

Insights on UNEP's approach to Ecosystems Restoration

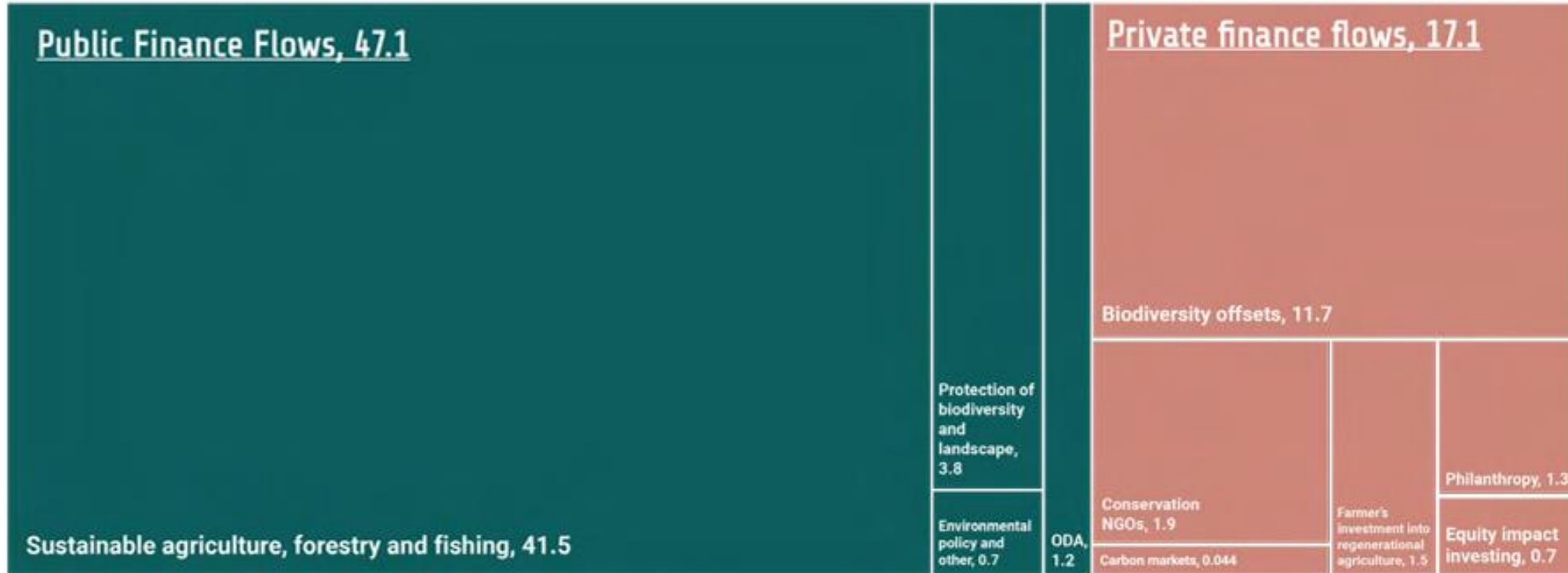
*Nicolas Galudec, Senior Policy Adviser
UNEP Brussels Office*

Prevention comes before Restoration

- **Natural ecosystems as the pillar of our socio-economic systems.**
- But also at the centre of the Triple Planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- **Priority focus on the need to limit ex-ante impacts** on ecosystems and worsening of the current situation:
 - For primary forests, wetlands, peatlands, rangelands, coral reefs, etc.
- **Promotion of Nature-based-Solutions (NbS) for long-term benefits.**
- Perspective that UNEP consistently follows across the Rio Conventions.

Closing the Restoration Finance Gap

Public and private finance flows to restoration in 2022, \$ billion (2023 US\$)



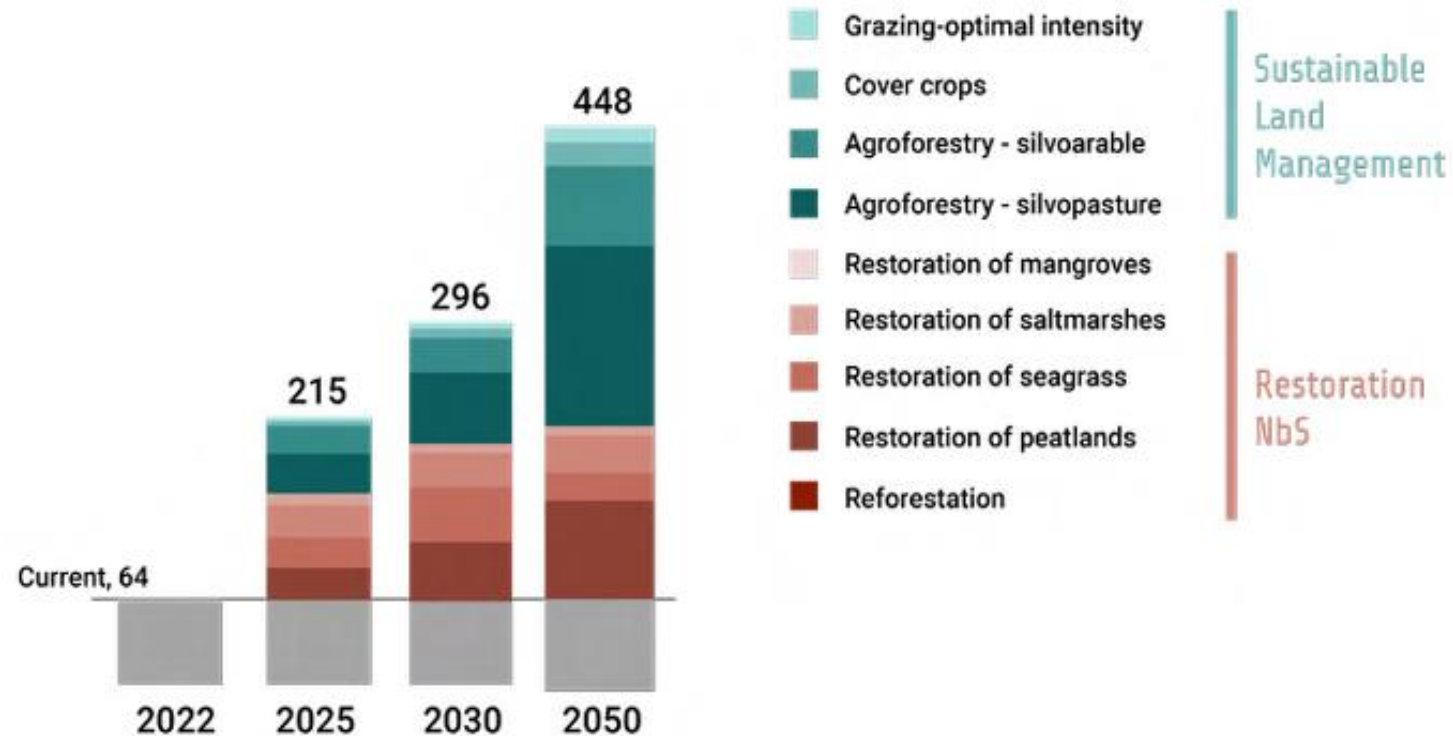
The problem: Public finance is carrying almost the entire burden. Private finance remains marginal and fragmented.

Source: [UNEP State of Finance for Nature 2024](#)

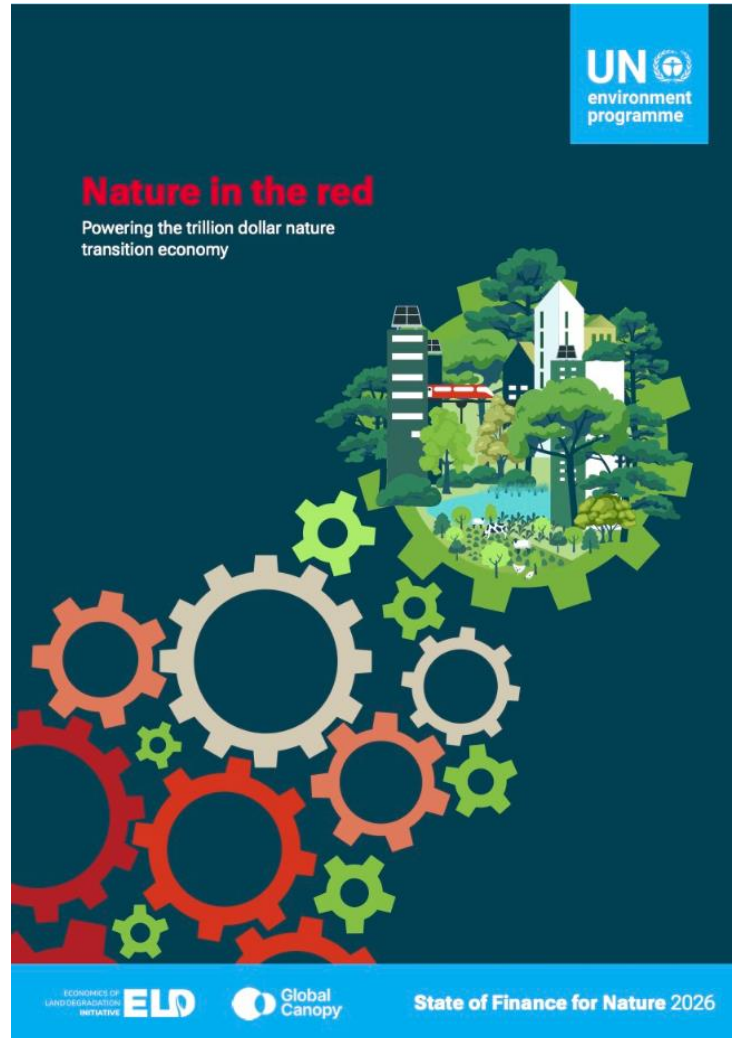
Closing the Restoration Finance Gap

[UNEP State of Finance for Nature 2024](#) - Restoration finance needs to **quadruple by 2030** to meet global targets

Figure 3.1. Annual restoration investment needs to reach LDN targets, \$ billion (2023 US\$)



State of Finance for Nature 2026



- **Drawing attention to the wider 'nature' investment gap.**
- The world spends US\$ 220 billions to protect nature while US\$ 7.3 trillions are actually destroying it.
- Most of the US\$ 7.3 trillion spent per year in nature-negative money is coming from private sectors, yet 90% of investment to protect and restore nature is coming from public funds - with just 10% coming from private sources.

Where Opportunity lies



Regenerative agriculture & agroforestry

Silvopasture and silvoarable systems offer revenue-generating restoration at landscape scale
Directly relevant to the Brazil-Europe dialogue



Biodiversity and carbon credits

Currently the dominant private channel
Integrity and governance are the critical challenge



Impact investing

Growing, but still a small share of flows
Needs blended finance mechanisms to de-risk



ODA and development finance

Significant room to scale

Reaching USD 296 billion by 2030 requires not just more money, it requires **better-designed markets, stronger governance, and aligning agricultural systems with restoration goals.**

UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Ecosystem restoration is based on *“the process of halting and reversing degradation, resulting in improved ecosystem services and recovered biodiversity”* (FAO 2021).

Active restoration includes **different restoration approaches** (World Bank 2022):

- **Regenerative agriculture:** cover cropping, agroforestry, no-till farming
- **Forest and landscape restoration:** agroforestry, planting of native species
- **Restoration of aquatic production systems:** stream restoration, reintroduction of native species, coral rehabilitation
- **Ecological restoration:** reintroduction of key native animal and plant species, invasive species eradication
 - **Rewilding:** reintroduction of key native animal and plant species



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Background & Principles

Science Basis:

10 years to avoid catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss (IPCC, IPBES)

75% of Earth's lands, 66% of oceans impacted by human activity (IPBES)

40% of world population suffering effects of soil degradation (IPBES)

1.5°C goal no longer attainable without boosting carbon sinks (IPCC)

Policy Background:

UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/284 (1 March 2019): *to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide*

UNEP and FAO invited to:

Lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with secretariats of the Rio conventions, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and entities of the United Nations system [...]



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

UN Decade: how does it work?

Prevent – Halt - Reverse

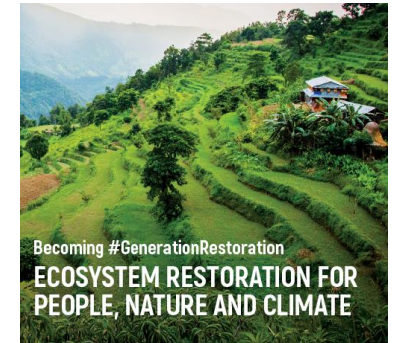
- Mandate: prevent, halt and reverse degradation of ecosystems across every continent and ocean
- Coordination and mobilization platform
- Linked to KMGBF Target 2 reporting via FERM monitoring platform
- Countries have committed to restoring 1.2 billion hectares by 2030 as part of their commitments to the Paris climate agreement, the Aichi targets for biodiversity, the Land Degradation Neutrality targets and the Bonn Challenge.

3 Pathways Action

- Build a Global Movement: awareness, behaviour change, #GenerationRestoration
- Generate political will: engage ministers, reform policy, unlock finance
- Build technical capacity: science, indigenous knowledge, standards, monitoring

The Delivery Tools

- 12 Restoration Challenges: thematic priority areas led by partner organizations
- World Restoration Flagships: highest recognition for proven large-scale restoration
- FERM: official monitoring platform for KMGBF Target 2
- Multi-Partner Trust Fund: catalytic finance mechanism
- Advisory Board, 5 Task Forces, 350+ partner network



Brazil & UN Decade: A Flagship Story

Trinational Atlantic Forest Pact

Brazil · Argentina · Paraguay | Announced CBD COP15, 2022

- **140,000+ hectares** under restoration
- **24 regional restoration hubs** | 250+ native species
- **60+ wildlife species** recorded in restored areas

2025 milestone: first jaguar crossing a restored corridor in the Atlantic Forest — a biome that has lost over 85% of its original cover

Why it matters : Transboundary science-based restoration at scale, combining conservation with sustainable land use across three nations.



Opportunities to make connections

- Join the [partner network](#) 350+ organizations already working under the Decade
- Nominate a [UN World Restoration Flagships](#)
- Visit the [Digital Hub](#), connecting restoration initiatives worldwide or register your own restoration project <https://hub.decadeonrestoration.org/>
- Navigate www.decadeonrestoration.org: events, stories, publications and much more.
- Monthly [newsletters](#)
- [Learning Sessions](#)
- [Ad-hoc mini-campaigns](#), for example on EU Restoration Law, mangrove day, restoration + SDGs.

Join & Tag: #GenerationRestoration

Explore FERM:
ferm.fao.org





THANK YOU

Contacts: Nicolas Galudec, nicolas.galudec@un.org