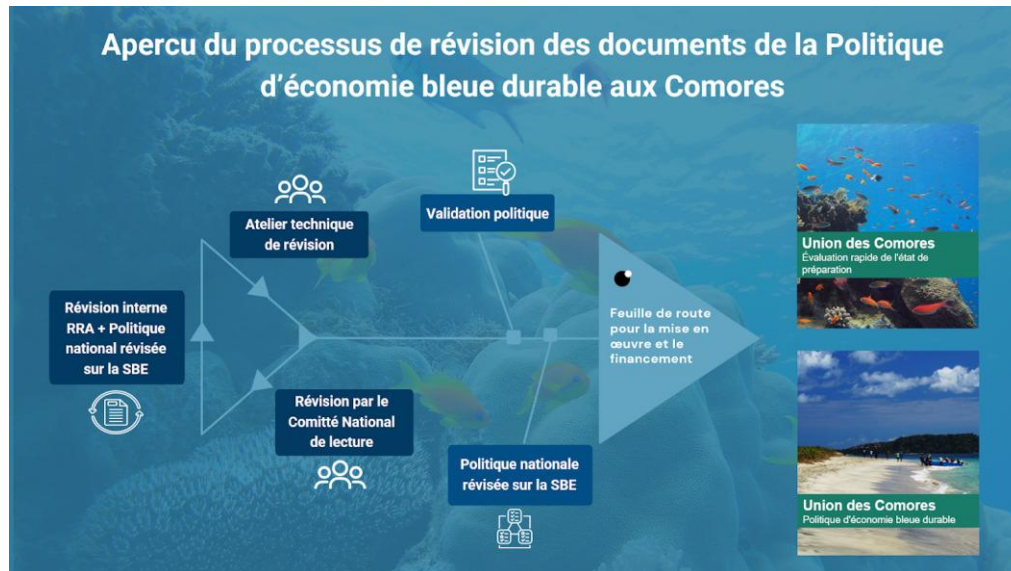
Photo 4: Hassane Mlatamou (right), narrates how communities were consulted throughout this MSP process. Photo FAO

“Before this program, there were no clear rules - it was chaotic... This plan is a key tool for reducing intercommunity conflicts and tensions between traditional and artisanal fishers in the Coelacanth National Park area. Above all, it reassures everyone that the sea belongs to all of us.”

Comoros’ fully revised and validated Sustainable Blue Economy Policy

- National institutions, ministries and partners technically validated two foundational documents: the Sustainable Blue Economy Policy and the Integrated Policy Framework for Comoros’ Sustainable Blue Economy. This milestone signals a clear shift from assessment to action, embedding ecosystem restoration at the core of national development planning.
- At the core of this policy package is the Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment (RRA), a UNEP methodology implemented in Comoros with technical support from GRID-Arendal (with co-financing from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (USD 67,095) to bring in the policy implementation framework). The RRA served as a foundational tool, helping Comoros move from diagnostic analysis to the formulation of a clear, coordinated policy framework for a sustainable blue economy. The assessment examined institutional capacity, governance arrangements and financing readiness, while identifying priority actions to embed ecosystem restoration at the core of economic planning. By convening sectors that rarely engage together, the RRA helped establish a shared evidence base, vision and common language across government, laying the groundwork for more integrated and coordinated transition.

- More than 150 stakeholders contributed to the RRA through consultations spanning islands and sectors. Building on this broad engagement, the technical validation was led by a 35-member national reading committee, bringing together experts from line ministries, public institutions, academia, civil society, key stakeholder groups and development partners. Their role was to rigorously review, strengthen and refine the policy package ahead of its final adoption in the National Assembly and via a National Decree, later this year.



- Key innovations of the policy package include:
 - An integrated national vision for sustainable blue development that brings together fisheries, tourism, ports and maritime transport, waste and pollution management, ecosystem conservation and restoration, renewable energy, and emerging innovation-led sectors.
 - A set of national guiding principles (dubbed “COMOROS BLUE SEA”) for a sustainable blue economy, rooted in climate resilience and nature-based solutions, strong local ownership and participation, subsidiarity, value creation and market development, digitalisation and open data, rule of law and regulatory clarity, gender and youth inclusion, and transparency and accountability.
 - A multi-tier governance model tailored to a union of islands, proposing a National Sustainable Blue Economy Council alongside Island-level Committees to translate national priorities into concrete, island-specific actions across Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli.
 - A suite of implementation tools designed to strengthen coordination, reduce user conflicts and improve investment readiness, including marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, enhanced safeguards and assessment mechanisms, and a Sustainable Blue Economy Observatory to support monitoring and decision-making.
 - A sustainable blue finance framework, including the creation of a dedicated financing mechanism to mobilise, pool and direct resources toward high-impact and investment-ready initiatives.

This milestone represents structural embedding restoration and SBE transition at the highest policy level and strengthening the enabling environment for long-term restoration initiatives, couched in a Sustainable Blue Economy transition.



Photo 5: Discussion and deep exchange among stakeholders and Ministries, led by the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Abubakar Ben Mahmoud (left); and the room in ovation (third from left) as the Secretary General closed the successful technical validation of the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) Policy. Photos Georgina Avlonitis, UNEP

Mangrove restoration: planning and capacity building

Recognizing the importance of healthy mangroves for climate resilience, fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection, the programme also began an integrated marine and coastal ecosystem services assessment to guide restoration priorities in and around the Coelacanth National Park. In this context:

- A multi-stakeholder workshop was held at the Park headquarters, bringing together park managers, village associations, eco-guards, national consultants, and the University of Comoros
- 21 key stakeholders received hands-on training in mangrove restoration techniques, site prioritization, and sustainable management
- The consultations helped build a shared vision for coastal ecosystem management and strengthened collaboration between scientific institutions and coastal communities

Activities under this assessment will continue into the next reporting period, supporting the development of a long-term, community-driven mangrove restoration strategy.

2.6.2.2 Saint Lucia

Overview of progress

In 2025, Saint Lucia made meaningful progress in strengthening national ownership of the SIDS Restoration Flagship, improving coordination between ministries, and laying the groundwork for new restoration-linked livelihood opportunities. The year marked a shift toward more cohesive

planning, better alignment across projects, and increased national leadership in shaping restoration as part of a broader blue and green economic transition.

A major milestone was the Saint Lucia Flagship Inception Workshop, held 9–12 July 2025 alongside the GEF Blue and Green Islands (BGI) Project Inception Workshop. This multi-stakeholder platform brought together government, civil society, regional partners, and technical institutions to align national restoration priorities with global frameworks under the UN Decade. Stakeholders highlighted the need for a strong national coordination mechanism to unify the many restoration-related initiatives underway. As a result, UNEP, FAO, CANARI and the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) agreed to establish a shared Technical Advisory Board and Project Steering Committee across the SIDS Flagship, GEF-6 Southeast Coast Project and GEF-BGI projects to improve coherence, data sharing and joint monitoring—particularly through the FERM platform.

National coordination was further strengthened by the long-awaited appointment of Mr. Adams Toussaint as National Coordinator in October 2025, embedded within the Department of Sustainable Development. His role has already helped streamline communication between ministries, development partners and local stakeholders, ensuring that restoration aligns with Saint Lucia’s broader Sustainable Blue Economy strategies.

To help translate restoration into economic opportunity, Saint Lucia began rolling out its Restoration Factory—a model designed to support small businesses, community entrepreneurs and youth- and women-led enterprises working on restoration-linked ventures. Beneficiaries include coastal community entrepreneurs, sustainable tourism operators, agri-/aquaculture innovators and fishers seeking diversification opportunities.

Key results achieved in Saint Lucia in 2025 included:



Photo 6: The launch of the SIDS Flagship (and introduction to the Restoration Factory & FERM), July 2025 in Saint Lucia (left) and imagery from visiting eco-enterprises along the South-East Coast. Images: Georgina Avlonitis, UNEP

Restoration Factory model established to support restoration-based entrepreneurship and livelihoods

The Restoration Factory, which supports entrepreneurship and livelihood development linked to restoration, moved into its early implementation phase in 2025:

- Export Saint Lucia was formally selected as the Local Support Organization, partnering with UNEP and Bridge for Billions to implement the incubation model.
- Capacity building began through a train-the-trainers programme to prepare national facilitators to mentor emerging restoration-linked enterprises.
- An open call for eco-preneurs will launch in April 2026, targeting 40 entrepreneurs working across coral restoration, mangrove conservation, sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, and eco-tourism.
- Participants will benefit from both national and regional mentoring, technical training and business development services.
- A USD 50,000 small-grants mechanism was created to provide seed funding to the most promising enterprises emerging from the programme.
- Approximately 30% of the incubation pipeline was completed during the reporting period, establishing a solid foundation for enterprise development in 2026.

Natural capital assessment aligned and expanded across the full South Coast

To avoid fragmented assessments and strengthen national impact, Saint Lucia pursued deeper collaboration with the GEF Blue and Green Islands (BGI) programme during 2025. While the SIDS Flagship focuses on the Southeast Coast and BGI on the Southwest Coast, both programmes agreed to harmonize methodologies and jointly conduct a unified Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) assessment across southern Saint Lucia. This coordinated approach will:

- Create a comprehensive evidence base for coastal planning
- Strengthen national data systems
- Reduce duplication of effort
- Improve investment readiness in blue and green sectors

Technical discussions among UNEP, CANARI, the Office of Statistics, the Department of Sustainable Development and partners progressed throughout 2025. A specialist consultant is scheduled to be hired in April 2026 to begin full implementation.

Foundation established for the Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment

With restoration increasingly linked to long-term development, Saint Lucia formally requested UNEP's support to conduct a Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment (RRA)—drawing on the success of the RRA completed in Comoros in 2025. Preparatory work began during the reporting period, including initial consultations and agreement on a detailed scope of work.

The RRA—expected to begin implementation in March 2026—will:

- Assess governance, policy frameworks and institutional capacity
- Examine financing readiness across blue economy sectors
- Identify priority reforms and investment opportunities

- Develop a nationally validated Theory of Change to guide Saint Lucia’s transition to a Sustainable Blue Economy

This assessment will serve as a foundational tool for aligning national strategies, mobilizing investment, and embedding restoration into economic planning over the long term.

2.6.2.3 Vanuatu

Overview of progress

In 2025, Vanuatu made important progress in strengthening the national leadership and enabling conditions needed to advance a Sustainable Blue Economy transition under the SIDS Restoration Flagship. Much of the year focused on ensuring the right institutions, capacity, and technical pathways were in place so that restoration-linked economic development could take root.

A major milestone was the designation of the newly established Department of Ocean and Maritime Affairs as the lead institution responsible for coordinating the Blue Economy component of the Flagship. This represents a significant step forward for Vanuatu, strengthening ocean governance and improving coordination across ministries responsible for fisheries, environment, maritime transport, and economic development.

Key results achieved in Vanuatu in 2025 included:

Foundation established for the Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment

- The Government of Vanuatu formally requested UNEP's assistance and technical support to undertake a Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment and agreement on the scope of the assessment was reached with the Department of Ocean and Maritime Affairs.
- UNEP’s Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework (SBE-TF) will provide a structured pathway to assess ocean-based sectors, identify ecological and economic risks, understand inter-sectoral trade-offs, integrate restoration and natural capital into economic planning, align policy, finance and governance systems, and ensure that growth strengthens rather than degrades natural capital. Through this structured national process, sandfish (sea-cucumber) ranching and other restoration-linked livelihoods can be embedded within a nationally validated SBE Theory of Change-not as isolated projects, but as strategic components of Vanuatu’s blue food systems, marine restoration agenda and climate resilience strategy, contributing to a coordinated, economy-wide SBE transition
- Preparatory work was initiated during the reporting period, including the development of terms of reference for an international consultancy that will lead the assessment process, to be advertised mid-March 2026.

Mobilization of restoration-linked financing to support coastal livelihoods

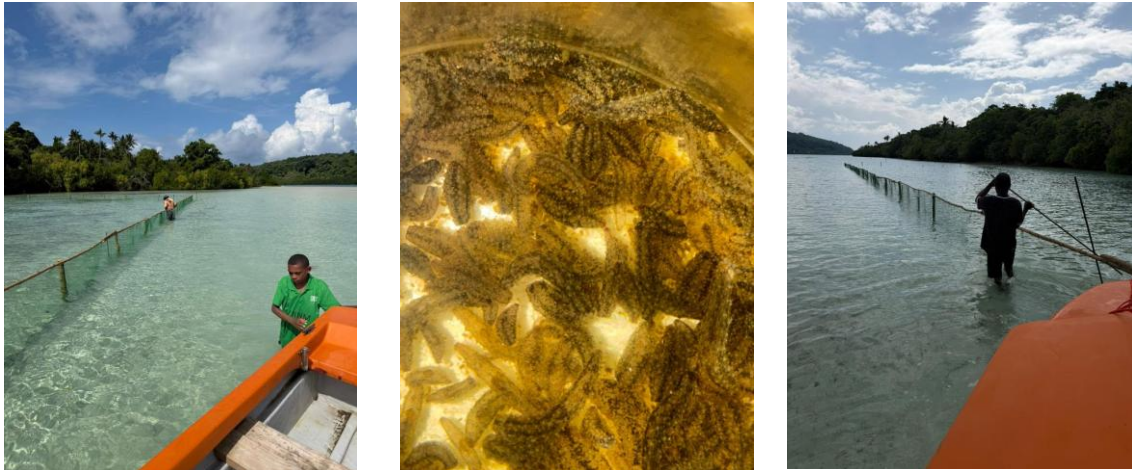


Photo 7: Grow-out site established in North Efate and close-up of juvenile sandfish (sea cucumbers). Photos: FAO

- The Flagship platform and enabling conditions supported the development of a national proposal focused on sustainable sea cucumber production linked to the restoration of seagrass meadow ecosystems in Vanuatu.
- This Flagship child project secured USD 250,000 in financing from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Conservation International (CI), demonstrating the catalytic role of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in mobilizing additional resources for restoration-linked economic activities.
- The initiative will support the recovery of seagrass ecosystems while generating sustainable income opportunities for coastal communities engaged in aquaculture and fisheries value chains. It will focus on boosting juvenile sandfish populations across seagrass meadows at two sites in Vanuatu, North Efate and Southern Malekula.
- Wild sandfish populations have declined across many areas of Vanuatu due to overfishing. By linking seagrass restoration with sustainable aquaculture, the project aims to rebuild depleted stocks while strengthening community livelihoods and marine ecosystem resilience.

Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)

- Progress was made in establishing the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as the central platform for tracking restoration outcomes under the SIDS Restoration Flagship and linking project-level results with national and global reporting systems.
- During the July 2025 workshop in Saint Lucia, FERM introductory training was presented to 40 national stakeholders, demonstrating how the platform can support systematic monitoring of restoration interventions while strengthening national reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly for Target 2 on ecosystem restoration. This engagement helped build national understanding of how restoration progress can be tracked consistently across institutions and reported internationally.

- Coordination with FAO is ongoing to adapt indicators and reporting systems to national contexts, ensuring that monitoring frameworks reflect the realities of island ecosystems while remaining aligned with global restoration targets.
- Institutional mapping is currently underway to identify key national data holders and designate focal points responsible for contributing restoration data. This process is strengthening clarity around institutional roles and responsibilities for ecosystem monitoring.
- A dedicated training workshop for ministry representatives and national data holders is scheduled for May–June 2026 to build technical capacity for the use of the FERM platform and establish routine monitoring practices.
- Comoros and Vanuatu are expected to follow a similar pathway, with initial training for the National Coordinator scheduled for March 2026, laying the groundwork for integrating restoration monitoring into national systems.
- Together, these steps help establish a structured and nationally owned monitoring framework that will allow restoration progress to be tracked, reported and scaled over time.

Inter- and Intra-SIDS Peer Learning

To Strengthen inter- and intra-SIDS peer learning and cooperation, the project made important progress in refining its implementation approach and ensuring high-impact, nationally validated outcomes in 2025.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has been formally boarded to lead implementation of this component. The UN-UN agreement is currently in the final stages of signature, with timelines and the final workplan subject to approval of the project no-cost extension. The revised design builds on achievements from Components 1 and 2 and focuses on a strategic sequence of activities aimed at translating technical results into practical knowledge exchange and investment-ready restoration opportunities across the three pilot countries.

Planned outputs include:

- National mapping exercises to identify island-level innovation, best practice, restoration opportunities and priority investment areas
- National peer-learning workshops bringing together government, community and technical stakeholders
- Development of up to 10 investable project concepts per island, building of the SBE Transition Framework
- A consolidated inter-SIDS workshop to facilitate cross-country learning and match-making
- Multimedia knowledge products documenting lessons and best practices across all three SIDS

This approach will strengthen national ownership, promote knowledge exchange across island states, and help translate technical outputs into investment-ready pipelines that can support scaling under a potential Phase 2 of the Flagship.

Implementation challenges and lessons learned

The implementation of SIDS Flagship in 2025 also highlighted several important challenges and lessons learned.

Implementation in 2025 highlighted the practical realities of working within small island administrations, where strong political commitment is often paired with very limited institutional capacity. Many environment and ocean ministries operate with small teams managing multiple portfolios, making it difficult to dedicate staff to complex processes like restoration planning, marine spatial management and sustainable blue economy reforms.

Human resource shortages were a major hurdle, as finding individuals with the right technical and coordination skills took time, and governments had to balance retaining scarce in-house expertise with bringing in specialized support. Administrative constraints—such as procurement delays, budget cycles and limited financial management capacity—also slowed implementation. In Comoros, these challenges were compounded by frequent power outages, unreliable internet and basic infrastructure disruptions, which affected day-to-day operations.

Despite these obstacles, national teams in all three SIDS showed remarkable resilience and commitment, progressing restoration and ocean governance under difficult conditions. The experience reaffirmed that building strong national coordination and long-term institutional capacity is essential, and although it requires time upfront, it ultimately leads to stronger ownership and more durable restoration outcomes.

2.6.3 Implementation of the GGW Flagship Initiative

In 2025, the Great Green Wall (GGW) Flagship demonstrated both resilience and impact across its two pilot countries—Niger and Burkina Faso. Despite operating in contexts with very different security and environmental realities, the initiative continued to restore landscapes, support community livelihoods, and build capacity at local and regional levels. The year’s progress shows not only the Flagship’s adaptability, but also its ability to generate meaningful results under challenging conditions.

2.6.3.1: Niger

Niger recorded some of the most dynamic progress under the GGW Flagship in 2025, combining large-scale restoration with community-driven economic development.

Environmental Restoration: over the year, 1,500 hectares of degraded land were restored using proven techniques such as:

- Half-moons (demi-lunes)
- Stone bunds
- Assisted natural regeneration (ANR)

These efforts directly engaged over 3,000 community members, strengthening local ownership while improving ecosystem health.

Local Planning and Institutional Integration: to ensure sustainability, the initiative helped revise the Annual Investment Plans (AIPs) in five municipalities, securing the integration of GGW restoration activities into local planning frameworks.

Livelihoods and Local Economies: socio-economic support was equally strong:

- 15 cooperatives, representing 323 beneficiaries (mostly women), received grants to strengthen their productive assets.
- 99 young green entrepreneurs continued through incubation programmes—helping them refine business plans, test new ideas, and build viable restoration-linked enterprises.

Capacity Development: more than 100 municipal technical staff were trained in:

- GIS
- Procurement
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Local governance

This technical strengthening supports long-term planning and implementation of restoration at the municipal level.

2.6.3.2: Burkina Faso

In 2025, implementation in Burkina Faso took place under a very difficult security environment, which restricted movement, field missions, and large-scale restoration activities. Even under these constraints, the project achieved meaningful progress. Environmentally, a 2-hectare community grove was established in Soundogo, where 2,000 seedlings were planted and the site was protected with fencing to support natural regeneration.

Most progress this year centered on local economic development. The Income-Generating Activities (IGA) component expanded significantly: the nine organizations funded in 2024 were continued in 2025, while six additional organizations were added from the waiting list—bringing support to 554 beneficiaries, including 493 women, with nearly 22 million CFA francs in grants. A new cohort of 21 organizations received 87.6 million CFA francs in 2025, demonstrating substantial investment in local livelihoods. Several groups have already become economically active, such as the SCOOPS ADESD cooperative in Bogandé, which produced moringa and balanites oils and soaps and generated 540,000 CFA francs in revenue—showcasing the viability of supported enterprises.

Green entrepreneurship also advanced through an expanded partnership with WakatLab, which strengthened the national incubation ecosystem. During 2025, business plans were finalized, commercial strategies were implemented, and micro-grant management was prepared—laying a more durable foundation for youth- and women-led green enterprises.

Institutionally, despite limited mobility, Burkina Faso continued to improve its monitoring and evaluation tools, update project indicators, and begin integrating data into the FERM platform. Stakeholder engagement also remained strong, with the successful organization of the Liptako Regional Fair for Non-Timber Forest Products, which helped connect producers, cooperatives, and local markets.

Overall, 2025 revealed two distinct yet complementary situations across the GGW Flagship countries. Niger achieved strong results in land restoration, community mobilization, and cooperative support, made possible by the ability to carry out large-scale field operations. In contrast, Burkina Faso faced far more severe security constraints, limiting restoration activities, but still delivered substantial progress in income-generating initiatives and green entrepreneurship, reaching many beneficiaries. While restoration in Burkina Faso is progressing more gradually, it is supported by a solid institutional foundation and continuous technical monitoring. Together, these achievements

highlight the resilience and adaptability of the GGW Flagship, demonstrating its ability to tailor implementation to local realities while still delivering tangible, meaningful impacts on the ground.

2.6.3.3: Regional activities

At the regional level, the GGW Flagship strengthened its collaboration with the GGW Accelerator, helping improve monitoring, knowledge sharing, and financing across Great Green Wall countries. Through this partnership, the Monitoring and Knowledge Management Consultant supported Burkina Faso and Niger by improving data collection and integration into both the GGW Observatory and the FERM platform, developing scalable M&E tools, and delivering knowledge-management workshops and refresher trainings for several GGW countries—including Ethiopia, Nigeria and Djibouti. This work culminated in an online tutorial and a comprehensive Knowledge Management Strategy, which also informed platform optimization.

In parallel, the Resource Mobilization and Innovative Finance Consultant advanced donor mapping, initiated engagement with impact investors, and prepared for high-level donor events. They also assessed key restoration-linked value chains—such as shea, gum arabic, moringa and baobab—and analyzed private-sector trends to help lay the groundwork for future bankable proposals and stronger financing pipelines. A Letter of Agreement was signed with the Pan-African Agency for the GGW, setting out strategic actions to boost coordination, knowledge exchange and meaningful community participation across Great Green Wall countries.

In support of ongoing learning, a regional review workshop took place in Ouagadougou in February 2025, bringing together teams from Burkina Faso and Niger to assess progress and jointly plan the year's work. Additionally, during a regional mission in Accra (15–19 September 2025), national M&E specialists and AFR100 focal points from both countries participated in a workshop on the Regional Landscape Monitoring Accelerator, hosted by a BMZ-funded project.



Photo 8: July 2025, Exchanges with a cooperative in the municipality of Korsimoro for the selection of beneficiaries for income-generating activities (IGA) subsidies, under the 2025 budget (YELEMOU F.S)



Photo 9: Women's group supported through Direct beneficiary grants in Niger (Rahcida Illa Hamza)

OUTCOME 3: Results documented and shared, through monitoring and reporting of bio-physical and socio-economic elements of sustainable ecosystem restoration and influencing activities for ecosystem restoration

In 2025, outcome 3 focused on strengthening the foundations for transparent, consistent and scalable monitoring and reporting of ecosystem restoration across ecosystems and geographies, with a particular focus on enabling Parties and stakeholders to report progress under Target 2 of the KM-GBF.

This progress was achieved through a combination of strengthening the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as a reporting and knowledge platform; expanding interoperability to connect restoration datasets and reporting processes; convening the global restoration monitoring community through the Task Force on Monitoring and its working groups; producing and disseminating guidance and knowledge products; and providing targeted monitoring support to UN Decade Flagships to improve geospatial referencing and reporting readiness.

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

3.1.1: FERM Registry developed and tested by restoration stakeholders

FERM continued to mature as a practical mechanism for documenting restoration initiatives and enabling consistent reporting across countries and ecosystems. By the end of 2025, the platform had over 1,800 registered users from more than 100 countries, spanning government, civil society, academia, the private sector and partner organizations, demonstrating sustained growth in uptake of the monitoring framework.

FERM includes different components, including the FERM Registry, Search Engine, Geospatial tool and Data Review functionality (launched in 2025), all allowing stakeholders to register initiatives, document progress and make information on ecosystem restoration accessible.

Substantial improvements were delivered in 2025 and focused on making the registry more usable and better aligned with reporting needs, including user-interface and functionality enhancements intended to support the global data collection across restoration initiatives and facilitate access to restoration information for reporting. To widen uptake across regions, FERM added multi-language support in English, French and Portuguese across menus, project forms, search and public pages. In parallel, enhancements were introduced to support country reporting for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including a Data Review function that allows government designated focal points to review compiled (“default”) restoration data before it is used for national reporting. This module also integrates relevant reference information from sources such as Ramsar Convention and FRA.

To strengthen the credibility and usefulness of reported results, the Registry now supports clearer disaggregation of restoration progress—enabling initiatives to report by country, year and ecosystem type, and to flag where reported areas overlap with Protected Areas, OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures), and Indigenous Territories. Data quality safeguards were also strengthened to reduce errors at the point of submission built-in form checks now identify missing

or inconsistent information before an initiative is submitted, helping reduce the burden of manual follow-up and improving the consistency of published records.

In addition, FERM improved the way results can be summarized and used for major portfolios and partners. A dedicated tab for GEF Core Indicators was added, including basic visual summaries (charts) and automated area calculations to help compare committed versus achieved area-based results in a more transparent way for project teams and portfolio managers. The public search experience was also improved by reorganizing filters so users can more easily find relevant subsets of initiatives (including Flagship initiatives and initiatives tagged under specific sources).

To support transparency and downstream analysis, FERM introduced a public data export function that allows published project boundaries to be downloaded in GeoJSON (a common, lightweight mapping format used by many GIS tools). To further reduce reporting burden where countries or partners already maintain national restoration databases, FERM also introduced a secure API (Application Programming Interface)—a controlled “data connection” that allows external systems to upload or retrieve data programmatically using an API key, rather than re-entering information manually. This supports higher-volume data integration while maintaining traceability and quality control through the Registry’s review workflow.

The development process was strengthened to ensure FERM can be maintained and improved sustainably. This included improvements to administrator tools (e.g., stronger admin controls and tools to manage Flagship and other priority tags) and a more robust development and deployment workflow designed to make updates safer and faster to deliver.

The FERM Platform development was supported by structured internal work planning that prioritized workflow clarity, registry usability and coherence across FERM components as core priorities, helping ensure that new functionality strengthened the user experience.

3.1.2: Integrate geospatial data from other restoration monitoring platforms

Interoperability significantly advanced in 2025 to reduce reporting burden and improve transparency by enabling restoration information to be accessed through a common framework while maintaining traceability by source.

Interoperability is the ability of different restoration monitoring systems to exchange data and use it consistently, so that information collected once (for example in a national database or partner platform) can be reused for monitoring and reporting without duplication. Through the FERM a structured interoperability methodology has been facilitated and shared to support a standardized approach to restoration data exchange across platforms, conventions and countries. This methodology is based on a step-by-step process that (i) aligns key parameters through a shared schema (e.g., area under restoration, ecosystems, reporting year and other core descriptors), (ii) applies quality assurance and quality control procedures, (iii) clarifies data-sharing arrangements, and (iv) implements the most appropriate exchange mechanism depending on the partner system (periodic transfer of GIS or tabular files, or automated exchange through an API). This approach supports transparent integration into FERM’s search and country data review functions and strengthens linkages to the CBD Online Reporting Tool.

Data mapping and API-based interoperability were established between the FERM Registry and the Kelp Forest Alliance, expanding visibility of marine and coastal restoration initiatives within

the broader restoration monitoring architecture Data integration also progressed through periodic manual importing from the Ramsar Site Information Service and from reporting processes linked to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, strengthening coverage of wetland and forest restoration information available for reporting. Interoperability work continued with additional platforms, including the UN Decade Hub, IUCN’s Restoration Barometer and Restor, reinforcing pathways for data sharing while underscoring the importance of robust QA/QC prior to integration. Priority sources for further integration include additional national monitoring systems and databases, as well as platforms and reporting processes such as WDPA and UNCCD PRAIS, consistent with the broader interoperability workstream supporting compilation of global restoration data.

Interoperability with national monitoring systems is being advanced through the UN Decade Flagships, where sustained country ownership and institutional coordination are essential for long-term reporting. In the Central America Dry Corridor Flagship, pilot countries are supported to establish functional linkages between national restoration monitoring platforms, the regional observatory and FERM, including coordinated roadmaps, multi-institution working groups and targeted technical support to enable structured data transfer and alignment with Target 2 reporting requirements.

The default-data approach for Target 2 was strengthened by compiling information from multiple sources in a way that preserves source attribution and supports review before use in official reporting. A review and validation step by CBD national focal points is embedded in the FERM data review methodology to support the 7th National Report cycle and reduce the likelihood of double counting across overlapping datasets and reporting processes.

3.1.3: Strengthen the FERM platform based on a user survey

FERM was strengthened in 2025 through a combination of technical refinements and user-support mechanisms that helped users apply the platform in real reporting and training contexts. A dedicated support email address (ferm-support@fao.org) was established to receive and respond to user needs.

User guidance materials were updated to reflect platform developments, supporting more consistent use across stakeholder groups and helping new users navigate the registry, geospatial platform and search functions.

Internal team coordination and planning throughout 2025 also focused on practical usability issues raised by users, ensuring that user feedback translated into concrete development priorities.

3.1.4: E-learning course on monitoring restoration for efficient capacity development

Capacity development continued to scale through structured learning products that supported consistent interpretation and application of Target 2 monitoring and reporting requirements. The Target 2 e-learning course, launched in late 2024, was translated into Spanish and disseminated in 2025, widening access for practitioners and officials working in Spanish-speaking contexts.

In support of more effective in-person delivery, completion of the Target 2 e-learning course was included among the pre-requisites shared with participants in national and regional restoration monitoring and reporting workshops, helping establish a common baseline of understanding ahead of technical sessions.

In parallel, tutorial resources supported practical onboarding to FERM through step-by-step guidance materials, including an openly accessible video playlist that complements written guidance with applied demonstrations of platform use.

3.1.5: Headline indicators for global monitoring identified and consulted; workflows with custodian agencies documented

A major 2025 milestone was the rollout of the FERM Data Review functionality, which provides CBD national focal points with a structured interface to access and review “default” restoration data aligned to the Target 2 reporting template and associated disaggregation. The data review provides map-based access to restoration areas where spatial information is available (polygons or points) and presents associated attributes using controlled vocabularies for ecosystem type and restoration activities, supporting a consistent interpretation of reporting parameters across countries and ecosystems.

“Default data” refers to a compiled set of restoration information drawn from multiple existing sources and reporting processes, enabled by FERM’s interoperability framework. It is designed to reduce reporting burden by offering a consolidated starting point that can complement national monitoring systems while maintaining traceability by source. In practice, default data is organized so that focal points can view restoration initiatives and projects by source, assess available geometry and recommended disaggregation, and then use the data review workflow to confirm values, refine disaggregation where appropriate, and address overlap and potential double counting prior to use in official reporting. The workflow also supports the integration of national data—either by adding initiatives from national databases into the review process or by linking national monitoring systems to FERM to share data directly—reinforcing national ownership of the final reported values.

This approach establishes a practical pathway toward a globally consistent restoration dataset by applying standardized Target 2 metadata elements within FERM’s data model and review architecture. A globally consistent dataset on ecosystem restoration has not previously existed and the default-data approach builds this foundation through a bottom-up process that draws on existing platforms and custodian reporting streams while applying common parameters for comparability and data compilation. As the custodian agency for the headline indicator on area under restoration, FAO has been compiling restoration data in FERM to support reporting across all ecosystems and to provide additional context beyond area totals, including restoration objectives, activities, tenure and other core descriptors, where available through source datasets.

Workflows with custodian agencies and established reporting streams were strengthened by explicitly incorporating their data contributions into the default-data approach and documenting how they are treated for consistency. Examples of default data sources include the FERM registry, forest restoration information available through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), and wetland restoration information available through Ramsar reporting streams, with additional sources referenced for related disaggregation (e.g., protected areas and OECMs, and Indigenous and traditional territories). To support consistent aggregation and reduce double counting, the default-data approach includes defined review considerations and assumptions for how overlapping sources are handled, with focal points encouraged to validate and adjust decisions as needed during the review process.

Linkages to official reporting under the Biodiversity Convention were operationalized through the design of data exchange between FERM and the CBD Online Reporting Tool (ORT). The data review workflow enables focal points to download the aligned reporting output and use it within ORT or select “available data” in ORT to retrieve values via an API connection to FERM. This integration pathway supports use of default data within official reporting workflows while maintaining clarity on how reported values were derived and ensuring that Parties remain the authoritative source for final reported estimates of area under restoration.

3.1.6: A live dashboard for restoration monitoring developed, tested and made available

Geospatial functionality to support restoration monitoring is available through the FERM Earth Map integration, enabling users to visualize areas under restoration and explore restoration-relevant contextual layers through an interactive interface.

In parallel, the FERM data review functionality represents the first operational iteration of the dashboard concept, providing a structured, map-enabled environment for compiling and reviewing default restoration data aligned to Target 2 reporting requirements. Access to this dashboard content is restricted to CBD national focal points ahead of the 7th National Report cycle, supporting review of source-attributed data, quality checks, and decisions on aggregation and overlap prior to use in official reporting.

A public dashboard remains under development and is sequenced after the establishment of official reporting on areas under restoration by countries. The dashboard architecture is designed to move from focal-point review of compiled default data to wider public access once restoration data have been officially reported by Parties through the CBD reporting process, enabling public visualization and analytics to be based on country-reviewed and country-reported information.

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

3.2.1: Meetings of the Monitoring Task Force convened

In 2025, global technical exchange through the Task Force on Monitoring was combined with targeted regional dialogues to tackle monitoring and reporting needs, gaps and challenges. Task Force meetings were convened to align partners around evolving reporting requirements and strengthen linkages across the Rio Convention processes. The 12th Task Force meeting (19 March 2025) brought together updates from the CBD and UNCCD processes, shared improvements to the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), launched freshwater ecosystem monitoring and reporting guidance, and highlighted a regional update linked to RESULTS Asia, alongside a structured discussion on strengthening engagement across the Task Force community. The 13th Task Force meeting (18 July 2025) served as a technical inflection point for Target 2 implementation by introducing the Target 2 Roadmap and convening partners to operationalize four thematic Working Groups—covering indicators and ecosystem type guidance, data flows and interoperability, national and regional capacity development, and Indigenous Peoples’ restoration monitoring—while maintaining the Task Force as the primary platform for coordination across institutions working on restoration monitoring and reporting.

Strategic outreach at global policy and practitioner forums complemented Task Force and regional dialogue work by positioning restoration monitoring guidance, tools and partnerships within decision-making and implementation communities. At SBSTTA-27, the dedicated side event launching the Target 2 Roadmap (CBD side-event ID: 6748; 24 October 2025) introduced the Roadmap as a multi-stakeholder collaboration designed to support Parties in monitoring and reporting on KM-GBF Target 2, explicitly aligned with the UN Decade Task Force on Monitoring and promoting coherence across the Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention. The launch presented the roadmap's governance and four Working Groups, and spotlighted regional needs emerging from the Asia regional dialogue alongside country perspectives to inform near-term action supporting the 7th National Report cycle.

Engagement with the Society for Ecological Restoration community was strengthened through participation in SER2025 (Denver, 30 September–4 October 2025), a major practitioner and science convening that brought together approximately 1,400 participants to accelerate restoration action at the midpoint of the UN Decade. Participation focused on presenting the UN Decade monitoring approach and the Target 2 Roadmap, while also using SER's platform to advance practical discussion on how FERM improves access to restoration-related data, supports transparent monitoring, and disseminates good practices through interactive sessions and workshops.

Wetland restoration monitoring and reporting linkages were reinforced through Ramsar related engagement and interoperability work. At Ramsar COP15 the monitoring reporting from the UN decade highlighted wetland restoration within the UN Decade context and emphasized FAO's technical contributions to monitoring and reporting. In parallel, technical work on Ramsar–FERM interoperability advanced a pathway for integrating wetland restoration information into a cross ecosystem monitoring architecture: nationally reported Ramsar data can be aggregated within FERM to contribute to global estimates of area under restoration for Target 2, without duplicating reporting effort, by aligning standardized Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS) fields with common reporting structures used for aggregation across ecosystem types.

Regional capacity development was advanced through structured regional dialogues designed to strengthen national monitoring systems, improve preparedness for reporting cycles, and translate global methodologies into practical workflows. In Asia-Pacific, the Subregional Dialogue on biodiversity monitoring and reporting with a focus on ecosystem restoration was convened in Bangkok (2–5 September 2025), hosted by the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, with a core objective of enabling countries to effectively monitor and report restoration under the KM-GBF monitoring framework in the context of the 7th national reporting cycle. The dialogue's technical focus on planning, monitoring and reporting for Target 2 provided a practical entry point for countries to identify challenges and lessons learned, strengthen regional cooperation and build the capacity of regional centres to provide ongoing methodological backstopping. The Bangkok dialogue also incorporated a Training-of-Trainer's component, reinforcing a replication model in which participating regional centres can adapt and deliver similar support in their subregions, thereby extending the reach of UN Decade monitoring guidance and tools.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Subregional Dialogue hosted in Bogotá (17–20 November 2025) by the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute convened country representatives and regional centres to address the region's monitoring and reporting needs for Target 2. The programme combined high-level presentations, country experiences, and interactive group work on Target 2 fundamentals, indicators, and geospatial monitoring tools, including a

dedicated FERM tutorial and data-review exercise to strengthen data structuring and validation approaches. The dialogue explicitly reinforced the role of regional cooperation for strengthening national monitoring frameworks and coherence in reporting: 71 participants worked with three regional centres—the Humboldt Institute, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)—and a Training-of-Trainers session reviewed core materials, the Target 2 self-assessment tool, considerations for effective implementation, the use of FERM as a reporting tool, and monitoring approaches that can be replicated through regional support mechanisms.

3.2.2: Forum on technology and innovation for restoration monitoring

Technology and innovation exchange was anchored within CBD processes through inclusion of a forum/side event at CBD COP16 in 2024 focused on monitoring ecosystem restoration, and planning progressed toward a subsequent forum/side event at CBD COP17 in 2026. This positioning-maintained restoration monitoring as a standing agenda item for technical collaboration while reinforcing linkages between reporting requirements, platform functionality and innovation needs.

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

3.3.1: Restoration Progress Reporting

The Target 2 Resource Guide, launched in October 2024, remained a central reference for monitoring and reporting ecosystem restoration and was further strengthened in 2025 through a Spanish translation, expanding accessibility and uptake across Spanish-speaking countries.

Progress toward periodic synthesis and accountability reporting also advanced in 2025 through both established and emerging reporting pathways. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, launched in October 2025, includes a dedicated progress report on forest ecosystem restoration, strengthening the evidence base available for tracking restoration efforts through official country reporting.

In late 2025, an outline for the forthcoming Restoration Progress Report was developed and consulted with UN Decade leadership structures (EB/management team), establishing the foundation for a report that will draw on official government reporting to assess progress and synthesize trends over time.

3.3.2: Develop information notes for monitoring CBD Target 2 (restoration)

Work to maintain coherence and usability of reporting guidance continued through revisions and consultation processes. The Target 2 indicator metadata was updated in 2024 and remained under revision in 2025 through consultation with the Task Force on Monitoring, ensuring that definitions, parameters and disaggregation guidance remain aligned with the evolving needs of national reporting processes.

Contribution to an Information Document drafted by the CBD further reinforces the Decade’s role in supporting restoration monitoring globally.

3.3.3: Support monitoring and reporting against Target 2; support to CBD 7th national reports

Support to national monitoring and reporting was structured and aligned with the Target 2 Road Map and delivered through regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres, in line with the mandate of Working Group 3 on national and regional capacity development. Across regions, this approach strengthened national monitoring and reporting systems by building a shared understanding of Target 2 requirements, clarifying reporting pathways, and promoting coordinated data governance and institutional collaboration for the reporting cycle.

In 2025, two subregional dialogues provided targeted, hands-on support to countries as they prepared inputs to the Seventh National Report. The Asia-Pacific subregional dialogue (2–5 September 2025, Bangkok) convened government and partner institutions to strengthen capacity for Target 2 monitoring and reporting, including technical sessions on the monitoring framework, Target 2 fundamentals, and practical use of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as a support mechanism for reporting and transparency. The Latin America and Caribbean subregional dialogue (17–20 November 2025, Bogotá) further reinforced readiness for reporting through structured exchange on national monitoring system needs, with country feedback highlighting priorities around data harmonization, mapping of restoration initiatives, and data governance—elements that directly underpin consistent and comparable reporting on areas under restoration. Planning for the third regional workshop in Africa was advanced in 2025 through engagement with the relevant support centres and preparations for early 2026 delivery, ensuring continuity of the same structured approach across three regions.

A key enabling step in 2025 was the development and rollout of the default data review approach to reduce reporting burden while improving transparency and traceability of reported values. The approach is designed to provide CBD national focal points with access to compiled “default data” on areas under restoration, drawn from multiple sources and aligned with the Target 2 metadata, and to support quality assessment/quality control decisions on whether and how such data should be used for national reporting. The default data review functionality was developed as a structured, stepwise process, including provisions to restrict access for focal points ahead of the Seventh National Report and to enable review and validation prior to integration into the CBD Online Reporting Tool (ORT). Guidance materials prepared in 2025 further articulated the intended data flow, including review and validation in FERM and planned linkage to ORT to facilitate use of reviewed values as “available data (pre-populated)” where Parties choose that option, while reinforcing that national monitoring systems remain the foundation for official reporting

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 2025, knowledge products were developed and disseminated to inform restoration action and decision-making, including a contribution to the forest restoration analysis of the Global Forest Resources Assessment, 12 impact and news stories published on restoration monitoring, 16 publications, one e-learning course translated into Spanish, and one self-assessment tool.

These knowledge products were disseminated through CBD SBSTTA, the SER World Restoration Congress, UNFCCC COP30, and biodiversity monitoring and reporting dialogues and workshops focused on restoration.

3.4.1: Critical data and information gaps identified and actioned

Targeted capacity diagnostics and structured country engagement in 2025 strengthened the identification of critical gaps in restoration monitoring and reporting, and supported countries in translating those gaps into prioritized actions. A central instrument in this effort was the Self-assessment Tool, developed as a companion to the Target 2 Resource Manual to help countries and partners translate restoration commitments into restoration plans and programmes and, where needed, into implementation and funding plans. The tool supports countries in establishing a baseline of alignment across key areas and in identifying weaknesses that can be addressed through targeted capacity-development and resourcing, using a structured set of questions derived from the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration and adapted for Target 2.

In practice, the tool was applied through national and subregional processes to complete needs assessments, surface recurring technical and governance barriers, and catalyse action planning. In the Philippines, the tool was used in a national workshop setting to structure a capacity self-assessment across four thematic blocks (assessment of opportunities, enabling environment, planning and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation). Results were synthesized as a “heatmap” of capacity needs, with monitoring and evaluation identified as a key area requiring strengthened capacity, and follow-up support framed around improving monitoring and reporting readiness. In Brazil, the tool was completed by the Ministry of the Environment, with preliminary inputs highlighting that coverage remained partial and that additional work was required to address the full scope of Target 2 implementation, including aquatic and marine ecosystem restoration. In Kenya, the Restoration Monitoring & Data Sharing Workshop Report documents application of the self-assessment using a quantitative scoring approach (0–3) across key questions organized under four strategic pillars, with preliminary results used to identify the country’s current level of readiness and to pinpoint priority gaps for further action. In Peru, the tool was applied in a participatory workshop process, and key findings were incorporated into the country’s Target 2 reporting, supporting prioritization of follow-up actions on governance and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Regional dialogues and technical workshops in 2025 further reinforced the systematic identification of gaps and corresponding action planning. In the Asia-Pacific region, the workshop design explicitly linked introduction of the self-assessment tool to identification of gaps and needs to complete the 7th National Report components relevant to Target 2, and to the development of country and subregional action plans. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Bogotá regional dialogue included sessions that discussed preliminary self-assessment results and used breakout formats to identify priorities and actions to improve national monitoring plans and systems, strengthening the translation of identified gaps into concrete next steps.

Partnerships that prioritize addressing gaps in data availability, validation and interoperability were advanced in parallel. A formal partnership with Restor focused on data alignment criteria and drafted mechanisms to share and translate non-state actor restoration information to align with metadata requirements for Target 2 reporting, supporting recognition of relevant restoration efforts and strengthening traceability of site-level information. Interoperability work with national

platforms also progressed, including collaboration with Mexico’s CONABIO national restoration data system to advance alignment of data standards and exchange formats to support restoration reporting. In addition, the Letter of Agreement with IUCN’s Restoration Barometer explicitly linked interoperability and quality assurance outputs to Indicator 3.4.1, reinforcing a structured pathway for addressing data quality and data-sharing requirements alongside country support.

Targeted knowledge products and partnerships supported progress on addressing data gaps and methodological barriers. Regional coordination through networks and initiatives such as AFR100, Initiative 20x20, and RESULT Asia-Pacific helped identify recurring challenges across country contexts and supported alignment of technical discussions around Target 2 monitoring requirements.

Knowledge products developed with partners documented national dialogues and technical barriers in multiple pilot contexts, contributing to shared learning on how to strengthen monitoring systems and reporting workflows across different governance and ecosystem settings.

3.4.2: Develop sector-specific ecosystem restoration monitoring guidelines (e.g., ART/TREES)

Work under this indicator remained under development, with reporting on progress expected in 2026. This sequencing reflects the programme’s focus in 2025 on strengthening cross-ecosystem reporting workflows and data foundations that can support future sector-specific guidance products.

3.4.3: Develop and apply geospatial tools to support estimation of restoration potential (biophysical and socio-economic costs and benefits)

In 2025, the programme strengthened se.plan, a decision-support tool hosted on FAO’s SEPAL platform, to help countries and partners identify where forest restoration is likely to deliver the highest benefits relative to costs, while allowing users to reflect national priorities and feasibility constraints. The tool supports restoration planning by generating map-based results and summary information that help stakeholders focus follow-up planning and investments on priority areas.

To improve usability and adoption at country level, a package of targeted technical enhancements was delivered in 2025 to make the tool faster, more reliable, and easier to use in real planning contexts. A core improvement was instant access: users no longer need to wait for computing resources to start, as se.plan now runs on a shared, always-available server within SEPAL—meaning the application opens in seconds rather than minutes. In addition, longer analyses now run in the background, allowing users to continue working in the tool and stop a process if needed, improving the overall experience during training and practical use.

The 2025 release also introduced a new map-focused design built around a full-screen map to help users maintain geographic context while exploring results, and it improved stability when working on large planning areas, reducing the likelihood of failures linked to underlying processing limits. To reduce user friction and support smoother onboarding, se.plan now checks “recipes” (saved workflows) before loading to prevent errors from invalid or outdated files, and it introduced breadcrumb navigation to make file browsing simpler. Under the hood, the system was also made easier to run and maintain on SEPAL, with more than 130 incremental improvements delivered in total—

including smoother theme support, updated country boundaries aligned with FAO GAUL 2024, and a Docker-based local development setup that supports sustainable maintenance and updates.

Alongside these technical improvements, 2025 also expanded the supporting knowledge and visibility products that help countries and partners apply the tool in practice. This included the continued development and updating of a dedicated se.plan website to support wider accessibility and guidance, and dissemination materials such as a story map demonstrating restoration potential analysis (e.g., Viet Nam) and a partner impact story describing how countries used se.plan following regional training.

3.4.4 : Highlight successful restoration project monitoring for joint learning

In 2025, monitoring knowledge products were disseminated through FAO’s ecosystem restoration monitoring platform, which hosts “impact stories” and “stories” documenting monitoring support, pilots and workshops. FERM’s public search interface also supports joint learning through visibility of documented initiatives and good practices and through interoperability that brings together content from collaborating platforms.

Programme communication channels also showcased concrete examples of monitoring progress and institutionalization, including coverage of Brazil’s first consolidated national estimate of native vegetation under restoration under Planaveg 2025–2028 presented at COP30.

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

In 2025, monitoring support to World Restoration Flagships focused on hands-on onboarding, tailored technical backstopping, and publication of verified information in the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM). An additional 10 Flagships were registered in FERM during 2025, bringing the total number of Flagships on the platform to 27. This strengthened Flagships’ ability to show credible progress, standardize how they report areas under restoration, and share comparable information through a single public window aligned with the UN Decade and KM-GBF Target 2.

3.5.1: Deploy FERM architecture to full UN Decade Flagships (GGW, SIDS, Central America Dry Corridor)

In 2025, the programme provided targeted support and dedicated training to the full-supported Flagships in the Great Green Wall (GGW), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Central America Dry Corridor, focusing on practical onboarding so Flagship focal points could enter, update and maintain restoration data directly in FERM. This support ensured that Flagships were not only “visible,” but able to use FERM as a working system for tracking progress and preparing monitoring updates.

The Great Green Wall, SIDS, and Central America Dry Corridor Flagships were already integrated into FERM in previous years. In 2025, the focus was on updating and validating restoration data through engagement with Flagship focal points, including technical support related to spatial data to ensure that monitoring information in the platform remained accurate and up to date.

In addition, multiple FERM training and bilateral technical sessions were provided across Flagship initiatives to support data entry, indicator set-up and workflow understanding, totaling 31 meetings.

For the SIDS flagship, the programme supported structured onboarding and training design. A Flagship workshop concept note, and workshop materials set out objectives to strengthen the technical capacity of SIDS representatives to use FERM for monitoring and reporting and to support integration of restoration data into broader policy and reporting processes.

3.5.2: Coordinate and align with stakeholders/actors working on restoration monitoring in full Flagships

In 2025, coordination support focused on clarifying roles around monitoring and data flows to support Flagships consolidate data without duplicating existing efforts.

For the Central America Dry Corridor Flagship, coordination needs were explicitly framed around interoperability with existing systems, linkages between restoration areas and good practices, training needs, and cross-platform alignment (including the Regional Environment Observatory Platform and other tools).

For the GGW Flagship, close coordination with UNCCD and partners has been key. The Restoration Monitoring Team actively participates in the Data Management Partner Task Force of the GGW Accelerator and, together with UNCCD support, leads reporting into FERM for the “GGW for Ecosystem Restoration and Peace” flagship. This alignment supports shared data governance and consistent reporting across partners.

For SIDS, coordination included joint work with UNEP counterparts to clarify where FERM adds value within Flagship workplans and how it supports peer learning, good practice documentation, and regional learning across island nations.

3.5.3: Populate FERM registry for full Flagships to ensure key interventions are geospatially referenced

In 2025, the monitoring work supported Flagship focal points to publish and improve geospatial referencing of restoration interventions in FERM so that Flagship progress can be visualized and updated over time. Focal points were trained and supported to provide geospatial data in the FERM registry and to highlight Flagships in the FERM platform and home page.

An important constraint to note is that not all full Flagships have yet provided geospatial data for all areas under restoration, and support remains ongoing to facilitate data submission and annual updates.

Concrete examples of full Flagships that were populated and made visible through the FERM public interface all full flagships: SIDS Flagship initiative, Central America Dry Corridor initiative, GGW initiative in the FERM search tool.

3.5.4: Support full Flagships in baselines, measuring progress and reporting biophysical & socio-economic progress

In 2025, the programme strengthened the ability of Flagships to report progress in a way that is meaningful for programme management and donors by compiling aggregated biophysical and socio-economic progress for full Flagships into a consolidated “web story” format. The annual report text specifies that aggregated progress for the MPTF full Flagships was provided through the “From Commitment to Impact” story map, designed to show Flagship-level progress and metrics in one place.

The Flagship support package also included support to identify and refine measurable indicators aligned with UN Decade monitoring expectations and KM-GBF Target 2, improving the capacity of Flagships to demonstrate outcomes beyond area figures alone.

However, not all full Flagships were able to provide complete ecological or socio-economic datasets in 2025, largely due to limited availability of field-level monitoring data and differences in national monitoring capacities. Continued support will therefore focus on strengthening the ability of Flagships to generate and report these datasets, including technical guidance on indicator development and the use of spatial tools to complement field monitoring and improve the availability of geospatial and biophysical information.

For SIDS, this was translated into practical workshop outputs. Saint Lucia Flagship concept note specifies that the support aimed to produce: a trained stakeholder group able to use FERM for data entry and tracking; a consolidated list of indicators (ecological, socio-economic and financial); strengthened cross-sector collaboration on data sharing; and a summary workshop report with action points and monitoring priorities.

3.5.5: Provide on-demand targeted support to endorsed Flagships to ensure adequate geospatial information

On-demand support is evidenced through the continued approach of training, submission support, and iterative improvement of data completeness. The Flagship reporting synthesis products and platform-based visibility reinforce the approach of using FERM to compile, display and communicate Flagship progress while supporting countries and focal points to improve geospatial completeness over time.

On demand support in 2025 focused on enabling Flagships to keep improving the completeness and quality of the information published in FERM (including polygons and structured attributes), and to resolve practical barriers to data sharing and aggregation. The annual reporting narrative indicates that Flagship data were integrated and spotlighted in the FERM geospatial platform and home page, emphasizing visibility and continued improvement of reporting inputs.

With technical support from the Task Force on Monitoring team, Flagship reporting in FERM documented 68 million ha committed for restoration and 18 million ha under restoration. This data are publicly visible through the FERM Search Engine.

Additionally, the monitoring team provided key support for tracking Flagship KPIs and statistics including updated records by Flagship of the Flagship focal points, committed area and total area under restoration, data validation status, missing information, publication status and follow up actions, reflecting a structured approach to consistent communication and reporting over time.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

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
<p>Outcome 1 indicator 1.1: Number of local stakeholders (from government, private sector, civil society) that have been mobilized into action, with multipliers tracked on digital platform, individual actions tracked through gamification (see below), and a focus on flagship regions / countries</p>	<p>27 UN World Restoration Flagships are operational in 63 countries around the world, as of December 2025.</p> <p>In addition, the UN Decade Partner Network includes 326 civil society and private sector organizations taking action for ecosystem restoration.</p>		<p>https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/world-restoration-flagships?page=0</p> <p>https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/partners</p>
<p>Outcome 1 Indicator 1.2: Number of people reached through good restoration practices in line with the 10 Principles for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, science and storytelling, with a focus on content related to UN Decade Flagship countries</p>	<p>In 2025, the UN Decade dramatically expanded its global storytelling reach through 27 communication packages for the 2022, 2023/2024, and 2025 UN World Restoration Flagships, supported by powerful digital assets—including an interactive restoration map used by over 150,000 people. Across social media, content from the Flagship launches generated at least 90 million impressions on UNEP’s channels and an additional 34 million through partners, while global, regional, and national press kits helped reach more than 4 billion readers through 4,990+ media articles in 113 countries and 16 languages. The Decade’s award-winning 27-episode documentary series added another 32 million viewers, reinforced by high-profile celebrity announcement videos, all contributing to</p>		<p>RESTORE Season III: Films from the frontiers of hope UN Decade on Restoration</p>

	one of the widest public engagements with restoration storytelling to date.		
Outcome 1 indicator 1.3: Number of young people involved through engagement and capacity building programmes, and number of people reached and impacted by youth initiatives – with focus on flagship regions and countries	In 2025, the Youth Task Force (YTF) expanded global youth engagement by participating in seven major international events and hosting targeted youth-led sessions. Through trainings, webinars, and outreach activities, the YTF reached and supported more than 1,000 young people across regions. New communication channels—including a youth mailing list and Instagram platform—strengthened ongoing connections and helped grow a vibrant youth restoration network.		https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/task-forces/youth “Generation Restoration” online capacity building session in partnership with CYMG (for APYEF) Paths to Restoration webinar on Youth Innovation and Leadership for Ecosystem Restoration Youth Network mailing list form Instagram YTF channel Microgrant call launched at YEA
Outcome 1 Indicator 1.4. Number of local audiences reached and empowered through national- and regional-level storytelling	In 2025, the UN Decade reached and empowered large numbers of local audiences through national and regional storytelling campaigns that highlighted real restoration efforts and community leadership. The launch of ten new UN World Restoration Flagships generated strong local media coverage—45% of global articles were published directly within Flagship countries such as Spain, Mexico, Kenya and South Korea—helping local communities see their own stories reflected in global restoration efforts. Public-facing campaigns, including large-scale murals in major cities, the Generation Restoration Schools initiative, and storytelling around 24 Restoration Cities, further connected millions of local residents to restoration		https://trello.com/b/UZ9RgL5H/2025-un-world-restoration-flagships https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/cities

	narratives that celebrated local action and inspired deeper community engagement.		
Outcome 1 Indicator 1.5. Number of partner organizations and networks, and their reach, that promote the objective of the UN Decade	In 2025, a total of 353 UN Decade partners, actors, flagships, collaborating agencies and global networks actively promoted and advanced the mission of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration across regions and sectors. A major contributor to this reach was the Nature Positive Universities Network, which grew to more than 700 universities worldwide, including 182 institutions across 46 countries that made formal nature-positive pledges by December 2025. Together, these partners and networks expanded the Decade’s global footprint, mobilizing diverse institutions—from local organizations to global universities—to champion restoration and inspire action at scale		NPU universities
Indicator 1.1.2: Communication assets developed for selected flagship countries Baseline: 10 Planned Target: 10 Achieved Target: 27 (+8 in progress; total: 35)	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 over 200 submissions. 10 flagships had been selected for public launch in 2025. A second set of 8 has been approved by the Strategy Group for launch in 2026. Communication asset production has started, meaning that soon 35 packages for UN World Restoration Flagships will be available.	The planned target had already been surpassed with existing funding due to the request for additional flagships (17 instead of 10 World Restoration Flagships resulting from the first call). Upon MPTF donor request, a second call for Flagships has been launched, of which 10 selected awardees have been celebrated in 2025, thanks to the funding provided. Communication asset packages for the additional launch of 8 in 2026 are under preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flagship online profiles linking to multilingual assets • Mini-documentary series with subtitles in up to 7 languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RESTORE Season 1 ○ RESTORE Season 2 ○ RESTORE Season 3 • Multilingual social media assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2022 World Restoration Flagships ○ 2023 / 2024 World Restoration Flagships ○ 2025 World Restoration Flagships

<p>Indicator 1.1.4: UN Decade Flagship Announcement - global campaign</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20 million people reach Achieved Target: 4+ billion people reach</p>	<p>27 communication packages for the 2022, 2023/2024 and 2025 UN World Restoration Flagships have been prepared and released within the reporting period, with additional 8 packages planned for release in 2026.</p> <p>Social media assets for 2022, 2023/2024, 2025 launches: At least 90 million impressions on UNEP’s channels, and a reach of at least 34 million through partner’s channels</p> <p>Global, regional and national press kits for 2022, 2024 and 2025; over 4 billion readers reached through 4,990+ media articles in 1600+ outlets, 113+ countries and 16 languages</p> <p>Documentary series of 27 episodes: Over 32 million viewers online and 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, Chef Leyla Fathallah, Frida Amani, Felipe Toledo and others</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved, as additional, unplanned communication resources could be produced, thanks to the dedication of all teams involved.</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> <p>While communication assets have been produced in time, release plans were adjusted to allow for wider audience reach through a serialized approach.</p> <p>In practice, this meant that UN World Restoration Flagships were launched at major events with a trailer video, followed by a season of mini-documentary episodes, released on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Webstories were often released throughout the full year following the World Restoration Flagship launch, aligned with thematic days. This helped secure a longer shelf life for the stories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media data tracking (Hootsuite, other internal reports) • Media reach tracking (through Meltwater) • Google Analytics • YouTube and Weibo data • Film Festival official reports <p>Reports and data sets can be made available upon request.</p>
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<p>Indicator 1.1.5: UN Decade Flagship Announcement – national / regional campaigns</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 50 million people national media reach Achieved Target: ~2.8 billion people national media reach</p>	<p>As a proxy, we saw around 70% (2022/2023), 60% (2024) and 79+% non-English media pick up stories around the Flagships, with especially wide reach in the Flagship countries of China, Pakistan, India, Peru, Spain, Mexico, South Korea and Brazil.</p> <p>It can be estimated that at least 3 billion people were potentially reached (based on outlet readership numbers) in flagship implementation countries through these non-global outlets.</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved.</p> <p>The multilingual media campaign for the twenty-seven UN World Restoration Flagships was highly successful. This was partially also due to the good uptake of the photo-story by Reuters for the first cohorte, which then helped with national-level distribution.</p> <p>In 2025, the Flagship photo packages have been UNEP’s most downloaded media photo packages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media reach tracking (through Meltwater) – detailed list of all media in excel, available upon request • Data on photo package downloads from Mediavalet
<p>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</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Digital Hub Prototype Development and Deployment</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1 Achieved Target: 1</p>	<p>1 Digital Hub Prototype has been developed and deployed within the UN Decade’s digital ecosystem.</p> <p>The hub functions as the central place to connect the wider online audience to restoration initiatives on the ground.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Digital Hub: https://hub.decadeonrestoration.org/

<p>Indicator 1.2.3: Digital Hub Content Population</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 500 Achieved Target: 172,309</p>	<p>The Ecosystem Restoration Hub has gone live, now featuring 103 initiatives with 172,309 people restoring 33 million hectares (data self-reported by restoration initiatives).</p> <p>Onboarding processes are ongoing, to link the wider online community to more restoration initiatives and the implementers behind them.</p>	<p>The target has been overachieved, going by the self-reported data of restoration initiatives.</p> <p>However, over the coming years, we'll work on onboarding more initiatives and organizing relevant activities to connect online support to on-the-ground action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Hub front-end and back-end data: https://hub.decadeonrestoration.org/
<p>Indicator 1.2.4: Gamification to guide restoration action</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80,000 Achieved Target: 89,000</p>	<p>With World Environment Day 2021, a gamification was launched to help people decide on action they can take in ecosystems near them, or for ecosystems they care about.</p> <p>This initial gamification tracked 79,000 commitments to action by 18,000 users.</p> <p>An updated version of the gamified pledge tracker was launched on Mother Earth Day 2025.</p> <p>This updated tracker has so far registered 10,000+ new pledges.</p>	<p>The target was overachieved, due to the popularity of the tool. The updated version for example offers signed certificates for people committing to action.</p> <p>We are still running calls to action that link back to the gamified pledge tracker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backend data from World Environment Day 2021 gamification Backend data from updated gamification <p><i>Data available upon request.</i></p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.5: Digital content creation and outreach</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 content types (Newsletters, web-stories, events, multimedia) Achieved Target: 4 content types with significant reach, showcasing the work of the UN Decade Secretariat as well as the 300+ partners</p>	<p>1 website acting as digital hub for the restoration movement successfully managed.</p> <p>2025 breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 515,023 web views (269,162 new users) 72 web stories shared by 60 partners 94 events by 34 partners 24 publications by 16 partners <p>22 videos produced</p>	<p>Web statistics from 2025 were slightly below the level of 2024, as expressed for example by a lower number of web visitors.</p> <p>This is a trend that could be observed across websites, partially due to AI. Users now increasingly access content through AI summaries, not native content on websites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All content can be found on www.decadeonrestoration.org Google Analytics Google Scholar Drupal data (Content Management System) MDirector data (Newsletter management) <p><i>Data available upon request.</i></p>

<p>Output 1.3: Youth engagement programmes for the Decade launched and managed to mobilize support, build momentum and facilitate the global restoration movement, in close collaboration with the UN Decade’s youth-led Youth Task Force</p>	<p>Youth Taskforce of the Decade launched a microgrant call during YEA2025 at Nairobi to support 10 youth-led restoration projects implementation on the ground. Around 750 applications received from around the world.</p> <p>The YTF started to work in the development of a policy paper regarding Youth-Led Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives which will highlight actions being done across regions, biomes, and governance levels by youth to generate an evidence-based overview of the contributions, challenges, and policy engagement of youth in restoration efforts globally. A survey was disseminated to collect data.</p>		<p>Microgrant call: UN DECADE YOUTH TASK FORCE MICROGRANT CALL FOR APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Overcoming Barriers to Youth-Led Ecosystem Restoration</p>
<p>Indicator 1.3.1: Generation Restoration University Network</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 5,000 Achieved Target: 728*</p> <p>*Please see our request for modification of target</p>	<p>185 university pledges across 47 countries</p> <p>731 universities in the wider NPU network across 104 countries</p> <p>1,126 students from 63 countries have signed up to be part of the 2025-26 student ambassador cohort</p> <p>6 webinars hosted for all NPU members on various topics.</p> <p>17 workshops hosted for students as part of the student ambassador programme.</p> <p>A range of guidance documents have been developed and/or made available for NPU members to support them on their nature positive journeys.</p> <p>Restoration curricula developed as part of the Student Ambassador programme, and delivered annually through 6 topical webinars on biodiversity topics, with a focus on campus actions.</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, the collaboration amongst 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* 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-Positive Universities Network Data collected and analyzed by Oxford University • https://www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/ • Webinars: https://www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/webinars/ • Guidance documents: https://www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/resources/ <p>Resources for student ambassadors can be accessed here: https://www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/student-resources/</p>

	<p>Toolkits and workshop quizzes to support each live workshop on topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-positive: a global goal • Biodiversity baselines • Campus actions for nature • Sustainable food • Waste and circular economy • Green skills and advocacy 	<p>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 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 	
<p>Indicator 1.3.2: Youth Voices and Spokespeople engaged</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3 Achieved Target: 1</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>Newly designated Advocate for Ecosystem Restoration, Frida Amani, has been announced at UNEA 7.</p> <p>Since then, she has participated in a number of social media as well as on the ground activations. This includes a “Concert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frida Amani – announcement Press Release • Frida Amani – Advocate profile • Content creator programme strategy available upon request

	As a result, Tanzanian rapper Frida Amani (under 35 years old) has been onboarded as first Advocate for Ecosystem Restoration.	for Nature” hosted with fellow rappers and singers in Tanzania. The full 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 (35 instead of 10), which comes with substantive work load for the team.	
Indicator 1.3.3: School / teacher engagement packages Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 500 (schools signed up) Achieved Target: 60	In 2025, the UN Decade Team signed an SSFA (Small-scale Funding Agreement) with the Foundation for Environmental Education to onboard 500 schools, developing 6-8 lesson plans based on World Restoration Flagships success stories and materials. Rollout will be prioritizing the regions of the three fully funded Flagships: Great Green Wall, Central American Dry Corridor, Small Island Developing States)	The target could not yet be reached as the work only started in 2025 (due to the prioritization of other streams like World Restoration Flagships before). However, the activity is already received well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 schools signed up - 27 countries represented - 35,000 students reached 	Generation Restoration Schools website and sign-up form Sign-up date available upon request.
Indicator 1.3.4: Young Champions of the Earth – Generation Restoration Focus Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1 Achieved Target: 1	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 and completed at the 80 th UN General Assembly in New York, where three winners were announced.	The target has been achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Champions of the Earth website and related assets https://www.unep.org/youngchampions/

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

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 2 Indicator 2.1: Number of partner programmes with on the ground restoration actions being implemented as a consequence of supported Flagship Initiatives</p>	<p>During the reporting period, at least five partner programmes demonstrated on-the-ground restoration actions directly enabled or accelerated through UN Decade-supported Flagship Initiatives. These include activities implemented under the CADC Flagship, SIDS Restoration Flagship (Comoros, Saint Lucia, Vanuatu), and the Great Green Wall Flagship (Niger and Burkina Faso), each of which delivered tangible restoration outcomes at community, landscape or seascape level.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Outcome 2 Indicator 2.2: Number of national policy and regulatory reforms and initiatives underway that prevent ecosystem degradation and promote on-site ecosystem restoration within Flagships</p>	<p>In 2025, seven national policy and regulatory reforms or initiatives were underway across Flagship countries, strengthening governance frameworks to prevent degradation and enable on-site ecosystem restoration. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) in Comoros, placing 9,276 ha under regulated protection, restoration zoning and sustainable use. • The Sustainable Blue Economy Policy and Integrated Policy Framework in Comoros, embedding restoration into national development planning and economic governance. • Three regional policy support documents under the CADC Flagship (Central America), strengthening policy coherence for restoration across Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Вайбоосун initiative - Общественный Фонд САМР Алатоо для устойчивого развития горных регионов - «Байбоосун» — первая ООПТ местного значения в Кыргызстане: как сообщество стало хранителем природы

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a national restoration coordination mechanism in Saint Lucia (Technical Advisory Board & joint Steering Committee). • Preparatory work for a Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment in Saint Lucia, guiding upcoming governance and policy reforms. • Designation of the Department of Ocean and Maritime Affairs as the lead authority for Sustainable Blue Economy governance in Vanuatu. • The Bayboosun Protected Area designation (>20,000 ha) in Central Asia under the Mountain Flagship, with a new protection regime regulating land use and conservation. 		
<p>Outcome 2 Indicator 2.3: Number of cross-governmental and/or cross-sectoral collaborative measures underway benefitting the goals for ecosystem restoration</p>	<p>In 2025, six cross-governmental and cross-sectoral collaborative measures were underway across the Flagships, strengthening coordination and supporting ecosystem restoration goals. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint environment–agriculture coordination in the CADC region (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador). • Multi-sector collaboration in Comoros through the Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Blue Economy Policy. • A shared national restoration governance mechanism in Saint Lucia involving multiple ministries and international partners. • A structured inter- and intra-SIDS cooperation platform led by UN DESA across Comoros, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu. • Establishment of the Ak-Ilbirs Ecological Corridor in Central Asia, 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3 Ak-Ilbris Ecological Corridor - Kyrgyz Republic unveils 800,000-hectare ecological corridor for biodiversity

	coordinating conservation across administrative and sectoral boundaries, under the Mountain targeted support flagship.		
Outcome 2 Indicator 2.4 Volume of funding directly channeled into national and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives	<p>In 2025, a total of USD 366,600 was directly mobilized and allocated to national and regional ecosystem restoration initiatives across Flagships.</p> <p>Funding breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD 81,500 in the Greater Virunga Landscape to develop a restoration project proposal, investment perspective, and best-practice review. • USD 35,100 in Central Asia (Mountain Flagship) to assess restoration finance options and develop new restoration project pipelines. • USD 250,000 in Vanuatu (SIDS Flagship) to support seagrass meadow restoration linked to sustainable sandfish aquaculture, financed by TNC and Conservation International. 		
<p>Output 2.3: Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives developed, disseminated and applied within specific Flagship Initiatives</p> <p>Indicator: 2.3.1 Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration published on the UN Decade website</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: A publication on Standards of practice to Guide</p>	Ongoing translation of standards of practice into French and Spanish. Wide promotion of the publication at global events and ongoing development of tools to support their adoption.		<p>Full version Standards of Practice published online (link)</p> <p>Summary version Standards of Practice published online (link)</p>

<p>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</p>			
<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 Planned Target: Develop and implement a Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan published with members of the FAO-led Taskforce on Best Practices and UN Decade partners</p>	<p>Five capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the UN Decade currently under implementation</p>		<p>Capacity, Knowledge and Learning Action Plan (CKLAP) for the Decade published online (link) CKLAP Initiative 2: Restoration module for forest kids game (link) CKLAP Initiative 3: Selection of Champion Communities (link) CKLAP Initiative 6: Survey to collect good practice on policy coherence (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 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>By 2025, the FERM search engine for good practices linked approximately 2,300 good practices from four collaborating platforms: 1,856 in English, 338 in French, and 125 in Spanish. A total of 61 practices were submitted through FERM, of which 42 were approved and published. A group of 94 restoration experts are part of the review panel of practices collected through FERM. Interoperability ongoing with a new collaborating platform called <i>The Forest Knowledge Gateway</i>, in collaboration with the SUPERB program, which is expected to be integrated in early 2026. The FERM Registry has been translated into French, Spanish, and Portuguese enabling documentation of practices in all these languages.</p>		<p>FERM Registry (link) FERM Common Search Engine (link)</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.4 Work plans or letter of agreement elaborated with each Flagship receiving targeted support</p>	<p>The most of TS Flagships were successfully completed in 2025, with some minor activities to be finalized in 2026.</p>		

<p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: A work plan developed by each flagship outlining the activities to be undertaken during 2024 - 2025</p>			
<p>Output 2.3: Methods and knowledge for designing, implementing, sustaining and scaling up ecosystem restoration initiatives developed, disseminated and applied within specific Flagship Initiatives</p>	<p>SIDS Flagship – Comoros' first Marine Spatial Plan (Coelacanth National Park) co-created and validated with key stakeholders, park management, ministries and user-groups, placing 9,276 ha under improved management.</p>		<p>Marine Spatial Plan: Marine Spatial Planning Gives New Voice to the Ocean in Comoros</p>
<p>Output 2.4. Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials developed</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.2 Multi-tool platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration developed</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Develop a multi-tool platform to support adoption of the UN Decade Standards of Practice for Ecosystem Restoration including a navigation tool (Explore tool), a decision-making and project appraisal tool (Apply tool), and an e-learning course (Learn tool).</p>	<p>The development phase of a multi-tool web-based platform was initiated. The beta version of the Explore and Apply tools was presented during several global events to gather feedback from participants, and continue with the testing phase and launch in 2026. For the Learn tool, the technical content of the introduction and first four lessons was produced.</p>		<p>Ecosystem Restoration Standards SOPER Tools</p>
<p>Output 2.4: Toolkits, guidelines and other training materials for SMEs, incubators / business accelerators and investors, developed and delivered through online and in-person events and on-the-ground application supported with targeted technical assistance</p>	<p>SIDS Restoration Flagship;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration Factory incubation model adapted to Saint Lucia context. • Capacity-building (“train the trainers”) delivered to Export Saint Lucia (Local Support Organization). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration Factory training materials and session reports. • Public call documentation and incubation framework

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training materials and incubation framework prepared for 40 targeted eco-preneurs (launch April). • USD 50,000 small grants mechanism established to support restoration-based SMEs. 		
Output 2.6: Scalable pilot ecosystem restoration initiatives implemented in selected countries within Flagship Initiatives			
<p>Indicator 2.6.1 Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) Flagship Initiative designed and under implementation</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) Flagship Initiative designed based on broad consultations and submitted to Executive Board for approval</p>	Under the leadership of FAO Subregional Office of Mesoamerica, and the work of implementing partners (UNEP, IUCN, CAC/CCAD), the work plan for 2025 of the CADC flagship was implemented.		Across the three CADC pilot countries, collaboration between the environment and agriculture sectors grew stronger through joint technical support, targeted training for officials, and coordinated restoration planning. Countries completed financial mapping, advanced investment plans, documented good practices, and strengthened local skills through national workshops and ten field schools. At the regional level, partners rolled out a communication strategy, finalized policy-support documents, and nurtured a virtual community of practice. Monitoring systems were also enhanced through diagnostic assessments, development of an API to link national systems with FERM, support to countries preparing their data for transfer, creation of the SIGI system for regional reporting, and refinement of a shared typology of restoration practices.
Indicator 2.6.2 Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Flagship Initiative designed and under implementation	Under the leadership of UNEP, SIDS Flagship is designed and operationalized, with implementation currently underway.		The SIDS Flagship continued to make tangible progress across Comoros, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu, with each island advancing meaningful institutional and policy reforms. In Comoros, 9,276 hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems came under improved

			<p>management through the validated Marine Spatial Plan for Coelacanth National Park, complemented by the technical validation of the National Sustainable Blue Economy Policy developed through wide-ranging consultations with over 150 stakeholders. Saint Lucia strengthened national coordination by embedding a National Coordinator within the Department of Sustainable Development and launched its Restoration Factory, a livelihood mechanism designed to support 40 eco-preneurs—including access to a USD 50,000 small-grants window—and adopted a unified natural capital accounting methodology for the entire South Coast. In Vanuatu, leadership of the Sustainable Blue Economy transition was formally assigned to the Department of Ocean and Maritime Affairs, while the Flagship successfully catalysed USD 250,000 for a seagrass restoration and sustainable sea cucumber initiative that will bolster both ecosystem health and coastal livelihoods.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.6.3 Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Flagship Initiative designed Baseline: 0 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 2025 of the GGWSSI flagship was implemented.</p>		<p>In Niger, 1,500 hectares of degraded land were restored, and over 3,000 beneficiaries participated in environmental and socio-economic activities, including grants for cooperatives and the incubation of young green entrepreneurs. Municipal staff received training, and territorial planning work was successfully integrated into local investment plans. <u>In Burkina Faso</u>, security challenges hindered restoration efforts, but progress was made in local economic development. Income-generating activities grew substantially, with numerous organizations receiving grants, and some, like the SCOOPS ADESD cooperative, saw significant revenue generation. Green entrepreneurship initiatives thrived through partnerships with local incubators. Regionally, the</p>

			GGW Accelerator enhanced monitoring, knowledge management, and resource mobilization efforts across countries.
Output 2.7: National and international public and /or private funding sources for restoration action mobilized (e.g. Impact Funds, private sector NBS investments, LDNF, GCF etc.)	SIDS Flagship co-financing: \$67,000 (NORAD); \$100,000 (Portugal); \$100,000 (Monaco under confirmation), \$250,000 (via TNC for Vanuatu)		

OUTCOME 3⁸: 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 regularly through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration (FERM)	By the end of 2025, FERM had over 1,800 registered users from more than 100 countries, representing a wide range of stakeholder groups across government, the private sector, civil society, academia, and partner organizations.		Target 2 Resource Guide homepage (link) Target 2 Resource Guide PDF (link) Target 2 Resource Guide interactive Online document (link) Target 2 e-learning (link) Target 2 Resource Guide (Spanish): Link FAO's work on ecosystem restoration monitoring (link) FAO's work on GBF Target 2 (link) Roadmap for Target 2 publication (link) Target 2 indicator metadata form (link) Roadmap for Target 2 workshop report (link) Contribution to CBD Target 2 Quick Guide (link) Monitoring Task Force Briefing Note updated (link)
Indicator 3.2: Area under restoration of local ecosystems measured and reported through the FERM	The FERM includes data that is directly registered in the FERM and data shared through other platforms in an interoperability framework. Across are 7 platforms and regional initiatives there are over 700 restoration initiatives. These initiatives are not always		The FERM user guidance document (linkhttps://ferm.fao.org/docs/ferm_user_guide_draft.pdf) FERM tutorial videos (link) 7 news stories published in 2025 (link) 5 Impact stories published in 2025 (Link)

	<p>additive if they do not provide complete geospatial information to overlaps and double counting of restoration. To avoid duplication, the restoration information is reported by restoration platform and cannot be added across platforms.</p> <p>FERM Registry public data (clean dataset, with no overlaps when polygons were available): # of initiatives: 74 initiatives # of ha: 25 million hectares under restoration # of countries: 47 countries</p> <p>Platforms interoperable with FERM: Brazilian Restoration and Reforestation Observatory # of initiatives: 6 initiatives # of ha: 156 thousand hectares under restoration # of countries: 1 country</p> <p>Kelp Forest Alliance: # of initiatives: 246 initiatives # of ha: 19 thousand hectares under restoration # of countries: 16 countries</p> <p>Accion Andina # of initiatives: 27 initiatives # of ha: 6 thousand hectares under restoration # of countries: 6 countries</p> <p>Nature Commitments # of initiatives: 76 initiatives # of ha: 537 hectares under restoration # of countries: 35 countries</p>		
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	<p>RESULT Asia-Pacific # of initiatives: 4 initiatives # of ha: only restoration commitments are reported so far – no areas under restoration # of countries: 10 countries</p> <p>Restoration Resource Center # of initiatives: 299 initiatives # of ha: area under restoration are not reported # of countries: 61 countries</p>		
Indicator 3.3: Volume of annual financial resources on-the-ground ecosystem restoration reported through the FERM.	Financial resources are not measured through the FERM		
<p>Indicator 3.4: MPTF produced knowledge products to inform restoration actions and decision making. Baseline: No baseline 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>Contribution to the Forest Restoration analysis of the Global Forest Resource Assessment,</p> <p>12 impact and news stories published on restoration monitoring in 2025. 16 publications. 1 e-learning translated into Spanish. 1 self-assessment tool.</p> <p>Knowledge products were disseminated through SBSTTA, SER World Restoration Congress, UNFCCC COP30, and biodiversity monitoring and reporting dialogues and workshops focused on restoration.</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>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>In 2025, the FERM registry was improved in terms of user interface and functionalities to be fully aligned with the CBD reporting process. The FERM and CBD's Online Reporting Tool are able to exchange data to support country reporting. A data review functionality was built for countries to review and access available restoration data for reporting.</p>		<p>FERM available at (link)</p>
<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>In 2025, integration of geospatial data from other restoration monitoring platforms continued to advance. Interoperability through data mapping and APIs have been established between the FERM Registry and Kelp Forest Alliance, and through periodic manual data importing with Ramsar Site Information Service, and the Global Forest Resources Assessment</p> <p>2025 Interoperability is in progress with the UN Decade Hub, IUCN's Restoration Barometer and Restor, pending quality control on the data. A working Group was established to develop guidance on improving alignment to Target 2 reporting and the usability of default data. The FERM is linking to the CBD's Online Reporting Tool (ORT) to support country reporting. There is full interoperability with 8 platforms and reporting processes.</p> <p>Interoperability is in progress for 3 additional platforms.</p>	<p>The target for integration with Collect Earth was achieved in 2023 and new platform interoperability target 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) The FERM user guidance document updated to reflect the latest developments (link) Roadmap to Target 2 workshop report (linkhttps://www.fao.org/3/cc9498en/cc9498en.pdf)</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>In 2025 the e-learning course was translated into Spanish and disseminated.</p>		<p>Target 2 e-learning (link) Target 2 e-learning (Spanish): Link</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.5 Headline indicators for global level monitoring identified, consulted with Monitoring Task Force and other key experts. Workflows with custodian agencies documented</p> <p>Baseline: No global indicators for ecosystem restoration</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>In 2025, the FERM Data Review functionality was launched to review the default data on areas under restoration. The functionality is available to CBD national focal points. The FERM Data Review functionality provides a map view of restoration project areas (as polygons or points) with attributes to reduce duplication where possible. Reporting focal points can re-view and add information on areas under restoration. The data can be used directly for official reporting and the data compiled through the FERM is the default dataset for area under restoration. The FERM and the CBD's Online Reporting Tool (ORT) are connected through an application programming interface (API) and data is directly transferred from the FERM to the CBD ORT.</p>		<p>Target 2 indicator metadata form (https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/2-2) New FERM geospatial developments – FERM Earth Map integration (link) FERM data review (https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-restoration-monitoring/about/gbf-target-2/default-data-for-restoration/en)</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 Planned Target: Live dashboard available in 2023</p>	<p>Geospatial functionality is available through the FERM Earth Map. Countries can review and share their restoration data through the FERM registry and data review functionality, developed in 2025.</p> <p>A public dashboard is under development and will be available after the validation of restoration data through the FERM data review functionality.</p>		<p>Geospatial functionality available through the FERM Earth Map: https://ferm.earthmap.org/</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 Planned Target: At least four meetings of the full TF per annum – at least two meetings of sub-TFs per annum</p>	<p>In 2025, five Monitoring Task Force meetings were convened to facilitate knowledge exchange and provide updates on ecosystem restoration monitoring initiatives.</p> <p>The first meeting shared updates from the Rio Conventions (CBD and UNCCD), presented improvements to FERM, and introduced new regional restoration initiatives.</p> <p>The second meeting focused on introducing the Target 2 Road Map to support the implementation of restoration monitoring activities.</p> <p>SBSTTA27 side event was convened with Task Force members focused on Restoration Monitoring and launching new Working Groups of the Task Force.</p>		<p>Link to TFM Videos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zomMnRSpjO0 • Second Meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTJMtDymf5c&t=1310s <p>Link to the Freshwater Monitoring Guidance Publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/8e52e624-4bf9-4e31-8445-394d865c6ea2 <p>SBSTTA 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TW1m_ud-FtDZAP6Y5HuV09PHg3Gcplsr/view?usp=sharing • Recording: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cH-3ZVRrn8rZGQtnZMkA0y4Lu-cucfXCq/view?usp=sharing <p>SER Conference: Link</p>

	<p>SER2025 the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration where FAO convened Restoration Day where the UN Decade monitoring work and FERM were presented, contributing to global knowledge exchange on ecosystem restoration monitoring and GBF Target 2 implementation</p> <p>RAMSAR COP 15. Convened restoration side-event and presented the first output of the freshwater monitoring guidance publication.</p> <p>Beyond the full Task Force meetings, the Task Force working groups also held meetings to advance methodological development and address ecosystem-specific data, monitoring, and reporting challenges. The Freshwater Working Group held six meetings in 2025 to develop guidance on monitoring and reporting for freshwater ecosystems, resulting in one output published in 2025 and a second output underway for 2026. The Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Working Group met once in 2025 and is currently developing a short reporting guidance brochure for publication in 2026. The Indigenous Peoples Restoration Monitoring Working Group also held two internal meetings in 2025 to discuss implementation of its work plan.</p> <p>The Task Force on Monitoring was further mobilized and grown through regional and national workshops on restoration monitoring convened by the UN Decade leads, CBD and other</p>		<p>Bangkok and Bogota regional workshops: Link</p> <p>Regional workshop reports</p> <p>Latin America, hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, 2025.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b9b1/717d/63edbl6242dc9247cc389ee3/report-subreg-dial-nbsap-om-2025-06-en.pdf <p>Asia, hosted in Bangkok, Thailand 2025:</p> <p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/a809/b1a5/63ce515d653cd280f05a1de0/ecr-om-2025-01-02-en.pdf</p>
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	partners. Two regional workshops were convened in 2025 in Bangkok and Bogotá, Colombia, focused on supporting monitoring and reporting ecosystem restoration. Additional support was provided to workshops organized by the CBD in franco-phone Africa, Pacific, Southern Africa and Europe. National workshops also took place in Brazil, Peru, the Philippines, and Kenya.		
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>The Target 2 Resource Guide was launched in October 2024 and translated into Spanish in 2025 and provides comprehensive guidance to enable countries and stakeholders across society to report on ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>The Global Forest Resource Assessment Report was launched in October 2025 and includes a progress report of forest ecosystem restoration.</p>		<p>Target 2 Resource Guide homepage (link)</p> <p>Target 2 Resource Guide PDF (link)</p> <p>Target 2 e-learning (link)</p> <p>The Global Forest Resource Assessment Report : Link</p> <p>Target 2 Resource Guide (Spanish): Link</p>
<p>Indicator 3.3.1 Report consulted with the UN Decade EB (or management team)</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline</p> <p>Planned Target: A draft outline developed by June 2023; First report by December 2024</p>	In 2025 an outline of the Restoration Progress Report was consulted with the UN Decade management team. The report will be released in 2026 and to be based on official government reporting on restoration progress.		
<p>Indicator 3.3.2 Develop Information Note for monitoring CBD Target 2 (restoration) through working group of the TF Monitoring</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline</p>	metadata updated in March 2024 and under revision in 2025 with consultation of the Task Force on Monitoring		Target 2 indicator metadata form (https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/2-2)

<p>Planned Target: Near final Information Note in 2022</p>			
<p>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)</p> <p>Baseline: No baseline Planned Target: Support to CBD reporting processes for the 7th national reports – due in February 2026</p>	<p>Across the three regions, the approach was structured and aligned with the Target 2 Road Map. The workshops were organized through regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres, in line with the mandate of Working Group 3 on national and regional capacity development, and focused on strengthening national monitoring and reporting systems.</p> <p>The default data review was launched in 2025 to support the 7th national reports with default data on restoration.</p>		<p>Regional workshop results: https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-restoration-monitoring/stories-detail/strengthening-regional-capacity-for-restoration-monitoring-under-gbf-target-2/en</p>
<p>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</p>			
<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>A self-assessment for restoration monitoring and reporting was developed and disseminated through national regional workshops to support countries in identifying gaps and challenges and drafting actions plans to address the gaps. The tool is available in both English and Spanish with an accompanying user guide.</p> <p>Regional restoration monitoring coordination through participation with AFR100 and Initiative 20x20, and RESULTS Asia-Pacific meeting.</p>		<p>Self assessment tool : https://www.fao.org/forest-monitoring/resources/self-assessment-tools/en</p> <p>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> <p>Publications published in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking Global Restoration Targets • Aligning to Target 2: VIET NAM National Dialogue

	<p>Knowledge products have been published with CIFOR-ICRAF in 2025 on the monitoring of key local ecosystems where data gaps, normative data collection and restoration indicators require further research and development on national dialogues in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Brazil, Vietnam and Peru have been documented.</p> <p>Additionally, agreements with Restor and with IUCN support countries in filling critical data and information gaps.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning to Target 2: PERU National Dialogue • Aligning to Target 2: KENYA National Dialogue • Aligning to Target 2: BURKINA FASO National Dialogue • National Dialogue VIET NAM • National Dialogue KENYA • National Dialogue BURKINA FASO • National Dialogue PERU • Capacity Needs and Technical Barriers to Achieving Our Global Restoration Ambitions (Target 2) • Linking Policies to Address Ecosystem Restoration in Viet Nam
<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 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>Se.plan is a geospatial decision-support tool that supports the estimation of restoration potential by helping identify cost-effective restoration options while taking into account both biophysical and socio-economic costs and benefits. In 2025, further improvements were made to enhance the functionality of the tool. A dedicated se.plan website was also developed and updated to support its use and wider accessibility</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>Indicator 3.4.4 Highlight successful restoration projects monitoring for joint learning of all actors</p>	<p>The FERM search engine of good practices and restoration initiatives was launched in 2024, and as of December 2025 there are over 3000 restoration</p>		<p>FERM search engine for initiatives (link) and good practices (link) Ecosystem Restoration monitoring homepage (link) Target 2 e-learning (Spanish): Link</p>

<p>Baseline: No baseline</p> <p>Planned Target: Two impact stories published by 2024</p>	<p>good practices and initiatives in the FERM.</p> <p>12 impact and news stories published on restoration monitoring in 2025.</p>		<p>Monitoring impact stories (link)</p> <p>7 news stories published in 2025 (link)</p> <p>5 impact stories published in 2025</p> <p>News stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil marks a milestone in ecosystem restoration with the first official monitoring estimates under Planaveg 2025–2028 at COP30 • FAO and CBD launch partnership to accelerate monitoring of ecosystem restoration in Asia–Pacific and beyond • Advancing Geospatial Monitoring for Ecosystem Restoration in Brazil • World Restoration Flagships 2025 • New regional programme sets out to boost ecosystem restoration • From Forests to Nature - broadening impact through data, innovation and inclusion – FAO launches AIM4NatuRe on Earth Day • FAO welcomes UN Biodiversity COP16.2, highlights agrifood systems as key to achieving global biodiversity goals <p>Impacts stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Commitment to Impact: Data-driven insights from 27 World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) • Advancing ecosystem restoration through innovation: Kenya hosts AIM4NatuRe workshop • Laying the groundwork for global restoration – GBF Target 2 Pilots • World Restoration Flagships 2025 • Governments agree on the way forward to mobilize the resources needed to protect biodiversity for people and planet
<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</p> <p>Planned Target: FERM technical deployment proceeding in line with flagship work plans by 2024</p>	<p>Targeted support and trainings were provided to the full UN Decade Flagships (GGW, SIDS, Central America Dry Corridor) .</p> <p>Targeted monitoring support and trainings provided to focal points from the 27 UN Decade World Restoration Flagships on the use of the FERM.</p> <p>Restoration initiatives from UN Decade Flagships are made available through the FERM search engine and compiled in a dedicated “World Restoration Flagship” collection.</p> <p>Ongoing technical support provided to Flagships to facilitate additional geospatial data submission and updates.</p>		<p>FERM home page (https://ferm.fao.org/)</p> <p>FERM search for initiatives</p> <p>https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives</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>Planned Target: Work plans agreed with key stakeholders and actors by 2024</p>	<p>SIDS: Saint Lucia selected as the first country for focused monitoring support under the SIDS Flagship and collaboration established with UNEP and national institutions, including the recruitment of a National Coordinator.</p> <p>An introductory FERM virtual workshop delivered for national authorities to support ecosystem restoration monitoring.</p> <p>A self-assessment dialogue and survey conducted to identify monitoring needs, data gaps, and institutional capacities.</p>		<p>https://ferm-search.fao.org/practices/deIQ6YIfJFCIDQKACjn1</p>

	<p>Findings were used to develop a targeted monitoring and reporting roadmap for coastal ecosystems, strengthen coordination with relevant ministries and technical stakeholders, and plan an in-person workshop for May/June 2026.</p> <p>Consultation meetings held with focal points from Vanuatu and Comoros to discuss plans for strengthening restoration monitoring.</p> <p>Central America Dry Corridor: Technical support provided to countries in the Central America Dry Corridor to improve interoperability between national restoration monitoring platforms and FERM, strengthening data flows and alignment with GBF Target 2 reporting requirements.</p> <p>National working groups established to coordinate ecosystem restoration monitoring across institutions.</p> <p>A joint roadmap developed with partners to produce a Dry Corridor Restoration Monitoring Report by June 2026, aligned with national and global reporting frameworks, including GBF Target 2, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).</p> <p>Four good practices submitted through the FERM platform, of which two have been approved and made publicly available.</p>		
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	GGW: Planning was undertaken in 2025 to assess monitoring needs and the feasibility of holding an in-person technical workshop in 2026		
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. Not all full flagships have yet provided geospatial data for all areas under restoration under their initiatives, and support is ongoing to facilitate data submission and annual updates.		SIDS: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/BeHw9zr7v370sW2789Op Central America Dry Corridor: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/xYMPZII1Qh8exgIK5Tdf GGW: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/PKOcV1WYxuCQdcUZC2qF
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 was captured in 2025, and updates will be provided in 2026. Aggregated data related to biophysical and socio-economic progress was provided through the web story which included the MPTF full flagships		https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eb16ef69a97443598be32016c432262d <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIDS: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/BeHw9zr7v370sW2789Op Central America Dry Corridor: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/xYMPZII1Qh8exgIK5Tdf GGW: https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/PKOcV1WYxuCQdcUZC2qF
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 27 global restoration flagships integrated and spotlighted in the FERM platform and highlighted in the web story. Web story was published in 2025 with reporting progress (biophysical and socio-economic) for all 27 flagships A survey was sent to all 27 flagships to collect updates on the status of their monitoring, with follow-up discussions to be held through webinars in 2026.		https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eb16ef69a97443598be32016c432262d https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives

iii) Story: Leading from within: Building the national capacity that makes restoration a national priority



Photo 10: Faissoil M'Hadji, National Coordinator for the SIDS Restoration Flagship in Comoros (right); Faissoil leading the technical validation session of the revised Sustainable Blue Economy Policy in Moroni. Photo credit: Georgina Avlonitis, UNEP

At the core of the SIDS Restoration Flagship is a simple truth: the most lasting restoration happens when national leaders drive it themselves. Across many Small Island Developing States, small administrations juggle multiple priorities with limited staff, making it difficult to manage complex processes like marine spatial planning or sustainable blue economy reform. Recognizing this, the Flagship invests in embedding national coordinators directly within government, ensuring restoration grows from the inside out.

In Comoros, this approach came to life through Mr. Faissoil M'Hadji, the National Coordinator working within the Directorate General of Environment and Forests. From his desk inside government, Faissoil brought ministries, experts and communities together around a shared vision for restoring ecosystems and strengthening ocean governance. His leadership played a key role in advancing major national processes in 2025 — from the Marine Spatial Plan for the Coelacanth National Park to the revision of the country's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy.

One defining moment came during the policy's technical validation. For the first time, ministries responsible for fisheries, planning, environment, transport and finance sat together, navigating their often competing priorities. Under Faissoil's facilitation, they reached consensus — and when the policy was endorsed, the room rose in applause. What began as a technical exercise became a moment of national unity. As Faissoil reflected: *“Restoration is not only about nature — it is about resilience, development, and the future of Comoros... When the room stood in ovation, it marked a shared vision for our ocean and our people.”*

His work not only strengthened national coordination — it also built his own skills and confidence as a leader. This impact did not go unnoticed. At [UNFCCC COP30](#), Comoros' Minister of Environment and Tourism, Abubakar Ben Mahmoud, publicly recognized the Flagship's contribution to national priorities and attended the full policy validation process, underscoring its importance.

The story of Faissoil mirrors a broader lesson of the SIDS Flagship: capacity is not delivered — it is grown, through trust, time and genuine partnership. Finding the right national coordinators took patience in all three SIDS, but once in place, their impact has been transformative. These coordinators are proving that when restoration leadership is rooted inside national systems, it becomes not just a project — but a national movement.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations

- A mid-term review was completed in June 2025.



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V. Resources

In 2025, the SIDS Restoration Flagship successfully mobilized new financial resources and catalytic partnerships that strengthened implementation across all three pilot islands. An extraordinary voluntary contribution of USD 100,000 from the Government of Portugal provided direct support to the Flagship, reflecting growing international confidence in its approach and its relevance to ocean governance and restoration priorities in Small Island Developing States.

In Comoros, the programme leveraged an additional USD 67,095 in co-financing from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to support the Sustainable Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment and related policy reforms. This investment helped deepen the analytical foundations of the country's revised Sustainable Blue Economy Policy and accelerated its technical validation.

In Vanuatu, the programme played a catalytic role in securing USD 250,000 through a proposal developed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and supported by Conservation International (CI). This funding will enable sustainable sea-cucumber (sandfish) production linked to the restoration of seagrass meadows—an intervention that supports ecological recovery while creating meaningful livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.

Together, these contributions demonstrate the programme's ability to attract new partners, unlock complementary financing, and mobilize investments that reinforce national ownership and expand restoration impact across SIDS.