



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration



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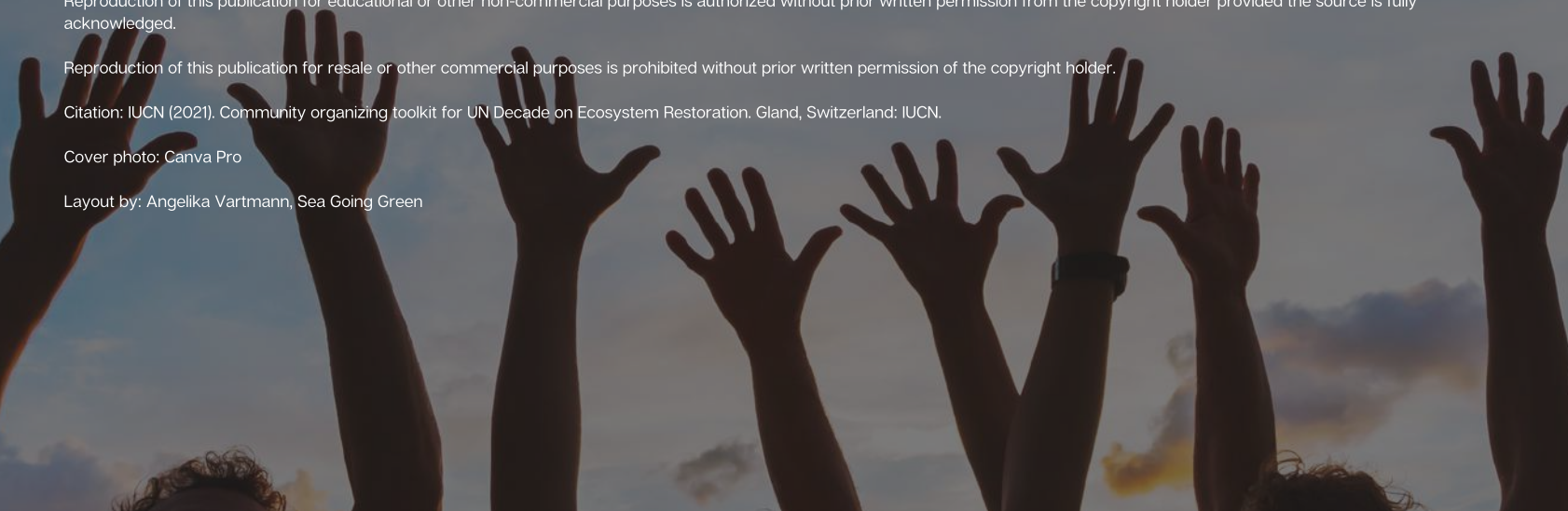


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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead , *American cultural anthropologist*

SECTION 1

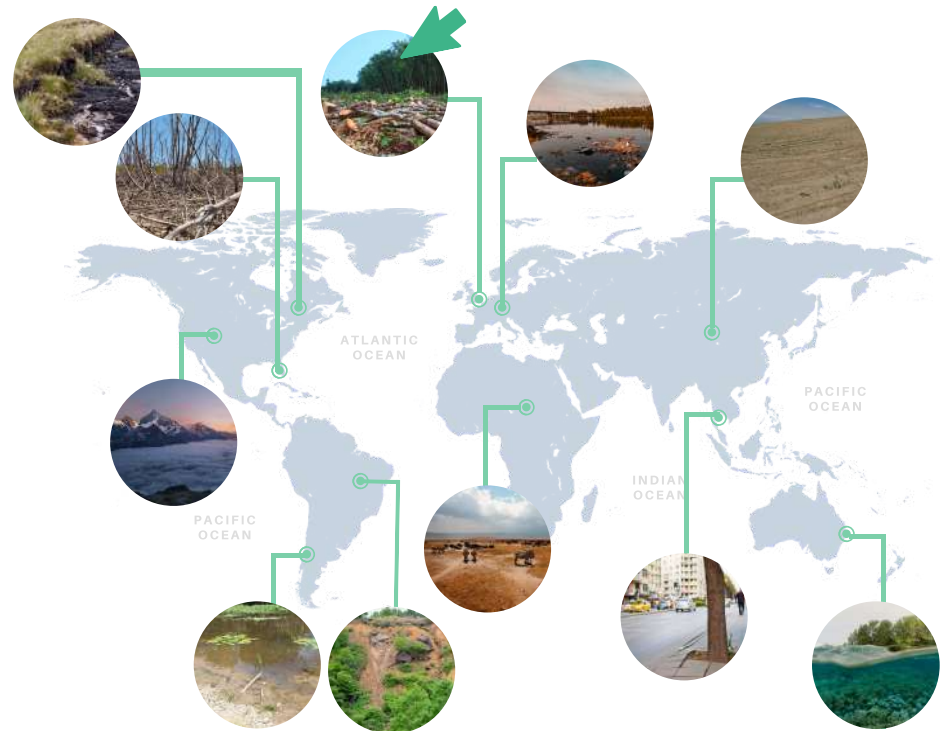
INTRODUCTION

Ecosystem degradation has reached the far corners of our planet from our precious rainforests to our priceless reefs. Irresponsible human activities have caused and exacerbated our climate crisis and ecosystem degradation, forcing us to cope with biodiversity loss, habitat destruction, dramatic weather events, and more. A recent UN report found that more than **75% of the earth's terrestrial areas are substantially degraded**. This has had a huge impact on biodiversity, human health, and economic well-being. But there is hope. Individuals around the world, like you, are rallying around our planet and searching for solutions to our biggest environmental impacts.

IUCN has put together the "Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration" to equip you, as change-makers, with the tools, knowledge, and resources necessary to restore your ecosystems back to productive, and healthy spaces. In this toolkit, we will walk you through the importance of community organizing, offer some potential aspects of your project, present successful examples of community-organized restoration and then clue you into the wealth of tools including online and financial resources. By the end of this toolkit, you'll be ready to take action and restore your local ecosystem.

It is important to note that **this toolkit is for everyone**, from the individual looking to restore their backyard or block, to the existing nonprofit looking to make lasting change in their region. Whatever your needs or obstacles may be, where you are in your restoration journey, or what your ultimate goals are, this toolkit will help you take action.

Click on the image to learn more about each ecosystem



The above world map highlights the diversity of ecosystems that exist around the world. In your country or community there could be many different ecosystems. Find out more by clicking on the **ecosystems** featured here for a brief overview of each ecosystem and restoration examples. Discover the many ecosystems in your area in [IUCN's Global Ecosystem Typology](#) and restoration interventions in the [Restoration Intervention Typology for Terrestrial Ecosystems \(RITTE\)](#).

UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Principle 1: Global Contribution



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

In light of the pressing need to fight climate change impacts and human-induced ecological degradation, the United Nations (UN) has announced the current decade to be the "**Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**". The purpose of this global movement is to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems across the globe.

This toolkit will allow you to join others all around the globe looking to restore, repair, and regenerate our ecosystems. You're not in this alone!

Feel free to use the Decade's [website](#) and various tools throughout your journey to gain knowledge, inspiration and maybe even support others as well.

In 2015, the UN Member States approved the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs "provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future". Aligning with the SDGs can help you formulate your own goals and make it easier to share your story and progress with others.

Platforms, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Hub, Community of Practice, and Urban SDG Knowledge Platform offer e-learning possibilities, networking, and an e-library, allowing you to share your knowledge with others as well as support other local ecosystem restoration initiatives across the globe.

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Below are the Principles to Guide the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Throughout the toolkit, we will highlight concepts and lessons that tie into these principles to provide some context and larger integration with the movement.



1

Global Contributions: Ecosystem restoration contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Goals of the Rio Conventions.



2

Broad Engagement: Ecosystem restoration promotes inclusive and participatory governance, social fairness and equity from the start and throughout the process and outcomes.



3

Many Types of Activities: Ecosystem restoration includes a continuum of restoration activities.



4

Benefits to Nature and People: Ecosystem restoration aims to achieve the highest level of recovery for biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, and human well-being.



5

Addresses Causes of Degradation: Ecosystem restoration addresses the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation.



6

Knowledge Integration: Ecosystem restoration incorporates all types of knowledge and promotes its exchange and integration throughout the process.



7

Measurable Goals: Ecosystem restoration is based on well-defined, short-, medium-, and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals.



8

Local and Land/Seascape Contexts: Ecosystem restoration is tailored to the local ecological, cultural and socio-economic contexts, while considering the larger landscape or seascape.



9

Monitoring and Management: Ecosystem restoration includes monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout and beyond the lifetime of the project or programme.



10

Policy Integration: Ecosystem restoration is enabled by policies and measures that promote its long-term progress, fostering replication and scaling-up.



WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION?

Ecosystem degradation is **a negative trend in ecosystem condition, caused by direct or indirect human-induced processes including anthropogenic climate change, expressed as long-term reduction or loss of at least one of the following: biological productivity, ecological integrity, or value to humans.** This may impact the ecosystem's features and cause changes in water and soil quality as well as wind and sunlight patterns.

Is there an ecosystem that has started to look different? Has it gotten smaller since you have lived in the area? Do people tend to visit it less than before? Were there more animals or plants in the area 5-10 years ago? Do you see people mistreating it? If so, your local ecosystem may be degraded.

Any less hospitable, less functioning, or less diverse ecosystem can be considered **degraded**.

WHAT CAUSES ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION?



Climate change



Over-exploitation



Habitat change



Pollution



Invasive species



Development



Over-extraction

How Can I Understand What's Happening To The Ecosystem?

Degraded ecosystems can look very different across regions, climates, and environments. The [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration website](#) offers some great ecosystem-specific information. For more information, see the region and context-specific restoration resources in Annex B.

Ecosystem degradation can lead to erosion, ocean pollution, groundwater pollution, lower air quality, increased CO2 emissions, decrease in water availability, drinking water contamination, loss in biodiversity, loss in land productivity, species endangerment or extinction, increased incidents of disease in humans and animals, more frequent dramatic weather events and more.

BEFORE TAKING ACTION, ASK YOURSELF

- Whom does ecosystem degradation affect in my community?
- How does this degradation impact the larger ecosystem or region?
- How can I make a difference?
- Who is already taking action?
- Who owns the land?
- Is there someone already responsible for the management of the space?
- Will the actions I want to take impact a livelihood or industry?
- What kind of impact do I want to have?
- How large of an impact do I want to make?
- How can I ensure that harm is stopped in the long term?

WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION?

The UN defines ecosystem restoration as: "the process of halting and reversing degradation, resulting in improved ecosystem services and recovered biodiversity. Ecosystem restoration encompasses a wide continuum of practices, depending on local conditions and societal choice". It can be anything: planting trees, replanting coral, rewilding, restoring forest beds, eradicating invasive species, implementing natural groundwater filtration, or advocating for more intentional greenspace in your urban community. Ecosystem restoration efforts can take place in many different shapes and forms, depending on the ecosystem that needs restoration. Read more in the IUCN's new restoration intervention typology for land-based ecosystems for tips on restoring your local ecosystem [here](#).

Ecosystem restoration can...

- Bring back native species & eradicate invasive species
- Increase biodiversity
- Increase ecosystem productivity & revive ecosystem services
- Decrease erosion
- Improve air and water quality
- Increase community stewardship, empowerment, and autonomy
- Enhance community involvement
- Empower indigenous and local knowledge
- Improve livelihoods through increased local input

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

For our financial wellbeing

- Between 1997 and 2011, the world lost an estimated \$4-20 trillion per year in ecosystem services
- From 1997 to 2011, we lost \$6-11 trillion per year from land degradation
- Crops that rely on ample pollination for growth generate \$235-577 billion per year
- Restoration has the potential to generate over \$9 trillion in ecosystem services

For our physical wellbeing

- As of 2016, there were an estimated 12.6 million deaths attributable to ecosystem degradation
- Unproductive ecosystems can increase the risk of malaria, diarrhea, food insecurity, flooding, asthma and more
- Restoration can mitigate climate change health risks by improving air quality, decreasing local temperatures and improving food chains

For our ecological wellbeing

- From 2000 to 2015, 20% of the global landmass was degraded
- Restoring could contribute to over 1/3 of the total climate mitigation goal by 2030
- Restoring 15% of converted land could avoid 60% of expected extinctions
- Restoration could remove 13-26 gT of carbon from the atmosphere
- Forest restoration and protection could allow 81% of cities to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in their waterways

Sources: OECD, UN Decade, UNEP, IUCN



HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Ecosystem restoration action can be sparked by attending a local educational meeting, which can evolve into planting an entire native forest. You can contribute to ecosystem restoration in many different ways. Figure 1's impact quiz will show you how you can take grassroots action based on your level of involvement, and Figure 2 outlines an example of how different actions can be taken to help a struggling neighborhood pond.

A grassroots action is a campaign or initiative that aims to bring people together and mobilize individuals, communities, companies, or governments to take some action or influence an outcome. The term "Grassroots" means to achieve a goal from the bottom-up and can involve anything from on-the-ground action to discussions with leaders or groups of passionate people.

Through concerted, science-based effort, we can move forward and create a better world with more opportunities for growth and prosperity through our restoration efforts.

Adverse effects of ecosystem degradation are plentiful, but restoration can be the solution that you use to save your community and environment from further harm.



WHY SHOULD I TAKE ACTION?

You know your community best. You can become an expert on the education, physical ability, financial picture, and environmental awareness of yourself and your neighbors. No matter your commitment, financial resources, or experience, you have the ability to make a difference.

Groups and individuals throughout history have come together in pursuit of every goal imaginable. While it may seem daunting to take the first step, every campaign or movement started with passionate people looking to make the world a better place. Your community can be as small as your household or as big as a country. Grassroots organizing allows those most affected by an issue to take the initiative in solving it. Grassroots solutions are often more diverse, creative, and long-lasting and can be initiated by any individual.

If you are unfamiliar with grassroots organizing, check out the list below for some successful examples of grassroots community-led projects and international campaigns. Not all of these examples are directly about restoration specifically, but the steps and initiatives can be transferred to any type of action. Additional examples of successful grassroots projects from around the world are highlighted in the Case Studies section of this toolkit.



GRASSROOTS EXAMPLES

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

[Mangroves for the Future](#)

[Community Marsh Planting
Event-Tampa Bay](#)

[Volunteer Reef Restoration
Project-Maya Beach](#)

CAMPAIGNS

[Earth Day: "Restore Our
Earth" Virtual Organizing](#)

[FridaysForFuture](#)

[#Trashtag_Challenge
\(Worldwide\)](#)

HOW CAN I TAKE ACTION?

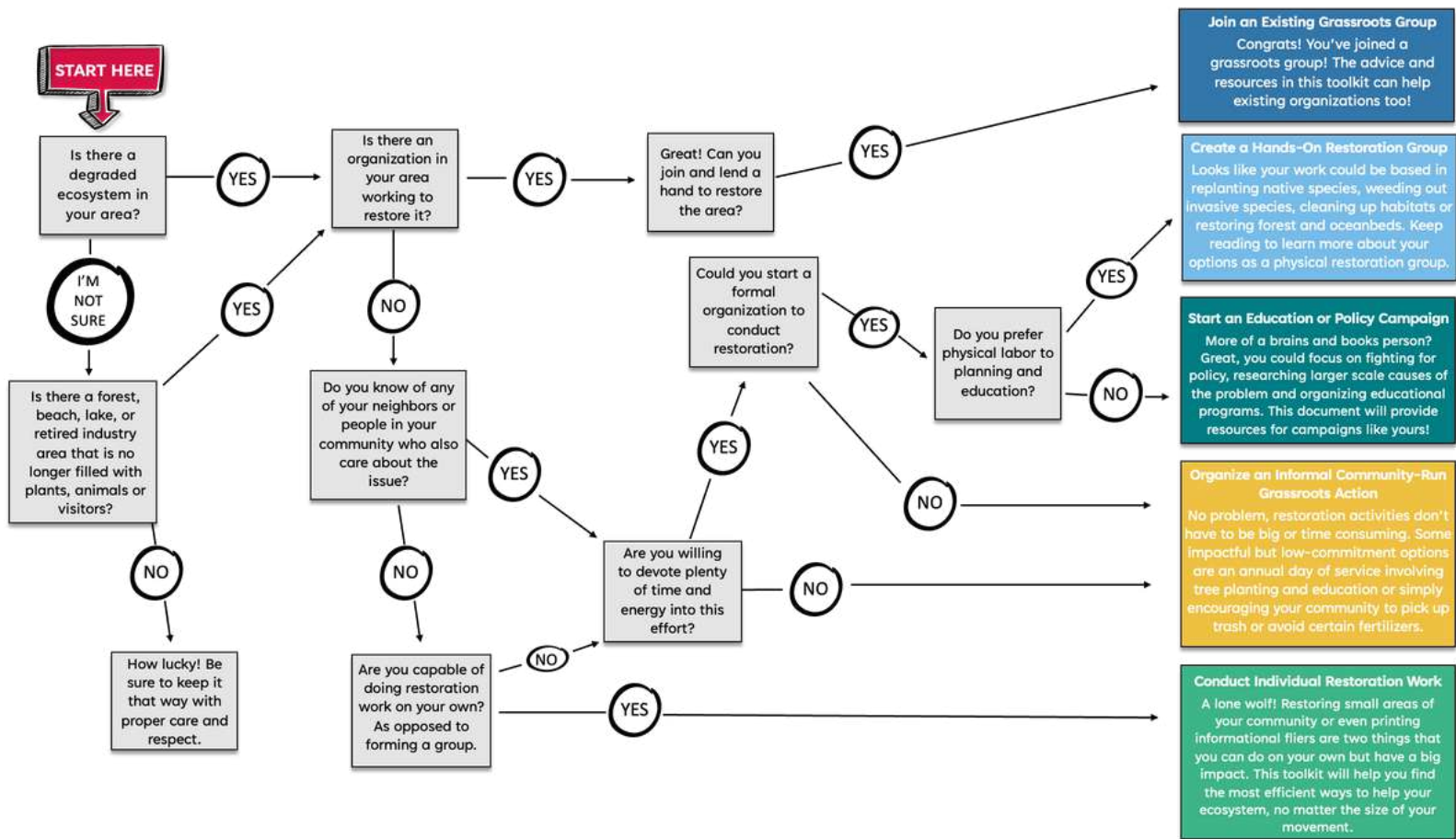


Figure 1: Determining your impact quiz

VISUALIZING LOCAL RESTORATION

Interactive exercise: Imagine you notice that your neighborhood pond has become filled with algae. It's pale green, begins to smell and you can no longer see any fish inside.

After some research, you learn that this can be caused by synthetic pesticides and mineral fertilizers that you and many of your neighbors use on your lawns.

The figure on the right outlines the different levels of action that you could take to help alleviate the degradation, and on a larger scale, help restore your local pond and the area's waterways.

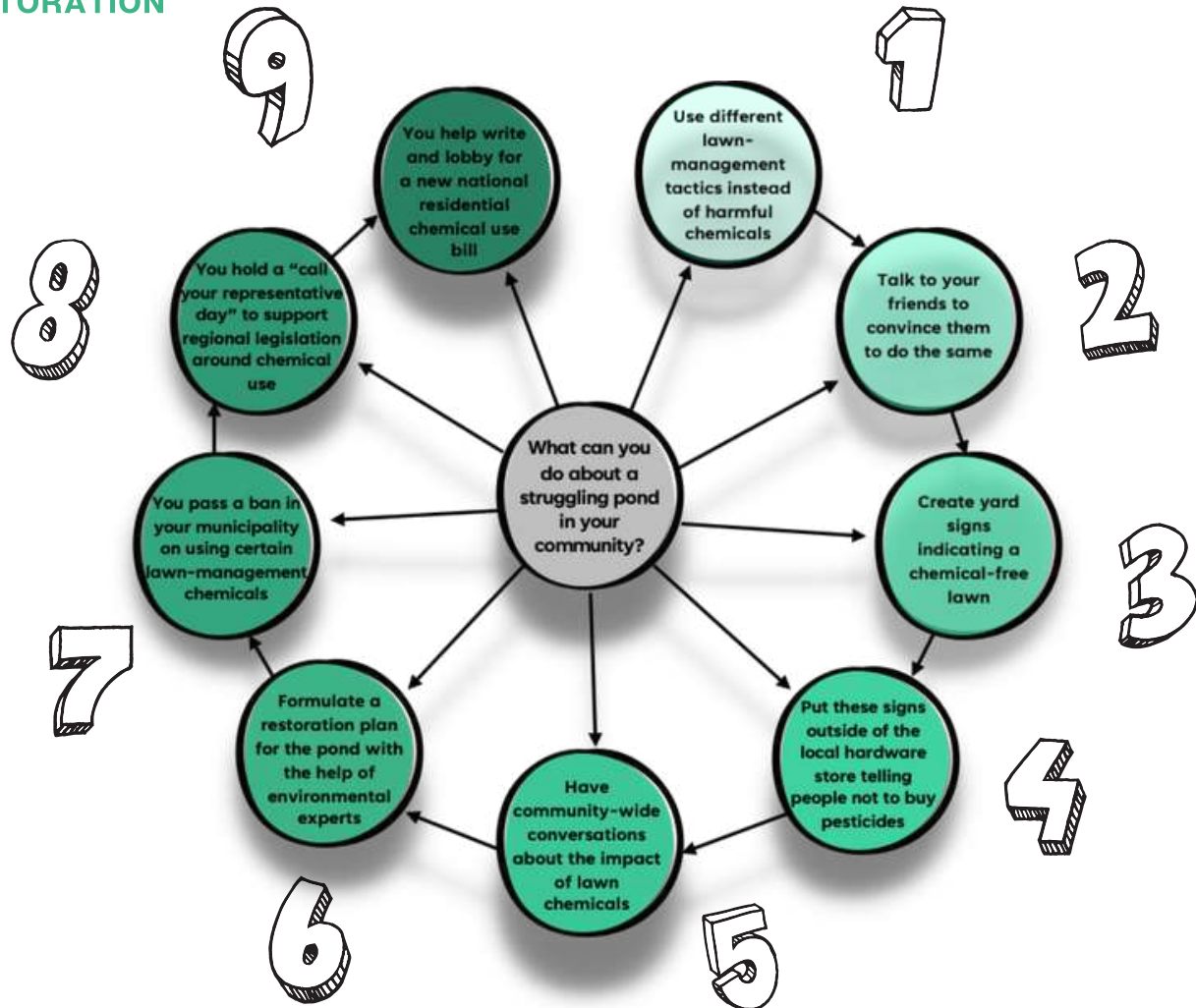


Figure 2: Span of a possible work gradient

REFLECTING BEFORE YOU ACT

Before we dive into what grassroots action can look like and how you can start your ecosystem restoration project, let's take this opportunity to reflect upon the challenges you may face and what drives you to overcome them.

You can start off by thinking to yourself:

- What is my motivation?
- What are the social benefits of my action?
- Is it possible that my action negatively impacts others?
- How can my action enhance resilience?
- Can I help my community feel more connected?
- How can I be more in touch with nature?
- What can I do to organize in coordination with others?
- What will the restored ecosystem mean to the community?
- Are there bigger issues here that need to be tackled?

These questions will play a big role in determining how to shape your action and whom to engage with as you take steps towards organizing and reaching your [wider restoration goals](#).



EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

Although in many cultures and societies, people have been distanced from the natural world, it is important to recognize that human beings and the biosphere are in fact interconnected. The perspective that the natural world is separate from the human world, a common viewpoint in Western societies, has led to a disconnect between people and nature. This has resulted in an unhealthy relationship in which mankind unintentionally has been exploiting and depleting Earth's natural resources, without understanding the bigger consequences for all life on the planet.

In order to move forward and overcome some of the biggest challenges our world is facing today, such as overexploitation, biodiversity loss and climate change, it is important to rebuild the connections between people and ecosystems. A lot can be learned from societies that maintain intimate relationships with the natural environment. Indigenous and many local communities are, due to their holistic knowledge of territories and harmonious ways of living with nature, well-positioned when it comes to contributing to ecosystem restoration. You can read more about incorporating different voices and different kinds of knowledges and practices in the "Science" and "Community" chapters.

By reading this toolkit you are already one step further to rebuilding a stronger relationship with our planet and successfully restoring our ecosystems.

SECTION 2

ASPECTS OF GRASSROOTS ACTION

✓ 1. Science

✓ 2. Community

✓ 3. Organizing

✓ 4. Funding

✓ 5. Wider Goals



Now that we have introduced and explained the need for grassroots organizing and ecosystem restoration, we will now walk you through some specific aspects of grassroots action. All grassroots organizing looks different, your initiative may include all of these stages, or only a few. Either way, each aspect can be a helpful thought exercise when planning your action. We've taken you through the "what" and "why," this is the "how."

Here, we will provide you with a breakdown of the most important aspects of mobilizing ecosystem restoration, whether you are acting alone or with a group.

In order to see how these aspects can fit into a larger movement, let's start by looking at what you can do if you find a degraded ecosystem your area. In Figure 3 (on the right), you can see the different levels of steps that you can take both online and in person. The first step, regardless of your path, will always begin by doing research, asking questions, and building your own and your community's awareness on the issue. You will find more on this on our next page.

Once you are sure that you have understood the issue that your ecosystem is facing, then you can take bigger steps like joining or hosting a restoration event or forming a collective of concerned neighbors to tackle the issue. Remember that you can pick and choose the steps that suit your goal the most.

We know that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become more difficult to meet up and schedule in-person events. Conducting activities online can be just as effective in getting around these barriers and spreading awareness. You may even be able to gain support from like-minded people in your community or from around the globe!



Figure 3: Examples of types of action

STEP 1: SCIENCE



Get the facts

The first step in determining your grassroots action is identifying if your ecosystem is in fact degraded. In Section 1, we showed you what a degraded ecosystem may look like. It's likely that an ecosystem that looks harmed is, in fact, degraded, but this is not always the case. Ensuring you have science-based assumptions and diagnoses is important to devise an efficient plan.

Once you have made the conclusion that your local ecosystem is degraded, the next step is to find out why this is the case. Understanding the factors impacting your ecosystem before taking action is crucial. Otherwise, you run the risk of committing to a solution that is either ineffective or worse, harmful.

Stick to reputable sources. Universities, scientific research journals, and intergovernmental organizations are all trustworthy. First-person accounts via blogs and forums can be helpful, just make sure that any claims are backed by credible sources before you use them as a base for action. Local and indigenous traditional knowledge can also be useful. Drawing on generations of trial-and-error could be helpful. The following are some questions to get you started:

Why is this ecosystem degraded?

Is there a solution?

How did this happen?

Is this solution feasible for me?

Why does scientific research matter?

Understanding how and why an ecosystem is under pressure is one of the most important parts of finding the right solution. Diving into research and seeking help from a professional, local or native expert, or scientific body can help you to better understand the types of solutions that are plausible.

The following page gives an example of the consequences of skipping the research step. Avoiding research may not always harm the ecosystem, but many times, this could result in more work on your end or missing the most effective solution. For the health and success of yourself, your action, and the ecosystem, take the time to thoroughly understand your situation before getting started.



STEP 1: SCIENCE

Principle 8: Local Land/Seascape Contexts



Informed approach vs. uninformed approach

An informed approach to ecosystem restoration takes into account knowledge based on research, practice and local community, while an uninformed approach does not. The benefits of an informed approach versus an uninformed approach are outlined in the example below, as well as some common mistakes in ecosystem restoration.

Plants are chosen based on the needs of the community and ecosystem; variables are carefully analyzed to ensure that plants will thrive in the long-run; the community backs the science and builds the space based on factual evidence.

Informed approach

The area is successfully restored

A species is chosen based on non-scientific preference or goal; restoration group is gathered; species is introduced into the wrong terrain; soil rejects the species; lack of trust in ecosystem restoration manifests in the community.

VS.

Uninformed approach

Restoration efforts fail

The importance of research-based solutions

The Aravali Biodiversity Park is a story of innovation, simplicity, and community engagement. Gurgaon is a city right outside of New Delhi, in the north of India. In 2011, the women-run volunteer organization, Iamgurgoan (IAG) sought to convert a retired mining site into a nature preserve. As with many restoration sites and projects, they set a goal, they wanted to plant one million trees in this area. The site was 380-acres and still deeply evident of the extraction that had taken place there just a few years before.

Meaning well, the group began shipping in trees from around the country to fill the park. They would host planting days where members of the community could come to help. However, they quickly realized that the ecosystem was not going to be conducive to just any type of tree and that other types of flora would also be needed to build a holistic and functioning ecosystem. Slowly, numerical markers were not as important as the experience and feel of the park. After consulting with the community and local scientists, they decided to pivot away from the number of trees and to instead focus on the biodiversity and health of the ecosystem, from there it thrived.



Common mistakes in ecosystem restoration



Introducing invasive species



Accidental extinction



Improper introduction



Lack of documentation



Incorrect type of solution for the issue



STEP 1: SCIENCE

Principle 5: Addressing Causes of Degradation

Principle 6: Knowledge Integration



Knowledge integration

Although it is advised to consult a scientific expert when it comes to complex ecosystem restoration methods, it is also important to value the voices of those around you. Desktop research is just as important as listening to those who have an intimate connection to the land. UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration Principle 6: Knowledge Integration, explains that a combined approach, incorporating different types of knowledge such as indigenous and traditional knowledge, community practices, and scientific research is important for ecosystem restoration to be successful.

The voices of indigenous peoples have been tragically overlooked in many aspects of society. More and more, the scientific community has looked to traditional and nature-based solutions for holistic and tried and tested approaches to environmental challenges including ecosystem degradation. This is why we encourage you to consider the different kinds of knowledge streams and to combine scientific research with traditional ones. The integration of these different types of knowledge can increase the social acceptability, economical feasibility, and ecological viability of your ecosystem restoration project.

Who is responsible for the degraded land?

Part of an informed approach is verifying who is responsible for the land you want to restore. Pinpointing who or what is responsible for the degradation can point you in the direction of whom you can get in touch with and what you can do to find a proper solution. There can be many scenarios as to why land management could be insufficient or harmful, causing degradation. Though finding immediate answers may be challenging, digging for answers and demanding transparency will be important before jumping in.

What is the status of the land?

Understanding the context around the ownership and stewardship of an area of land is a crucial step in your planning process. If the land is public or unaccounted for, it might explain why there is degradation as no one is responsible for its management. Private land is owned and cared for by a specific person or company. This means that you would have to discuss your plan with the owners and work with them to develop a process that meets their needs and that of the ecosystem. Public land on the other hand may be regulated by the government or local government. Hence, you would need to ask permission before taking action.

What permissions need to be granted to make restoration feasible?

After you've determined the law of the land and have an idea of the solution you'd like to take action for, gaining permission from the legislative body or landowners is important to ensure your prospective project will continue to completion without any roadblocks. Oftentimes, the process of asking permission can actually be helpful as it forces you to think through every aspect of your plan, can encourage forging partnerships, and potentially validate the efficacy of your method. While this may take time, ensuring the efficacy and longevity of your plan is already important, the bureaucracy is just there to make sure your ideas are validated and permissible.





STEP 2: COMMUNITY

Principle 2: Broad Engagement

Find your people

Now that you have done your research and found a science-based solution, you are ready to gather your people. Personal factors like time constraints may push you in the direction of individual action. That's okay! Even if you decide to go it alone you can rest assured that you'll have a wider community ready to support you. This sub-section will be about finding different people and groups to help you achieve your goals. Here are some potential ways to find passionate people like you.

Having a community, online or in-person, big or small, local or far away, can be a game-changer in your ecosystem restoration efforts. Another way to bring people together is to form "eco teams" or small groups of concerned citizens to brainstorm and solve challenges. Finding or building a community can help your action gain attention, allow you to gain insight from the more experienced, and afford you some support throughout your journey. Figure 4 to the right, can be used to guide you in your search for finding people and communities to support and join you on your action.

Cultivate your people

Once you have identified and engaged with your community members, you can now begin thinking about how your skills and experiences can fit together most efficiently.

Diversity of experiences and ideas are important to take into consideration. Open discussion and solid organization will allow you to properly position your people to create change.

To take advantage of the resources that your community can offer you, you first need to recognize the types of people and organizations that can support and share their assets to make your grassroots action a success. Understanding the skills, and weaknesses of your group is an important step to ensure that you choose an efficient and long-lasting solution.

The following exercise in Figure 5, "Discovering Your Community Assets", can be used to map the assets that are available to you in your own community. Use this exercise to see if there are already community members working on this issue. If not, the exercise will assist you to identify passionate members of the community that can join in and lend a hand.

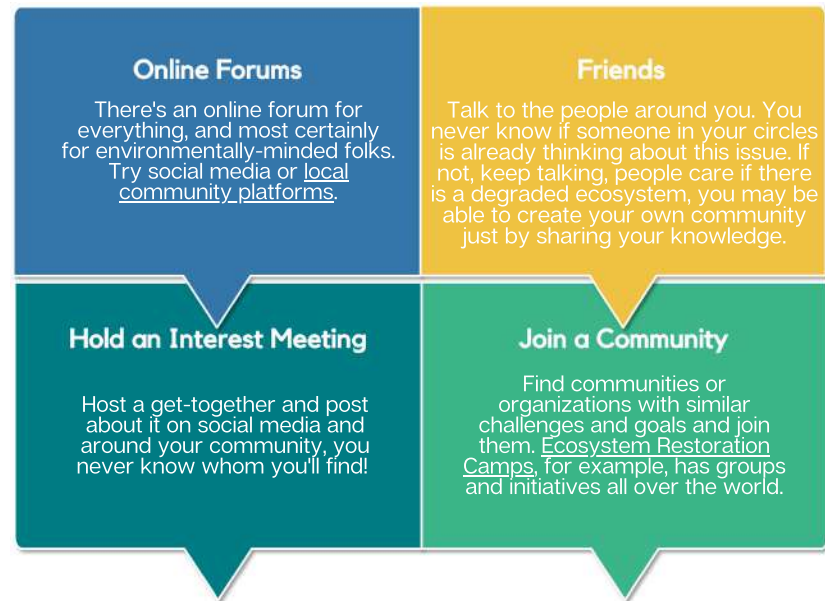


Figure 4: Finding like-minded people

STEP: 2 COMMUNITY



Figure 5 can be used to better understand the resources and network available to you. Mapping the assets in your community will give you an idea of the types of resources that you can use to push your solution forward once you are ready to take action.

You'll find that the mapping is divided into two categories: "What do they have" and "Who are they?". The first category on the left can be used to map the resources available to you. On the right, you can map the provider of resources or to whom the assets can be attributed.

Find the fill-in exercise in the Annex A section of this toolkit.



Figure 5: Discovering your community assets map
Source: Ninon Lewis





STEP 3: ORGANIZE

Once you have determined who in your community could support you to restore your ecosystem and have mapped the assets available to you, then you're ready to organize. This section will help you position your people, goals, and/or movement towards success and align you with [UN Decade Principle 7: Measurable Goals](#).

Understand your abilities

One of the best ways to understand the abilities of a group or movement is through a SWOT Analysis as seen in Figure 6. This is a common exercise and can give you a great picture of your capabilities and potential constraints. This can help you map out your abilities and can prepare you for setting realistic goals. See below for a copy of the exercise, a bigger worksheet version is in the Resources annex section.



Figure 6: SWOT analysis

Set your goals

After researching, you now have a grasp on what is happening to the ecosystem and what needs to be done to reverse the degradation. Using that information, you can create goals that line up with your capabilities. They may include:

- amount of new or returning visitors to the space
- restoring beauty to the space
- a certain level of ecosystem functionality or biodiversity
- reintroduction of native species
- policy introduction

Whatever your goals, make sure they are specific, measurable, and achievable.

Establish your structure

Whether you are a group of 1 or 100, having structure is helpful. Having structure can ensure that tasks and logistics do not fall through the cracks.

How much time do you all have to devote to this effort? How often will you need to meet to discuss planning or progress? Will you meet online or in person? Who will be in charge of which tasks? In what time frame do you want to accomplish your goals? What outside resources will you need to accomplish them? Assess these variables as soon as possible so you begin your journey with an organized, cohesive, and dedicated mindset.

In the exercise below, Figure 7, you are asked to think about how the resources that are available to you can assist you to overcome any potential constraints you may face.

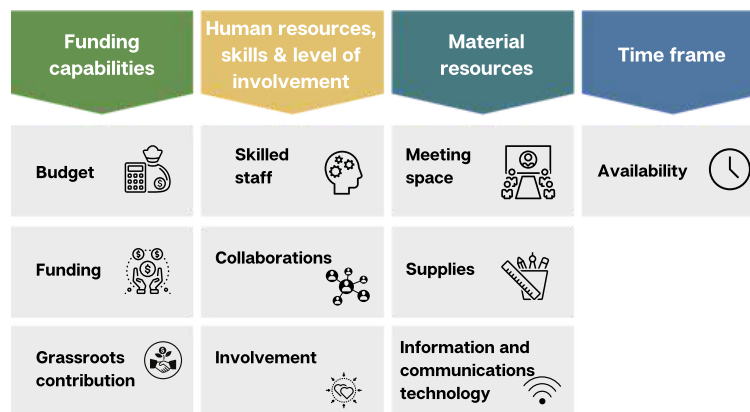


Figure 7: Understanding resources and abilities

STEP 3: ORGANIZE

Set your goals and measure

After researching, you now have a grasp on what is happening to the ecosystem and what needs to be done to reverse the degradation. Using that information, you can create goals that line up with your capabilities.

Whatever your goals, make sure they are specific, measurable, and achievable. Organizing a measurement and monitoring system will help you maintain efficacy and efficiency. This can also often determine which tools, resources, or additional people you may need. See the chart below for some monitoring frameworks according to various potential goals.

Goal	Monitor
Increase park visitors	Count amount of people who enter the park within week-long time frames
Improve biodiversity	Compare population growth in restored and unrestored areas
Inspire a cultural shift	Conduct interviews before and after to track community mindsets
Bring back a struggling plant or animal species	Learn the conditions needed for that species and monitor level of hospitality
Restore the area to a level of visual beauty	Collect periodic pictures or data on visitor opinion

Principle 7: Measurable Goals

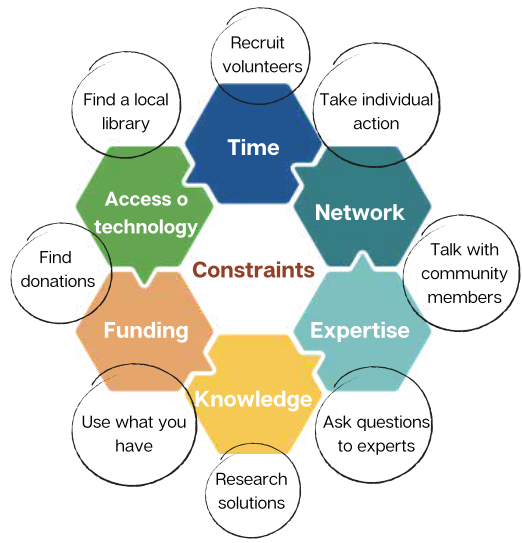


Figure 8: Constraint Mapping

Remember the SWOT analysis exercise where you outlined your strengths, weaknesses, resources, constraints, and capabilities? Above, you'll find examples of some of the hurdles that you may face and possible solutions.

For each of the hurdles pictured in the Figure 8, we've outlined how you can use your resources, strengths, and capabilities to overcome your biggest constraints. For instance, if devoting time to your campaign is holding you back, reaching out to a community center for volunteers could help you allocate tasks and build support.

While overcoming these types of challenges on your own is possible, leveraging your resources in the community can not only help you overcome barriers but also help you to feel supported in your action.

STEP 4: FUNDING

When initiating grassroots action, it's important to make the best of the resources you have access to. Securing funding is not the most important aspect of grassroots action, but it sure can help you. Whether you are one person making flyers or 200 people organizing a worldwide tree planting day, securing funding can help you cover common expenses such as printing, wifi, meeting spaces, cleanup tools, seeds, transportation, or permits. While this can be a very situation-specific process, we'll offer some organizational tips to get you started.

- **Write it down:** Writing down your expenses can help you understand your budget and will prove useful if you do end up seeking funding. When setting a goal for a fundraiser or applying for grants it is much more difficult and inefficient to make a guess than to have past experience and data.

- **Get advice:** Funding can be one of the more obscure aspects of action. As mentioned above, there are online forums and groups that are filled with experienced grassroots organizers. Ask them if your budget is reasonable or if there are ways you can save, maybe they know some producers or shops that offer discounts or sales. You never know, don't be afraid to reach out!
- **Know your options:** There are tons of organizations and websites out there to help you find the resources you need to get your feet off the ground or take your action a step further. See below for just some of the possible funding avenues and options.



Local Fundraising	Grants	Impact Financing	Donations
<u>Examples of Community Fundraising Events</u>	<u>List of Worldwide Grant Provider</u>	<u>Eco Business Fund</u>	<u>GoFundMe: Online Fundraising Campaigns</u>
<u>UN Decade Local Financing Mechanisms</u>	<u>Grassroots International Funding</u>	<u>Kiva: Social Impact Loan Platform</u>	<u>GlobalGiving NGO Fundraising Platform</u>
	<u>WWF Conservation Grants</u> <u>IMF Grant Application</u>	<u>Impact and Performance Based Loans</u> <u>Pay-For-Success Loan Program</u>	



STEP 5: WIDER GOALS

When you think of ecosystem restoration, the first thing that may come to mind is on-the-ground, hands-on restoration work. But, in fact, there are many ways that you can remain involved and keep the momentum for ecosystem restoration going in your community after you've put away your buckets and shovels.

This section will show you how you can stay engaged and help your community pursue big-picture restoration goals in the form of **knowledge-building, policy influencing, and cultural shifts.**

Not every movement, campaign, or action will include these steps, that's okay, a boots-on-the-ground movement can be just as impactful. These are just some possible ways that you and your community can cement your movement for the long haul and inspire others to follow your lead!

In the gradient to the right, Figure 9, you can see the progression of outcomes that your action could achieve. Beginning with individual and community action is important. It allows you to get the ecosystem back on the right track as soon as possible and it also helps you gauge and increase support for the cause within your area. Once the ecosystem is out of harms-way, that is when larger steps can be taken. It is these final steps that can best ensure the long-term health and safety of the ecosystem.

Achieving these wider goals will require the knowledge, skills, and community gained in the previous aspects. It takes an organized, dedicated, and passionate individual or group to accomplish these bigger tasks. This section will instruct you on how to leverage your experience and people to solidify your work.

Long-term ecosystem health and safety

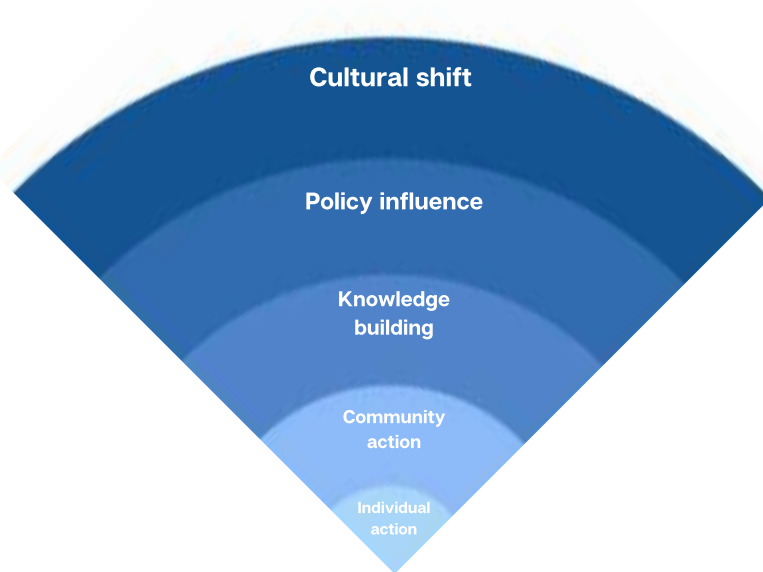


Figure 9: Wider Goals Potential



STEP 5: WIDER GOALS KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Gathering information

Here is where the information that you gathered to understand and identify your ecosystem's degradation can be put to use. Especially, if you need to convince your peers or even your local town council, having facts and a solid argument for why ecosystem restoration will improve conditions for the surrounding ecosystem and community will help you get your point across. Valuable resources that can be used to get you started can be found on the Resources page in Annex B of this toolkit. For other tips on finding credible resources, you can refer back to the Science section.

A good starting point is knowing what your community already knows so that you can build off it. Some community members may have a lot of experience in ecosystem restoration while others may be unfamiliar with the concept or why this is relevant to them. Be prepared to share a wide array of facts to engage different levels of education on the subject.

Many communities needing to take ecosystem restoration into their own hands do not know that 1. it is happening, 2. that they have a part in it, and 3. what they can do.

This section will teach you how to gather the information needed, how to put that information together in a digestible and compelling format, and how to discern which methods of distribution are most effective.

Deciding on your message

Deciding on how you will communicate to your friends, neighbors, and wider community will take some thought. Some may be more receptive than others at first, but if you communicate openly and with a goal to improve the environmental conditions of your local area, you will likely find all the support that you'll need. You can use Figure 10. to guide you in shaping your action and how you will communicate about it.

Principle 3: Many Types of Activities



Figure 10: Action Mapping

Spreading the word

In some communities flyers may work best, in others, one-on-one conversations may be the most effective way to engage and share your concerns. Even something as big as a community-wide workshop might be helpful to call your fellow neighbors to take part in your ecosystem restoration solution. The exercise on the next page is a collection of questions to get you thinking about the needs of your community and how you can help.

STEP 5: WIDER GOALS KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

How well do you know your community? If you can get a grasp on how the community understands the problem that you are trying to solve, you'll be able to come up with the right solutions to spread awareness and educate and activate neighbors, peers, and others in your community! The exercise below can be used to help you assess your path of action through the lens of **what you can do** and **why you should do it**.

WHAT?

Is your community more urban or rural, are you surrounded by nature or mostly small parks?



How familiar is your community with methods to solve the environmental challenges in your area?



How many people in your community see the degraded ecosystem often?



Do most people in your community speak the same language?



How easily can you print out materials for posters or fliers?



Is there a place in your community where you can meet with community members?



How many people in your community can read, would written materials be effective?



WHY?

This can tell you how familiar your community may be with an unhealthy-looking ecosystem.

This can tell you how in-depth to go with your knowledge sharing.

This will tell you if pictures or maps will be helpful or repetitive.

This can tell you if flyers, posters, or meetings need to be provided in different languages.

This can tell you if physical materials are even feasible or efficient.

This can tell you if an in-person workshop would be feasible or efficient.

This can tell you if you need to rely on more visual or verbal information.



STEP 5: WIDER GOALS POLICY INFLUENCING

One of the most impactful and longer-lasting ways to cement your campaign, movement, or action is through policy. But, navigating the legislative world can be extremely complicated. Often, ecosystem degradation is due to unregulated polluting, extraction, or mistreatment, or because of policies that favor short-term gains over environmental wellbeing. Policy is an impactful way to change the direction of stakeholder action with a mix of mandates, incentives, and enforcement.

Policy and legislation are complicated and country-specific. [Here](#) is a great resource for thinking through potential policy avenues and approaches. Aligning with [UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration Principle 10: Policy Integration](#) can contribute to the long-term success of your initiative to change current political landscape.

Needs of the ecosystem: This is where your research comes in. The policy must be science-based and must meet a dire need of the ecosystem. There's no point in using the time and energy of yourself, your organization, and the lawmaker on legislation that will not have an actual impact on the problem.

Needs of the community: Many times, an ecosystem is being degraded by a practice that is convenient or necessary for the community. If you are proposing the end of a certain behavior or are promoting a positive one, what are you replacing it with and how are you helping the community adjust? If you are asking farmers to stop using pesticides, what other methods of pest control can they use, can you help allocate funding to resources and education?

Needs of the policymakers: All legislators have goals when they come into office. Many times, those goals may be environmentally-minded, but oftentimes they are also focused on addressing social issues such as poverty, lowering crime, lessening debt, or educating the population.

Principle 10: Policy Integration



How does your proposed legislation help them achieve a wide-scoping goal, how can it support those social issues, or how can it fit into their larger legislative plans? Find out if the opportunity exists to build a connection between the agendas of those legislators and your restoration goals. Find a balance that will appeal to policy-makers, the community as well as the ecosystem as pictured in Figure 11.

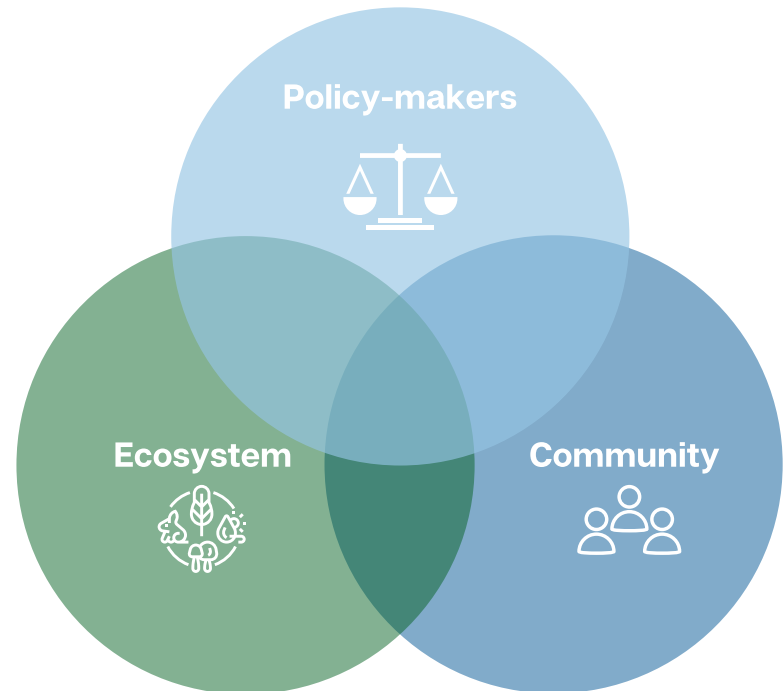


Figure 11: Policy Planning Diagram

STEP 5: WIDER GOALS CULTURE SHIFTING

A long-term cultural shift is the final seal of success for any movement. When the community shifts from a mentality of depletion and extraction to one of educated stewardship, that is when you know you have truly changed the future of the ecosystem.

This step will likely require the above two goals. Education and regulation, over time, can lead to a change in the perception and desires of a community. A community that used to think nothing of logging a forest or littering on a beach can completely transform if given time, resources, and empowerment. For smaller campaigns or actions, a cultural shift does not always have to be community-wide. Changing the minds of a block, cul-de-sac, or even one household can light a spark for larger change down the line.

The culture wheel as pictured in Figure 12, can be a great tool no matter what phase your movement is in. It can help you assess how this action may affect your community, how receptive your community may be to change, and which areas of your community's culture would be most helpful to harness.

Helpful questions:

1. Who is the most affected by the issue?
2. How are those that rely on the ecosystem affected and how can you make them care?
3. What are the current beliefs (general opinion) on the issue and what is being done to target it?
4. Are those that are most affected interact with community bodies or decision-makers?
5. How inclusive is the community in terms of gender and minority representation? How can this be improved?
6. What more is needed and how can your action bridge the gap to make their voices heard?

Principle 8: Local Land/Seascapes Context

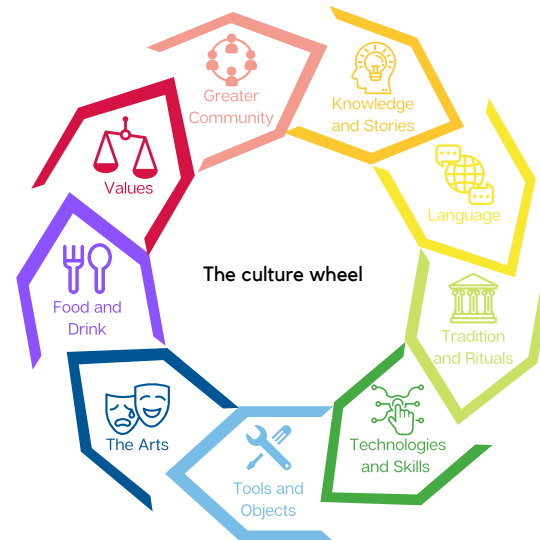


Figure 12: Culture Wheel, Source: Theculturewheel.org

Involving younger and traditionally marginalized voices in this process is crucial. Gaining the support of younger people can cement your movement for generations. As mentioned above, those communities that are typically not consulted can often host a wealth of knowledge and might already have a culture of stewardship and environmental respect.

Cultural shifts take time and effort. Don't be discouraged if you do not completely change the mindset of your community in a few years. The most effective transitions are one's fostered through consistent action and education.

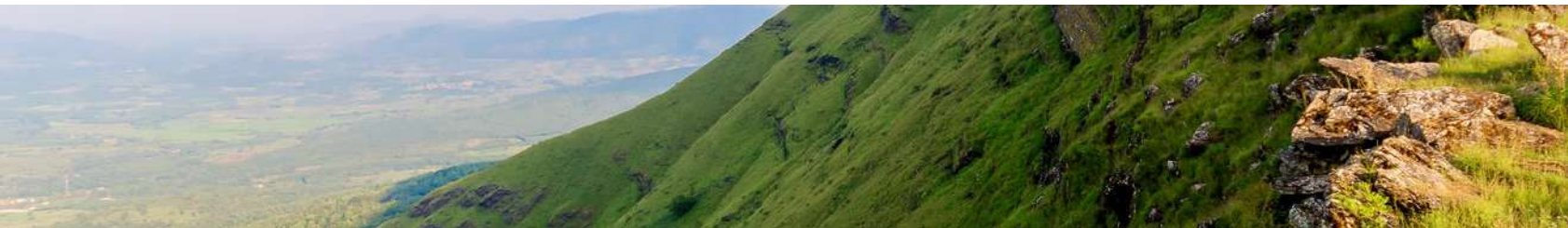
SECTION 3

CASE STUDIES

After walking you through the whys, whats, and hows of ecosystem restoration actions or movements, we will now present case studies or examples highlighting individuals and communities that successfully restored their local ecosystem via their grassroots restoration activities.

The selected case studies have been chosen from all different parts of the globe, which you can see on the map to the right. No matter their walks of life, each of these restoration leaders faced different challenges and obstacles in their pursuit of ecosystem health but managed to overcome their hurdles by engaging their community and neighbors.

This section will hopefully provide context and inspiration to motivate you on your restoration journey. Take time to notice when the leaders below might have implemented some of the solutions or suggestions from the sections above, and how might you do the same?



KAYOLE, KENYA

Our first case study is based in Kayole, a suburb of Nairobi, Kenya. Samuel Odamo, a garbage collector and community leader, noticed people in his community would often go into the city of Nairobi to relax and gather in the parks. He wanted to make it possible and attractive for his neighbors to have recreational space in their own community. A space where children and families could feel safe to play and congregate.

Kayole was one of the communities that benefitted from the Nairobi Sanitation Project. This project afforded them funding for sanitation and water services. Odamo's organization, Kayole Mtaa Safi, thought this would be the perfect opportunity to allocate open space for recreation areas. Together, the community began to pick up trash, plant trees, and create simple structures for children to play on and paths for people to walk on.



Kayole Mtaa Safi, photo by Kayola Mtaa Safi

"We see the community is really appreciating what we are doing. They are realizing the benefit. When you engage that community and the community takes the ownership, that means sustainability of the project is guaranteed. We put our hands together and we do something for our own benefit. Then it works well." - Samuel Odamo

Perhaps the more remarkable result of the project has been youth involvement. Many of the young community members have become passionate about the project as well. Between 60-70 young people regularly take part in protecting and maintaining the estate. Odamo has leveraged the project as a learning opportunity, seeking to teach school kids about environmental stewardship and community organizing.

Odamo and the people of Kayole saw a need in their community and an opportunity to help themselves while helping their ecosystem.

KARNATAKA, INDIA

Our second case study is the [story of Jeddiah](#), an indigenous eco-development group in Karnataka, India. Jeddiah is a great example of a strong community-based approach to ecosystem restoration successfully implementing a restoration-based livelihood model. Supported by the grassroots non-profit, Junglescapes, the community is part of one of three eco-development groups aiming to restore areas that have been degraded by invasive species and the adverse effects from grazing cattle and the collection of wood.

Previous attempts in training indigenous communities in non-forestry vocational skills have proved rather unsuccessful in the area, resulting in many community members occupying unskilled jobs. However, the application of traditional indigenous ecological knowledge has proved beneficial to both the natural environment as well as the local community. By being custodians of the forest, and collecting and marketing forest produce, the community establishes a win-win situation with the natural environment.



Reserve Forest in Karnataka, India. Image by Sanjib kumar Chowdhury

To this day, the groups have contributed to the restoration of over 1,000 hectares of forest and improved biodiversity. Additionally, the restoration activities have contributed to the livelihood of the indigenous population, with some families tripling their income.

This case study teaches us that there is no one approach to ecosystem restoration. In this case, a bottom-up approach based on the existing skills and knowledge of the community was successful and beneficial both for the ecosystem and the community.

BARRA DEL MONTAGUA, HONDURAS

As a single mother of three, Pabla sought out to inspire youth in her hometown of Barra Del Motagua - located on the Caribbean coast of Honduras - through preserving, conserving, and restoring the area's local mangroves. Mangroves are an important tool for her community, protecting their land from storm action, erosion, and flooding.

After taking part in the IUCN and USAID-led Regional Coastal Biodiversity Project, Pabla brought together 14 community members to take action to restore one hectare of the local mangrove ecosystem, nursing 2,500 red and black mangrove seedlings and planting 3,500 trees.



Mangrove forest in Northern Honduras. Photo by Abundant Life Foundation

Since starting her restoration work in 2011, Pabla continues to provide leadership, lending her expertise in monitoring and georeferencing the mangroves while supervising beach and mangrove cleanup campaigns to support community tourism.

Her purpose in taking part in ecosystem restoration has been two-fold. Pabla's motivation for mangrove restoration efforts has been to protect the local community from the negative impacts of increasingly stronger storms and hurricanes. Besides this, she has also focused on encouraging youth to stay in the community rather than migrate to bigger cities. Her restoration work can increase jobs through recuperating fish stocks and increasing tourism. By involving youths in these efforts and improving the beauty and vivacity of the local area, Pabla has encouraged youth's commitment to the community and ecosystem conservation so that they continue to make it a better place for generations to come.

SPAIN

The Cabula Initiative is a Spanish project led by two international non-profits; Regenera Hub & Tercer Paisaje (Third Landscape). They aim to recover a desertified landscape in Southern Spain. This area has previously been used for agriculture, military activities, mining, and garbage dumping. The mistreatment of this land has led to a decrease in local soil quality which has caused severe water stress, droughts, food insecurity, and social conflicts. Cabula is now seeking to turn the area into a thriving Mediterranean forest and nature reserve.

This youth-led initiative is looking to regenerate this degraded ecosystem through wide-scale nature-based solutions. What makes this project so special is their use of technology to track their goals and maintain success. With the combination of local/traditional knowledge and the insights afforded by technology such as artificial intelligence and drones, this project is on its way to bringing back a healthy and productive landscape.



Youth-led Restoration

While the overarching goal of the project may be ecosystem restoration, it is through this endeavor that Cabula seeks to empower youth and increase local environmental investment. By educating the population on traditional environmental stewardship techniques and uses for native plants, the project hopes to encourage locals to take pride in their environment. Cabula hosts workshops and community meetings to empower young people to be changemakers in their community and advocates for their land. The nonprofits also hope that educating the local population about ecosystem restoration and environmental stewardship will inspire restoration in other areas and surrounding communities.

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN MADAGASCAR

Reforestation - planting new trees where there previously were none - is an increasingly popular restoration method across the globe, especially in Africa. This method reinvigorates the water cycle in often desertified areas and can provide food and livelihood for the farmers that maintain the forests. A Forest and Farm Producers Organization, MatanjaKa Union, has made great strides towards a revived and productive forest ecosystem in Madagascar. The organization trains women and young people in reforestation so that they can implement these practices in their own "fokotany" or villages. In 2020 alone, the group reforested 74 hectares of land across the country. Below are the stories and successes of just a few of the changemakers.



Mrs. Antoinine at her nursery in Antanamitarana

Mrs. Antoinine works as a seedling producer and runs a plant nursery in the rural community of Antanamitarana within the Atanarivo region of Madagascar. Her objective is to contribute to the restoration of mountain forest plots in protected and peripheral areas. She has produced over 2000 feet of eucalyptus, black wood, jujube tree, a variety of fruit trees, and more. She supplies these seedlings to various protected forests such as the Montagne de Francais forest.

Mr. Roger and his wife Mrs. Farahinana are members of their local grassroots farming organization "Esperance" in their fokotany of Sakaramy located on the northernmost tip of the country. They have restored 10 hectares by planting fruit trees such as papaya, soursop, lemon trees, and more, accounting for over 2,000 feet. They look forward to expanding the farm in the coming years.

Mrs. Rabenomanana, also located in Sakaramy, has created a plantation of banana and other fruit trees. Her farm not only restores the soil and surrounding ecosystem, but she has also been able to feed her family off of the harvest. In total, 1,200 feet were planted in an area of one hectare.

THE BAHAMAS

The island system of The Bahamas, like many other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), has an intimate understanding of climate change and environmental degradation. The ravages of irresponsible tourism, in addition to ever-increasing hurricanes and ocean acidification, create an unsure future for many of these countries. The Youth Marine Explorers, or YME, is taking a stand. Through youth education and empowerment, YME aims to empower future Bahamians to be stewards of their seas and landscapes.

YME, then the Youth Bahamian Marine Scientists, was founded by Nikita Shiel-Rolle, a recent graduate who saw the lack of marine education and empowerment amongst Bahamian youngsters. Through their own research, YME found that a driving factor of environmental degradation was the low-quality education received by the majority of Bahamian youth. To meet this need, YME shifted to encouraging sustainable choices through academic excellence and behavioral change. Since its founding, YME has worked with over 2,000 students on six islands. Many workshops center around emphasizing the student's responsibility and ownership over their oceans and lands. By showing students the duty they have to their country, YME hopes that they will make more sustainable choices going forward.



YME Members Monitoring Reef Health

The organization has expanded rapidly in the last few years. In 2015, Nikita received The Bahamas Icon Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Development. In 2019, The Cat Island Conservation Institute, or CICI, was founded to bring together Bahamian marine experts to develop innovative solutions to climate change and natural disasters. YME and CICI seek to foster a brighter and more prosperous future for the Bahamas through sustainability and education.

EAST AFRICA

Justdiggit was founded 11 years ago by Dennis Karpes. Dennis met the late Peter Westerveld, who was born and raised in Tanzania, who showed him that it was possible to transform completely dried up ecosystems into ones that are green and lush. Justdiggit focuses on simple, highly scalable, and low-cost restoration techniques. One of them is Rainwater Harvesting and the other one is Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR): bringing forgotten tree stumps back to life with a simple pruning technique. By reviving trees on farmland and combining trees and crops on the land, rainwater is captured and soil fertility increases resulting in better yields, which leads to more income for farmers and a greener land, and higher carbon intake.

With this approach, Justdiggit has positively impacted the lives of 1 million people in Tanzania, brought back 4.5 million trees and an area of 55,000 hectares (135,907 acres) under greening over the past 4 years. In Kenya, they have dug more than 200,000 waterbunds. Justdiggit's ultimate goal is to reach all 350 million subsistence farmers in Sub Saharan Africa in the coming 10 years in the spirit of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



Photo by Justdiggit from their Tanzania-based project

Besides this, Justdiggit also supports organizations by helping them measure and boost their impact, bringing together farmers, institutions, champion farmers, and district coordinators under their program management structure. Champion farmers facilitate visits with planters and data is collected effectively and registered with district coordinators, who communicate tree counts to inform the project's KPIs. Tree counts are analyzed by Justdiggit via a random sampling with annual evaluations providing a final check. The effects of outputs are monitored and measured through indicators, which are currently short-term but will allow for impact to be adjusted as results become more long-term.

ARE YOU READY? SELF-ASSESSMENT

Congratulations, you have made it to the end of this grassroots organizing toolkit. Now you are ready to take action!

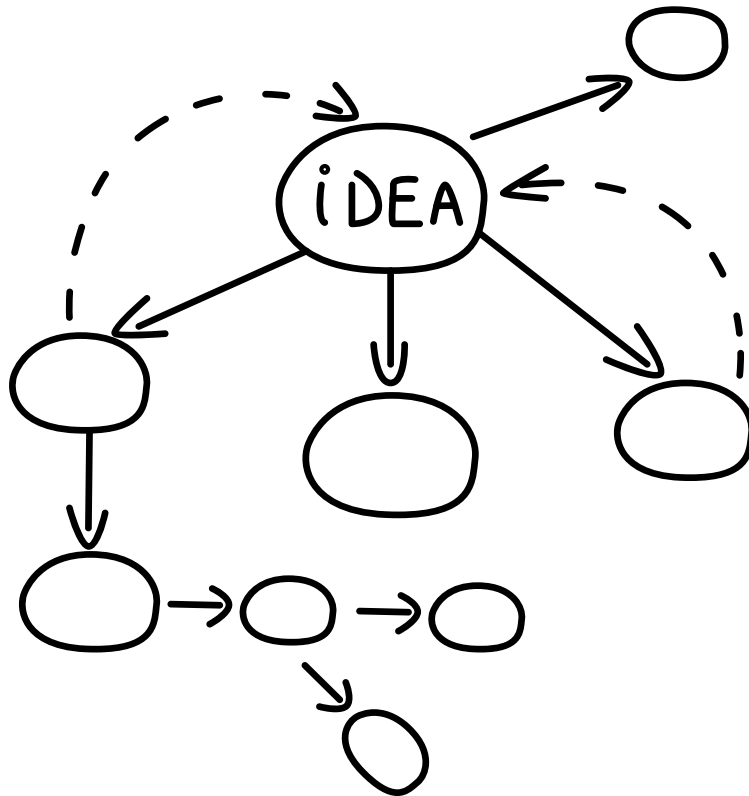
You can use the self-assessment checklist to test your readiness level as you follow the steps outlined in this toolkit. Tick the boxes to reflect on what have you accomplished so far, what helped the most, the things you would like to circle back on, and what you have decided does not need to be a part of your movement. An action that has fulfilled all or most of the steps below is one that will protect an ecosystem for years to come.

CHECKLIST FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

START HERE →

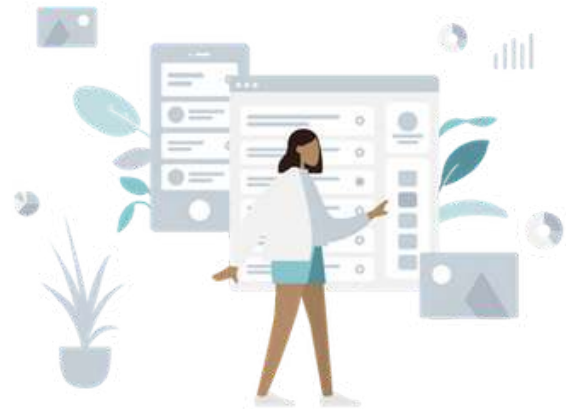
- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Read the community organizing toolkit | → | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified ecosystem degradation in my neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Determined my ecosystem restoration action | <input type="checkbox"/> Researched land/ area ownership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Granted permission to take action | → | <input type="checkbox"/> Researched scientific/traditional restoration methods | <input type="checkbox"/> Thought about what I could achieve (short-term goals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Created a community asset map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Got in contact with my community | → | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained the resources I needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Took action individually/ with like-minded people | <input type="checkbox"/> Took steps to make action inclusive and fully representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set long-term goals | → | <input type="checkbox"/> Established a process to self-sustain efforts | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitored progress, using the Recovery Wheel tool | <input type="checkbox"/> Aligned my action with the UN Decade Principles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Created an environmental and/or social impact | → | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem is restored! | <input type="checkbox"/> Communicated and shared restoration action | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended this toolkit to peers |

ANNEX A. HELPFUL TOOLS



To conclude the toolkit, we have provided practical tools and exercises so that you can assess what is already available to you while understanding what you need in order to take your grassroots action to the next level, whatever that may be.

For each exercise, we will summarize the purpose of the activity, how to complete it successfully and why it will help you take part in grassroots action.



DETERMINING YOUR IMPACT

Here are a few questions to get you thinking about how your action will impact yourself, your neighbors, and the community around you. Reflect on these questions and let them guide you in conceptualizing your impact. It might be that you need to re-think how you will take part in ecosystem restoration or lead you to have conversations with people that you have not had before. Regardless, thinking deeper into the issue surrounding your ecosystem will give you some insights into how a solution can be inclusive and impactful.



Who is the most affected by the issue?

01

Who are those that rely on the ecosystem and how can you make them care?

02

What are the current beliefs (general opinion) on the issue, what are the current practices to target it if any?

03

Do those that are most affected have connections with community bodies, decision-makers, access to resources?

04

How inclusive is the community in terms of gender and minority representation? How can this be improved?

05

What more is needed and how can you bridge the gap to make their voices heard?

06

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, RESOURCES, CONSTRAINTS, AND CAPABILITIES

This exercise is to help you assess the abilities and constraints of those involved in your action. What are some areas of action in which you know you will succeed? What are some areas that you could improve on or could possibly find someone to fill that gap? What are some resources that you can draw upon to help? Once you have completed each section, think through how you can design an action that will be the most effective. Some groups or individuals will succeed with different goals and approaches, the goal is to find what works for you and make change through that.



STRENGTHS



WEAKNESSES



RESOURCES



CONSTRAINTS



CAPABILITIES

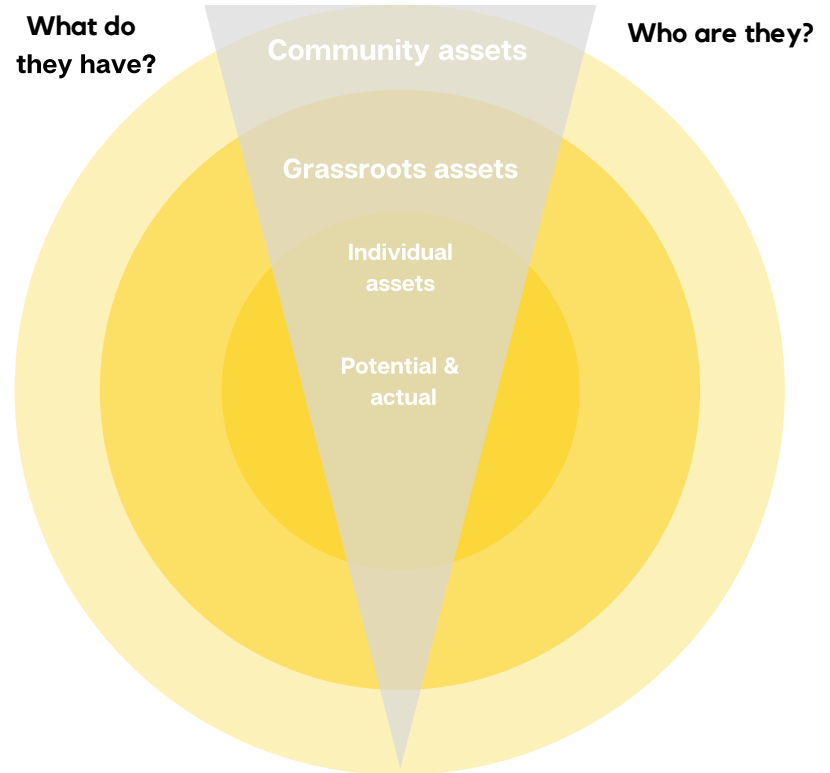
DISCOVERING YOUR COMMUNITY ASSETS

Knowing your individual and community resources is an important step in figuring out how you can leverage your resources to make an impact. You can use this mapping exercise to see what assets you have available to you and who you can reach out to for support.

The outer circle, "Community Assets", can be used to map public community assets provided by your local government and public service providers.

The middle ring, focusing on assets provided by associations and community groups, can be filled out to map the types of grassroots assets that you can harness such as existing networks and volunteers.

The core ring is self-reflective. You can use this ring to assess your individual assets, skills, and sources of support.



BRAINSTORMING A VISION FOR YOUR GRASSROOTS ACTION

Creating a long-term vision for your action is crucial. This worksheet can help you understand where you want to go and then design your action to take you there. This can also help motivate you to take smaller action. If you can see the larger potential impact, it is easier to see the need for the day-to-day action. Your goals don't have to be grand, it could simply be "make my community park more enjoyable" or "change my neighbors opinions on recycling and composting." Whatever your goals are, make sure that you clearly define them and then design your action around attaining them.

My vision is:



In 10 years I hope that my local ecosystem will:

These issues make me worry about the future of my ecosystem:

My solution is:

I also want my solution to have a positive impact on:

My mission is to:

ANNEX B. ONLINE RESOURCES

Ecosystem restoration goes far beyond the scope of what is covered in this toolkit. Below is a collection of helpful resources covering important topics on the many different aspects of restoration both general and specific to different situations and populations. Questions or comments, or just want to know how you can get started? IUCN is also ready to answer any questions that you may have on any points or themes mentioned in this community organizing toolkit. Please reach out to forests@iucn.org for any inquiries.

IUCN Ecosystem Resources

[Restoration Intervention Typology for Terrestrial Ecosystems](#)

[IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology 2.0](#)

[IUCN Region-Specific Resources](#)

[IUCN Conservation Tools](#)

[IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management](#)

Restoration Resources

[Ecosystem Restoration Playbook](#)

[IUCN Forest Landscape Restoration Work](#)

[IUCN Marine Restoration Work](#)

[UNDP Ecosystem Restoration Course](#)

[Society for Ecological Restoration \(SER\)](#)

[IUCN Commission on Education & Communication](#)

Restoration Initiatives

[Satoyama Initiative](#)

[Decade Restoration Implementers' Hub](#)

[Panorama Solutions](#)

[ICRI Coral Reef Restoration Hub](#)

[4Returns Knowledge Sharing Platform](#)

[Ecosystem Restoration Camps: Zen Desk](#)

Grassroots Activism Resources

[Student-Led Organizing Guide](#)

[Indigenous Organizing Training Manual](#)

[Local Environmental Grassroots Activism](#)

[U.S. Food and Agriculture Youth Challenge](#)

[Ecosystem Restoration Camps](#)



ANNEX C. FINANCIAL RESOURCE EXAMPLES

Innovative Finance Mechanisms for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) & Nature-based Solutions (NbS) by Ecosystem

In this section you will find useful financial resource examples for those of you looking for financial support to restore your local ecosystem. In Annex C., resource examples have been included for urban, rural, forest, woodland, coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

If these resources do not apply to your context, we encourage you to look online and use the resources in the previous **Annex B.** section for further direction.

Urban areas

Mechanism	Resource
Microfinance for EbA : Low-interest loans for EbA Conservation-oriented microfinance (GreenFi)	Manual Microsfere Kiva
Conservation Easement : Tax incentive to convert private property into reserves.	Manual NCED

Rural/agricultural areas

Mechanism	Resource
Microfinance for EbA : Low-interest loans for EbA Conservation-oriented microfinance (GreenFi) The &GreenFund : in exchange for conserving 5 ha for every 1 ha of production, borrowers receive highly favorable loan conditions.	Manual Kiva Microsfere



ANNEX C. FINANCIAL RESOURCE EXAMPLES

Rural/agricultural areas

Conservation Easement: Tax incentive to convert private property into reserves.

Manual
NCED

Forests and woodland areas

Mechanism

Resource

Conservation Easement: Tax incentive to convert private property into reserves.

Manual
NCED

Water Fund: PES to conserve forests and water supplies.

Toolbox

Forest bonds: IFC issues a Forests Bond and uses bond proceeds to support sustainable private sector development.

EPRI Solutions

Conservation banking for communities to earn credits from forest management.

IFC



ANNEX C. FINANCIAL RESOURCE EXAMPLES

Coastal and freshwater areas

Mechanism	Resource
<u>Conservation Easement</u> : Tax incentive to convert private property into reserves.	<u>Manual</u> <u>NCED</u>
Coastal Protection: Insurance/PES to protect coasts with mangroves, reefs, wetlands, etc.	<u>RISCO</u> <u>Reef Insurance</u> <u>PES Reefs</u> <u>PES Mangroves</u>
Wetland (conservation) banking: Farmers/businesses restore wetlands to receive payments from businesses offsetting wetlands destroyed elsewhere. Mozambique also has a biodiversity offsets program via BioFund. Pollution trading: Farmers earn saleable pollution credits by protecting riparian areas and wetlands.	<u>USDA</u> <u>BioFund</u> <u>Water Quality Trade</u>
Aqua Spark: Sustainable Aquaculture: Aqua-Spark is an investment fund with a focus on sustainable aquaculture businesses around the world. The small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) they invest in are working toward the production of safe, accessible aquatic life, such as fish, shellfish and plants, in ways that do not harm our oceans.	<u>Aqua Spark</u>
<u>Resilience, cat bonds, blue bonds, etc.</u>	<u>Artemis</u>





We look forward to seeing you take action for our planet!

