United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

2021-2030
UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/284

- Adopted 1 March 2019, 72 co-sponsors
  Prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation
  Raise awareness of importance of conservation & ecosystem restoration

- All terrestrial and marine ecosystems

- Builds on existing commitments:
  LDN, Bonn Challenge, Initiative 20x20, AFR 100…

- FAO and UNEP invited to lead implementation:
  In collaboration with Rio Conventions and others
  Within mandates and existing/voluntary resources
The need for action
Land degradation

• The degradation of soil and land continues due to heightened competition for land, undermining the long-term security and development of all countries

• 1/5 of the Earth’s land (24 million km²) affected
  19% of cropland, 16% of forest land, 19% of grassland, and 28% of rangeland.

• Advanced stages of land degradation in some dryland areas of South America and Africa the land degradation is leading to desertification
Loss of Forest areas

- A consistent trend of loss in forest as a proportion of total land area, between 2010 and 2015, the most apparent drops:
  - 22.5 to 20.96% in Africa
  - 49.1 to 46.5% in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Slight gains in:
  - West Asia, East Asia, and South Asia
  - North America and Europe
Countries with the highest annual net change rates in the period from 2010 to 2015:

- Togo -8.11%
- Uganda -5.48%
- Nigeria -5.01%
- Pakistan -2.69%
- Honduras -2.43%
Endangered species

From 1993 to 2017, the most threatened groups:
- 63% cycads species
- 41% amphibians
- 33% reef-forming corals

Tier I; Custodian agency: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
The need for action

Land Degradation:
Negatively affecting well-being of 3.2 billion people
Loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services = 10% of global GDP

Forests: 70 M ha lost since 2000
Wetlands: 70% lost in last century
Drastic decline of coral reefs and seagrass beds
Integration of ecosystem and biodiversity in planning

Value of biodiversity is not widely reflected in decision making yet

*Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.*

- **Western Asia**: Environmental economic accounts - 40, Environment statistics - 80
- **Oceania**: Environmental economic accounts - 60, Environment statistics - 40
- **Latina-America and the Caribbean**: Environmental economic accounts - 20, Environment statistics - 80
- **Europe and North America**: Environmental economic accounts - 80, Environment statistics - 20
- **Asia**: Environmental economic accounts - 60, Environment statistics - 40
- **Africa**: Environmental economic accounts - 40, Environment statistics - 60

Source: UNCTAD 2007

Tier II; Custodian agency: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Benefits extend across Agenda 2030
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- **Biodiversity conservation**
- **Climate change:**
  >30% of mitigation required by 2030
  Increased resilience
- **Productive landscapes/seascapes:**
  Jobs, livelihoods, food & water security, human health…
- **Economic return:**
  Cost/benefit ratio: 1/10 – 1/15
  Costs of action vs inaction: 1/3

*Restoring 350 M ha of degraded land by 2030 could generate up to **USD 9 trillion in net benefits***
Next steps
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- Drawing lessons from previous decades
- Awareness raising & stakeholder consultations
- Implementation & communication strategies
- Monitoring system
- Technical assistance & knowledge sharing platforms
- Investment opportunities

Mass movement
Thank you