

# Restoring Earth: Nature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

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# UN Decade: Background

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UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/73/284](#) (1 March 2019):

**"To prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide"**

**UNEP** and **FAO** invited to

*"lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and entities of the United Nations system [...]"*

**Strategy** and **visual identity** released in 2020, Decade launched on 5 June 2021

Focus on enhancing and supporting existing restoration commitments and implementation of **Rio Conventions** and the **SDGs**



# Key Messages

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- **Healthy and productive ecosystems** are the basis for our economy and society
- We might be close to natural tipping points or '**points of no return**' on climate change
- **Nature** must be part of an all-out **decarbonization** effort. **Nature-based solutions** have benefits beyond climate action
- **Conservation** of nature no longer enough – we must actively **restore**
- Restoration is **not only** an issue for **developing countries** – much can happen in the UK & Europe, in particular reforming **agriculture and food systems**
- Repurposing fossil fuel & agriculture subsidies can provide significant **climate finance**
- What is needed now: **political will for transformative change**



## Ecosystems worldwide are under pressure



### FARMLANDS

Croplands and pastures (modified grasslands on which domestic animals are grazed)

**4.8 billion ha<sup>a</sup>**

Croplands and pastures cover ~12% and 26% of the world's ice-free land<sup>b</sup>

**20%**

of croplands show stressed or declining productivity<sup>c</sup>



### FORESTS

Tropical, subtropical, temperate, boreal and polar forests, plantations, low-density woodlands and agroforests

**4.06 billion ha**

~31% of global land area<sup>d</sup>

**~420 million ha**

of forest have been converted to other land uses since 1990<sup>e</sup>



### FRESHWATER

Rivers, lakes, wetlands and other inland waters

**<0.01%**

of the earth's surface<sup>f</sup>

**35%**

average decline in area of natural inland wetlands since 1970<sup>g</sup>, with 87% total loss since 1700<sup>h</sup>



### GRASSLANDS, SHRUBLANDS & SAVANNAHS

Shrublands, shrubby woodlands, heathlands, savannahs, steppes and grasslands

Grasslands and savannahs cover

**26-40%**

of the earth's land surface<sup>i</sup>

**~19%**

of grasslands and 27% per cent of rangelands show stressed or declining productivity<sup>j</sup>



### MOUNTAINS

Found on all of the world's continents, in biomes from hot deserts to tropical forests to polar ice caps

**27%**

of global land area<sup>k</sup>

**5 days**

per decade = average decline in duration of mountain snow cover, especially at lower elevation<sup>l</sup>



### OCEANS & COASTS

Tropical, temperate and polar marine ecosystems from shallow coastal to deep sea

Oceans occupy

**36 billion ha<sup>m</sup>**

**~66%**

of ocean ecosystems are damaged, degraded or modified<sup>n</sup>. ~1/3 of commercial marine fish populations are fished unsustainably<sup>o</sup>



### PEATLANDS

Wetland habitats with organic peaty soils (e.g. marshes, swamps, fens and bogs)

**~400 million ha**

across 169 countries<sup>p</sup>

Degradation has affected nearly

**65 million ha**

of peatlands<sup>q</sup>, especially in Europe, Central and Southeast Asia, East Africa, southernmost America and the Amazon<sup>r</sup>



### URBAN AREAS

Cities, towns and villages. Habitats in green spaces and waterways

**2%**

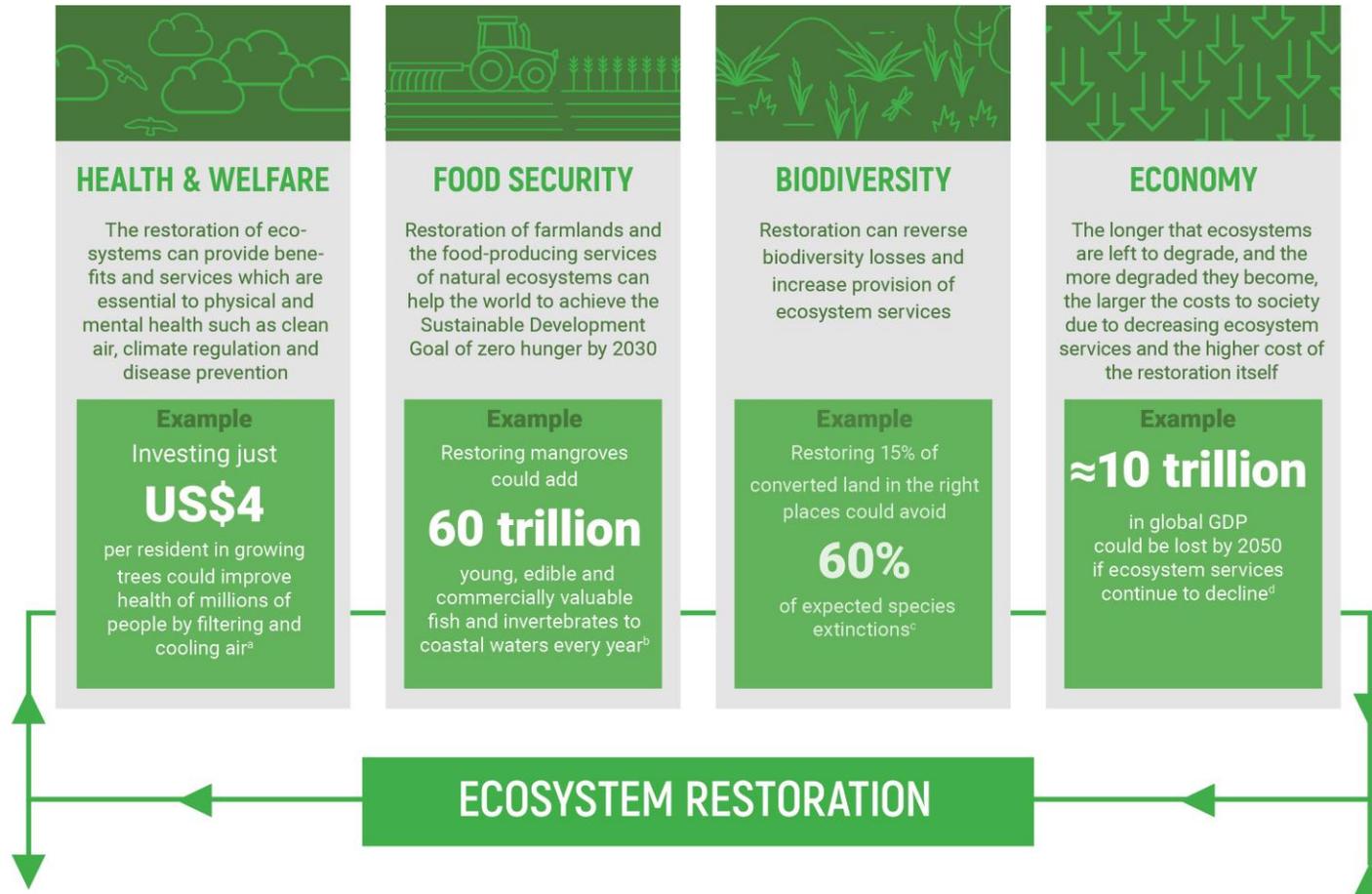
of global land area<sup>s</sup>

**>50%**

Since 2000, the number of city inhabitants without access to safely managed drinking water has increased by more than 50 per cent<sup>t</sup>

<sup>a</sup> FAO 2016a, <sup>b</sup> Foley et al. 2011, <sup>c</sup> UNCCD 2017, <sup>d</sup> FAO and UNEP 2020, <sup>e</sup> FAO and UNEP 2020, <sup>f</sup> Lehner and Döll 2004, <sup>g</sup> Darrah et al. 2019, <sup>h</sup> Reid et al. 2020, <sup>i</sup> Dudley et al. 2020, <sup>j</sup> UNCCD 2017, <sup>k</sup> Romeo et al. 2020, <sup>l</sup> IPCC 2019, <sup>m</sup> NOAA 2020a, <sup>n</sup> IPBES 2019, <sup>o</sup> FAO 2016b, <sup>p</sup> Joosten 2009; Kirpotin et al. 2021, <sup>q</sup> Bonn et al. 2016, <sup>r</sup> FAO 2020a, <sup>s</sup> UN Habitat 2020, <sup>t</sup> UN-Water, 2021

## Healthy, restored ecosystems provide many benefits



# Vision

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A **world** where — for the health & wellbeing of **all life on Earth** & that of **future generations** the **relationship** between humans and nature has been **restored**, where the area of healthy ecosystems is **increasing** and where ecosystem loss, fragmentation and degradation has been **ended**.



# 3 Pathways until 2030

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## 1. A global movement

- Digital hub
- Awareness
- Education
- Ethics
- Economics
- Financing mechanisms

## 2. Political will

- Leaders as champions
- Legislation and policy
- Cross-sectoral dialogues
- Redirect subsidies

## 3. Technical capacity

- Design, implement, monitor & sustain
- Long-term research
- Lessons learned
- Indigenous knowledge
- Land tenure and FPIC



# Building a global movement: from commitments to action

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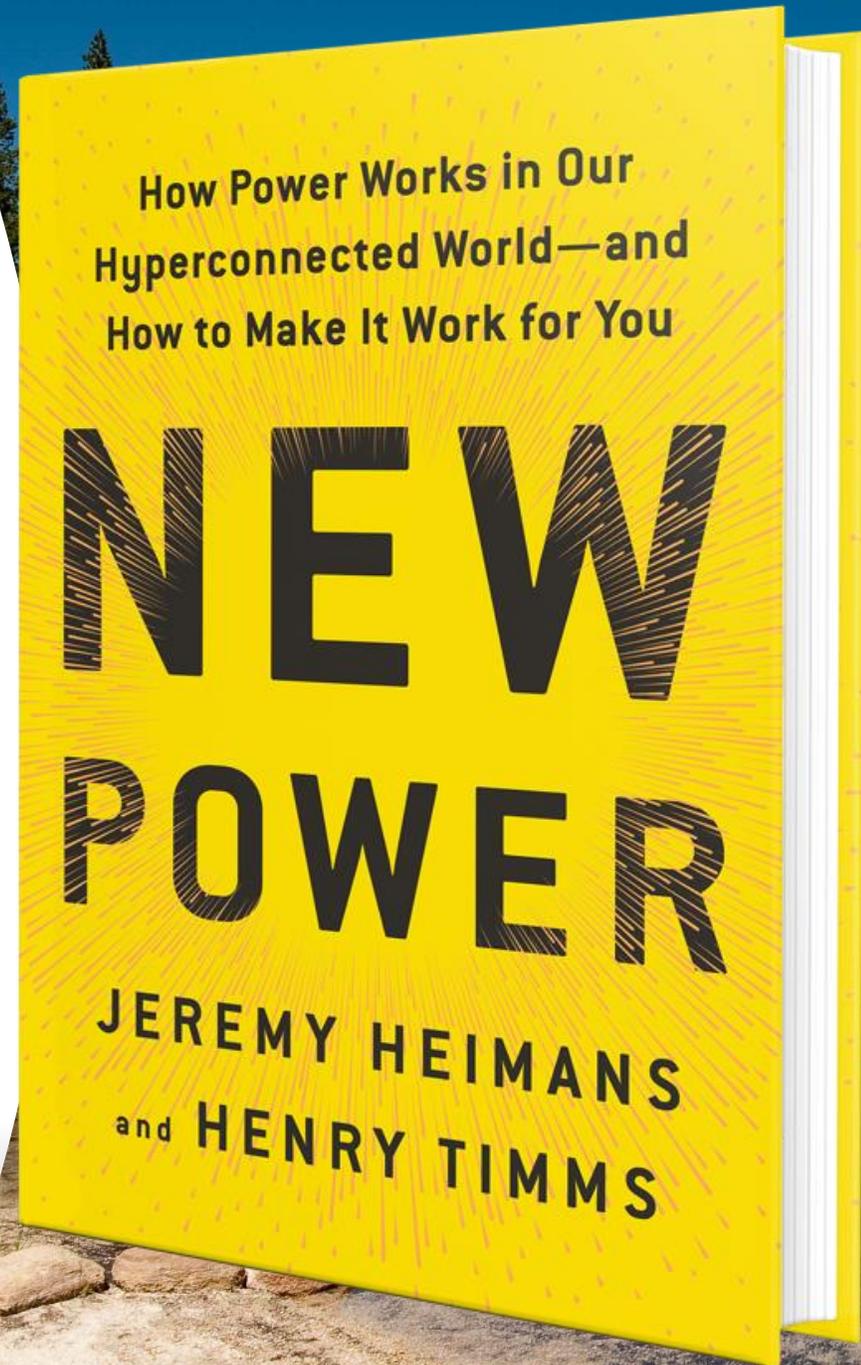
## A networked approach that...

- Connects **hundreds** of selected global partners...
- To **thousands** of local implementers...
- Reaching **hundreds of millions** across the globe...

**Building on insights from *New Power*** to strengthen ownership and celebrate existing efforts by all stakeholders and within countries

**Messaging** - Positive and inclusive antidote to climate anxiety while inspiring a new ***#GenerationRestoration***

**Innovations** - An interactive digital hub for the Decade to communicate, support and scale action on the ground



# Partnership Framework

- Lead Agencies
- Collaborating Agencies
- Funding Partners
- Voices

- Global Partners
- Supporting Partners
- Restoration Implementers
- Actors



# Advocacy, communications and awareness raising



# Building on existing efforts and experiences

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**Upscaling** and **replicating** existing restoration projects in oceans, forests, grasslands, estuaries, mangroves, wetlands and savannas



Source: *The Nature Conservancy*

Source: *Texas Community Watershed Partners*



# Visual Identity – links with key SDGs



Share it.

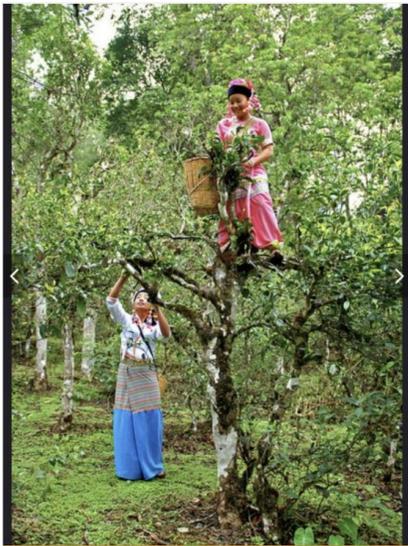
Adapt it.

Make it your own!



# Use #GenerationRestoration

to tag all your restoration related activities



59 testimonies to humankind's ingenuity and more to come: the Globally Important #AgriculturalHeritage Systems (GIAHS). Learn more about the role of #GIAHS in protecting our ecosystems & sustaining livelihoods: 👉

Raschad Al-Khafaji (@Rasch...  
30 seconds ago



【 Every Sunday is Our Environment Day 🌿】 【 ચાલો એક દિવસ, એક રવિવાર પ્રકૃતિને સમર્પિત કરીએ】 【 10 કરોડ વડના વૃક્ષો વાવવા માટેનું મહાઅભિયાન】 સર્વોદય મંડળની બેઠક ગાંધી આશ્રમ, ઝીલીયા, ચાણસ્મામાં આયોજિત થઈ જેમાં સમાજની સે...

Instagram User  
15 hours ago



As a member of the YIL\_Initiative Social Media project team, I'm hosting a giveaway for free 🎟 tickets to the #GLFAmazonia Digital Conference 🌿🌳. Tell me why the Amazon rainforest matters to you for a chance to win ...

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17 hours ago



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40 minutes ago



Bushcare this week will be on Friday (24th) from 9.00-11.30am! Meet us at the SW corner of carpark 3. Pictured is a big wonderful river red gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) on site and then swipe right to see how much f...

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40 minutes ago



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#colorsofindia #road #worldphotography #worldphotographyhub #igcal...  
Instagram User  
55 minutes ago



Black-Rumped Flameback 🇷🇺. Swipe ➡️ to see close-up shot!! . . . #sonyalphain #sonya9 #sony200600 sonyalpha #sonyalpha #sonyalphawildlife . . . #your\_best\_birds #bestbirdshots #kings\_birds\_ #birds\_captur...

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# Resources & Contacts

The **Ecosystem Restoration Playbook** – a practical guide to healing the planet

**FAO Position paper** on “Ecosystem Restoration” of production ecosystems, in the context of the UN Decade

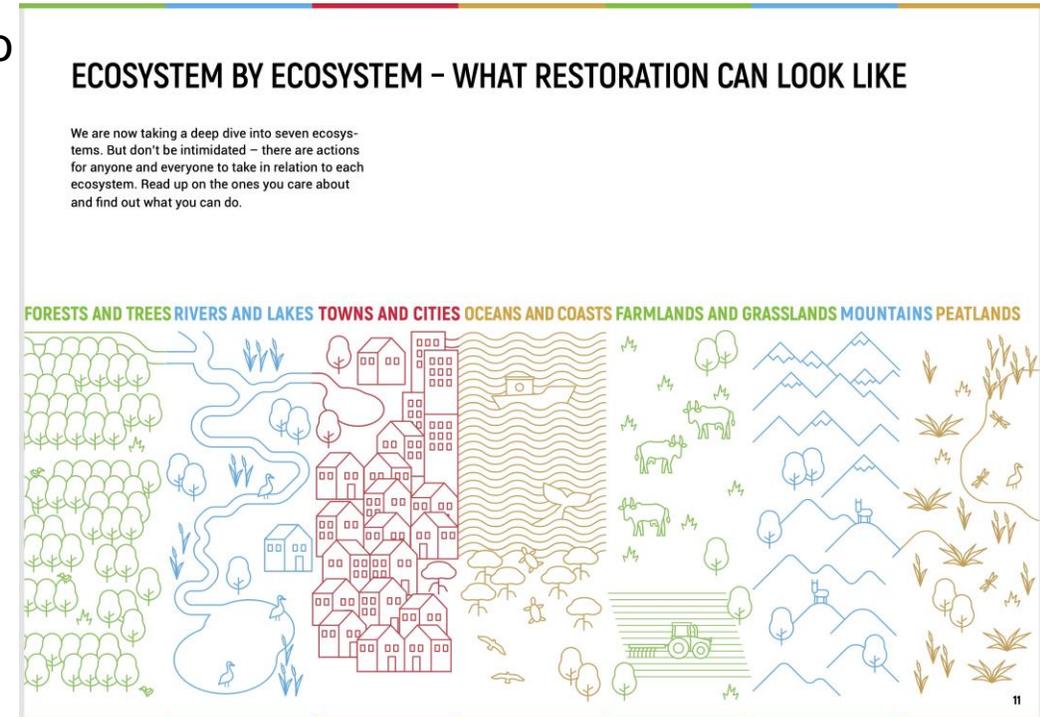
**10 Restoration Principles** to guide the Ecosystem Restoration through the Decade (by FAO, IUCN CEM, SER)

**More...** visit [www.decadeonrestoration.org](http://www.decadeonrestoration.org) for news, publications, videos, and communication resources

## Contacts

**UNEP** [restorationdecade@un.org](mailto:restorationdecade@un.org)

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# Thank you



**UN**   
environment  
programme

Join the  
**#GenerationRestoration**

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