

NOTIFICATION
Ecosystem Restoration Massive Open Online Course
19 September – 20 November 2022

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to announce that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are co-organizing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on ecosystem restoration, to be conducted from 19 September to 20 November 2022 on the [Learning for Nature online platform](#). The course will be offered in English, French and Spanish and can contribute as accreditation towards the Society for Ecological Restoration's Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner programme. Substantive and logistical details are provided in Annex.

The MOOC is provided through the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) by the CBD Secretariat, thanks to the generous financial assistance of the Korea Forest Service of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The FERI was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, at its twelfth meeting, in decision XII/19. At its thirteenth meeting, in decision XIII/5, the COP adopted a short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration and requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the efforts of Parties in making use of this by enabling capacity-building and supporting the use of tools in collaboration with relevant partners and initiatives.

The aim of the online course is to support Parties in developing and implementing national plans and targets on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems. Participants will be invited to examine their national targets, plans and objectives, and to review the status of degraded forests and other ecosystems with a view to prioritizing areas for ecosystem restoration and developing or improving elements of a national plan on ecosystem restoration, taking into account the principles of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. These elements would contribute to developing or updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and their eventual alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be adopted at the second part of COP 15.

Parties are invited to nominate up to **five experts** to participate in the MOOC. Nominations must include an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary, signed by the National Focal Point, indicating the name and full contact details of the nominee(s), together with a brief CV indicating their relevant expertise and experience. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than **15 July 2022** by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int.

Parties are requested to use the following criteria when determining their nominations. The nominee(s) should:

- a) Have a level of responsibility for making decisions on land use/spatial planning such as for biodiversity, forest ecosystems, and ecosystem restoration;
- b) Be able to complete a pre-course survey on national plans;
- c) Be in a position to promote actions to achieve national commitments on the restoration of forests and landscapes; and

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA National Focal Points

- d) Be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete cross-sectoral actions to enhance policy and planning coherence on the restoration of forests and landscapes.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support for the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

Annex

Details on the Ecosystem Restoration Massive Open Online Course

Background

E-learning modules¹ based on the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration adopted in decision XIII/5² were developed by the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with partners, including the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), and through the generous financial support of the Korea Forest Service and the European Union. The Ecosystem Restoration Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) makes use of the modules and adds other learning components and interactive sessions with experts.

Description and modalities

The course will be offered to two groups of participants through two course rooms in parallel: the open course room will be public while the private (password-protected) course room will be available to focal points to the Convention and their nominated representatives. Direct links will be provided to nominated experts following the 15 July 2022 deadline.

Through interactive lessons, workbooks, case studies, quizzes, lectures, webinar consultations, and dedicated office hours with subject experts, participants will gain understanding on the practice of ecosystem restoration, its benefits and the necessary conditions and will become more skilled at planning, monitoring, and evaluating ecosystem restoration programs.

The course presents an opportunity to join a community-of-practice committed to preventing, halting, and reversing the trend of ecosystem degradation. It will offer two certificates of completion from the course partners: one for Part 1 and one for Part 2. Participants may choose to complete only one part of the course and download the certificate for that part.

Timing and languages

The MOOC will be conducted from **19 September 2022 to 20 November 2022** in two segments (three weeks and five weeks respectively with a one-week break in between) and will be facilitated in English, French, and Spanish on UNDP's Learning for Nature³ platform.

The course will consist of two parts and will cover the following topics in these time frames:

Topic	Time frame
Part 1: Introduction to Ecosystem Restoration	19 September - 7 October
• Week 1: Introduction to Ecosystem Restoration	19-23 September
• Week 2: Assessment of Opportunities and Priorities for Restoration	26-30 September
• Week 3: Legal, Policy and Governance Aspects	3-7 October

¹ Available at <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/ecosystem-restoration/>

² Available at <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/13/5>

³ Learning for Nature is a capacity-building offer provided by the UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, cutting across three areas of work. This program connects biodiversity policymakers, change-makers, and on-the-ground subject matter experts to facilitate the delivery of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Targets and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

BREAK	10-14 October
Part 2: Applying Ecosystem Restoration Interventions	17 October - 20 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1: Strategic Planning Processes 	17-21 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2: Cost-benefit Analysis, Accounting Processes and Resource Mobilization 	24-28 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3: Selection and Implementation of Restoration Interventions 	31 October - 4 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4: Monitoring and Evaluation 	7-11 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5: Capacity Building and Development 	14-20 November

Credit towards Society for Ecological Restoration Certification

This full course (encompassing both Parts 1 and 2) has been approved by the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) for credits towards the “Ecological Restoration” category of SER’s Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) program education requirements. Participants who complete both Parts 1 and 2 of this course will be guaranteed to meet 3.5 of the 6 credits required in the “Ecological Restoration” category.

Through practitioner certification, SER’s CERP program encourages a high professional standard for those who are designing, implementing, overseeing, and monitoring ecological restoration projects throughout the world. Certification with the CERP program provides practitioners with a variety of professional benefits and recognition as experts in the field of ecological restoration, and can complement existing professional certifications or credentials. CERP is the only international certification program for ecological restoration practitioners, having certified over 600 individuals from 20 countries and five continents to date. Learn more about the CERP program at <https://ser.org/CERPApplications>.