

Celebration of 2021 World Environment Day “Ecosystem restoration In Sustainable Consumption and Production Context”

Date: 5th June 2021
Time: 4:30PM-5:40PM (PST)

Background & Context

World Environment Day (WED) takes place every year on 5 June. It is the United Nations’ flagship day for promoting worldwide awareness and action for the environment. This year’s observance of World Environment Day will be on the theme of ‘ecosystem restoration’ and focus on resetting our relationship with nature with Pakistan as the global host. It will also mark the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

The strategy for the UN Decade recognizes that one of the primary barriers to achieving large-scale restoration is the limited awareness across societies of:

- 1) The extensive negative effects of ecosystem degradation and the consequential impacts on well-being and livelihoods,
- 2) the cost of degradation, and conversely,
- 3) the substantial benefits that accrue with investments into ecosystem restoration

As such, the strategy for the UN Decade identifies the need to support a peer-driven participatory movement as one of the key pathways for restoration. The 10 key strategic actions devised by the United Nations which will help restore ecosystem include: 1) Empowering a global movement, 2) financing restoration on the ground, 3) setting the right incentives, 4) celebrating leadership that takes the lead in restoration, 5) shifting behavior towards ecosystems, 6) investing in research in resilience and sustainability of ecosystems, 7) building capacity of diverse stakeholders in ecosystem, 8) Celebrating a culture of restoration of ecosystems through art, music and other cultural entities, 9) building up the next generation giving importance to youth, and 10) Listening and learning processes.

Worldwide, there is a growing consensus that human societies need to move away from the current consumption and production models that use the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet and start producing and consuming more sustainably. Sustainable consumption and production is about doing more and better with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

UNEP has been promoting principles of sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency, through advocacy, science-policy interface, convening, and multi-stakeholder engagement. UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok is also implementing EU funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) project that promotes the uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in Asia and strengthening a dialogue on green economy and SCP at regional, sub-regional and national level.

The Government of Pakistan with the support of the UNEP and the stakeholders is implementing various events for raising awareness, building technical capacity, sharing knowledge and good practices, and forging partnerships for ecosystem restoration to launch the UN Decade.



Given the context above, and in recognizing the importance of SCP, shedding a spotlight and raising awareness on SCP & ecosystem restoration for some of Pakistan’s relevant ecosystem types like Urban Ecosystem, Ocean and river ecosystems and farmland ecosystems would be both fitting and desirable.

Accordingly, SDPI with the support of the EU-funded SWITCH Asia programme implemented by UNEP is organizing this webinar to raise awareness, build technical capacity, share knowledge and good practices, and forge partnerships for ecosystem restoration in Pakistan and to launch the UN Decade. The online webinar on “**Ecosystem Restoration In Sustainable Consumption and Production Context**” will be organized on **5th June 2021** to celebrate the theme and to highlight linkages between ecosystem restoration and principles of sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency, and promote the uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in Asia and strengthening a dialogue on green economy and SCP in Pakistan.

Objectives:

To highlight the concept of ecosystem restoration to members of the general public through voices from the ground, showcase relevant best practices and expert opinion on links between ecosystem restoration and sustainable consumption and production.

Outline:

Initial submission is that we keep it as a webinar to keep online audience engaged.

Date: 5th June 2021

Time: 4:30PM-5:45PM (PST)

Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SzgHmbAiTsCQL3QGzHDuJQ

Session Moderated by SWITCH-Asia RPAC, UNEP/SDPI

4:30 – 4:35	Welcome Remarks - SDPI
4:35 – 4:45	Opening Address - EU Ambassador to Pakistan Her Excellency Androulla Kaminara*
4:45 – 4:55	Demystifying Sustainable Consumption & Production - Dr. Mushtaq Memon, Project Manager of SWITCH-Asia RPAC
4:55 – 5:05	Go slow on Fast Fashion - Ms Afia Salaam, Freelance environment and Climate Change Journalist and Development Practitioner
5:15 – 5:25	Plastic Pollution: Is Circular Economy the Magic Bullet? - Dharmesh Shah, Public Policy Analyst, Advisor to BFFP and GAIA
5:25 – 5:35	- Mr. Sanjay Vashist Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
5:35 – 5:45	Q/A & Closing

*TBC