



Sept 6th from 9 am to 10 am
H8 – 1 Perche

**Hot topics in restoration in a pandemic and post-pandemic world:
*Advancing rewilding, improving economies, addressing conflict
and climate change, and engaging the private sector***

Introduction

Interest in, support for and action on the restoration of deforested and degraded lands is growing but still remains far below its potential to meet global challenges. A key barrier to successful scaled-up restoration is insufficient understanding of the contribution that landscape-scale restoration can make to solving key global challenges and national needs.

This event will help increase understanding in five key areas where restoration can make significant contributions:

- (1) Pandemics and Restoration Economy
- (2) Restoration Triggering Local to Global Private Sector Partnerships
- (3) Conflict and Restoration
- (4) Rewilding and Restoration
- (5) Climate Change and Restoration

The target audience for this session includes restoration practitioners, policy-makers, private sector representatives, investors and donors, communities and youth, partner organizations and researchers. The in person audience will be drawn from the expected 5,000 on-site participants in the IUCN Congress as well as the many thousands who will join remotely. Key messages from the session will be shared with potentially millions of people through social media.

Event format

This session will be hybrid in nature, in other words, some speakers will participate in person in Marseille and others will participate remotely.

The format will be 5 pairs of dynamic and concise (e.g., TED Flash Talk format) interventions of 4 minutes each. The topics and speakers are outlined below:



Moderator: Introductory remarks – high level overview on the present context for restoration, including Decade	Chris Buss, Director, IUCN Forest Conservation Programme	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker 1</i>	<i>Speaker 2</i>
Pandemics & Restoration Economy	Christiane Paulus, Director-General, Conservation and sustainable use of nature, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Nuclear Safety, Germany (confirmed)	Claude Gascon, Manager of Programs at the GEF (confirmed)
Local to Global Private Sector Partnerships through Restoration	Mark Kebo Akparibo, Executive-Secretary, Tele-Bere VSL Association. Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (confirmed)	
Displacement & Restoration	Mr. Johannes van der Klaauw, the UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh (confirmed)	Mr Hernando Garcia, Director of Institute Humbolt, Colombia (confirmed)
Rewilding & Restoration	Vance Martin, President, WILD Foundation (confirmed)	Franklin Paniagua Alvaro, Vice-Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Costa Rica (confirmed)
Climate Change & Restoration	Guatemala Luz Keila Gramajo, National Secretary of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency - SEGEPLAN (Confirmed)	Belize - Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet
Closing remarks by Moderator		



Speakers may wish to address such questions as:

- The world is emerging from the worst global catastrophe since the second world war and countries are under tremendous pressures. There is a real risk that countries will turn to traditional road and infrastructure spending to jumpstart their economies. What is needed to ensure that Nature-based solutions – and restoration in particular – are prioritized, and that we seize this opportunity to “build back better”?
- How have initiatives like the *Bonn Challenge* helped to build awareness, support, and political will for restoration? What experiences can we learn from and build upon as we begin the *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*?
- There is tremendous amount of enthusiasm for planting trees – it’s what most people think about when they hear the word “restoration,” and the world certainly needs more trees. But restoration encompasses more than tree-planting – it covers production landscapes, coastal, grassland and urban areas, and much more. How can we reach out and build a deeper/wider coalition of restoration champions, investors, and participants that see restoration as a key part of their work and interests?