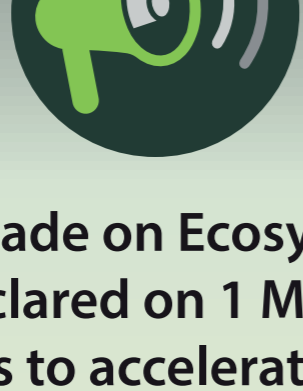


U.N. DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
2021-2030



Global Landscapes Forum

Land restoration could generate trillions of dollars in ecosystem services



Landmark Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 declared on 1 March 2019 by the United Nations to accelerate the restoration of degraded ecosystems, is part of a longterm effort by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), its partners and charter members.



Momentum grew for the idea of a decade dedicated to landscape restoration throughout 2018 at international events organized by GLF in Washington, Nairobi and Bonn, Germany, hosted by the World Bank and UN Environment.



Initial concept for the U.N. decade emerged from the **Bonn Challenge** to restore 150 million hectares of land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030, which was launched in 2011 by the government of Germany and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 U.N. Climate Summit. In its infancy, the concept of the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was supported by El Salvador, UN Environment, IUCN and GLF.



The decade, launched by UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), weaves together a range of international agreements – including the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, U.N. Convention on Biodiversity Aichi Targets, U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, U.N. Paris Agreement on climate change, U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention on wetlands and the U.N. Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030.

TIMELINE: ROAD TO U.N. DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

2011

SEPTEMBER

The **Bonn Challenge**, a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030, is launched in Bonn by the German government and IUCN. The initiative is supported by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and provides the practical means to implement existing international commitments, while using the forest restoration landscape approach.

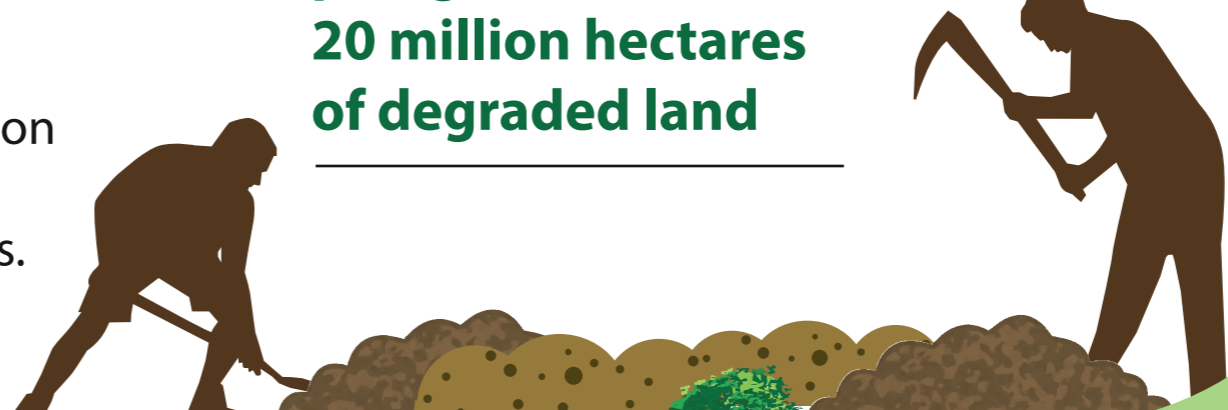


DECEMBER

At GLF Lima 2014, Latin American governments launch Initiative 20x20 supported by WRI, IUCN and many other partners in the GLF – a historic commitment to initiate the restoration of 20 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 that supports Bonn Challenge objectives.

Latin American countries pledge to restore 20 million hectares of degraded land

2014



2015

Despite obstacles, GLF delegates see progress on AFR100 forest targets

DECEMBER

AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative), a pan-African, country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of land across Africa by 2030, is launched at GLF Paris 2015 by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, World Resources Institute, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the World Bank.



DECEMBER

Lina Pohl, head of El Salvador's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) is a keynote speaker at the GLF in Bonn, Germany and describes her vision of how to improve the integrity of ecosystems while meeting the needs of local communities.

Competitive economies unthinkable without resilient landscapes, says El Salvador Environment Minister Lina Pohl



Photo credit: Pilar Valbuena, CIFOR

2018

MARCH

At a major Bonn Challenge 3.0 event in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil, MARN urges the international community to support a decade of landscape restoration. El Salvador formally proposes the idea of a dedicated UN Decade to promote the principles of ecosystem restoration.



MAY

As a speaker at the GLF Investment Case in Washington, Pohl describes her determination to turn the tide on environmental degradation and reduce El Salvador's vulnerability to climate change through landscape restoration.

The Many Faces of Blended Finance for Forest Landscape Restoration

2018

2018

GEF introduces impact programs to upscale landscape restoration

JUNE

Global Environment Facility (GEF) confirms a record financial commitment to developing countries. During its seventh operational phase (GEF-7), the GEF will develop key programs to help implement the landscape approach, building on the momentum brought about by international partnerships such as the GLF.



JULY

Backed by other Latin American countries, Pohl says the decade would put landscape restoration at the forefront of national agendas by shoring up country level efforts to meet U.N. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on Land), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

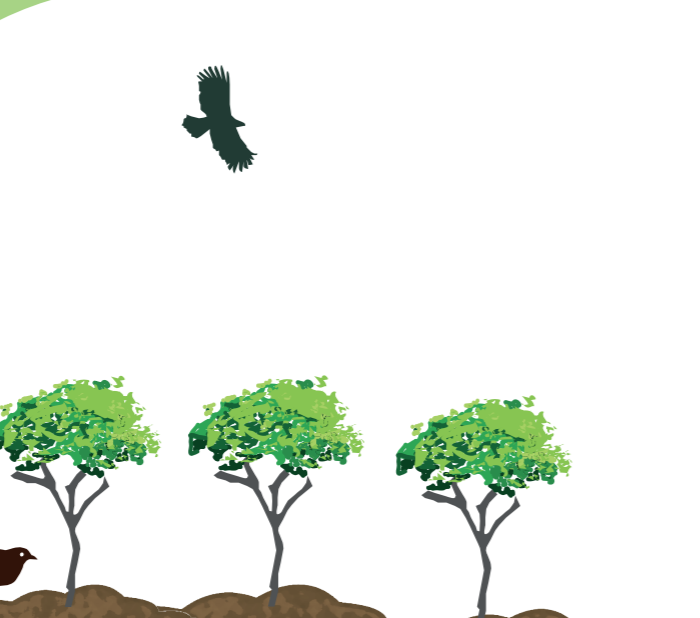


U.N. Decade of Ecosystem Restoration would mobilize cost effective action, says El Salvador Environment Minister Lina Pohl

2018

2018

Leaked proposal document shows the aim of proposed decade is to "promote ecosystem connectivity and landscape management by encouraging synergy among biodiversity conservation, native vegetation restoration and maintenance of ecological processes. Intention is to reduce the consequences of biodiversity loss, climate change and promote sustainable development.



AUGUST

Former head of UN Environment Erik Solheim says that a decade devoted to promoting the rehabilitation of degraded, damaged and destroyed ecosystems would help speed up the race against climate change and biodiversity loss ahead of GLF Nairobi 2018. In his address to delegates at GLF Nairobi, Solheim reiterates support for the decade. He urges participants to support the proposal.

Support El Salvador bid for U.N. Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, says U.N. Environment chief



2018

2018

The decade is now supported by the eight country members of the Central American Commission for Development and Environment (CCAD) under the Central American Integration System (SICA). Salvador Nieto, the secretary-general of the commission, travels to GLF Nairobi to promote El Salvador's proposal.



During an AFR100 side event at GLF Nairobi, a member of the Uganda delegation says the country supports the decade.

Salvador Nieto speaks at closing plenary of GLF Nairobi 2018

SEPTEMBER

MARN concept note for proposed decade is made public. El Salvador urges all member states, including members and supporters of the Bonn Challenge, related regional initiatives, and other countries leading and participating in initiatives supporting restoration of ecosystems, to support and co-sponsor the proposal to proclaim the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 during the 73rd Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Concept for U.N. Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

2018

2018

El Salvador's president urges U.N. support for decade of Ecosystem Restoration

El Salvador president addresses general debate at 73rd UNGA



Photo credit: Presidencia El Salvador

Proposal edges a step closer to fruition at the U.N. General Assembly in New York when El Salvador's President Salvador Sanchez Ceren urges member states to support it.

OCTOBER

At their annual meeting, all Latin American environment ministers welcome and endorse the proposal. This follows after the African Environment Minister Conference (AMCEN) also unanimously endorses El Salvador's initiative.



2018

2018

NOVEMBER

During the 14th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Egypt, a decision is adopted that calls on the U.N. General Assembly to declare 2021-2030 as the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The first official written mention of the decade appears in the African Ministerial Declaration on Biodiversity.

JANUARY - MARCH

The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York organizes a series of informal consultations with all interested Member States on the proposed Decade, and receives constructive and supportive feedback from many Member States, which shapes the final text of the General Assembly resolution.

New U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration offers unparalleled opportunity

Pohl addresses the United Nations before the General Assembly adopts proposed U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

UN Environment and FAO release a statement on the decade, referring to it as a global call to action aimed at drawing together political support and financial muscle to take pilot restoration initiatives to areas of millions of hectares on a massive scale.

Restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded land between now and 2030 could generate \$9 trillion in ecosystem services, the statement says.

"The idea for the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was inspired by a conversation with Horst Freiberg, head of Division for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests, Biological Diversity and Climate Change in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, at a Global Landscapes Forum meeting."

Lina Pohl
GLF Bonn 2017

Funding Partners

