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 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
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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
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
Meanwhile…
Meanwhile...

- **Climate and environmental awareness** at new high in many countries

- **Not starting at zero**
  
  Global communication efforts around REDD+, landscapes, marine litter etc. have highlighted importance of ecosystems

- **An appetite for change**
  
  Informed people want to be active and engaged – but to varying degrees of capacity, motivation and loyalty

- **Knowledge no longer shared top-down exclusively** but spreading sideways
Stakeholder involvement
Insights from interviews conducted on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

5 August to 30 October 2019
50+ interviews
~100 interviewees
Four main insights

1. Immense power of the UN Decade brand
2. Restoration opportunities need quantification
3. Flagship projects need to be at the core of the Decade
4. Overarching goal should be a change in societal mindsets
Guiding questions

- What existing initiatives can the Decade build on?
- What are the main factors hindering the achievement of restoration goals?
- What are the big goals we should aim for?
- Are there any low-hanging fruits we could reach for?
- How do you see your role in the Decade?

Can we create a Mass movement?
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Thank you