

Announcement



World Environment Day

5th June 2021

Theme: Ecosystem Restoration

World Environment Day takes place every year on 5 June. It is the United Nations' flagship day for promoting worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. This year's observance of World Environment Day will be on the theme of 'ecosystem restoration' and focus on resetting our relation with nature. It will also mark the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030.

2020 was a year of reckoning, facing multiple crises, including a global pandemic and the continued crises of climate, nature and pollution. In 2021, we must take deliberate steps to move from crisis to healing: and in so doing, we must recognize that the restoration of nature is imperative to the survival of our planet and the human race. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 is intended to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems to fight the climate crisis, prevent the loss of a million species and enhance food security, water supply and livelihoods.

Reviving natural carbon sinks – such as forests and wetlands – could help close the climate emissions gap by 25% by 2030. Replanting with native

tree species can also help buffer some of the expected devastating effects of a warming planet, such as increased risk of forest fires. Currently, 3.2 billion people – 40% of the world's population– suffer from the continued degradation of ecosystems, for example by losing access to fertile soil or safe drinking water.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the years 2021 through 2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations together with the support of other partners will lead the event to prevent, halt, and reverse the loss and degradation of ecosystems worldwide. It aims at reviving hundreds of millions of hectares, covering terrestrial as well as aquatic ecosystems. A global call to action, the UN Decade draws together political support, scientific research, and financial muscle to massively scale up restoration.

To achieve restoration at the required scale, incentives and financial investments must be made in changing the way lands and oceans are exploited, in research and education, and in inspiring a movement of people, businesses and governments through celebrating success stories.