

First meeting of the Issue Management Group  
on Biodiversity Working Group 3: UN Decade on Ecosystem  
Restoration

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (16:00 – 17:00 CET) Online

Distribution:  
TO: Members of the  
IMG on Biodiversity  
CC: EMG Focal Points

## Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the IMG on Biodiversity Working Group 3: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

### Summary

The WG3 is about facilitating and scaling up UN system-wide response to the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, which was launched in June last year. The idea is to have a coordinated and synergetic support to it. Synergies across organizations, levels, and activities should be found and UN agencies should contribute to the different Decade's task forces in a complementary way. Specific thematic coordination mechanisms could also be established. Many organizations have already become partners of the Decade and many task forces have been established. The Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was approved and is going to fund the Decade flagship initiatives. Germany and Denmark have already contributed to it. The Decade is guided by the Advisory Board, which provides strategic overseeing and support.

The flagship initiative nomination process has been launched towards the end of 2021 and is still running till **March 31** this year. More information about the nomination process can be found on the [website](#). The results of the process should be announced in UNEA in March. The idea is then to link up with other processes and pledges, e.g., under the UNFCCC, the One Planet Summit, or the UN Food Systems Summit. The Ten Principle for Ecosystem Restoration have been developed last year and should be promoted by the initiatives. Those principles will then be measured and monitored for progress. The group takes care of the promotion of the flagships but cannot guarantee a funding. Hopefully, this flagship process will be held on a yearly basis, learning from this first year.

In 2022, the WG3 will aim at creating an inventory of relevant initiatives, knowledge, products, etc. related to the topic of the Decade. Technical webinars and dialogues should also be organized to raise awareness about the Decade among EMG members. Moreover, linking up with DCO would allow to see what the country offices need from the group and increase impacts on the grounds. In connection with other working groups, synergies for monitoring and reporting framework could be found. The WG3's work plan was developed for one year, but this is open for change. The Decade itself has also an action plan covering the longer run. Any comments on these proposed activities are welcomed.

For the EMG, it would be interesting to hear reflections on how to set the work of the WG, on whether the proposed activities seem useful, and on the extent to which participants are willing to contribute. One possible option proposed was to merge WG3 with the other two WGs so as to prevent the burden from having too many meetings.

Participants are encouraged to mention the Decade in their respective meetings so as to increase the overall visibility of the Decade and to inform other actors not necessarily in contact with UNEP. The Member States briefing on the Decade by UNEP and FAO is scheduled for **February 9** in NY.

## Meeting report

### Presentation of the WG3 of the IMG on biodiversity and suggested work plan – Natalia Alekseeva (FAO)

The WG3 is about facilitating and scaling up UN system-wide response to the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The Decade was launched in June last year and the idea is to have a coordinated and synergetic support to it where we complement what we do on different levels and on different topics. We also need to link with the internal structure of the Decade, and three mechanisms are to look at for that. The first is trying to see how we can synergize across the organizations, levels, and activities. Then, we need to determine how we complement and contribute to the different task forces within the Decade. There are also specific thematic coordination mechanisms that could be established.

We have already quite a lot of partner organizations for the Decade. There are also many task forces focusing on best practices, finance, monitoring, science and youth. These task forces are the elements linking to the internal coordination and setting priorities within the Decade. Additionally, the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was approved, which is going to fund the so-called Decade flagship initiatives. There have already been some contributions and we therefore call upon Member States and partners to nominate and submit flagship initiatives.

It would be great to have the initial feedback from participants, in terms of the functioning of the group or any proposals on how to coordinate ourselves better.

### Round table of introducing the members and expectations

ILO's real interest and contribution is around the intersection between employment and nature-based solutions and the Decade.

UN Women interest is to look at the intersections and interlinkages between the impacts of biodiversity loss/environmental degradation and women.

ITC's main interest in this WG is to provide the perspective of how small business can support and contribute to the Decade. What are the innovations coming from a small business? We can also see them as also a source of inspiration for the private sector and other stakeholders.

### Discussion on next steps and timeline – Natalia Alekseeva (FAO)

Natalia presented the document IMG Biodiversity Workplan that has been shared per email. This year, we will work on rising awareness on the Decade, linking up things together and trying to collect data and other elements in a logical and hopefully synergetic way. That is why we want to have an inventory of relevant initiatives, knowledge, products, etc.. This inventory should be linked to the topic of the Decade. Additionally, technical webinars and dialogues should be organized to raise awareness about the Decade among EMG members. Another idea is to link up more with DCO in terms of working on knowledge products or seeing what the country offices need from us, how we can help actions on the ground. We also want to link up with other working groups, looking in terms of synergies for monitoring framework and Common Approach reporting framework.

The Decade itself has also an action plan which covers more the longer run. Ideally, our work plan would be adjusted to this Decade's work plan taking into consideration our own interests. Some of the UN agencies are already the partners of the Decade, meaning they have also their own communication channels and their confirmed activities and work plans. With our work plan, we are discussing something more on the generic level, on what we can do jointly and where we can crosscut things with parties that are not partners of the Decade. We need to see what is feasible. For example, we could link with DCO and see how we need to synergize in the way we bring coherent messages. Again, any suggestions regarding how to move forward in the most visible and constructive way is welcomed.

ILO suggested that sharing an overview of what is already happening on the Decade, of what is the work in progress, and so on, would be useful. This would enable members to know where else they can contribute and what gaps they can fill.

#### Flagship initiatives - Natalia Alekseeva (FAO)

The invitations for the initiatives are out, which is the initial step. Nothing is fixed for this project, it offers simply the opportunity to work jointly. There are already a lot of pledges to restore things, but we would like to see a bit more in terms of commitments and actions. It is about acting and then measuring what is being done.

The idea is to link up with other processes and pledges. For example, under the UNFCCC, the One Planet Summit, or the UN Food Systems Summit. There are many ideas, but we want to have an upscale and more support of existing restoration projects relating to the ten principles for good ecosystem restoration.

The principles were developed last year and adopted in Marseille at the IUCN Congress. We're trying to unpack what it means to restore the ecosystem and what it means to have this kind of flagship project. We wish to measure these principles and all the aspirations we have, and that will include a lot of monitoring activities and measuring the progress.

For this reason, flagship initiatives were thought as something more formal. Rather than pledging as a kind of activity or project, flagship initiatives should be recognized as a certain type of actions, which will then be promoted and celebrated, linking up to the Decade's overall visibility. We should show that we, as UN and other partners, we do support this type of activities and promote them. As set under the Decade, we have this MPTF that has been launched and that will support part of the flagships and the restoration efforts.

On the timeline, we see the first announcement of the flagship initiative in November 2021, which was done in consultation with governments and regional and local partners. In December 2021, we've been asking in a letter to nominate the flagships and to communicate it to us. This open call for the flagship nominations is still open and the idea is to announce the results at UNEA during the first week of March or so. Although we sent the letter to the Member States, we expect also other partners to contribute. We wish to have a certain level of commitment also on the national level. In September 2022, we would like to have the first flagships announced and showcased. The idea is also to have this flagship process on a yearly basis, learning from this first year.

Regarding criteria, flagships should really support the ten principles for ecosystem restoration. They should demonstrate the actions within these principles and the actions should be measurable. A certain size of action is desirable, although small ones are always welcomed as well. A scaling potential is also a good feature that we would be happy to exploit. We will take care of the promotion of the flagships within the Decade, but we cannot guarantee a funding by the MPTF or some other funding. In short, we collect the nominations, we work on their flagships, we promote them, and then we try to see for funds.

If you have some great ideas, please link up with the governments with the Member States and support them with the submission.

Applicants can see the procedure on the [website](#) (third section, how to nominate). The expression of interest must be sent through email and then the secretariat will provide further guidance for submission.

#### Document UN Decade Briefing to the CPR - Natalia Alekseeva (FAO)

Natalia went over the document UN Decade Briefing to the CPR. All the hyperlinks included in the document can be used to obtain more information. The Decade is guided by the Advisory Board, which

meets regularly and provides strategic overseeing and support. Regarding the MPTF, the first meeting of its Executive Board was held in mid-December and for now we have funds from Germany and Denmark, looking forward to other contributions. The document contains more information on the flagship initiatives, for which the nomination process is open till **31<sup>st</sup> of March**.

Barbara suggested that she will propose within her department that the Decade should be mentioned in their meetings to raise awareness among Member States.

Natalia referred to the Member States briefing on the Decade by UNEP and FAO scheduled for **February 9** in NY. She will check if there is any final links and information that can be shared in this meeting.

#### Closing remarks

Natalia informed that information will be shared via email, including the meeting minutes, and that feedbacks are also expected per email.

Anna mentioned that the frequency of these meetings is tentatively set to once per quarter, which could be discussed.

Maikel suggested that the meeting dates could be linked to some of the key milestones and relevant events.

## Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Item	Organisation
Welcome words from EMG	EMG Secretariat
Presentation of the WG3 of the IMG on biodiversity and suggested work plan	FAO
Round table of introducing the members and expectations	All
Discussion on next steps and timeline	All
Closing	FAO

## Annex 2: List of participants

N.	Name	Organisation	Designation
1.	Ana Patricia Batalhone	ITC	Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Expert
2.	Anna Kaplina	EMG Secretariat	Programme Management Officer
3.	Barbara Tavora Jainchill	DESA	Programme Management Officer
4.	Carla Kay Kraft	UN Women	Policy Specialist, Sustainable Development
5.	Carl Giardina	EMG Secretariat	Intern
6.	Emanuele Brancati	ILO	Climate Change Adaptation and Green Works Officer
7.	Eva Gurria	UNDP	Policy Specialist, NBS Coordinator
8.	Federica Pesce	UNEP-WCMC	Associate Expert
9.	Hélène Le Brun	UNESCO	Consultant
10.	Jamal Annagylyjova	CBD Secretariat	Forest Biodiversity Officer
11.	Julia Benda	UNCTAD	
12.	Laura Cerasi	UNEP	Programme Management Officer
13.	Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song	ILO	Senior Employment Intensive Specialist
14.	Marie Clerc	EMG Secretariat	Intern
15.	Marieta Sakalian	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer, Coordinator Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
16.	Natalia Alekseeva	FAO	Workstream Leader, Senior Advisor
17.	Neil Pratt	CBD Secretariat	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
18.	Phemo Karen Kgomotso	UNDP	Senior Technical Advisor
19.	Sinead Brophy	UNODC	Programme Consultant
20.	Tamara Richards	UNCTAD	Communications Specialist
21.	Tahsin Islam	UNEP	Associate Expert
22.	Volha Kuzmianok	UNODC	Programme Officer Sustainable Livelihoods