

Ecosystem Restoration



Many of the world’s precious ecosystems have either been destroyed or are in grave danger. This is because of the way much of human society has been designed to use the planet and its resources without care. This has resulted in the huge issues that now face us, such as biodiversity loss (including the extinction of plants and animals), the destruction of natural areas, and the climate crisis. All of these issues are already negatively affecting people around the globe, and it’s only set to get worse if nothing is done. Luckily there are solutions!

Ecosystem restoration is about protecting nature and working to return the planet to a healthier, more natural state for the sake of humans and all other life. In achieving this, we would be making life better for billions of people around the world while also stopping some of the worst effects of climate change and biodiversity loss.



Take a look at the interactive model [here](#) which clearly shows the difference between a ‘degraded’ region (one where the natural environment has been destroyed, as is the case in many regions today) and a ‘restored’ one (a vision of the future where nature has been returned in a way that allows humans to thrive as a part of it).



Image Credit: onebigrobot.com/ IUCN/decade-landscape/



Activity

- Using the [interactive model](#), flick between the DEGRADED (TODAY) and the RESTORED (POST 2030) buttons at the bottom. Write a list of what differences you see between the two graphics. Which one do you prefer?
- Hover your cursor over each of the 4 green icons. Read the information (click READ MORE) and write out some summary bullet points in a table like the one below. Try looking up any words you're not sure about.

 Farmland And Forest Areas	
<p>Why is it degraded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deforestation for large scale farming and wood use has made the land unstable causing soil loss 	<p>How can it be restored?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Agroforestry" – include native trees and plants in farmland to help with soil moisture, stability and nutrients
 Mountains and Grassland	
<p>Why is it degraded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<p>How can it be restored?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
 Wetlands, Mangroves And Nearshore Seascape	
<p>Why is it degraded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<p>How can it be restored?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
 Cityscape, Water Table, And Large-Scale Industries	
<p>Why is it degraded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<p>How can it be restored?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">



3. Take a look at the Sustainable Development Goals to the left of the interactive model to find out how ecosystem restoration can help us meet those goals for building a better planet and society.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



4. Have a think about how nature and ecosystems could be restored in the area where you live. If you were in charge, what changes would you make and what effects do you think these would have for the local area? You could even have a go at drawing your newly ecologically regenerated area.

