



Kunming-Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

TARGET 2 IN FOCUS

Global Progress, Regional Trends
and National Experiences



TARGET 2 IN FOCUS

Global Progress, Regional Trends
and National Experiences



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Executive summary

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, together with various stakeholders around the world, are embarking on the challenge of restoring ecosystems with the aim of achieving Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: *Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.*

The aim of the present joint publication is to coalesce multiple scales of data in order to deepen understanding of how restoration commitments and implementation are progressing across regions, with a view to strengthening implementation and supporting knowledge exchange. This publication, which aligns with and builds on the findings of the draft global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2026b), is written for a variety of audiences, ranging from practitioners to policymakers.

A brief introduction centred on how Target 2 was designed so as to address some of the restoration-related lessons learned from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is followed by an explanation of the key elements of Target 2, including defining the baseline, determining national targets, setting key outcomes from restoration and implementing the work. The report is structured around these categories to articulate progress on Target 2 using data from the seventh national reports, as well as a variety of other global restoration data sources, including a report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (forthcoming) regarding progress towards global restoration goals in the context of the midway point of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

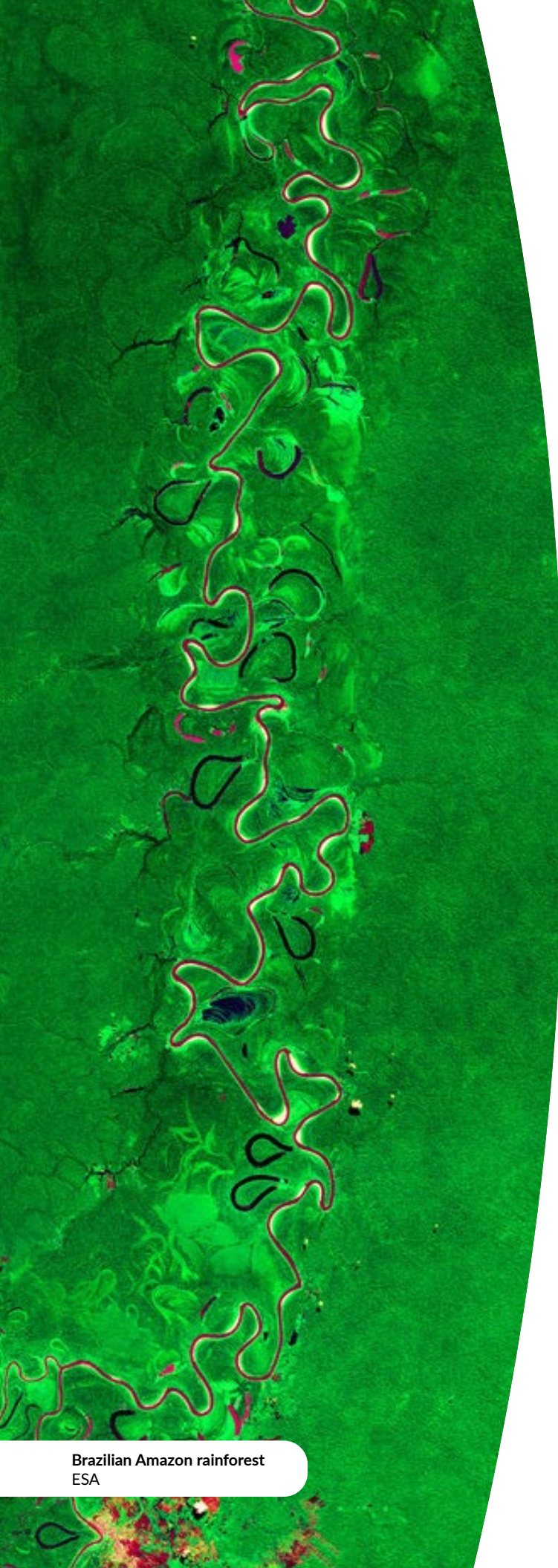
The present report includes the following key conclusions:

- It continues to be a challenge for Parties to determine baseline conditions, with challenges varying across the three major ecosystem types (terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine), as detailed directly below:
 - Terrestrial: Parties tend to rely on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 for terrestrial baseline and degradation data, which provides efficiencies given its use for reporting on land degradation neutrality under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. However, as this indicator is not specifically designed as a baseline



New Delhi reserved forest

A reserved forest on New Delhi's south-central ridge, India, restored through tree planting and community participation, with artificial lakes that treat sewage water via phytoremediation. Photo credit: Shreya Tripathi



for restoration, it may fill some, but not all, baseline degradation assessment needs in relation to Target 2. Data from indicator 15.3.1 show that degradation continues to grow in most regions of the world.

- Inland water and coastal and marine: data from the Global Wetland Outlook 2025 (Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 2025b), disaggregated into the different types of wetlands, are used in the present report. According to the data, approximately 63 per cent of wetlands are degraded. This estimation is used to extrapolate the baseline and prospective restoration needs across those ecosystems.
- Some progress has been made in setting national targets to bring 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas under effective restoration by 2030. In particular:
 - Nearly 50 per cent of Parties have set national targets for coastal and marine areas that partially or fully align with the 30 per cent target set out in Target 2.
 - Nearly 60 per cent of Parties have set national targets for inland waters aligned with the 30 per cent target set out in Target 2.
 - Slightly more than 60 per cent of Parties have set national targets for terrestrial lands aligned with the 30 per cent target set out in Target 2.
 - In addition, a variety of societal restoration commitments have been made to further support restoration across the three major ecosystem types.
- Challenges remain in tracking implementation. Specifically:
 - While numerous databases are being used to track restoration commitments, tracking actual implementation progress remains challenging. In the forthcoming report of FAO, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity cited above, it is indicated that approximately 252 million hectares (ha) are currently under restoration globally.
 - Tracking progress towards the four key outcomes of Target 2 (enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity) is extremely limited, and the present report does not provide any formal updates on those outcomes. Tracking the effectiveness of restoration is similarly limited.

This report includes 13 examples of progress in achieving Target 2, as reported by Parties in their seventh national reports. Moreover, the examples reflect the strong linkages between Target 2 and numerous other targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The report closes with reflections on progress towards achieving Target 2, along with key opportunities under the remainder of the timeline for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including:

- Using the Convention to Combat Desertification process for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 as the most effective terrestrial evidence stream, while explicitly identifying other data sources to capture additional forms of terrestrial ecosystem degradation relevant to Target 2.
- Formally assessing the link between commitments and action to ensure that commitments are being operationalized.
- Assessing the degree to which effective restoration (that is to say, standards-based restoration underpinned by agreed principles which results in appropriately balanced sustainable net gain, benefiting and enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and human well-being) is being implemented.
- Tracking restoration quality, not only area restored, using indicators that assess the delivery of net gain, including across the four key outcomes: biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.
- Using reporting and monitoring results and applying adaptive management to improve restoration work and accelerate progress towards the four key outcomes.
- Avoiding double counting across national reports and other global commitments (such as the Bonn Challenge, regional initiatives and breakthrough platforms) by, for example, uploading reporting data to the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring, which is intended to help address potential double counting.
- Prioritizing underreported ecosystems in all major ecosystem areas (for example, non-forest and non-production terrestrial lands, inland waters, seagrasses, salt marshes, kelp forests and offshore marine habitats).
- Strengthening national capacities for baseline determination, planning, implementation, monitoring, data collection and reporting.
- Leveraging the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to support the fulfilment of restoration commitments, focusing on baselines, finance, governance, safeguards, monitoring and social and ecological net gain.



Tidmarsh Farms (After)

After: Tidmarsh Farms, a 225-acre wetland restoration in southeastern Massachusetts, USA, one year after earthwork. This former cranberry bog was restored by removing 8 dams, reconstructing 3.5 miles of channels, adding 3,000 pieces of large wood, and reactivating the native seed bank.

Learn more at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/tidmarsh-farms-wetland-restoration>.

Photo credit: Alex Hackman, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration



Upper Mimico Creek (Before)

Before: Upper Mimico Creek, channelized with fish barriers in an urbanized area of Brampton, Canada. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority restored the 1.7 km reach with a meandering stream, natural in-stream treatments, new wetlands, and native planting, improving flood protection and fish and wildlife habitat.

Photo credit: @TRCA_Restore

Introduction to Target 2

Before the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022 (decision 15/4),¹ global progress on biodiversity under the Convention was guided by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2010 (decision X/2).² The Strategic Plan was operationalized through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a set of 20 time-bound global targets organized under five strategic goals addressing the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss, pressures on ecosystems, the status of biodiversity, safeguards for ecosystems and species, and enabling conditions. Restoration was specifically addressed in Aichi Biodiversity Target 15: *By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.*

In the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,³ published by the Secretariat of the Convention in 2020, it was concluded that Aichi Target 15 had not been achieved at the global level (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020). Under Target 15, Parties were called upon to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems and enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks by 2020. According to *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*, while ecosystem restoration efforts had expanded in many countries and large-scale pledges had been made, restoration had been insufficient in scale and had often been offset by continuing ecosystem loss and degradation. Degradation pressures, including land-use change, pollution, overexploitation and climate change, had continued to outpace restoration gains and the condition of many ecosystems had remained compromised. Those pressures create negative feedback loops which can diminish the positive benefits of restoration and further accelerate degradation, thus expanding the overall area of degraded land and associated negative impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and human health and well-being.

Building on the progress made and lessons learned through Aichi Target 15, the Conference of the Parties agreed to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: *Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas*

of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

Target 2 expands the restoration ambition but also significantly strengthens and clarifies the benefits to be derived from restoration. Under Target 2, Parties are called upon to bring at least 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030, with a specific emphasis on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity as intended outcomes. Target 2 is focused not simply on the ha restored but also on the goal of having restoration result in real improvement across the four key outcomes. Importantly, according to the language of Target 2, the goal is to ensure that areas are “under effective restoration”, whereas under Aichi Target 15, the aim was for areas to be restored.

The phrasing of Target 2 has two important implications: the recognition that restoration requires long time frames and the recognition that restoration needs to be designed and implemented in an effective manner. In a resource guide for Target 2, effective restoration is defined as “standards-based restoration underpinned by agreed principles that results in appropriately balanced sustainable net gain that benefits and enhances biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and human well-being” (FAO, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Society for Ecological Restoration, 2024). In contrast, Aichi Target 15 linked restoration explicitly to carbon stocks and referred generally to resilience.

Target 2 improves significantly on the approach set out in Aichi Target 15 by: (a) specifying that the target applies to all three major ecosystem types that exist across the world; (b) articulating four expected outcomes, including biodiversity; (c) recognizing that restoration takes time and that ecosystems cannot be quickly “restored”, thereby guiding Parties to focus on starting the process of effective restoration; and (d) emphasizing that effectiveness is important across all phases of restoration in order to achieve intended outcomes.

1 See www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-15.

2 See www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-10.

3 See www.cbd.int/gbo5.

In 2022, the Conference of the Parties adopted the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including headline, binary, component and complementary indicators (decision 15/5)⁴ and, in 2025, endorsed technical updates to the headline and binary indicators in the monitoring framework (decision 16/31)⁵. The headline indicator for Target 2 is “area under restoration”, which enables Parties to report on all restoration projects that have reached the implementation phase and on restoration work that has begun.

Target 2 therefore places stronger emphasis on measurable ecological outcomes and long-term functionality, aligning restoration more directly with biodiversity recovery rather than focusing on primarily climate co-benefits, although climate is addressed in the key outcome of enhancing ecosystem functions and services. While Parties are explicitly called upon to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity, those four outcomes are measured as additional indicators and can be challenging to assess globally in a consistent manner.

Target 2 in practice

Target 2 has several distinct elements that Parties are expected to address in their national targets. Parties are called upon to ensure that at least 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration by 2030, with restoration contributing to biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

The regional figures provided below therefore do not provide an assessment of restoration as a single general commitment. They show the extent to which the national targets of Parties are projected to address the main components of Target 2, including ecosystem coverage, the 30 per cent ambition and the intended outcomes of restoration.



Embayment D (After)

After: Embayment D at Tommy Thompson Park, an artificial rubble landform in Toronto, Canada, once lacking vegetation and fish habitat. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority restored it with a 350 m control berm, a 6 ha coastal marsh, habitat islands, and in-water fish habitat with 3 ha of native aquatic vegetation, now supporting diverse terrestrial and aquatic species.
Photo credit: @TRCA_Restore

⁴ See www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-15.

⁵ See www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-16.

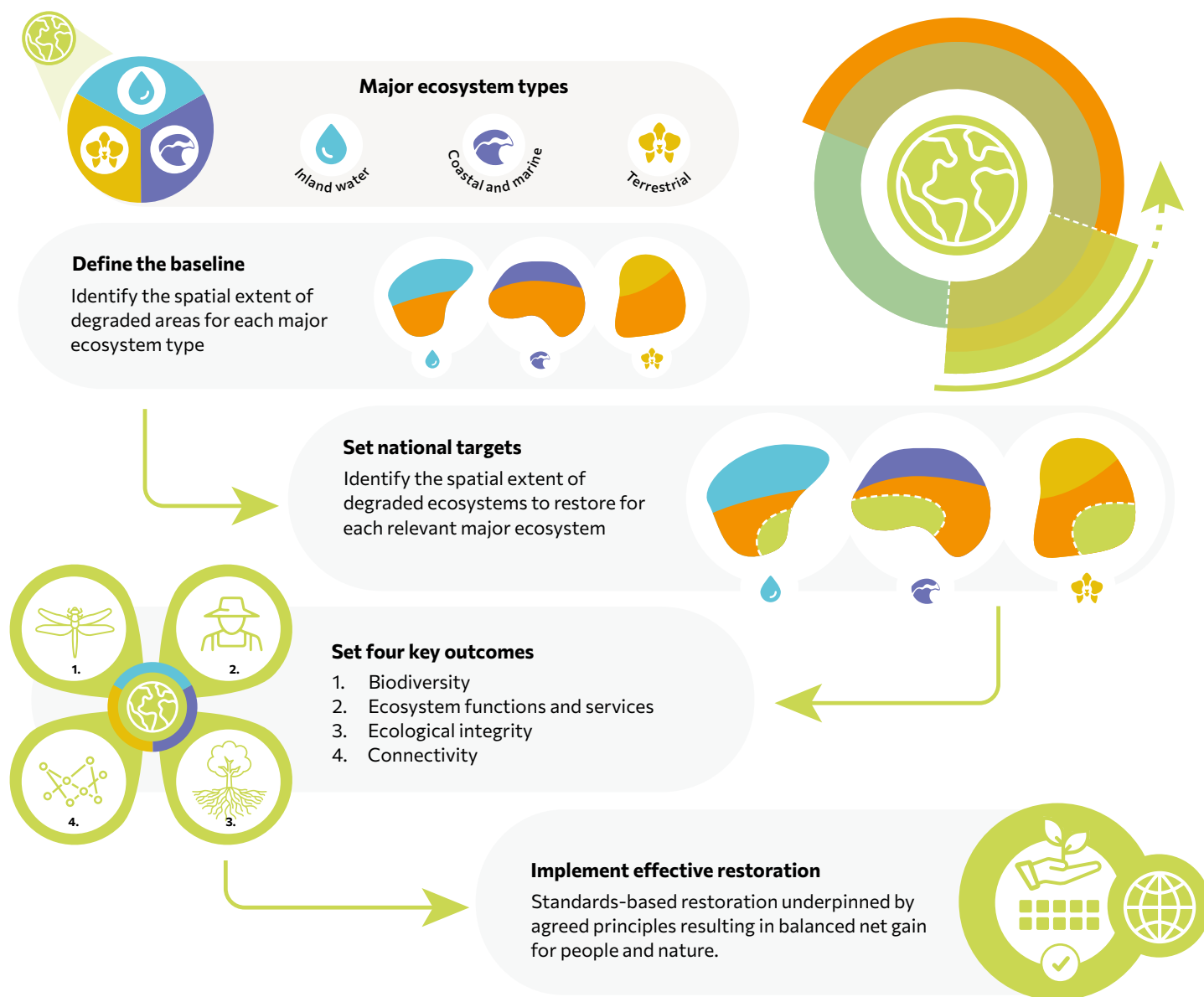


Figure I. Key elements of Target 2

Source: FAO, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Society for Ecological Restoration (2024).

Note: The key elements of Target 2 are interrelated and can largely be considered sequential. The first steps are to define the baseline and then set national targets. Once those targets are set, consider the four key outcomes and then design and implement plans for effective restoration to achieve a balanced net gain for people and nature. To ensure optimal outcomes, these steps should be separated by major ecosystem types.

The present report captures progress towards all aspects of Target 2, from establishing the baseline, to setting national targets and associated commitments, to taking account of the four key outcomes and, finally, to implementing effective restoration (see figure I).

Establishing the degradation baseline

Given the aim of Target 2 to ensure that 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are brought under effective restoration, it is imperative to determine the degradation baseline. To address some of the challenges regarding baseline determination that arose under the Aichi targets, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework specifically establishes 2011–2020 as the baseline period (where data are available). It is also clearly stated in the Framework that degradation is context specific. In other words, what may be considered degraded in one context may not be considered degraded in another context. This gives Parties some needed flexibility in determining the degradation baseline as a precursor to setting their national targets. That flexibility, however, can also create challenges for establishing the global degradation baseline as of 2020.

Establishing a baseline for ecosystem degradation is difficult for a variety of reasons, including: the limited availability of universally agreed reference conditions for the “undegraded” state of any given ecosystem, leaving baselines historically uncertain; multidimensional degradation resulting from declines in ecological function, composition or resilience without obvious loss of area, which many global data sets are not designed to detect; inconsistent availability of ecosystem condition and degradation data across regions and ecosystem types; inconsistent interpretation of available data; wide variation among the indicators and methodologies across different reporting frameworks; and delayed ecological responses to degradation drivers. Together, these factors may lead to shifting baselines whereby already degraded conditions are not recognized as degraded or the degree to which degradation is occurring is not recognized, resulting in a conservative estimation (underestimate) of degraded versus undegraded lands. This may also result in inaccurate ecological considerations when restoration is being planned and if the full extent of ecosystem degradation is underestimated, this could result in the setting of a national target that would not be well aligned with the intent of Target 2.

The aforementioned concerns regarding the degradation baseline are reflected in the seventh national reports submitted by Parties under the Convention.

For example, many Parties report restoration targets or activities using the language for restoring a percentage of degraded ecosystems, but far fewer explain how the degraded area was identified, mapped or measured. In the national reports, 22 of the 106 Parties that provided information with respect to Target 2 (with 129 national reports submitted in total) offer some explanation of the analytical basis used to identify degraded areas or restoration priorities, including satellite imagery, mapping using geographic information systems, field surveys, national ecosystem assessments, land degradation neutrality indicators, condition indices, inventories and spatial prioritization tools. A further 20 Parties list a quantified area or restoration percentage but provide little or no explanation of how the baseline was calculated, while at least 12 Parties explicitly state that baselines are incomplete, under development or not yet operational at the national level.⁶

The reported approaches to assessing the degradation baseline vary widely. India provides one of the most detailed examples, using its *Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas*, based on multispectral satellite imagery, land use, degradation processes and severity, while also reporting separately under the Convention to Combat Desertification using a different methodology. Bhutan reports a mapped baseline of degraded and barren forest area from a 2021 national survey, which is then used to track plantation and restoration progress. South Africa reports national land degradation estimates as part of its reporting under the Convention to Combat Desertification but cautions that remote sensing-based degradation measurement needs refinement and indicates that it is therefore developing a more ecosystem-specific baseline through national land cover and biodiversity assessments. Eswatini uses its land degradation neutrality target setting process to identify a national degraded area baseline and then refines priority restoration zones spatially using conservation value and threat criteria. These examples show that degradation baselines are emerging but are not yet consistently defined, comparable or complete across Parties and ecosystem types.

The fact that countries face challenges with respect to establishing a baseline is replicated at the global level, with limited national data that can be aggregated up, although some information on the global baseline for land degradation can be gleaned through an analysis of globally available data.

⁶ Counts are based on a Party-level review of the Target 2 information from seventh national reports. Parties were classified according to whether they: (a) explained an analytical basis for identifying degraded ecosystems or restoration priorities; (b) listed a quantified degraded area or restoration percentage without explaining the baseline method; or (c) stated that baseline data, mapping, indicators or national tracking systems were incomplete or still under development. The counts are therefore indicative and based only on information provided in the national reports.

Global degradation baseline for major ecosystem types

Terrestrial

To align with their work on land degradation neutrality under the Convention to Combat Desertification and with the Sustainable Development Goals, many Parties are using Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 to support baseline terrestrial degradation determinations for Target 2, as it creates efficiencies in measuring progress towards Target 2.

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1, which is also a component indicator for Target 2, is the most effective globally available, nationally reported terrestrial degradation⁷ indicator. It is best understood as a productivity-based land degradation indicator rather than as a complete measure of terrestrial ecosystem condition. It combines trends in land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon and is therefore highly relevant to the degradation of croplands, rangelands, pastures, forests and woodlands. However, it does not fully capture all dimensions of ecosystem degradation relevant to Target 2, including species composition, ecological integrity, ecosystem connectivity or declines in biodiversity that do not measurably influence productivity. Data from the Convention to Combat Desertification data dashboard allow for a comparison over time of degraded production

land (see figures II to V⁸ below). The figures show that between 2015 and 2019, at least 100 million ha of healthy and productive land were degraded every year, affecting food and water security globally. The loss is equivalent in size to twice the area of Greenland, having an impact on the lives of 1.3 billion people, who are estimated to be directly exposed to land degradation (Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.). While reporting under indicator 15.3.1 is likely the most globally available data set on land degradation, the specific indicators used in this reporting tend to focus on degradation of production lands, thus the assessment may not capture degradation in protected areas or other lands not designated for production. An evaluation of indicator 15.3.1 found that the methodology used in the Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process may underestimate degradation, where results are strongly driven by land productivity and where higher-resolution land cover and soil carbon data reveal additional degraded areas (Schillaci and others, 2023). This reinforces the need to interpret indicator 15.3.1 as an important but incomplete terrestrial degradation indicator.

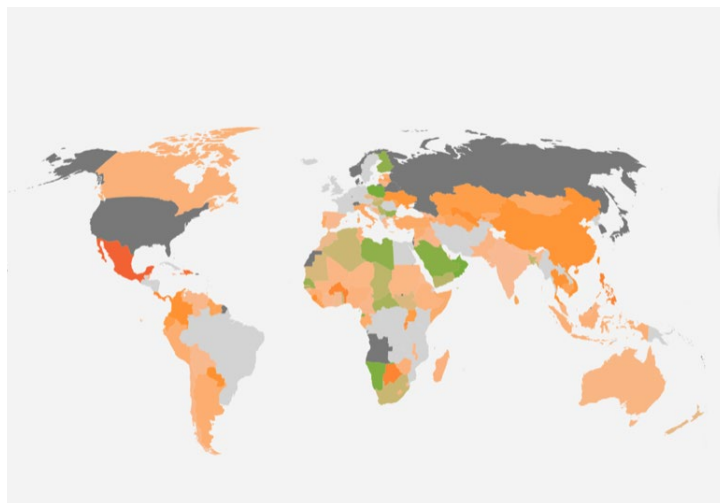


Figure II. Proportion of degraded land over total land area in 2015.
Source: Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.

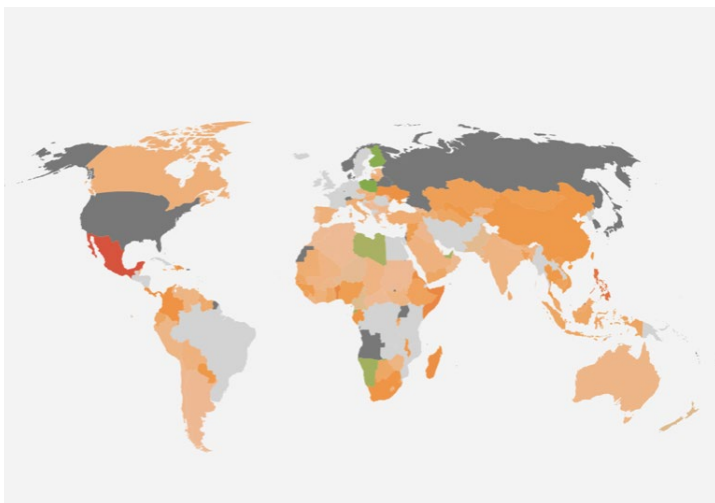


Figure III. Proportion of degraded land over total land area in 2019.
Source: Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.

⁷ The data on land degradation are drawn from national reporting under indicator 15.3.1 (Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.) aimed at measuring a subset of the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. The indicator is a composite metric, combining three subindicators: trends in land cover change, trends in land productivity (as a proxy for ecosystem functioning) and changes in soil organic carbon stocks. Because the focus is on land productivity, it does not assess lands that are not used for production but that are nonetheless degraded, thus the data are also likely undercounted. Countries generate those data using a standardized methodology agreed under the Convention to Combat Desertification, typically relying on globally consistent Earth observation data sets supplemented, where available, by national data (Convention to Combat Desertification, 2021). Results are reported as net changes in land condition over the official Sustainable Development Goal reporting period, classifying areas as degraded, stable or improved, rather than as cumulative historical loss.

⁸ The maps are provided for contextual purposes only. The Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification is not liable and cannot be held liable for any material or information contained within the maps and is exempt from any disputes arising therefrom. The designations employed and the presentation of material on these maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

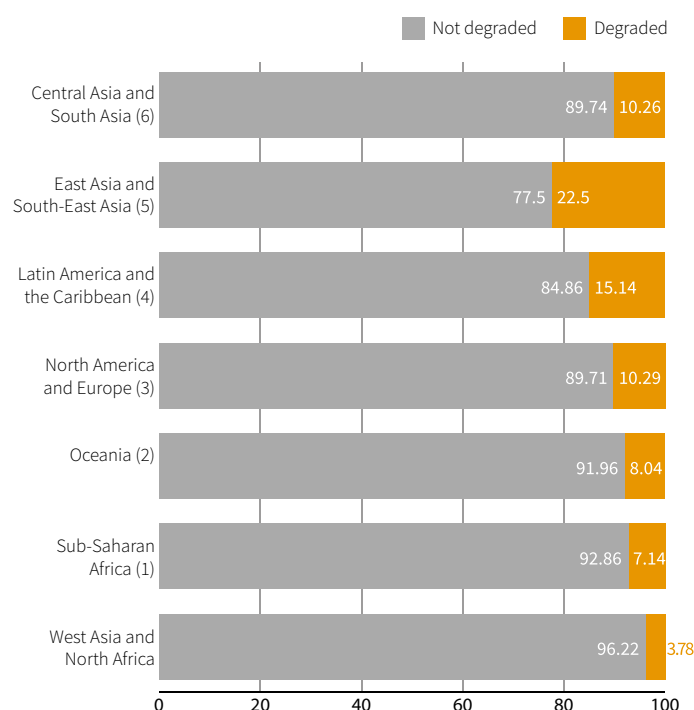


Figure IV. Regional baseline extent of the proportion of degraded land over total land area in 2015.

Source: Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.

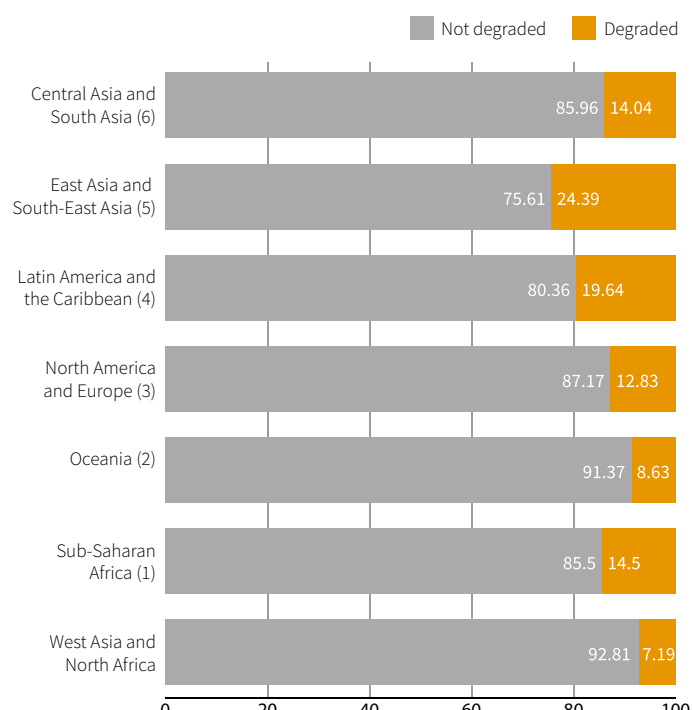


Figure V. Regional baseline extent of the proportion of degraded land over total land area in 2019.

Source: Convention to Combat Desertification, n.d.

The data grouped by region (figures IV and V) from 2015 to 2019 show an increase in degraded production lands in all regions. Sub-Saharan Africa experienced the fastest rates, with an increase from 7.14 to 14.5 per cent in the proportion of degraded production land during this period.

Inland waters

The seventh national reports submitted under the Convention on Biological Diversity provide nationally reported Target 2 information, including inland-water restoration actions, but they do not yet provide a single comparable baseline for inland-water degradation across Parties. The *Global Wetland Outlook 2025* (Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 2025a) is used here as an additional synthesis source to help to illustrate the scale of inland-water degradation and restoration need. According to that report, approximately 411 million ha of wetlands have been lost since 1970, equivalent to about 22 per cent of the global total, and about 25 per cent of remaining wetlands are in poor ecological condition (ibid.). Moreover, it found that about 38 per cent of wetlands are in fair condition and the remaining approximately 37 per cent are in good condition, based on information collected through the 2025 World Wetlands Survey. Combining the estimates for wetlands in both poor and fair condition results in a

global estimate that 63 per cent of remaining wetlands can be considered degraded. Table 1⁹ uses data compiled under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat to illustrate area lost since approximately 1970 and provide a global estimate for the degradation baseline and therefore the 30 per cent global target across the different types of inland waters. These estimates cannot be used at the national level because conditions vary by region across the different categories. For example, Africa reports that more remaining wetlands are in poor condition than in good condition (Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 2025a). While the data in table 1 are central to understanding the scale of inland water restoration need, they should be viewed as an additional source rather than as nationally validated Target 2 reporting of the degradation baseline.

⁹ The *Global Wetland Outlook 2025* is treated here as a major additional source because it synthesizes information from multiple data sets, assessments and reporting channels. While the seventh national reports provide nationally reported Target 2 information, including implementation examples, they do not yet provide a single comparable degradation baseline for inland waters, coastal wetlands or marine ecosystems.

Table 1. Inland water wetland loss, current extent of inland waters, estimated degradation and illustrative 30 per cent restoration target from the *Global Wetland Outlook 2025*

(Millions of hectares).

Inland water category	Area lost since circa 1970	Current extent of inland waters globally	Estimated degraded area	30 per cent restoration target of estimated degraded (poor) inland waters
Lakes	122.85	271.53	171.06	51.32
Rivers and streams	3.73	58.93	37.13	11.14
Inland marshes and swamps	177.00	461.65	290.84	87.25
Peatlands	80.04	500.00	315.00	94.5
Total	383.62	1 292.11	814.03^a	244.21

Source: Convention on Wetlands, 2025b.

^aEquivalent to 63 per cent of inland waters globally.

Marine and coastal

Nationally reported data on marine ecosystem degradation and restoration remain limited. Beyond reporting on coastal wetlands and selected habitats, no globally complete and comparable national reporting system for degraded marine areas, or areas under restoration, currently exists. The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands has conducted assessments for coastal and marine areas that qualify as wetlands. Offshore marine areas, many benthic habitats and functional degradation are not fully captured in current assessment and reporting frameworks. In addition, the majority of marine areas are beyond national jurisdiction and currently not reflected in national reporting related to restoration.

Similar to table 1, table 2 illustrates the area of coastal and marine wetlands lost since circa 1970 and provides a global estimate for the degradation baseline and therefore the 30 per cent global target across the different types of coastal and marine wetlands.

While the *Global Wetland Outlook 2025* provides information on the percentage of inland waters in poor, fair or good condition, it does not do the same for coastal wetlands. However, in *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (2019), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services reports that 66 per cent of the ocean is experiencing cumulative impacts, and, in another report (Campagne and others, 2023), it is estimated that 60 per cent of global marine ecosystems are degraded or unsustainably used. This leaves 63 per cent as a reasonable rough estimate of degradation in coastal and marine areas as well. It should be noted that the *Global Wetland Outlook 2025* does not provide any estimates for other coastal and marine degradation or targets. As with the data for inland waters, the data in table 2 should be interpreted as additional evidence on habitat loss, not as a complete or nationally validated marine and coastal degradation baseline.¹⁰

¹⁰ The wetland loss estimates used in tables 1 and 2 reflect estimated area lost or converted since approximately 1970. They do not include all remaining wetlands that are in a degraded ecological condition and they do not cover all offshore marine ecosystem degradation.

Table 2. Coastal and marine wetland loss, current extent of marine and coastal wetlands, degraded area estimate and illustrative 30 per cent restoration target from the Global Wetland Outlook 2025

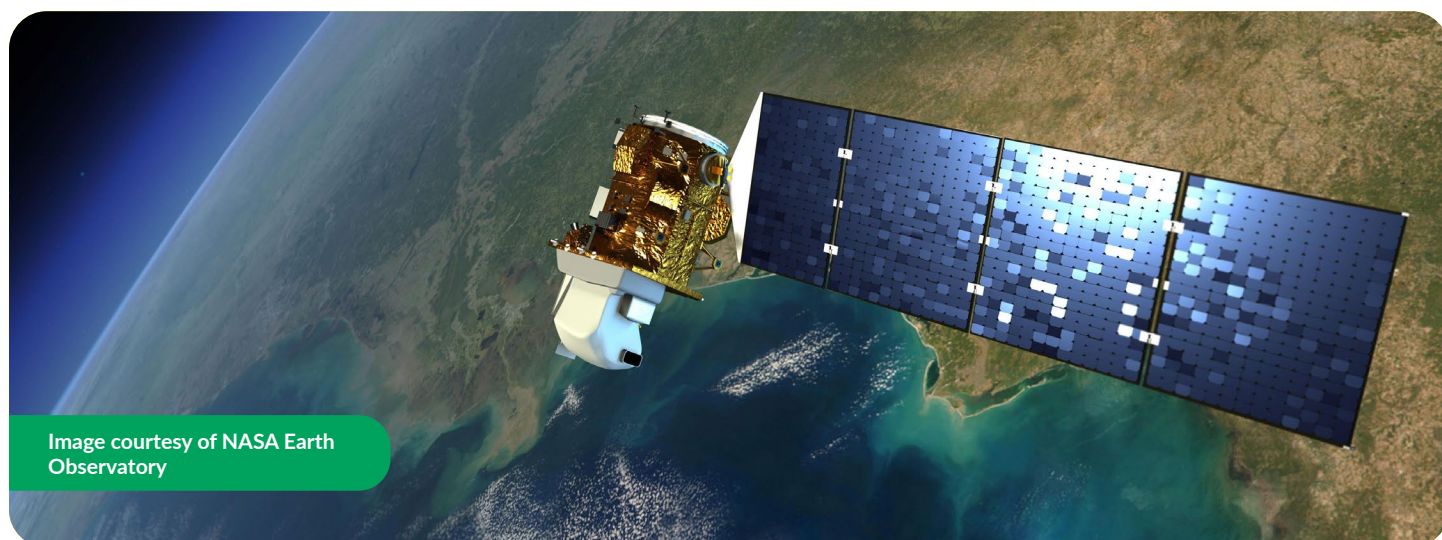
(Millions of hectares).

Marine and coastal category	Area lost since circa 1970	Current extent of marine and coastal wetlands globally	Estimated degraded area	30 per cent restoration target of estimated degraded area
Seagrasses	6.98	35.88	22.6	6.78
Kelp forests	1.58	1.71	1.08	0.32
Coral reefs	12.50	35.84	22.58	6.77
Estuaries	0.08	27.87	17.56	5.27
Salt marshes	0.86	5.29	3.33	0.99
Mangroves	2.02	15.11	9.52	2.86
Tidal flats	3.86	12.79	8.06	2.42
Total	27.88	134.46	84.73^a	25.41

Source: Convention on Wetlands, 2025b.

^aEquivalent to 63 per cent of marine and coastal wetlands globally.

Data gaps regarding marine restoration are significant, including for areas beyond national jurisdiction. The most reliable data regarding degradation comes from habitat-specific global assessments, monitoring networks, and restoration initiatives. A review of marine restoration projects and funding sources shows that marine restoration activity is growing, but remains unevenly documented across habitats and geographies (United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2023). These factors clearly illustrate why more robust national reporting and careful use of additional sources are required when assessing both degradation and restoration commitments and accomplishments under Target 2.



National targets and related commitments

Once the baseline is defined, the next step is to set national targets. The present section is split into two subsections: (a) using the data submitted in the national reports to provide a global review of overall target setting under Target 2, followed by a regional disaggregation of that data; and (b) using globally available databases and resources to provide a separate disaggregation of global restoration commitments based on the three main ecosystem types: terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine. The two types of disaggregation are based on different data and therefore provide different perspectives on restoration commitments.

National target setting and alignment with Target 2, disaggregated by United Nations regional group

The present subsection presents a regionally disaggregated assessment of the alignment of national targets with Target 2 based on the analysis presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its seventh meeting.¹¹ The analysis includes only Parties that submitted a national target or targets specifically related to Target 2. It is therefore a measure of how closely national targets align with the elements of Target 2 (enhanced biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity), not a measure of restoration implementation or ecological recovery. In figures VI to XI, the coloured bars show the proportion of Parties whose national targets exceed, fully address, partially address, address to a limited extent or do not address each assessed element of Target 2. The number of Parties represented in each bar varies depending on how many Parties submitted national targets relevant to that element. The bar on marine and coastal areas includes only non-landlocked Parties. Although Target 2 lists ecological integrity and connectivity as separate outcomes, information on these outcomes was combined in the underlying assessment of data to determine collective progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In future, disaggregation of the data on ecological integrity and connectivity could be valuable for understanding progress

on each of these outcomes individually. The figures also present the data in the same order as the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework. It should be noted that the charts include five colours, with purple reflecting Parties that have set a national target or targets that exceed the language of the element. This colour is reflected in one chart only, for one element only, reflecting one Party, in the Western Europe and other States group, that intends to bring more than 30 per cent of inland waters under restoration by 2030.

Collectively, when considering the three major ecosystem types, Parties that have submitted data have made the most progress on setting national targets for bringing 30 per cent of terrestrial areas under restoration (see figure VI). When considering the collective data submitted on the four key outcomes, just above or below 40 per cent of Parties that submitted data have national targets that address the respective outcome to some degree. The regional charts illustrate more distinction, especially across the reporting on projected key outcomes. Those charts can be used to help the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to identify additional capacity-building and to support priority actions for different components of Target 2.

¹¹ The analysis is contained in information document [CBD/SBI/7/INF/22](#), which also includes information on the methodologies used for the assessment of national target alignment (annex IV); the analysis was also used as a basis for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Globally consolidated data

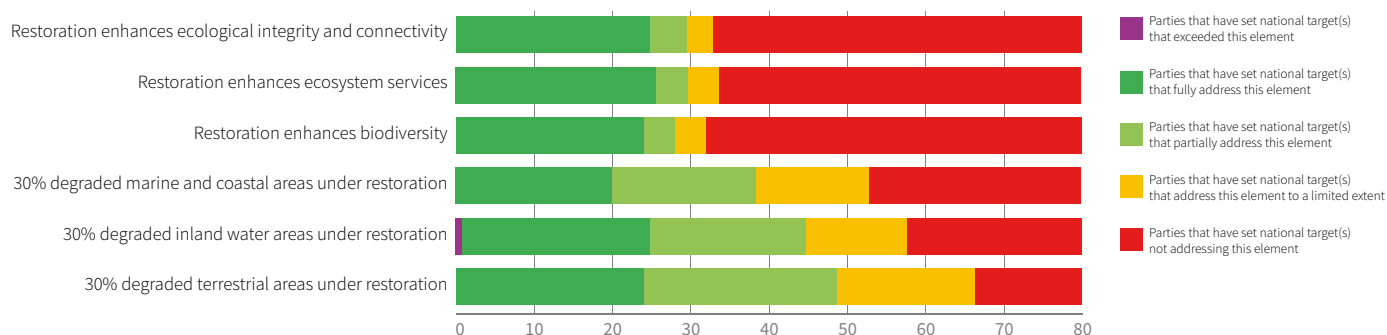


Figure VI. Assessment of the degree to which Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 158; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 109.

Africa

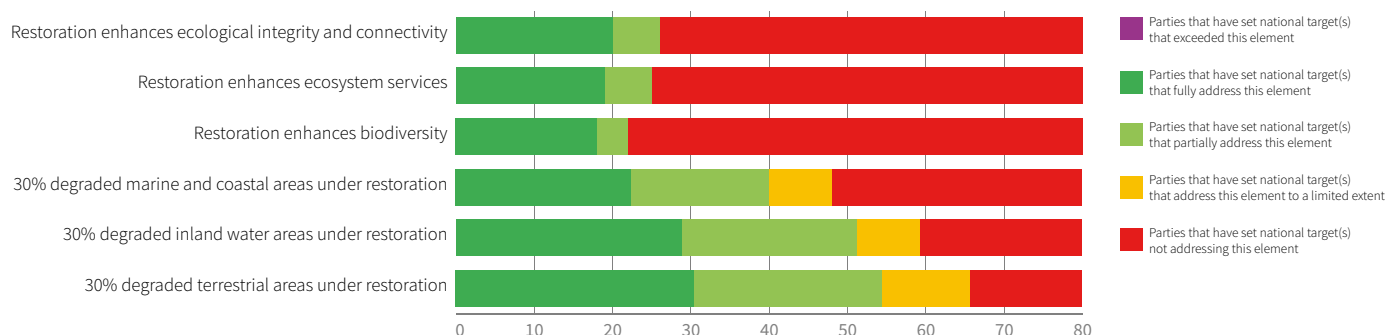


Figure VII. Assessment of the degree to which African Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 50; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 30.

Asia and the Pacific

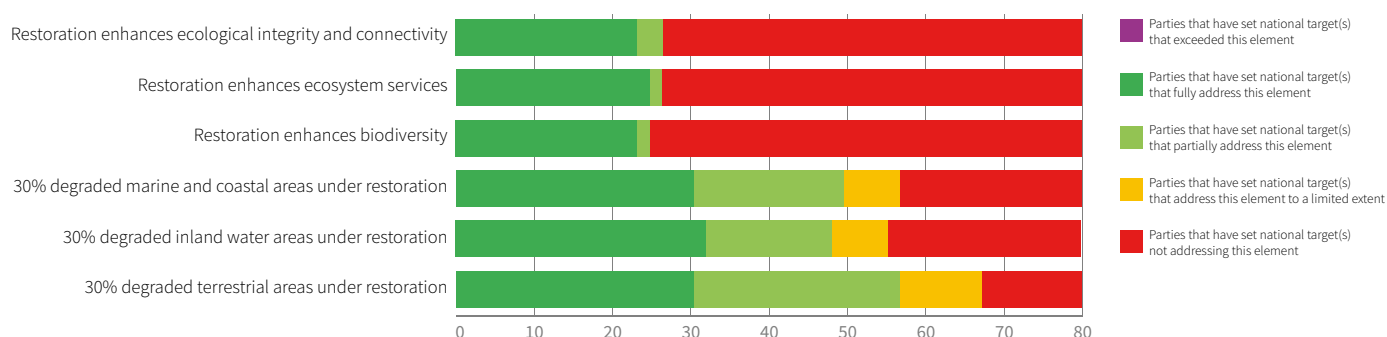


Figure VIII. Assessment of the degree to which Asia-Pacific Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 45; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 32.

Eastern Europe

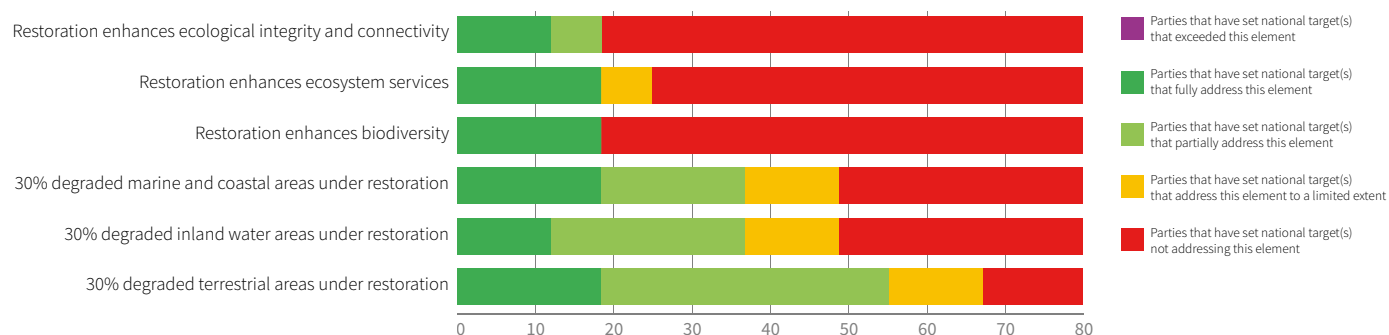


Figure IX. Assessment of the degree to which Eastern European Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 13; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 8.

Latin America and the Caribbean

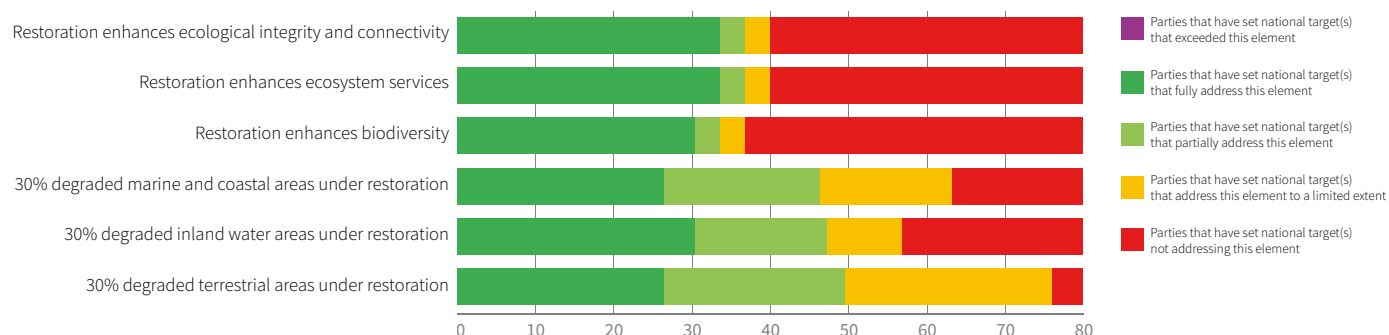


Figure X. Assessment of the degree to which Latin American and Caribbean Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 24; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 19.

Western European and other States

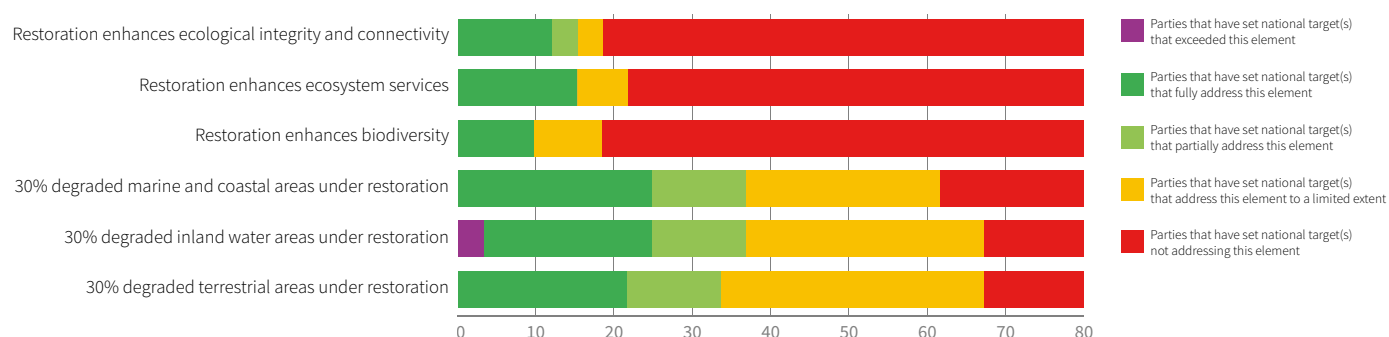


Figure XI. Assessment of the degree to which Western European and other Parties have addressed the elements of Target 2 in their national target or targets.

Note: Number of Parties with reported data on Target 2 in general = 26; number of Parties with reported data on coastal and marine areas = 20.



Tidmarsh Farms (Before)

Before: Tidmarsh Farms, a 225-acre wetland restoration in southeastern Massachusetts, USA. This former cranberry bog was restored by removing 8 dams, reconstructing 3.5 miles of channels, adding 3,000 pieces of large wood, and reactivating the native seed bank.

Learn more at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/tidmarsh-farms>.

Photo credit: Alex Hackman, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Target 2 commitments disaggregated by major ecosystem type

The present subsection provides an overview of progress made with regard to restoration commitments in each of the three major ecosystem areas. Because data availability and approaches in each major ecosystem area are different, the information provided is not necessarily comparable across the three areas. The aim is rather to coalesce some of the most readily available information, especially from reporting under the frameworks of the three United Nations Rio conventions and the Convention on Wetlands. In many instances, however, the databases, reports and resources referred to in this subsection do not include assessments of what the reported restoration activities are and whether they align or conflict with recognized restoration principles and best practices to ensure consistency with the definition of effective restoration.

Information sources currently available to measure restoration commitments include national biodiversity strategies and action plans, nationally determined contributions, land degradation neutrality commitments and the Global Restoration Commitments Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. New initiatives, such as the Freshwater Challenge,¹² and several marine “breakthroughs”¹³ are also starting to consolidate regional and global commitments. Importantly, only two widely used data sources currently include marine commitments: the nationally determined contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Other tools are used to track restoration, both locally and globally. The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring collects initiative- or project-level data and supports the tracking of restoration progress in the context of Target 2. It also registers best practices in restoration. In their seventh national reports, Parties also provide important country-level evidence of restoration work. However, the reported information is not structured around common metrics, time frames or status categories and many Parties do not disaggregate their information into terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems. The national reports are therefore useful for identifying implementation examples (see case studies below) and progress at the country level, but they cannot yet be aggregated into a comparable global estimate of degradation or area under effective restoration (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2026c).



12 Launched at the UN-Water conference in March 2023, the Freshwater Challenge is a voluntary, country-led partnership to restore 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million ha of degraded wetlands globally, including to support Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (see www.freshwaterchallenge.org/).

13 Developed in 2023 under the Pathway for Oceans and Coastal Zones of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and with the support of the United Nations climate high-level champions, the Marine Conservation Breakthrough within the Ocean Breakthroughs initiative aims to secure at least \$72 billion to conserve, restore and protect at least 30 per cent of oceans by 2030. This includes two specific components: the Coral Reef Breakthrough and the Mangrove Breakthrough (see <https://ocean-breakthroughs.org/sectors/marine-conservation/>). A separate effort, the Kelp Forest Challenge, also aims to protect and restore 4 million ha of kelp forest by 2040 (see <https://kelpforestalliance.com/kelp-forest-challenge/>).

Terrestrial

Commitments to restore terrestrial ecosystems are tracked through a variety of different mechanisms. *The Global Restoration Commitments and Pledges 2024 Report: An Overview of Global Restoration Commitments – Gaps, Opportunities, and Pathways Forward* of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (2024) provides a picture of land-based restoration ambition, including inland waters, from publicly available, quantifiable commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Bonn Challenge and related initiatives. The report synthesizes information from the Global Restoration Commitments Database. The report estimates total global restoration commitments at 20 September 2024 at 1.19 billion ha under a high estimate that assumes no overlap among commitments, 1.14 billion ha when the highest commitment per country is counted within each restoration subcategory (e.g. improving forest management), 1.10 billion ha when the highest commitment per country is counted within each main restoration category (e.g. restoring or improving forest land) and 937.4 million ha under the most conservative estimate, which counts only the single highest commitment per country (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2024). Those figures show that terrestrial and land-based restoration ambition is substantial. However, it is made clear in the report that the figures are based on commitments, not verified restoration actions or achievements.

Findings from the same report show that commitments have continued to grow across several reporting channels since 2020: commitments to land degradation neutrality increased by 32.02 per cent, nationally determined contributions rose by 28.42 per cent and commitments under national biodiversity strategies and action plans increased by 11.14 per cent, while commitments under the Bonn Challenge declined by 1.92 per cent. Regionally, the largest share of commitments is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, with a high estimate of 480.33 million ha, or about 39.6 per cent of the global high estimate, followed by Central and South America at 210.14 million ha, or about 17.4 per cent of the global high estimate. The self-reported data also show that forest land restoration remains the most prominent restoration category, while soil fertility and carbon stock improvement account for 18.1 per cent of global restoration commitments and cropland restoration accounts for 12.3 per cent of the total restoration commitments.

For Target 2, the key conclusion is therefore mixed: global restoration commitments are substantial and still expanding, especially through the Convention to Combat Desertification and climate-related reporting channels, but the formally reported data under the national reports are not provided in a manner that enables viable accounting of progress. Recent assessments have started to fill this data gap, finding that the total amount of land under restoration as of 2026 accounts for approximately 25 per cent of the terrestrial restoration commitments globally. Data on whether reported actions are helping to achieve the four key outcomes of Target 2 (enhanced biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity) remain extremely limited.



EPWP, South Africa

The Expanded Public Works Programme, a partnership between South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs and the non-profit Wildlands, creates green jobs while restoring degraded land and removing alien plants. Wildlands plants around one million indigenous trees each year. Photo credit: Kelvin Trautman

Inland waters

In 2025, the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands adopted resolution XV.15,¹⁴ calling for the restoration of degraded freshwater ecosystems to support ecological character, biodiversity and ecosystem services. In that resolution, the Conference of the Contracting Parties specifically refers to the importance of Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, encourages Parties to set targets and recognizes the value of the Freshwater Challenge as a tool for restoration in inland waters.

The report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands on the assessment of progress on wetland restoration (Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 2025b) provides additional evidence of inland-water restoration targets and commitments. The Secretariat reported that approximately 66 per cent of Contracting Parties to the Convention had established or partially established national wetland restoration targets and 74.2 per cent had identified or partially identified priority wetland restoration sites. However, the same assessment shows that implementation remains much harder to verify: of the 50.0 million ha pledged through the Restoration Barometer tracking tool across 18 countries, only 14.2 million ha, or 28 per cent, were reported as under restoration as of 2022, underscoring that restoration commitments should not be treated as evidence of effective restoration achieved (Convention on Wetlands, 2025b). In the Global Restoration Commitments Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, wetlands, peatlands and mangroves account for 10.4 per cent of reported commitments (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2024).

The Freshwater Challenge is the most significant voluntary global commitment platform for inland waters under Target 2. It aims to bring 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million ha of degraded wetlands under restoration by 2030, while securing the protection of freshwater ecosystems that are important for biodiversity and ecosystem services (Freshwater Challenge, n.d.). The scale of the Challenge shows that inland waters have grown from a neglected restoration category to a major global action agenda. The main weakness remains the same: national baselines and reporting systems still need to catch up with the commitment architecture.

14 See www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/XV.15_freshwater_ecosystem_restoration_e.pdf.

Tommy Thompson Park, Embayment D (Before)

Before: Embayment D at Tommy Thompson Park, an artificial rubble landform in Toronto, Canada, lacking vegetation and fish habitat before restoration by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority into a 6 ha coastal wetland. Photo credit: @TRCA_Restore

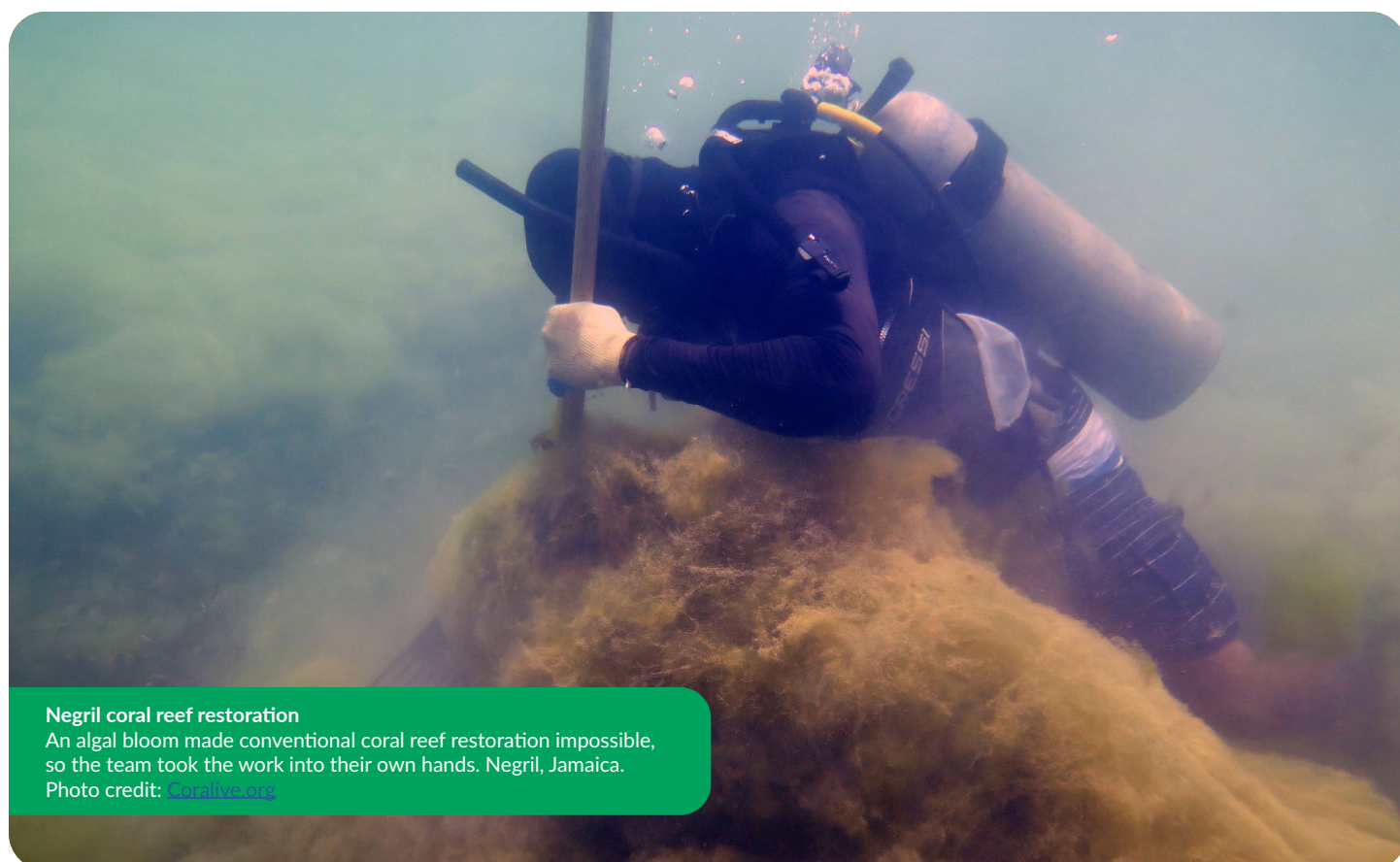
Coastal and marine

A variety of international non-governmental organizations and consortiums are both documenting degradation and promoting restoration. The United Nations climate high-level champions in particular support the development of a series of collaborative efforts to protect and restore a wide variety of coastal and marine habitats (Climate High-Level champions, n.d.). These efforts recognize, but are not limited to, the significant opportunities for marine-based carbon sequestration, or “blue carbon”, through the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitats. A 2024 global synthesis of 160 studies found that coastal restoration can improve animal abundance and diversity, but that outcomes vary substantially across projects, taxa and ecosystem types. This reinforces the argument that progress on achieving Target 2 should be assessed not only by area under restoration but also by biodiversity outcomes and restoration quality (Sievers and others, 2024).

The Ocean Breakthroughs initiative was developed in 2023 as part of the Pathway for Oceans and Coastal Zones of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, with support from the United Nations climate high-level champions.

The initiative specifically helped to coordinate two ecosystem-specific subprogrammes, the Mangrove Breakthrough and the Coral Reef Breakthrough. The high-level champions have also supported the development of other related breakthroughs, including for seagrasses and salt marshes, as described below. In addition, a separate effort led by non-governmental organizations, the Kelp Forest Challenge, is focused on restoring kelp forests. These multiple breakthroughs and challenges address restoration in most of the coastal and marine ecosystems mentioned in table 2.

The following subsection provides additional ecosystem-specific data, where available, regarding both degradation and new restoration commitments. Commitment figures from the Freshwater Challenge (where they intersect with coastal and marine restoration), the Coral Reef Breakthrough, the Mangrove Breakthrough, the Seagrass Breakthrough, the Saltmarsh Breakthrough and the Kelp Forest Challenge should not be added together, as they might overlap with each other, with national targets, with Bonn Challenge and African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) pledges and with reported project portfolios.



Negril coral reef restoration

An algal bloom made conventional coral reef restoration impossible, so the team took the work into their own hands. Negril, Jamaica.

Photo credit: [Coralrestoration.org](https://www.coralrestoration.org/)

Coral reefs

Coral reefs exist in more than 100 countries and territories. They cover only 0.2 per cent of the seafloor yet support at least 25 per cent of marine species (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, 2020). Approximately 9.5 per cent of hard coral cover was lost globally between 1980 and 2024 (González-Rivero and others, 2026). Between early 2023 and late 2025, bleaching events affected the vast majority of global coral reefs, resulting in further reef degradation, including in areas with reef restoration programmes (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch, 2025). Given a variety of data and assessment limitations, the global decline in hard coral cover likely exceeds what can currently be measured (González-Rivero and others, 2026). The Coral Reef Breakthrough aims to secure the future of at least 125,000 km² of shallow-water tropical coral reefs with investments of at least \$12 billion by 2030, including accelerated restoration of degraded reefs (International Coral Reef Initiative, 2023).

Mangroves

Global Mangrove Watch estimates a net decline in global mangrove extent of 5,245 km² between 1996 and 2020 (Global Mangrove Watch, n.d.), with the rate of net global mangrove loss slowing more recently (FAO, 2023). The Mangrove Breakthrough seeks to mobilize \$4 billion to secure the future of 15 million ha of mangroves by 2030 (Mangrove Breakthrough, n.d.).

Seagrasses

Seagrass loss remains difficult to track globally because mapping and monitoring are uneven. A widely cited global assessment found that seagrass loss accelerated from approximately 1–2 per cent per year earlier in the twentieth century to about 7 per cent per year by 1990 (Waycott and others, 2009). The 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough, supported by the United Nations climate high-level champions and aligned with the Ocean Breakthroughs initiative, provides a framework for State and non-State actors to safeguard more than 16 million ha of global seagrass and mobilize at least \$12 billion by 2030 to halt loss, expand effective protection and accelerate restoration (Dugong and Seagrass Hub, 2024).

Salt marshes

A recent global analysis estimated a net loss of 719 km² of salt marshes between 2000 and 2019 (Campbell and others, 2022). Climate change, sea level rise and increased intensity of storms are significant drivers of salt marsh degradation, in some instances resulting in salt marsh conversion to mangrove ecosystems. The *Global Climate Action Agenda at COP 30: Outcomes Report* describes a goal to begin recovery of at least 500,000 ha globally by 2030 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2025). The Saltmarsh Breakthrough aims towards conserving and restoring 500,000 ha by 2030 and mobilizing \$5 billion for salt marsh conservation and restoration, while integrating salt marshes into policy frameworks in at least 50 countries (Blue Marine Foundation, 2025).

Kelp forests

Kelp forests remain poorly represented in many national policy and monitoring systems. In 2019, annual loss of kelp forests was estimated at 2 per cent per year (Wernberg and others, 2019). The aim of the Kelp Forest Challenge is to protect and restore 4 million ha (by protecting 3 million ha and restoring 1 million ha) of kelp forests by 2040 (Kelp Forest Alliance, n.d.; Eger and others, 2024). Its goal for 2030 is to have 200,000 ha under restoration and 1 million ha under protection, aligning kelp restoration more directly with the objectives of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Implementation progress under Target 2

Information on actual restoration progress, as compared with restoration commitments, is limited. To address this question, FAO has recently completed an assessment of the area under restoration disaggregated into the three major ecosystem types highlighted in Target 2. In its assessment, FAO finds a total area of approximately 252 million ha under restoration globally. Approximately 92 per cent of the 252 million ha under restoration globally is occurring in terrestrial ecosystems (232 million ha), approximately 4 per cent in inland waters (11 million ha) and approximately 2 per cent in coastal and marine areas (5.7 million ha). The small remainder is not disaggregated into the different ecosystem types (FAO, UNEP and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, forthcoming). These percentages are largely consistent across the three major ecosystem types globally, with a few small outliers. Specifically, coastal and marine areas make up nearly 50 per cent of the area under restoration in Europe and the majority of area under restoration in Oceania.

Progress in terrestrial restoration

According to data from the new Global Restoration Progress Database, as collated by FAO for an upcoming progress report on restoration (FAO, UNEP and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, forthcoming), 232 million ha of land were actively under restoration as of 2025. This is split across the continents as follows: Africa – 33.7 million ha; Asia – 185 million ha; Europe – 3.2 million ha; Northern and Central America – 4.7 million ha; Oceania – 0.032 million ha; and South America – 5.4 million ha.

Progress in inland waters restoration

According to data from the Global Restoration Progress Database, as collated by FAO for an upcoming progress report on restoration (FAO, UNEP and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, forthcoming), 11.2 million ha of inland waters were actively under restoration as of 2025. This is split across the continents as follows: Africa – 1.9 million ha; Asia – 7.1 million ha; Europe – 1.8 million ha; Northern and Central America – 0.4 million ha; Oceania – 0.03 million ha; and South America – 0.001 million ha.

Progress in coastal and marine restoration

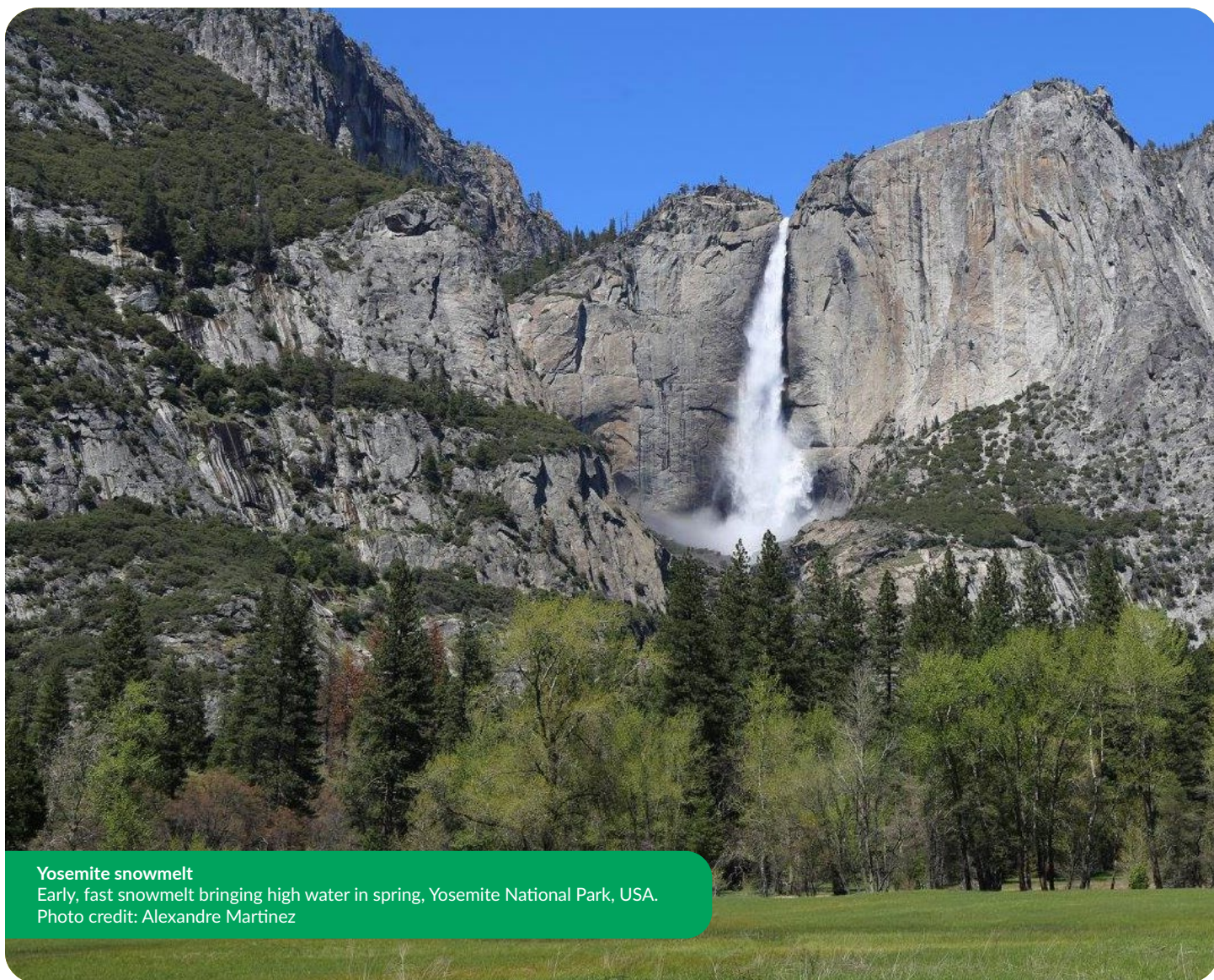
According to data from the Global Restoration Progress Database, as collated by FAO for a progress report on restoration (FAO, UNEP and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, forthcoming), 5.6 million ha of coastal and marine areas were actively under restoration as of 2025. This is split across the continents as follows: Africa – 0.6 million ha; Asia – 0.1 million ha; Europe – 4.1 million ha; Northern and Central America – 0.6 million ha; Oceania – 0.2 million ha; and South America – 0.002 million ha.

As an example in addition to the new data from FAO and others provided above, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) monitoring report 2024 provides a picture from the GEF portfolio that is more implementation oriented. In fiscal year 2024, GEF-supported projects reported 9.7 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration, 25.0 million ha under sustainable land management in production systems, 47.3 million ha of landscapes under improved practices benefiting biodiversity and 1.1 million ha of marine habitat under improved practices benefiting biodiversity (GEF, 2024). This is important evidence that restoration finance and implementation systems are delivering measurable area-based results.

As assessments of restoration progress expand, and as the 2030 deadline for achieving the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework approaches, it is important to measure the effects of restoration interventions more systematically across the four key outcomes of Target 2 (biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity) in order to enable a more complete accounting of the impacts of the efforts undertaken under Target 2 by 2030. Similarly, measuring the degree to which Parties are implementing effective restoration will also enable a more robust accounting of the overall impact of such efforts.

Based on the current state of restoration work, including as outlined for each major ecosystem type in the previous subsection, several opportunities could be considered to further support the implementation of restoration commitments under Target 2, including:

- Monitoring and, when viable, addressing the gap between commitments and implementation, for example by partnering with national and international organizations, financing entities and others.
- In addition to assessing and reporting on the headline indicator related to area under restoration, recognizing and incorporating the four key outcomes (biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity) into restoration planning, implementation and assessment. Clearly communicating those four key outcomes can also help to increase public and private sector support for effective restoration.
- Incorporating assessments of the degree to which effective restoration is being implemented.
- Utilizing new and emerging tools, including the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring, the Red List of Ecosystems of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Nature Restoration Regulation of the European Union (European Commission, n.d.) adopted in 2024, to support the planning, implementation and measuring of and reporting on Target 2 commitments and restoration efforts.



Yosemite snowmelt

Early, fast snowmelt bringing high water in spring, Yosemite National Park, USA.
Photo credit: Alexandre Martinez

Examples reported by Parties towards achieving Target 2

Case studies can provide real-world examples for understanding how Parties are assessing baselines, setting targets and taking action under Target 2. The following country examples¹⁵ illustrate the breadth of restoration actions that Parties are reporting under Target 2 in their seventh national reports, based on the Secretariat's working extract of Target 2 submissions that were reviewed for the present report (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2026c).

The examples below show restoration implementation being linked to other activities and targets related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, such as landscape planning and ecosystem mapping (Target 1), indigenous peoples' engagement in restoration (multiple targets), sustainable production (Target 10), restoration in urban areas (Target 12), restoration finance (Target 19), community governance (Target 22), ecological connectivity, and monitoring systems. The examples are included as implementation case studies rather than as a globally representative sample.

The recently adopted Nature Restoration Regulation of the European Union provides a case study for developing a legal framework to obligate restoration of degraded areas. This restoration legislation demonstrates how national targets under Target 2 can move from voluntary ambition to legally binding restoration planning, delivery and reporting. The Nature Restoration Regulation requires restoration measures covering at least 20 per cent of the land and sea areas of the European Union by 2030 and ultimately all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050 (European Commission, n.d.).



Image courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory

¹⁵ National focal points were invited to review the case studies of their countries used in the present publication. In response to that invitation, Canada, France, Panama, the Republic of Korea and the United Republic of Tanzania provided comments, and the case studies of those countries were revised accordingly. The terminology used in the case studies of those countries was provided by the countries and may not align with official United Nations spelling and terminology adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Albania – Drone-Seeded Forest Restoration in the Korça Region



Albania has paired conventional reforestation with drone-based aerial techniques to recover fire-damaged landscapes. Under a pilot supported by the United Nations Development Programme and GEF in 2024 and 2025, approximately 200 ha of burned terrain in the Krushova area of Korça were seeded from drones, comparing seeds encapsulated in biodegradable, nutrient-rich coatings with uncoated seeds. The pilot proved drone seeding to be a low-tech, scalable reforestation technique that can work alongside traditional methods. Local volunteers collected and prepared seeds and filled biodegradable capsules, and student workshops accompanied the fieldwork.

Other projects are complementing this work to enhance forest restoration. The Northern Forests Initiative (2023–2025), implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), with support

from the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation, restored 40 ha of degraded landscape in the Pashtrik-Morina area through reforestation, forest thinning, pasture improvement and soil erosion control, improving habitat for the critically endangered Balkan lynx. The Buna River bioengineering project (2025–2026), led by EcoAlbania with support from Solutions for an Integrated and Sustainable Management of Aquatic Environments (SISMAE), applies nature-based techniques to stabilize riverbanks and reconnect a secondary river branch; and the Vrina Marshes restoration project at Butrint National Park is preparing to revive one of the most significant coastal wetlands of Albania by reconnecting the Pavlo River with its floodplain. Taken together, these projects illustrate how aerial seeding, community engagement and international partnership support can be combined to test scalable restoration approaches in fire-prone and erosion-prone terrain, while also supporting habitat recovery for threatened species.

Cambodia – Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Programme in the Tonle Sap Basin



Cambodia is pursuing restoration at landscape scale through the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Programme (ERIP), which aims towards restoring 255,000 ha of flooded forests, wetlands and watershed habitats in the Tonle Sap Basin, the lifeblood of the country's freshwater fisheries. ERIP is expected to deliver 51 million tonnes of CO₂ in mitigation benefits and direct benefits to approximately 70,400 people. It is complemented by the Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (CSLEP), working across 275,425 ha, and by community-led fisheries restoration that has already recovered 1,049 ha across 18 community fishery zones.

Cambodia combines restoration implementation with practical guidance and site-based planning. Around Tonle Sap, flooded forest restoration is integrated with community-

based fire management and prevention, with support from Conservation International. Mangrove restoration guidelines developed by Fauna & Flora provide practical methods and standards for community-led restoration in coastal areas. In the Eastern Plains, restoration planning supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature-Cambodia has identified 30 priority sites covering 1,300 ha to guide implementation over the next five years. The Wildlife Conservation Society also supports protected area restoration through reforestation and water retention measures to maintain forest health. Together, these examples illustrate how complementary approaches can advance the country's national restoration target through partnerships among government agencies, local communities, community fisheries and conservation organizations.

Canada – “Respectful Returns” United Nations World Restoration Flagship and Indigenous-Led Salmon Recovery



In 2025, “Respectful Returns: Restoring Resilience to Salmon Ecosystems in Canada” was recognized as a World Restoration Flagship under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The initiative demonstrates how ecosystem restoration can contribute to multiple goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including Target 2, by restoring degraded freshwater ecosystems while strengthening Indigenous stewardship, partnerships, community engagement and species conservation.

Working across seven Parks Canada-administered sites on Canada’s Pacific and Atlantic coasts, the initiative brings together Indigenous knowledge systems and western science to restore salmon populations and the interconnected rivers, forests and communities on which they depend. Through collaboration with 32 partner organizations, 228 km of rivers and streams are being restored.

Restoration actions include improving salmon survival, restoring natural river processes and strengthening Indigenous and community stewardship. Over the past

decade, the initiative has generated more than 100 jobs, supported 40 research projects, attracted more than Can\$ 17 million in combined investments and increased public awareness through over 300 media stories.

As a result, the salmon are returning. In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, cutthroat trout fry densities doubled following stream restoration undertaken with Ditidaht First Nation. In Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Atlantic salmon returns reached their highest levels since 1990. In Terra Nova National Park, salmon abundance increased tenfold while indicators of illegal fishing declined. In Fundy National Park, salmon recovery efforts led by Fort Folly First Nation increased Atlantic salmon numbers from only three individuals in 2015 to 69 in 2024.

Recovery was strongest where Indigenous Nations, communities, scientists and governments worked together through trusted partnerships, shared governance and co-produced knowledge. These results show that restoring relationships among people is as important as restoring habitat for achieving long-term conservation success.

Chile – National Landscape Restoration Plan (2021–2030) Exceeds One-Million-Hectare Target



The National Landscape Restoration Plan of Chile, a joint effort of the Ministry of the Environment, the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) and the Ministry of Agriculture, has placed 1,193,195 ha under landscape-scale restoration, already exceeding its one-million-hectare pledge under the 20x20 Initiative. Delivery is layered: the \$60 million +Bosques project covers 15,602 ha with REDD+¹⁶ results-based payments funded by the Green Climate Fund; Siembra por Chile covers 48,100 ha; and the GEF landscape restoration programme spans 713,750 ha across seven pilot landscapes.

Governance is multilevel and explicitly participatory: one national, six regional and seven local restoration committees operate with gender parity and plans for Mapuche territories are co-designed with indigenous communities. Following the 2017 Corcovado National Park mudslide, which mobilized roughly 7.2 million m³ of material, post-disaster ecological restoration of 310 ha has become an internationally recognized model for rehabilitating 400- to 500-year-old Coihue forests, combining climate resilience, erosion control and rural livelihood benefits.

16 See <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/what-is-redd>.

Costa Rica – National Biological Corridors Programme for Ecological Connectivity

 Costa Rica reports that it has achieved its national target to enhance biodiversity resilience through ecosystem connectivity and climate refuges by 2025. Its National Biological Corridors Programme (PNCB) manages 55 biological corridors, including eight interurban corridors, covering 2,138,665 ha, or 42 per cent of the country's continental territory and 20 per cent of its forest cover. Forty corridors now have local biological corridor committees and 39 have management plans. Climate refuges have been identified in 33 corridors, of which 22 have management plans that include or prioritize these areas within their management actions.

Innovation extends to monitoring: Costa Rica has rolled out a Functional Connectivity Monitoring Protocol that engages more than 500 citizen scientists using eBird and iNaturalist to track more than 30 indicator wildlife species. The Ruta Los Maleku corridor is co-managed with Indigenous groups, embedding traditional knowledge in the protocol. This network demonstrates how low-cost citizen-science platforms, multi-stakeholder corridor committees and climate-integrated planning can deliver biodiversity, connectivity and climate-adaptation dividends at near country scale.

France – Green Fund “Renaturation of Towns and Villages” and Urban Heat-Island Mapping

 France has made nature in cities a central pillar of its national biodiversity strategy. In 2025, the Green Fund's “Renaturation of Towns and Villages” measure supported 816 urban rewilding projects with €80 million (following roughly 2,000 projects in 2023 to 2024). Urban heat-island mapping data are used to identify rewilding priorities and a national economic model helps local authorities justify investment in rewilding. In 2024 alone, 6.25 million m² of urbanized surface were restored to nature to improve ecosystem functioning.

Delivered through the Directorate of Housing, Urban Planning and Landscapes, water agencies and local authorities, the programme is aligned with the European Nature Restoration Regulation and aims at halting the net loss of green space and tree cover by 2030. It is also aligned with the national framework of action of the Nature in Cities Plan 2024–2030. Demand reportedly exceeds available funding by roughly five times, suggesting strong local interest and a potential basis for scaling the approach if resources are available. Benefits span urban cooling, biodiversity, water management, air quality improvement and measurable mental and physical health dividends for city residents.

Kazakhstan – Forest Reclamation on the Dried Bed of the Aral Sea

 Kazakhstan reports one of the clearest Central Asian examples of large-scale ecosystem restoration through forest reclamation on the dried bed of the Aral Sea. Between 2021 and 2023, restoration works covered about 250,000 ha, including protective tree and shrub plantations, notably saxaul, to stabilize mobile sands, reduce dust storms and improve environmental conditions for adjacent territories. That work forms part of broader national and regional forest sector programmes, including plans to plant 2 billion trees and reported planting of more than 817 million trees.

The report of Kazakhstan also describes legal and institutional reforms to strengthen forest protection, prevent illegal logging, improve reforestation quality and require recultivation of disturbed lands. Between 2019 and 2024, forest covered land increased from 13.1 million to 13.9 million ha, while national forest cover rose from 4.8 to 5.1 per cent. This case is particularly relevant to Target 2 because it links restoration of severely degraded dryland landscapes with benefits for ecosystem services, including sand stabilization, dust storm reduction and resilience under arid climatic conditions.

Kenya – 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme and “Jaza Miti” National Tracking Tool



Kenya has anchored its 27.3 per cent degraded-area restoration target in a single integrated national tracking platform: “Jaza Miti”, which aggregates restoration data for the 15 Billion Tree Growing programme to 2032. National forest cover reached 12.13 per cent by 2025, guided by the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (2023–2032), the Kenya Forest and Landscape Restoration Monitoring Framework and the country’s land degradation neutrality targets. Those restoration efforts span terrestrial and coastal-marine realms, including coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves.

Kenya is also strengthening its data architecture for restoration. The Kenya Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Framework was launched in 2025

with 86 indicators and the Landscape Alliance supports a national biodiversity monitoring framework (2025–2026) aligned with indicators of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A national wildlife data portal prototype is complete and a virtual museum platform hosts 17 citizen science projects with expert vetted data. In urban landscapes, the Nairobi River Regeneration Programme combines large-scale infrastructure and environmental rehabilitation with the creation of new public spaces and amenities and innovative community centred planning approaches. The country’s approach suggests a pathway for large tree growing and restoration programmes to move beyond a targeted number of trees planted, for example, towards more systematic tracking of restoration progress, biodiversity outcomes and ecosystem services.

Lesotho – Biodiversity Finance Initiative Lesotho Project and Highlands Water Wetland Restoration



Lesotho has achieved its biodiversity-financing target, mobilizing approximately \$292 million from international sources against a \$25 million goal, plus roughly \$78 million domestically, and is channelling these resources into high altitude wetland recovery that underpins regional water security. In September 2025, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project initiated a restoration programme targeting six priority wetlands, using invasive plant removal to safeguard water security for the Polihali Dam.

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Lesotho Project (2024–2028) is designed to deliver policy and institutional assessments, biodiversity expenditure reviews, financial needs analysis and the development of a national biodiversity finance plan. It is intended to enhance national capacity to integrate biodiversity considerations into planning and budgeting across key sectors.

Complementary actions include translocation of the critically endangered Maloti minnow, which had lost 90 per cent of its original population; a 13 per cent increase in regional seed accessions in the 2024/25 period; and the Renoka Integrated Catchment Management Programme benefiting more than 20,000 rural and semi-urban residents. Between 2020 and 2025, Lesotho rehabilitated 164,077.97 ha (5.54 per cent of national land area), supported by the mobilization of over 53,000 Basotho volunteers under the Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods project. The case of Lesotho illustrates how biodiversity finance planning can be linked to high-altitude wetland restoration, water security, species recovery and integrated catchment management.

Panama – “Alliance for the Million” and Chame Bay Mangrove Restoration



Panama has anchored restoration in its Nature Pledge, “NDC 3.0”, the National Forest Restoration Programme (PNRF) and the public-private “Alliance for the Million” platform led by MiAMBIENTE/MIDA, supporting a national restoration goal of 100,000 ha by 2035 that includes 2,500 ha of mangrove. The PNRF 2021 to 2025 target of 51,000 ha is based on Executive Decree No. 137 of 21 May 2021. A Government to FAO Alliance is mobilizing investments and technical assistance to restore 10,000 ha as an initial stage. In 2025, the Ministry of Environment reported 300,000 mangrove propagules planted nationwide and 150 ha of mangroves restored in Chame Bay. The Azuero Green Development Fund has restored 2,999.13 ha (1,088 ha of natural recovery in disturbed forest, 1,887 ha on cattle ranches and 24.13 ha of water rehabilitation in mangrove ecosystems), with 69 producers participating, 15 of them women. In Veraguas, work to create a biological corridor between the La Yeguada and Alto Guarumo forest reserves had resulted in the restoration of 1,356 ha and the planting of 26,538 seedlings of native species as of July 2022.

Scientific innovation is important for supporting restoration efforts. Research by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on “clothesline” coral nurseries for *Acropora cervicornis* in Portobelo National Park found that the clothesline structure concentrated 95.4 per cent of the total growth of cultivated fragments, with average growth rates of about 5.7 cm per month and 100 per cent survival, while a fixed structure comparison showed lower growth and 45 per cent mortality. From 2000 to 2024, the Environmental Economic Incentives Programme (PIEA) of the Panama Canal Authority placed 18,612 ha under conservation, ecosystem restoration and productive restoration in the Panama Canal Watershed, including 6,150 ha of forest conservation through payments for environmental services, 5,300 ha of silvopastoral systems and 4,500 ha of agroforestry. The Panama example illustrates how terrestrial, coastal and marine restoration can be supported through a multi-actor coalition involving government, research institutions, civil society, private actors and international partners.

Republic of Korea – Nationwide Degraded-Area Survey and Green Restoration System



The Republic of Korea is building a national system for identifying degraded ecosystems and linking that information to restoration planning. Following amendments to the Natural Environment Conservation Act in 2022, the Republic of Korea is conducting nationwide and ecosystem-specific assessments of degraded areas between 2023 and 2027, including the identification of priority restoration sites based on the degree of degradation. The first nationwide survey, conducted in 2023, identified 116 candidate restoration sites.

This analytical work is being paired with restoration across degraded ecological corridors, urban degraded areas, abandoned industrial sites and core ecological

axes within development restriction zones. The Republic of Korea reports that, as of 2024, it had restored 124 ha along the core ecological axes of the Korean Peninsula using indigenous species and acquired 33,000 m² of land for urban ecological restoration. Tidal flat restoration is being continued through 2030. As an additional forward-looking measure, the Republic of Korea plans to establish an integrated information system for natural environment restoration by 2027 to consolidate restoration efforts that are currently managed separately across ministries and institutions. The case illustrates how restoration can be strengthened through legal reform, baseline surveys, ecosystem-specific prioritization, professional training and integrated information systems.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Ashton Lagoon Restoration and CLEAR Caribbean Coral Gardening



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has turned a derelict marina into a notable Caribbean restoration example. At Ashton Lagoon on Union Island, the country's largest mangrove-lagoon system, five 15-metre-wide breaches were excavated through abandoned marina structures, reconnecting tidal exchange and enabling mangrove, salt pond and seagrass recovery, with rigorous contaminant testing to safeguard community health. The flagship is complemented by CLEAR Caribbean community "coral gardening", which restored 0.20 ha of reef in Cumberland Bay (by November 2024) and 0.48 ha in the Tobago Cays and Mayreau (by November 2025), outplanting 4,500 staghorn and 986 elkhorn corals, including through assisted gene flow, after the 2024 bleaching event.

Following the 2021 La Soufrière eruption, 37 ha have been reforested across the Buccament, Montreal and Kingstown watersheds. Partners include Sustainable Grenadines, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, Richmond Vale Academy, We Are Mayreau, the Tobago Cays Marine Park, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC), the Petit Saint Vincent Resort, the United Nations Development Programme, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund and the Forestry Department. Together those initiatives show how small island developing States can knit together private resort partners, diaspora donors and international facilities to deliver post-disaster recovery for both biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.

United Republic of Tanzania – Large-Scale Seagrass Mapping and National Mangrove Strategy



The United Republic of Tanzania has combined deep analytical innovation with large-scale restoration under its African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) pledge to restore 5.2 million ha of degraded land. Over 350,000 ha of degraded forest have already been rehabilitated (including in the globally recognized Shinyanga landscape) and the country has 158,000 ha of mangroves along its coast. A decade-long national mangrove strategy launched in 2025 commits to restoring at least 60 per cent of degraded mangroves by 2035 and targets 10,000 ha of mangrove restoration by 2030; the UNEP and Green Climate Fund Kigoma initiative adds another 261,000 ha of restoration for host and displaced populations.

The analytical centrepiece is the Large-scale Seagrass Mapping and Management Initiative (LaSMMI), producing the first field-verified seagrass map for the Western Indian Ocean and enabling evidence-based marine restoration. Coral reef restoration at Mafia Island, Mkinga District and Tanga City, implemented with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Mwambao Coastal Community Network, is complemented by artificial reef deployment, the TRUEFISH aquaculture genetic-safeguard programme and the new Wildlife Corridors Strategy (2024–2026). Partners include the Office of the Vice-President, the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), the University of Dar es Salaam, the Earlham Institute, Blue Carbon Tanzania, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and the University of Southampton.

Reflections on progress towards achieving Target 2

As of 2026, there is clear political uptake and growing restoration momentum with respect to Target 2 but the available evidence does not yet demonstrate that the world is on track to place at least 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030. According to the draft global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2026b), fewer than one fifth of Parties have set national targets to restore at least 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems in any of the three major ecosystem areas. Parties' own assessment of progress, reported in their national reports, is comparatively positive: 43 per cent of national targets that Parties submitted as highly aligned with Target 2 are self-assessed as on track for achievement, while 53 per cent show insufficient progress or no significant change, which, as noted in the draft global report, is relatively positive compared with assessments for other targets of the Framework. The most important finding is not that restoration is absent but rather that restoration action, restoration commitments and degradation baselines are not yet aligned in a way that allows for a robust assessment of global progress. This is relevant not only to Target 2 but also to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which provides a major implementation and monitoring platform to support efforts under Target 2.

The language of Target 2 is increasingly being used in national targets and many Parties are reporting restoration policies, programmes and projects. However, national target alignment should not be confused with implementation. In many national targets and reports, restoration is expressed as an area, percentage or programme objective without a clear explanation of the degradation baseline against which it is measured or the method used to identify degraded ecosystems. The baseline analysis above shows that only a minority of Parties that reported on progress in achieving Target 2 explained the analytical basis used to identify degraded areas or restoration priorities. This remains one of the central implementation risks for Target 2.

The most consistent official global data stream is terrestrial. The Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 provides a nationally reported and internationally standardized picture of land degradation. It shows the scale and direction of land degradation and provides an essential reference

for Target 2. However, reporting under this indicator has significant limitations, including a focus on production landscapes despite the fact that degradation is also affecting non-production landscapes. In addition, Target 2 covers all ecosystems, including inland water and coastal and marine ecosystems, and it requires ecological recovery that enhances biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. The data and methodology used in the Convention to Combat Desertification process provide important support for understanding and achieving Target 2 but cannot address all components. As demonstrated in the freshwater and coastal and marine ecosystems section of the present report, freshwater degradation does not have a single globally validated Target 2 baseline, and there is no globally comparable reporting system currently in common use for reporting on coastal and marine areas, especially across the high seas.

Additional sources show that restoration ambition is substantial and growing, in part as a result of the work carried out under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to build global momentum for restoration. In its publication entitled *Global Restoration Commitments and Pledges: 2024 Report – An Overview of Global Restoration Commitments: Gaps, Opportunities, and Pathways Forward*, the International Union for Conservation of Nature indicated that public country restoration commitments approached 1.1 billion ha by 2030 before accounting for overlap. The Freshwater Challenge has set a global ambition to restore 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million ha of degraded wetlands; and marine and coastal breakthrough initiatives now cover coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes and kelp forests. Those initiatives are important because they create ambition and incentives by providing implementation platforms built around specific ecosystems. In addition, they create opportunities for civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to support efforts to meet global restoration targets. They are limited, however, in that they are commitment based, so that they do not necessarily report actual area under restoration, nor the effectiveness and outcomes of that restoration for nature and people. In addition, their work may overlap or be double counted among the different challenges and national reporting. Their limitation is that they combine commitments, leading to actions and project data that are not always comparable and may overlap with national reporting.

The data also show that restoration is still too often measured by area alone. While area-based reporting is necessary, it is insufficient to achieve Target 2. Target 2 requires restoration that improves biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. The case studies in the present report point towards many examples of strong practice, where restoration is integrated with ecosystem mapping and spatial data analysis, includes engagement or even leadership from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, protects and restores ecological corridors, improves water regulation, enhances climate resilience and utilizes innovative biodiversity finance and monitoring systems. One continuing challenge, however, is the short-term nature of most restoration funding, which does not align well with the long-term nature of restoration implementation and ecosystem recovery. Lessons from those examples can support restoration at scale and can help to close finance gaps, which is needed to achieve the high ambition of Target 2.

Overall, Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially alongside the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, has transformed restoration from a broad aspiration into a measurable global biodiversity commitment. It has generated national targets, large-scale commitments, legal reforms, finance mechanisms and ecosystem-specific action platforms. However, the evidence base regarding restoration commitments, progress and effectiveness remains incomplete, especially for inland waters and coastal and marine systems; many baselines remain undefined or under development; and global reporting does not require enough detail to assess more than the area under restoration. It cannot yet be demonstrated that the world is on target to bring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration or to report on the four key outcomes, including the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of that critical work. Opportunities for improvement include:

- Using the Convention to Combat Desertification process for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 as the most effective terrestrial evidence stream, while explicitly identifying other data sources to capture additional forms of terrestrial ecosystem degradation relevant to Target 2.

- Formally assessing the link between commitments and action to ensure that commitments are being operationalized.
- Assessing the degree to which effective restoration (standards-based restoration underpinned by agreed principles that results in appropriately balanced sustainable net gain which benefits and enhances biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and human well-being) is being implemented.
- Tracking restoration quality, and not only area, using indicators that assess the delivery of net gain, including across the four key outcomes: biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.
- Using reporting and monitoring results and applying adaptive management to improve restoration work and accelerate progress towards the four key outcomes.
- Avoiding double counting across national reports and other global commitments (e.g. the Bonn Challenge, regional initiatives and breakthrough platforms) by, for example, uploading reporting data to the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring, which is intended to help address potential double counting.
- Prioritizing underreported ecosystems in all major ecosystem areas (e.g. non-forest and non-production terrestrial lands, inland waters, seagrasses, salt marshes, kelp forests and offshore marine habitats).
- Strengthening national capacities for baseline determination, planning, implementation, monitoring, data collection and reporting.
- Leveraging the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to support the fulfilment of restoration commitments, focusing on baselines, finance, governance, safeguards, monitoring and social and ecological net gain.

With 2030 rapidly approaching, there is a need to significantly accelerate and scale up collective efforts to achieve Target 2. Parties and partners are called upon to translate ambition into effective restoration on the ground, supported by adequate resources, capacity, knowledge and robust monitoring, so as to deliver measurable gains for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and people.

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