



## **DAY-2: Special Thematic Session 9**

September 20, 2023 (Wednesday); Time: 11:30-13:00 hrs (GMT +5:30)

***Theme: Education Challenge to Embed Ecosystem Restoration into Educational System Worldwide***

Venue: India Habitat Centre, Jacranda 1

### **Background:**

As humanity faces a multitude of challenges, from climate change to social inequality, education must play a critical role in equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and values to overcome these complex issues and create a better future. One of the key challenges we face is ecosystem degradation. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration calls for the protection and revival of ecosystems worldwide, to halt degradation and restore them to achieve global goals. This decade runs from 2021 to 2030, which is also the timeline scientists have identified as the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change.

To work towards the goals and vision of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Decade Strategy Group has approved the UN Decade Action Plan, setting out the next steps for collective action. The Action Plan identifies 12 priority areas for partners to mobilize and proposes 30 Restoration Challenges to achieve the UN Decade's goals. Acknowledging that education is essential in ensuring that future generations understand the value of nature and appreciate its importance, the Education Challenge 6.1 aims to embed ecosystem restoration education (ERE) into formal and non-formal education systems worldwide by 2030 as a critical element of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The aim is to develop a framework aimed at broad actions to map existing initiatives, build a common agreement on quality lifelong learning outcomes for **#GenerationRestoration** and work towards embedding Ecosystem Restoration into formal and non-formal educational settings synergistically with the UN-led Greening Education Partnership.

Coordinated by a consortium of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), and the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the challenge requires the collective effort of governments, educators, students, and communities worldwide to embed ecosystem restoration into our education systems. By doing so, we can create a future where everyone has the knowledge and skills to protect and restore our planet's ecosystems, ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for future generations.

**About the Session:** The session aims to present the Education Challenge and invite inputs to map projects that contribute wisdom to develop the action plan and set the scope of Restoration Education.

**Session Objectives:** Create awareness of the Decade, present the education challenge and identify existing good practices and experiences in restoration education.

**Outcomes:** More aware of the Education Challenge and Partnerships

### **Key Speakers**

1. Dr Pramod Sharma, Senior Director, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)-(via zoom)
2. Ms Radhika Suri, Senior Programme Director, Global Networking and Early Childhood Education, CEE
3. Mr Oisín Gill, Consultant, Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO-(via zoom)
4. Mr Arnau Macià Pou, Coordinator & Project Manager, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)-(via zoom)
5. Mr Harcharan Singh Rumana, Co-Lead Biodiversity, Afforestation Wetland Conservation at National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)