

Concept Note

Ecosystem Approaches for shifting the world onto a sustainable pathway

Joint meeting of the UNGA Second Committee and ECOSOC

15 October 2019

3:00 pm

Background

Recent reports on sustainable development (for example the Global Sustainable Development Report, September 2019 and the Special Edition of the Secretary General's SDG Progress Report, July 2019) depict a world that is not on track towards reaching the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or the Paris Agreement. While progress continues to be made towards several critical objectives such as the eradication of extreme poverty or reduction in maternal mortality, rates of progress are not sufficient to reach the 2030 targets. In other cases, such as hunger, rates are increasing after a long period of decline. Inequalities are increasing within and across countries. And in some of the most critical, such as greenhouse gas emissions or biodiversity loss, negative trends continue without signs of a slowdown. Such trends are especially worrisome as recent research indicates only a limited window within which corrective action must occur, if humanity is to avoid damaging

