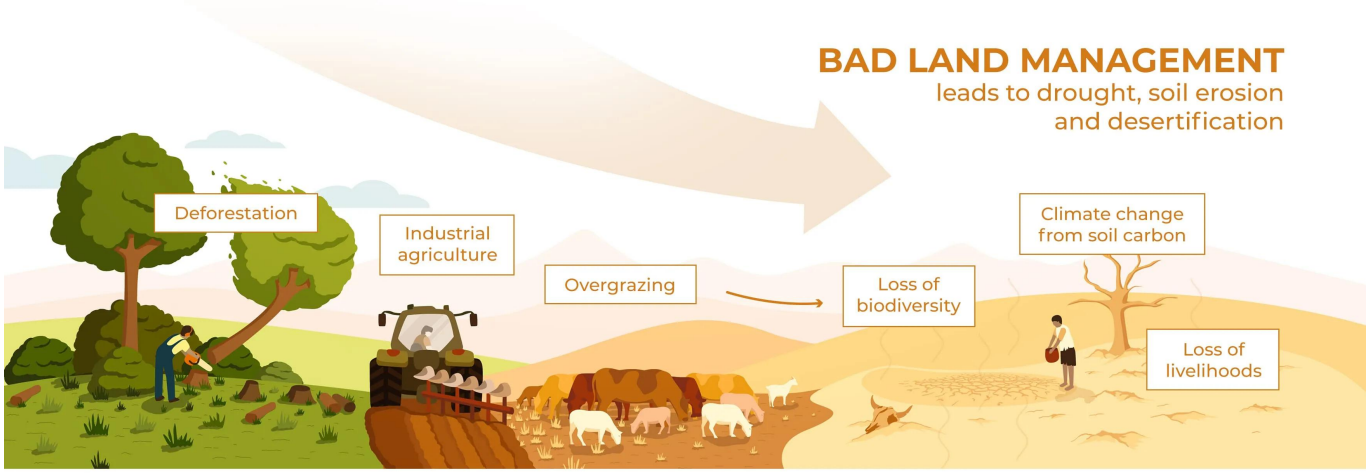
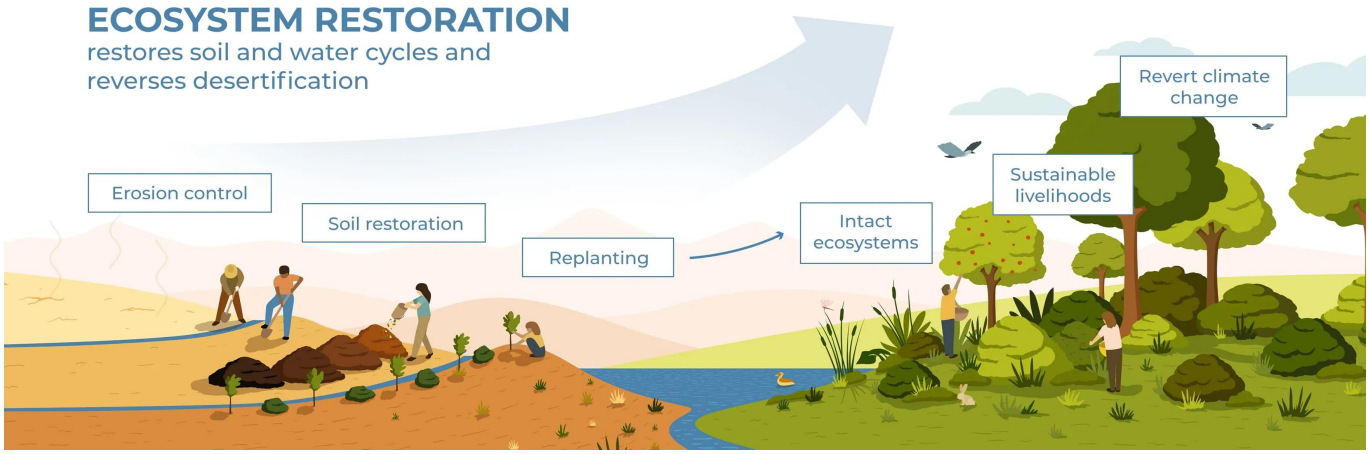
Ecological Restoration

“Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.”





Damages can be caused for example by overgrazing, agriculture, urbanization, road construction or natural catastrophes and lead to soil degredation, desertification, extinction of species and poverty. Ecological restoration draws on a wide range of ecological concepts.

The UN has declared 2021 - 2030 as the decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Restoration goals reflect political choices and differ by place and culture. Ecological restoration draws on a wide range of ecological concepts.

Examples

Paani Foundations Water Cup Challenge
Satyamev Jayate Water Cup, billed as a “people's movement against drought”, is the primary event organized by Paani Foundation every year starting late March-early April up to late May-early June. The Indian state of Maharashtra has a history of recurring droughts and acute water shortage throughout the last several decades. The reasons for this are both man made and natural. Famous Bollywood Star Aamir Khan hosted a talk show about this issue and went on to found the Paani Foundations Water Cup, a competition between villages of the area to see which one could build the best water saving structure. The Foundation provides training on technical aspects and social leadership to a small number of representatives from each village before the competition

Regreening the desert with John D. Liu | VPRO Documentary | 2012
Loess Plateau - China
Used to be fertile but agricultural pressure and overgrazing eroded the land. Farmers where living in poverty under the threat of floods, mudslides and famine. In 1994 a project was started to transform the plateau to restore its fertility.

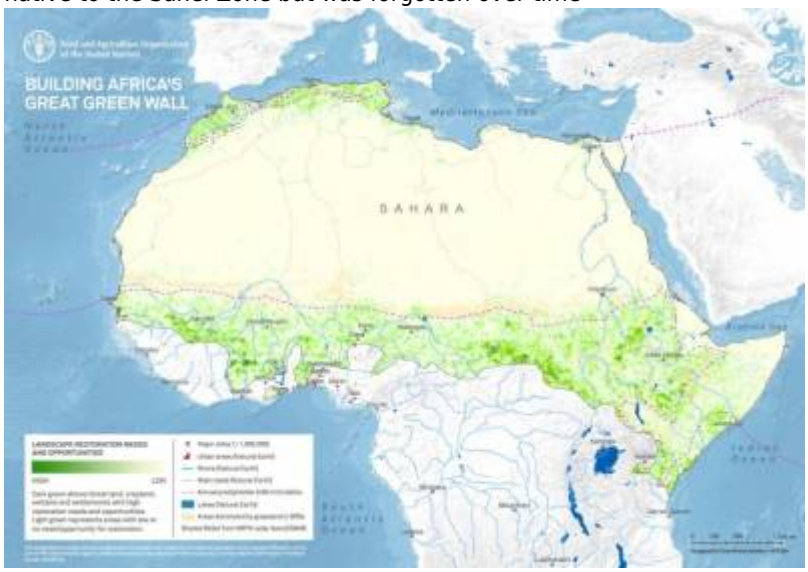
Royal Botanic Garden in Tal Al-Rumman - Jordan
Farmers where banned from letting their animals graze in this area for 3 years. Plants that where thought to be extinct reemerged.

Ethiopia
Ground could not store water during the rainy season. Local People and Prof Legesse Negash got together to solve the problem. Indigenous trees and plants where planted which allowed rain to enter the ground gradually and streams reappeared. Villages in the area had ground water again. They no longer have to ask the government for support, there is food security. Wildlife reapperad.

Rugezi Wetland - Rwanda
Not enough farmland for the growing population put strain on the available soil and degraded it. People where forced to

move down from the hills into the Rugezi Wetland and drained it. This damaged not only the ecosystem of the marsh but also the capital Kagali which is dependant of the water power generated by the water flowing through the wetland. Government helped the farmers restoring the hillsites for farming.

How the UN is Holding Back the Sahara Desert
a plan to built a belt of trees from Dakar in the west to Djibuti in the east across the Sahel Zone in Africa to stop the expansion of the Sahara. Trees are planted in a dug out half moon shape to better retain water. The technique is actually native to the Sahel Zone but was forgotten over time



Ecosia - the search Engine that plants trees
The search engine that plants trees :)

Tab for a Cause: How Does It Work? Is It Legit?
Browser Extension for chrome that lets you generate donations for various causes by opening tabs

Critique

“While we can successfully restore biodiversity, structure, and function to a degraded ecosystem, ecological restoration is not a substitute for conservation, nor should the promise of restoration be used to justify destruction or unsustainable use. In reality, restoration may not succeed in re-establishing the full assemblage of native species or the full extent of the original ecosystem’s structure and function.”

6 Ways to Ensure Ecosystem Restoration Prioritizes People
“As big finance announcements make international headlines, activists and researchers are questioning long-held assumptions and shedding light on failed projects that created limited (or zero) benefits for biodiversity and carbon storage. A small number even harmed fragile ecosystems like grasslands through ill-advised tree-planting campaigns.

One common theme lies behind most of those failures: Local communities — and the marginalized groups within them — were not leading the projects and received few, if any, of the rewards.”

Further Reading

https://ser-rrc.org/what-is-ecological-restoration
https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CH09.PDF
https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/publications/principles-ecosystem-restoration-guide-united-nations-decade-2021-2030
https://www.cclmportal.ca/resource/standards-practice-guide-ecosystem-restoration-contribution-united-nations-decade
https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2022.856833
https://www.youtube.com/@amillison

Bildquellen

https://ser-rrc.org/what-is-ecological-restoration/

https://medium.com/age-of-awareness/making-the-most-of-the-un-decade-on-ecosystems-restoration-bioregional-regenerative-development-484119e763ee

https://www.allcreation.org/home/regrowing-loess-plateau

https://www.harrisbugg.com/portfolio/royal-botanic-garden/

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/11/great-green-wall-initiative-offers-unique-opportunity-to-combat-climate-change-in-africa-un-agency/

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