

Concept Note

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Restoring Freshwater

World Water Day 2022 Webinar

Tuesday 22nd March 2022

09:00 New York / 15:00 Rome

Freshwater ecosystems, including rivers, lakes, wetlands and other inland waters, provide a range of ecosystem services and products that are essential for human livelihoods and sustainable development. Yet, human activities within watersheds frequently affect aquatic ecosystems and the delivery of these services. Water is already a scarce resource in most regions of the world, and with a world population estimated to increase to nine billion in 2050, water resources and thus freshwater ecosystems will come under further pressure from changes in land use, damming, water abstraction, pollution, eutrophication, and climate change. To maintain the delivery of services, ecosystem processes and functions must be preserved or restored if lost; key habitats must be protected; and habitat fragmentation avoided. Decision-making processes should involve all stakeholders; therefore, management of freshwater ecosystems is fundamentally multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary. To catalyze action and assess progress throughout the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, we need people to come together across sectors to consolidate existing knowledge on freshwater ecosystem restoration and monitoring.

As part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this webinar will bring together existing work on freshwater ecosystem restoration and monitoring. Presentations and discussions will catalyze support for freshwater systems as an essential focus of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Outcomes of the webinar will include example indicators of freshwater ecosystem function and opportunities for upscaling effective and sustainable restoration. These outcomes will feed into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Task Force on Monitoring and its sub-Task Force on Aquatic and Transitional Ecosystems. To place a focus on freshwater ecosystems, the event will be held on World Water Day 2022.

The event will enhance participants' knowledge and capacity to understand the importance of freshwater ecosystems and how restoration can bring about multiple benefits for people and nature; enable successful integration of freshwater ecosystem restoration within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; and identify and evaluate monitoring indicators for freshwater restoration.

Invited speakers and panel discussion will focus on the following questions:

- How can ecosystem restoration best incorporate freshwater ecosystems and bring about multiple benefits for people and nature?
- Considering progress on monitoring freshwater ecosystems under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) frameworks, what are the opportunities for accelerating action in freshwater ecosystem restoration?
- What are the next steps for enhancing freshwater ecosystem restoration within the UN Decade?

Agenda

- Event Coordination: Laura Mack and Mel Wheeler (UNEP-WCMC)
- Support/Coordination: Ashley Steel (Forestry, FAO), John Jorgensen (Fisheries, FAO), Sara Casallas Ramirez (Forestry, FAO), Hazel Thornton (UNEP-WCMC)
- Moderator: Elisabeth Bernhardt (UNEP)

Rome Time	Title	Speaker
15:00 – 15:05	<p>Welcome <i>Introduction to Mentimeter</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Lifeng Li, FAO Land and Water</p>
15:05 – 15:15	<p>Restoring freshwater systems is essential to achieving the SDGs</p>	<p>David Coates, Consultant</p>
15:15 – 15:25	<p>Monitoring Freshwater with the SDGs</p>	<p>Stuart Crane, Programme Coordinator SDG6, UNEP</p>
15:25 – 15:30	<p>Audience Survey and Participation Mentimeter <i>Q1: Which services that freshwater ecosystems provide are best to monitor?</i> <i>Q2: What is needed to better scale up freshwater ecosystem restoration within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration?</i></p>	<p>Moderator</p>
15:30 – 15:40	<p>Freshwater ecosystem restoration in action: From forests to rivers and from fish to people</p>	<p>Leonard Akwany, Conservation International</p>
15:40 – 15:50	<p>Using global data to monitor freshwater ecosystems</p>	<p>Gretchen Stokes,</p>
15:50 – 16:00	<p>Videos Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilient Rivers: Counting Fish from Forests for Food Security (emphasis on multi-disciplinary management) - SEPAL watershed app (emphasis on monitoring) - FLAWS tool (emphasis on socio-economic indicators) 	<p>Ashley Steel, FAO Forestry</p>
16:00 – 16:25	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Focus questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can we scale up freshwater ecosystem restoration within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration?</i> - <i>Which are the most effective indicators for monitoring restoration of freshwater ecosystems within the UN Decade?</i> - <i>How can we better monitor our freshwater ecosystem restoration efforts?</i> 	<p>Moderator</p>
16:25 – 16:30	<p>Summary and Closing remarks</p>	