



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## **Webinar named “Forest Futures: Guardians of Our Green Planet”**

### **The importance of ecosystem restoration to achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

*Christophe Besacier  
Senior Forestry Officer  
Forestry Division (FAO)*



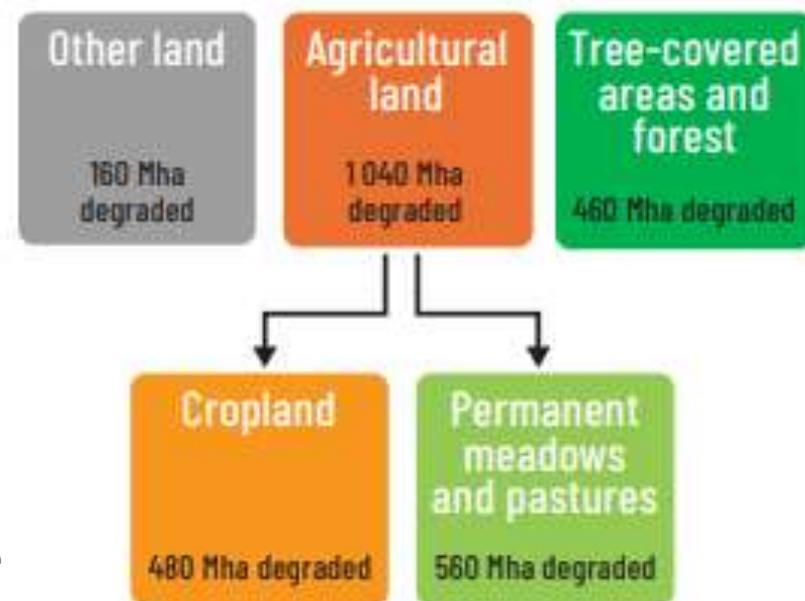


**Restoration: A global movement to address current challenges and achieve SDGs**

# Human-induced land degradation has heavily impacted agrifood systems

## Key facts:

- 1) 1 660 million hectares of land are degraded due to human impact
- 2) Over 60 percent of the human-induced land degradation is taking place on agricultural lands (cropland and pastureland)
- 3) We need to produce 50 percent more food, feed, fibers and biofuel in 2050 compared to the production of 2012



# Human-induced land degradation has heavily impacted agrifood systems

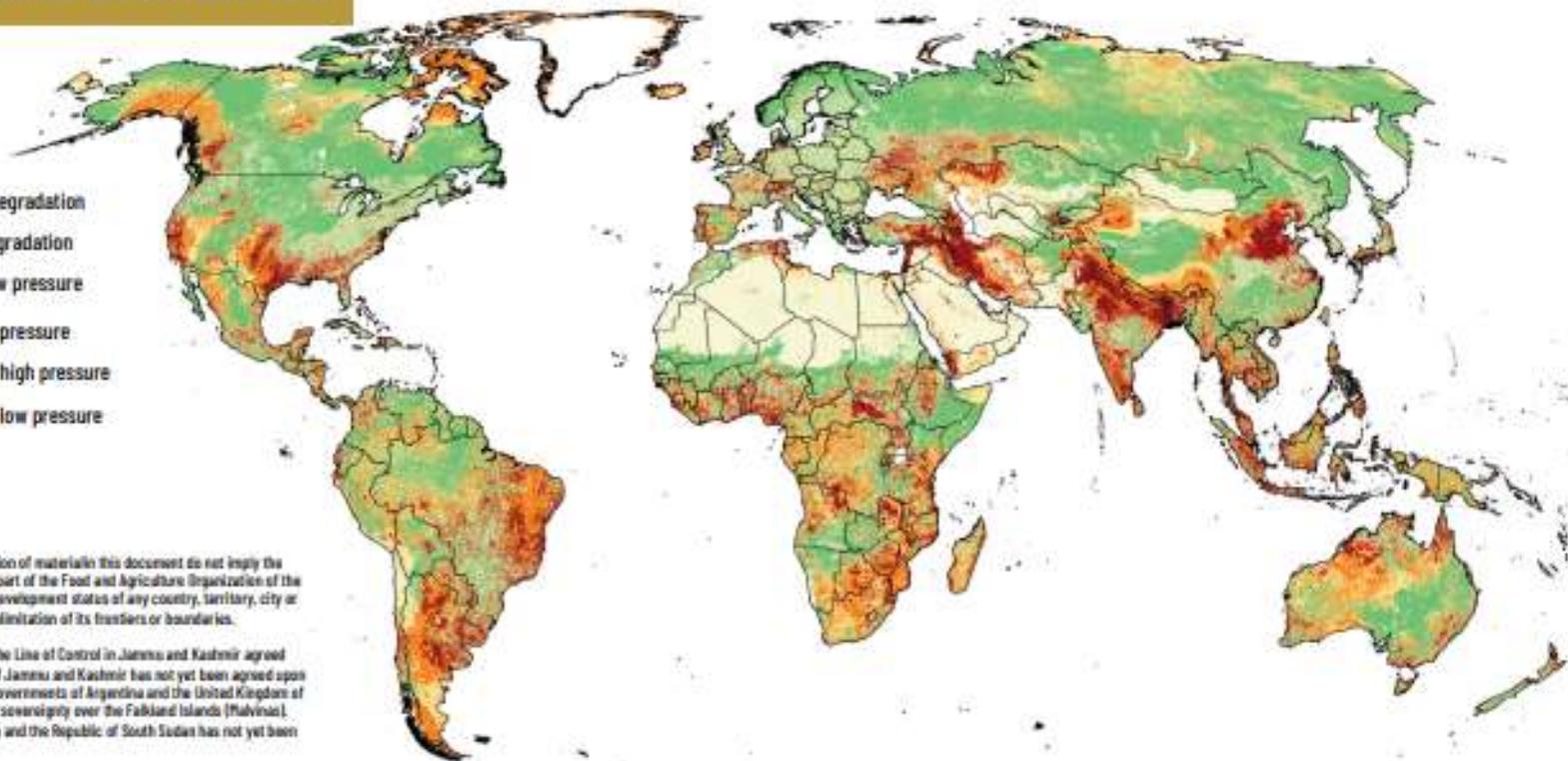
## HUMAN-INDUCED LAND DEGRADATION

- Strong human-induced land degradation
- Light human-induced land degradation
- Strong deterioration under low pressure
- Light deterioration under low pressure
- Stable or improvement under high pressure
- Stable or improvement under low pressure
- Bare

Source: Coppes 2002

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Notes: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.





# Deforestation, forest and land degradation have multiple adverse impacts both for people and nature

**3.2 BILLION**  
global  
population  
impacted by  
land  
degradation<sup>1</sup>

**2 BILLION  
HECTARES**  
degraded land  
worldwide<sup>1</sup>

**10 PER CENT**  
of the annual  
global gross  
product lost in  
ecosystem  
services<sup>1</sup>

Benefits of  
restoration are  
**10 TIMES**  
higher than  
the costs<sup>1</sup>

**\$9 TRILLION**  
estimated net  
benefits from  
restoring 350  
million  
hectares<sup>2</sup>

**13-26  
GIGATONS**  
of GHG  
sequestered  
between 2020  
and 2030  
under a  
successful  
Bonn  
Challenge<sup>2</sup>

# Global political milestones and regional initiatives shaping the ecosystem / forest and landscape restoration (FLR) agenda

## Political steps



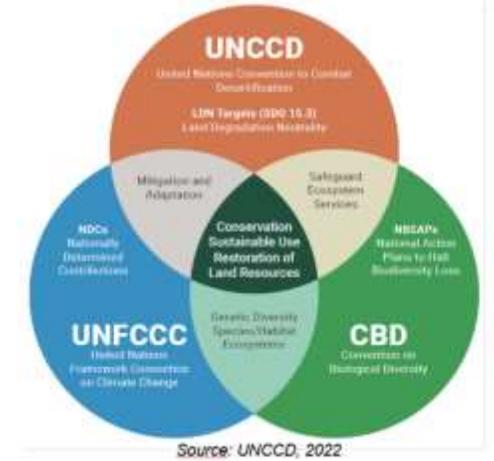
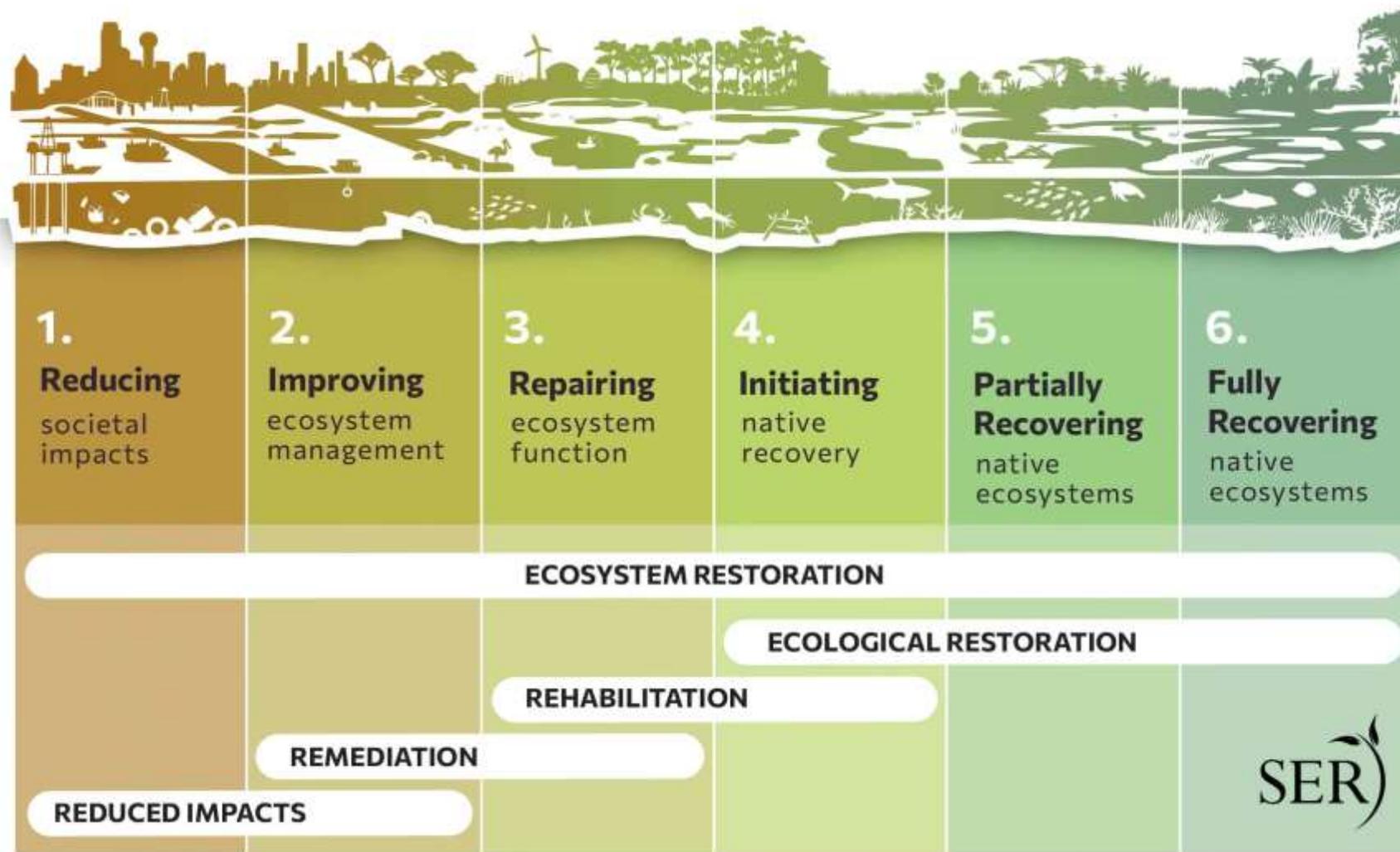
## Regional initiatives





# **Key concepts of ecosystem restoration and forest and landscape restoration**

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION** is the process of halting and reversing degradation, resulting in improved ecosystem services and recovered biodiversity. It encompasses a wide continuum of interventions, depending on local conditions and societal choice



### SDG CONTRIBUTION



# What is Forest and Landscape Restoration ?

## Options and benefits of Forest and Landscape Restoration

“An active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses”

*Source: GPFLR 2018*

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER

ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION  
IN THE SLOPES

TREE PLANTATION IN FLOW ZONES TO  
LIMIT WATERSHED EROSION RISKS

RICH AND STABLE SOILS

TREE PLANTATION OF LOCAL SPECIES

BIODIVERSITY

AGROFORESTRY

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

CARBON STORAGE

WOOD AND NON-WOOD  
FOREST PRODUCTS

RECREATION  
& ECO TOURISM

NATURAL REGENERATION IN  
BUFFER ZONES OF NATIONAL PARKS

IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS  
AND TREE PLANTATIONS



# What is Forest and Landscape Restoration ?

- Forests: because it involves increasing the number and/ or health of trees in an area with the objective to restore the area
- Landscapes: because it involves entire watersheds, jurisdictions, biomes in which many land uses interact, often a mosaic of interdependent land uses
- Restoration: because it involves bringing back the biological productivity of an area in order to achieve any number of benefits for people and the planet (with an agreed good balance between conservation and production purposes)
- It is a long-term process over large areas, but can produce short-term benefits





# **Key FAO / Decade on Ecosystem Restoration products of interests**

# Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Three Pathways



©FAO/Prihatmaja Hangga

**BUILD A  
GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT**

**GENERATE  
POLITICAL  
SUPPORT**

**DEVELOP  
TECHNICAL  
CAPACITY**

# Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: FAO led Taskforces

**Collaborative efforts of hundreds of global leading organizations and experts to:**

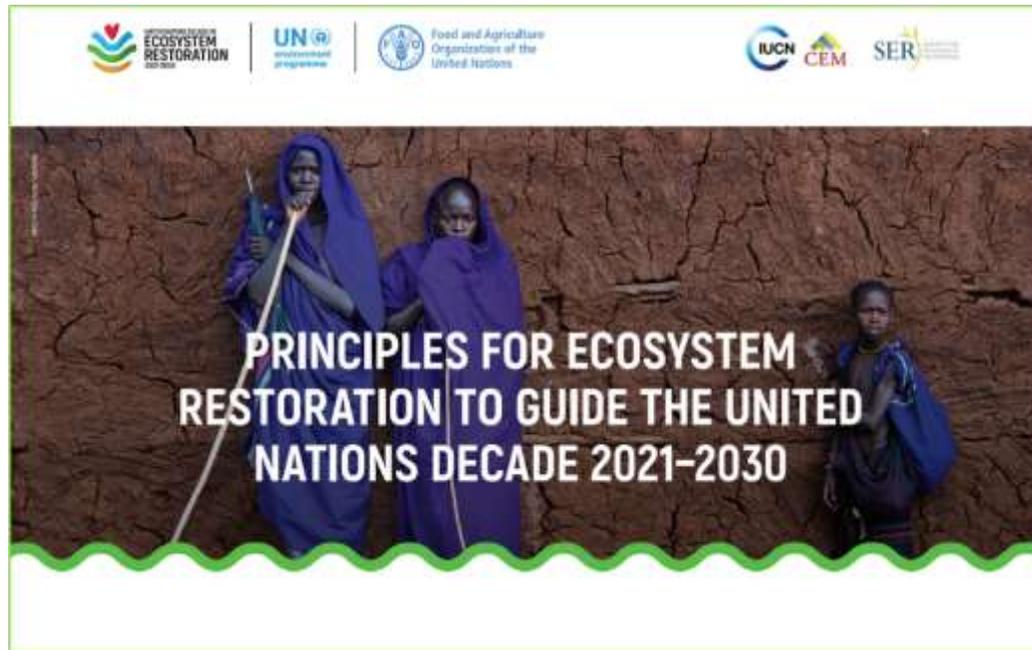


**Task Force on Best Practices:** Enhance capacity development and knowledge dissemination efforts throughout the UN Decade



**Task Force on Monitoring:** Develop a framework to monitor and report the progress of restoration efforts throughout the UN Decade

# Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Principles



GLOBAL  
CONTRIBUTION



BROAD  
ENGAGEMENT



MANY TYPES  
OF ACTIVITIES



BENEFITS TO  
NATURE AND PEOPLE



ADDRESSES CAUSES  
OF DEGRADATION



KNOWLEDGE  
INTEGRATION



MEASURABLE  
GOALS



LOCAL AND LAND/  
SEASCAPE CONTEXTS



MONITORING  
AND MANAGEMENT



POLICY  
INTEGRATION

Creating a **common vision of ecosystem restoration** for the United Nations Decade. Available in AR, CH, EN, FR and SP (RU and PO under preparation).



# Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Standards of Practices

**These guidelines aim to help practitioners maximize the ecological, cultural and socioeconomic benefits of their restoration initiatives**

- **300+ recommendations to apply the 10 principles** across the entire restoration process.
- **Generally applicable** to all types of restorative activities and ecosystems.
- **Tool and e-learning course** under development to support adoption.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Standards of Practices

Multi-tool platform with an online decision-making tool and e-learning courses to be launched in 2026



# Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)



## FRAMEWORK FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION MONITORING

**REGISTER**  
Your restoration initiative and good practices

**VISUALIZE**  
The latest geospatial data on restoration

**USER GUIDE**  
Download the FERM user guide

**SEARCH**  
For good practices on ecosystem restoration

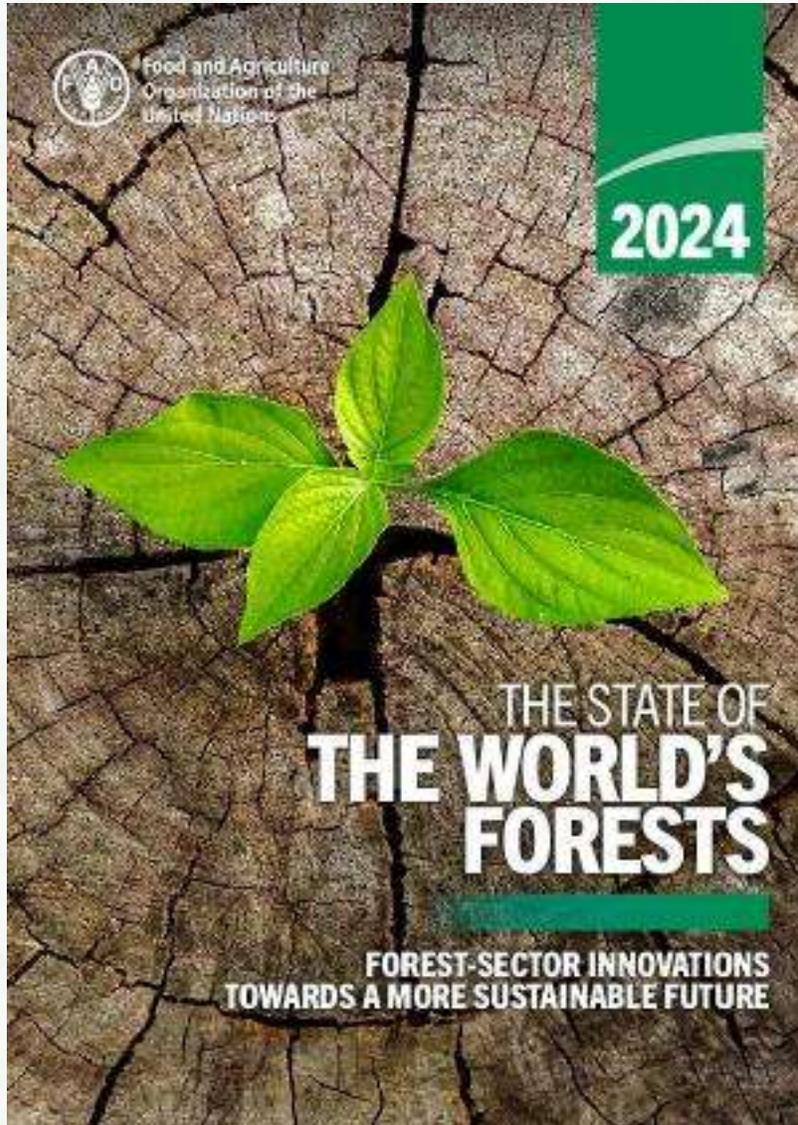
- A **registry** of restoration initiatives and their good practices from all ecosystems
- A **geospatial tool** for visualizing restoration data
- A **search engine** for consulting good practices on ecosystem restoration

Explore  
FERM:  
[ferm.fao.org](https://ferm.fao.org)





# Next edition of the State of World's Forests (SOFO) 2026



- SOFO is a Flagship publication of FAO (every two years)
- Next edition (SOFO 2026) is focused on **Forest and Landscape Restoration with as tentative title "Restoring forests and landscapes: the way forward for a sustainable future"**
- **Several chapters to illustrate how restoration is a relevant option to achieve SDG** (benefits for people & nature) & key pathways to combine to make restoration investments impactful at multiple scales
- One chapter will focus on study cases demonstrating the **Power of Restoration to build a sustainable future**
- Launch on 28 September 2026



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Thank you

