



Europe Office

Geneva, 10 May 2021

Excellency,

The emergence of COVID-19 has shown just how disastrous the consequences of ecosystem loss can be. By shrinking the area of natural habitat for animals, we have created ideal conditions for pathogens, including coronaviruses, to spread.

Yet for this year's World Environment Day on June 5, the world will work together to take action in the name of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. An unprecedented call will be made to seek to restore millions of degraded landscapes and seascapes across the world over the next 10 years.

At the launch of the UN Decade, UNEP and FAO will publish a new report with key findings including:

- Without a global coordinated restoration effort, the world will not achieve the Paris Agreement, nor the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Restoration has the potential to simultaneously address poverty, hunger, biodiversity loss, climate change, water security, and other challenges;
- Restoration if feasible: a global restoration movement is emerging and quickly gaining pace.

We are aware that with less than a month to go, there is not a huge amount of time to prepare for action. However, as this year's World Environment Day is connected to a decade-long series of events, there is time to do this beyond June 5. We would be very happy to discuss the detail of World Environment Day or the Decade with you further.

Kindly find attached a separate document with a toolkit for World Environment Day and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. You will find suggested policy options, activities and material, as well as contact information, should you need any further support.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration,

Bruno Pozzi
Director, Europe Office

To: European Ministers in charge of Environment
copy: UNEP national focal points

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