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Our Mission

SER advances the science, practice and policy of ecological restoration to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, and re-establish an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.



Our Vision

Ecological restoration becomes a fundamental component of conservation and sustainable development programs throughout the world by virtue of its inherent capacity to provide people with the opportunity to not only repair ecological damage, but also improve the human condition.

Our Guiding Values

- Ecological restoration is an engaging and inclusive process.
- Ecological restoration requires the integration of knowledge and practice.
- Ecological restoration is policy-relevant and essential.
- Ecological restoration is practiced locally with global implications.

A message from SER's Executive Director

It's hard to believe that it's been 35 years since SER was founded. But our 35th birthday was only one of our key milestones in 2023 — we also held our 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2023), and our total number of members surpassed 5,000 people across 110 countries. In 2023, SER solidified and expanded our role as a global community for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and driving collective action to restore our fragile planet.

2023 highlights included many things as outlined in this annual report, but especially SER2023 in Darwin, Australia with more than 1200 delegates from 80 countries. The energy and enthusiasm at the conference, including a profound sense of urgency to upscale and uplift ecological restoration, was palpable from the moment the welcome ceremony began (including an incredible, original musical performance by a local indigenous youth troupe) through to the final minutes of the closing ceremony, including the release of the Darwin Call to Action and the literal passing of the baton for SER2025 (or in this case gifting of the message sticks).

For the past 35 years, SER has been on an increasingly effective and high impact trajectory, continuously building on our previous work to support the restoration field in a wide variety of ways, from technical guidance, to webinars, to certifications. Over the past several years, especially thanks to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, global interest in ecological restoration has skyrocketed. SER's work, and the demand for our work, has skyrocketed, too. Building on the extraordinary knowledge and experience of our 5,000+ members, SER is uniquely positioned to support the UN Decade and other multilateral restoration priorities from a technical, scientific, and practical perspective.

One of our top priorities from 2024-2030, for example, is to elevate standards-based restoration as a key approach for improving restoration outcomes for both people and nature. This will involve identifying exemplary standards-based restoration programs and projects, building restoration capacity and knowledge, enabling high-quality restoration, certifying restoration projects and people, and much, much more. In this and other ways, SER members, both individually and through their professional affiliation with SER, will continue to make a profound contribution to reviving the health of this planet for at least the next 35 years, and probably far beyond that.







35 YEARS Strong

SER celebrated our 35th birthday on 28 September at the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Darwin, Australia. Our biggest strength has always been our membership, the dedicated community of scientists, practitioners,



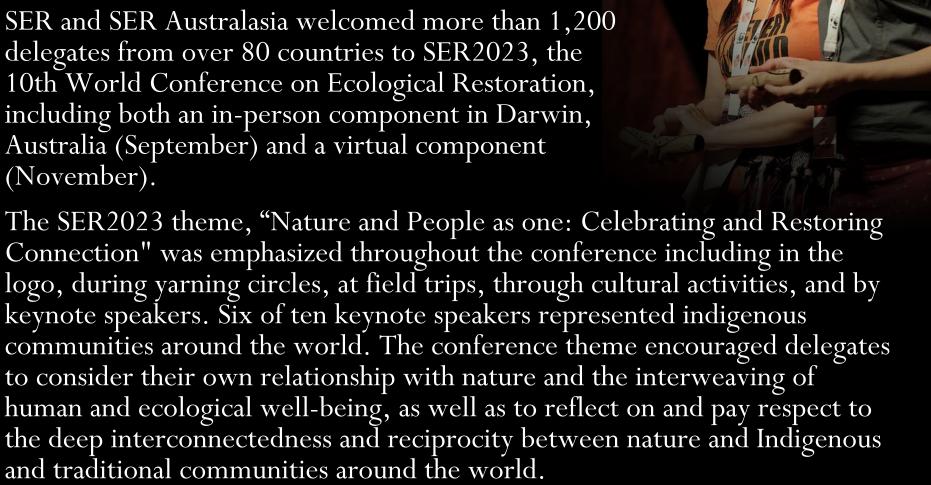
policymakers, students, and leaders from the business, academic, governmental, civil society, and indigenous communities — all dedicated to restoring ecosystems around the world.

Over the past three and a half decades our now 5,000+ members in 110+ countries have developed and published a high impact peer-reviewed journal; led trainings, workshops, and webinars for tens of thousands of restorationists across the world; created and implemented the world's only Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner program; set the global standards, literally, for ecological restoration; influenced high impact global policy to elevate restoration as a critical tool for addressing planetary crises; and acted as a global convening and networking body to support collaboration and coordination among restorationists.

The work of ecological restoration is still in its infancy. Ecological restoration is a holistic approach to addressing some of the most complex and intractable planetary crises, from biodiversity loss to climate change. While we are proud of our accomplishments over the past 35 years, we know that our work has only just begun. We look forward to continuing to serve the global restoration community, to supporting the development of the next generation of leaders both for the Society and for the overall restoration field, and to solidifying ecological restoration as an imperative tool to protect the health and wellbeing of both the natural world and human communities.

SER2#23 DARWIN AUSTRALIA

SER and SER Australasia welcomed more than 1,200 delegates from over 80 countries to SER2023, the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, including both an in-person component in Darwin, Australia (September) and a virtual component (November).





SER2023 Support

Through the SER Open Doors
Travel grant program and
registration scholarships we
supported more than 22
outstanding individuals from
16 countries to attend
SER 2023 in Darwin Australia.

These members had the opportunity to present their work and network in-person with 1,000 delegates representing every continent and diverse professional backgrounds and industries.







1200 DELEGATES



88 COUNTRIES



600 PRESENTATIONS



40 SYMPOSIA



22 WORKSHOPS



12 FIELD TRIPS



FILM FESTIVAL FILMS





We were pleased to welcome the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Advisory Board who joined us in Darwin where they launched their second board term, spent a day in the field with the SER Board, and hosted an all-day UN Decade pavilion at SER2023.

In collaboration with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Advisory Board and more than 1,000 delegates at SER2023, SER issued a Call to Action at the closing ceremony of the in-person conference.

The Call to Action emphasizes the urgent need to scale up effective standards-based restoration worldwide as a mechanism to re-establish a healthy, balanced connection between people and nature. It challenges governments, corporations, and communities to engage and invest in restoration.



SER2023 CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZERS





THANK YOU TO SER2023'S SPONSORS

Premium Sponsors



الهيئة الملكية لمحافظة العلا Royal Commission for AlUla



Strategist Sponsors







Moblizer and Insider Sponsors

















"The community of restoration ecologists, practitioners, and influencers joining us at SER2023 is at the forefront of global scientific knowledge. This global community works tirelessly to repair landscapes, research the most advanced processes, and develop innovative solutions to the degradation of land and ocean ecosystems. Because of their deep knowledge and experience, they understand that human and ecological wellbeing are absolutely interwoven. This gathering allows us all to increase our capacity for high quality implementation and impact, and contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration."

- Anita Diederichsen, Global Lead Forest Landscape Restoration, WWF and Co-Chair of SER2023.

2023 Awards

SER2023 OFFSETS PROGRAM winner presented to Nature Glenelg Trust in Australia



3 FILMS

awarded at the first
Ecological Restoration
Film Festival in Australia





3 BRADSHAW
MEDALS
presented in
Australia















> LEARN MORE

"The 2023 award recipients helped build important connections to advance restoration through scientific breakthroughs, innovative communication and powerful partnerships to restore unique habitats and protect endangered species.

All of these incredible projects offer inspirational examples of the progress that can be made to accelerate research, engagement, and funding.

The full membership congratulates all of our winners, and we thank them for their dedication to this vital restoration work."

- Tom Kaye, Awards Committee Chair and member of the SER Board

MEMBERSHIP Milestone

SER surpassed the 5,000 member milestone in 2023. Our global community includes representatives from more than 110 countries.



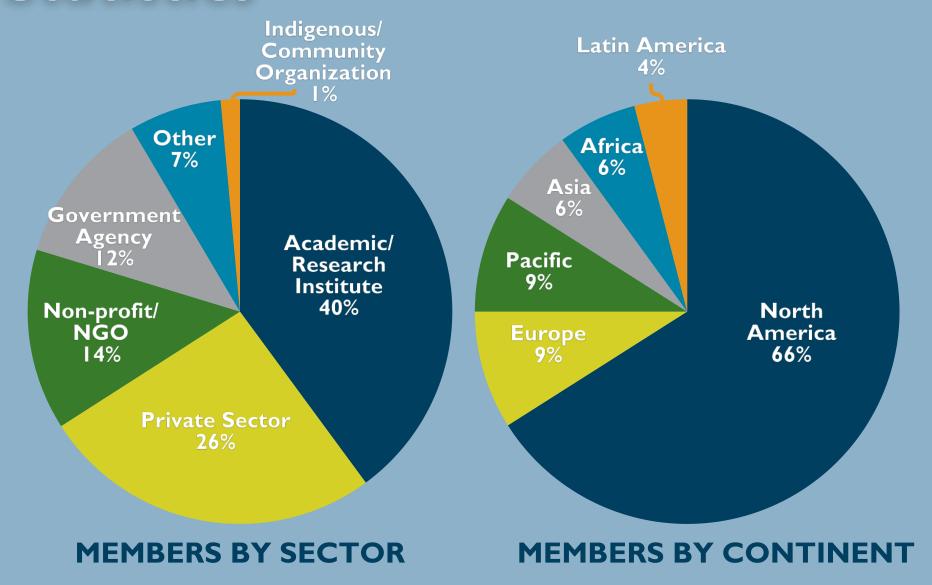


+ | | 0 COUNTRIES



24% STUDENTS & EMERGING **PROFESSIONALs**

MEMBERSHIP Statistics



MEMBER Support



At SER, we believe ecological restoration thrives through inclusive collaboration across all sectors. Our Open Doors Program expands access by offering income-qualified pricing for membership, certification, and conferences - recognizing financial barriers. Established in 2020 alongside our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, this initiative aims to diversify SER's global community.

For the first time this year, our Open Doors program provided travel grants for our World Conference, increasing equitable opportunities for restorationists worldwide to engage with SER's resources and programming.



CHAPTER Support

SER members formed two new member communities, The SER Natural Regeneration Network and the SER Asia Network. They also awarded six Partnership Fund grants to the following SER Chapters and Sections:















MEMBERS In Action



Stijn den Haan



Sarah Cotter



David Hancock



Bryan Kyalo



Daniel Slodowicz



Olga Kildisheva



Natasha Banning



Chevaun Toulouse



Mike Toohill



AECOM

Austspray Environmental Weed Control Pty Ltd

Biohabitats

Biologic Environmental

Biotope SAS

Blue Carbon S2C Pty Ltd

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Carbon Positive Australia

Cimenterie Nationale SAL

Civil & Environmental Consultants. Inc.

Colucent Environmental Inc.

Commonland Foundation

Conservation International

Coral Restoration Foundation

CREAF

Datacenter Community Development at Microsoft

Davey Resource Group

Delta Land Services

DIALOG

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration

Dougan & Associates

Dudek

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. PBC

EcoFutures

Ecogain

EcoHealth Network

Ecosure

Ecosystem Investment Partners

Ecosystem Services, LLC

Endemic Environmental Services

Environmental Quality Resources, LLC

ERS

GEI Consultants

GEI Consultants Corp. Canada

GZA Geo Environmental Inc.

H. T. Harvey & Associates

Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation

HDR

Heidelberg Materials, Global Environmental Sustainability

Holcim España, S.A.U.

Jiangsu Lvyan Ecological Technology Co., Ltd.

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Land Stewardship Inc.

Maas Verde Landscape Restoration

MAD Scientist Associates

Mars Incorporated

Mast Reforestation

Michael Baker International

Midwest Groundcovers LLC

Mimal Land Management Aboriginal corporation

Minogi

Native Resource Preservation LLC

NATS Nursery Ltd.

Norwegian Environment Agency

OneCanopy

Parks Canada Agency

Pepco Holdings, Inc.

Prairie Restorations Inc.

Ramboll

RECON Environmental, Inc.

RES, LLC

Restor

Stantec

SumCo Eco-Contracting, LLC

SWCA

Syrinx Environmental PL

Teck Resources Limited

Terraformation

The Institute for Regional Conservation

The Nature Conservancy

The Royal Commission for AIUIa (RCU)

Tree Time Services Inc.

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Scientific Authority

V3 Companies

Valorhiz

Westervelt Ecological Services

Whittlesea City Council

Wilkinson Ecological Design
World Resources Institute

WSP USA

WWF

SER



"My SER2023 highlights include hands-on training on how to scientifically monitor and evaluate restoration projects [...] as well as the diversity of the daily plenary sessions from Indigenous knowledge, business and food systems, and community empowerment research and policies. I also met with members of the SER Africa Chapter to network and discuss our chapter's future. Attending the conference helped focus my research as I endeavour to contribute to restoring our degraded ecosystems. The various sessions I attended were a great eye opener, motivating me to share my contributions to the field of ecological restoration at the next SER World Conference in 2025. "

- Florence Mazwi Murungweni (middle), Ph.D Senior Lecturer at University of Venda and SER2023 Open Doors Travel Grant recipient



RESTORATION **ECOLOGY**



6.6
CiteScore

6.6
Impact factor

0.84
Journal Citation Indicator



+656,500 Full Text Views



The Journal of the Society for Ecological Restoration

Restoration Ecology, the Society's bi-monthly journal, facilitates idea exchange among diverse disciplines involved in ecological restoration. It features original papers on experimental, observational, and theoretical studies spanning natural and social sciences. The journal addresses global concerns and engages the international research and practitioner communities, leading in a crucial new direction in science and ecology. A distinguished panel of editors ensures contributions cover ecological, biological, cultural, philosophical, political, educational, economic, and historical aspects. Above all, the journal serves as a key platform for researchers to publish findings and combat ecological damage.

SER'S WEBINAR SERIES

SER hosts a webinar series to provide an opportunity to engage with restoration experts from across research and practice. In 2023 we:



Hosted 24 on demand webinars



Supported +13,900 registrants



Engaged +8000 unique webinar viewers





ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION





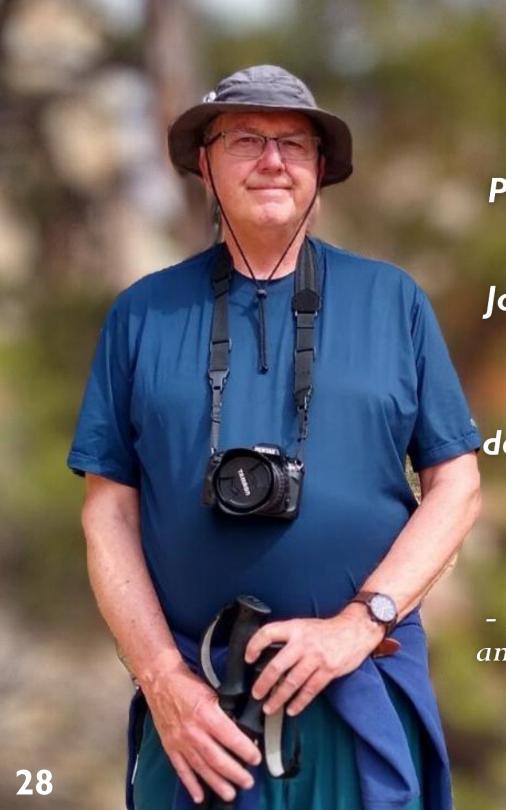


In 2023, 105 people applied for CERP or CERPIT and 104 people were certified. In total, the CERP program included 585 active CERPs and CERPITs representing 28 countries, with Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa added in 2023. We also increased the CERP program Academic Alignments to 12 with the addition of South Dakota State University.









"I learn something each time I interact with other Certified **Ecological Restoration** Practitioners (ČERPs). I've been lucky enough to sit and talk with the likes of Andy Clewell, John Rieger, John Stanley, Keith Bowers, and with fellow CERP Tein McDonald on ecological restoration concepts, the development of the SER Primer, standards for the practice of ER, and some of the projects they've been involved in."

- Mike Toohil SER member since 2003 and co-chair of SER's North American Coordinating Committee (NACC)

SER & MICROSOFT TEAM UP ON STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION

In early 2023, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) announced an exciting collaboration with Microsoft, specifically their Community Environmental Sustainability program. Thanks to Microsoft funding, and located near priority Microsoft data center locations, SER is building a Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program. By the end of 2023, we had awarded grants to 12 different local partner organizations to design and implement 14 standards-based ecological restoration projects in six countries. These small scale projects are designed to engage local community members in hands-on ecological restoration

consistent with the SER International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration. Projects are currently underway in:



North America





Europe





Pacific Asia







STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION LOUDON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and dedicated biologists, nonprofits, and volunteers restore globally rare wetlands made up of vernal pools, mature forest, and rich amphibian and wildlife populations, and situated in a unique geological setting.





STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION CHELAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

To help increase understanding about the importance of sagebrush steppe, Chelan County and Malaga-Colockum Community Council are recreating a sagebrush steppe habitat demonstration area as part of a larger park revitalization project, in Malaga Community Park, in Washington State, USA.



STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

Friends of the Forest Preserves in partnership with the Bobolink Foundation supports the Barrington Greenways Initiative by leading their Conservation Corps crew to collaborate with volunteer stewards in habitat restoration in Barrington, Illinois, USA.



STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION PHOENIX, ARIZONA

An inspiring pollinator restoration initiative is taking place in South Central Phoenix, led by a collaborative team including Arizona State University, Audubon Southwest, Tiger Mountain Foundation, and the City of Phoenix. The project aims to restore pollinator habitat and raise awareness about the crucial link between pollinators and their habitat.



SER & MICROSOFT EUROPE

Town of Lejre, Denmark

Province of Skåne, Sweden

STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION SKÅNE, SWEDEN

Naturskyddsföreningen i Skåne (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation Skåne) and Skånes Ornitologiska Förening (Skåne Ornithological Association, a regional branch of BirdLife Sweden) are leading a restoration initiative to revive the White Stork population (Ciconia ciconia), once locally extirpated in the 1950s.



SER & MICROSOFT ASIA PACIFIC



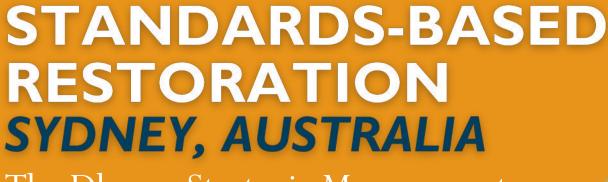
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia



STANDARDS-BASED RESTORATION CYBERJAYA, MALAYSIA

The Global Environment Centre in partnership with Majlis Perbandaran Sepang, is establishing floating wetland cells and biofilters as part of a lake restoration program to improve water quality and biodiversity in Cyberjaya, Sepang District, Selangor in Malaysia.





The Dharug Strategic Management Group (DSMG) is leading a Connection to Country restoration initiative at the Blacktown Native Institute Site in Western Sydney, NSW, Australia. The BNI site holds profound state and national cultural heritage significance as the first Dharug Nura (Country) to be returned to Dharug ownership in 2018.





- George Gann, International Policy Lead for SER.



SERSTANDARDS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION & RECOVERY OF MINE SITES

Published in November 2022, The International Principles and Standards for the Ecological Restoration and Recovery of Mine Sites is a first-of-its-kind framework with standards for socially and environmentally responsible ecological restoration of mined sites. These new standards challenge the global mining community to move beyond the "safe, stable, and non-polluting" reclamation-oriented regulatory structure that exists in many places to formally embrace ecological restoration. They provide guidance for closing the recovery gap and even, in some instances, achieving ecological and social net gain by investing in partial or full recovery of native ecosystems post-mining.

Top Cited Paper in 2022 and 2023

+15,000 text views

10
Altmetric Attention Score





HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF MINE SITES

SER hosted a 3-day field-based training course with 28 participants from 19 countries on the Ecological Restoration of Mine Sites, based on SER's mining standards, in partnership with the G20 Global Land Initiative of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. This workshop, held in Perth, Australia, provided hands-on, interactive learning opportunities on the effective imple-



mentation of standards-based ecological restoration post-mining.

In December, we hosted a follow up webinar Ecological Restoration of Mine Sites: An Online Overview of a Hands-on Workshop.



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION A CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021–2030

First released in 2023 at the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, this publication was developed by SER, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Commission on Ecosystem Management of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in cooperation with 22 other international restoration organizations. It provides over 300 recommendations and highlights key principles that are fundamental for long-term success across all types of ecosystems and restoration projects, from forests to oceans.

subcomponents crosscut

It provides tools for, and elevates the role and importance of, standards-based restoration across the entire restorative continuum. SER is continuing to work with FAO and IUCN CEM to support standards—less are organized by based implementation of the UN Decade.



RIGHTS OF WETLANDS TRANSFORMING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH WETLANDS

At the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, the Society for Wetland Scientists (SWS) released a primer for supporting the implementation of the proposed Universal Declaration of the Rights of Wetlands. SER has participated in the SWS Rights of Wetlands OperationalizationWorking Group and the SWS Rights of Wetlands

Initiative Working Group, including supporting the development of this new guidance. The 8th proposed right for wetlands includes the right to restoration. That right when implemented will also support several of the other proposed rights of wetlands.



"At this time of unparalleled global human impacts, where climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity loss, it's imperative that all industries, GLOBAL including mining, adopt forward thinking, science-based, effective approaches to begin healing the planet. These new Standards, in combination with the considerable resources of the mining industry, can help address past, current, and future mining impacts"

- Dr. Renee Young, Lead author of the Mining Standards, Program Director Conservation and Restoration, WABSI

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT CERTIFICATION

In 2021, SER began a three year collaboration with SER-Europe and WWF Spain to develop a project certification standard for Mediterranean forest restoration. This collaboration led to the development of a modified standard that combined the prior work of the Spain team with The SER Standards. The modified standard was then applied to the planning, implementation, and monitoring phases of three projects, demonstrating its practical application. Building on these initiatives, SER has formed strategic partnerships to expand the reach and impact of project certification.

In collaboration with the Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT), SER is working to incorporate restoration principles into UEBT's existing certification program for responsible sourcing of resources from native biodiversity.

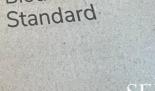


THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY STANDARD & SER

In 2022, SER joined Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and other international partners on a five-year project to promote effective and high-quality global biodiversity outcomes from tree plantings, forest restoration, agroforestry, and other global reforestation efforts. In 2023, SER played a lead role in adapting the SER Standards for application to The Global Biodiversity Standard (TBGS) as one of several SER efforts to explore restoration project certification. SER Restoration Fellow Amarizni Mosyaftiani and International Policy Lead George Gann helped develop the certification methodology and the training program for the first group of auditors.

TGBS is initially being piloted in Brazil, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Peru, and Uganda. TGBS is an important step towards ensuring positive biodiversity outcomes from tree planting initiatives, including those that are being designed with carbon sequestration as a primary goal.





The Global Biodiversity

The Global Biodiversity Standard Assessor
Written Exam

Paper option 1

ADVANCING THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) recognizes the critical role of restoration for achieving global biodiversity objectives (Target 2). SER is partnering with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization to build restoration capacity, including taking the lead in a collaborative effort to develop a global guide for implementing Target 2, and supporting Target 2 monitoring efforts. In November 2023 we supported the development and delivery of the KM-GBF Target 2 Roadmap meeting in Rome by facilitating consultations with countries and NGOs on how to best deliver effective restoration in terrestrial, inland waters, and coastal and marine ecosystems.

We also supported discussions regarding Target 2 monitoring frameworks and interoperability, building from SER's lead role in developing the Restoration Project Information Sharing Framework.





ADVANCING GLOBAL RESTORATION POLICY

Staff, CERPs, Global Restoration Ambassadors, and partners represented SER at several international policy and practice meetings throughout the year.

- SER staff and partners delivered a half-day seminar at the UN Water Conference on practical means, including legal approaches, to incorporating restoration standards into regional and global policy priorities to achieve water-related Sustainable Development Goals. SER also live streamed the event as a webinar in five languages.
- Global Restoration Ambassador Renee Young presented the SER mining standards at a G20 Global Lands Initiative session at the Climate COP28.
- SER partners introduced The Global Biodiversity Standard at a side event at COP28
- SER partnered with IUCN CEM to start the 5th Global Forum on Ecological Restoration (started with a one-day workshop in conjunction with SER2023, and continuing through 2024) focused on elevating diverse perspectives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of ecological restoration.
- SER collaborated with SCOR, a global reinsurance company, to begin developing new insurance products for ecological restoration (announced in 2024).







OUR TEAM

SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION STAFF

Bethanie Walder

Executive Director

Elise Mackie

Marketing Coordinator

George Gann (CERP)

International Policy Lead

Harold Manrique-Hernández

Program Manager

Keith MacCallum (CERPIT)

Program Coordinator

Karen Tekverk

Certification Program Manager

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SER Restoration Fellow, TGBS

LeeJi Drifwood

SER Restoration Fellow, Biohabitats

Mickki Garrity

SER Restoration Fellow, Biohabitats



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University of Montana, USA

Karma Bouazza, Vice Chair to Chair Elect (on 1 July)

Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, Lebanon

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Managing Trustee, Junglescapes Charitable Trust, India

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Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, Indonesia

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Institute for Applied Ecology, USA

PACIFIC - Bruce Clarkson

University of Waikato, New Zealand

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Leuphana University, Lueneburg, Germany



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Restorer Members

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Stephen Saliba Matt Stine Malory Weston

Special thanks to the following members and friends who made gifts to SER

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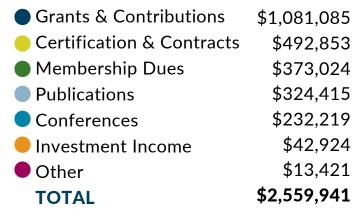


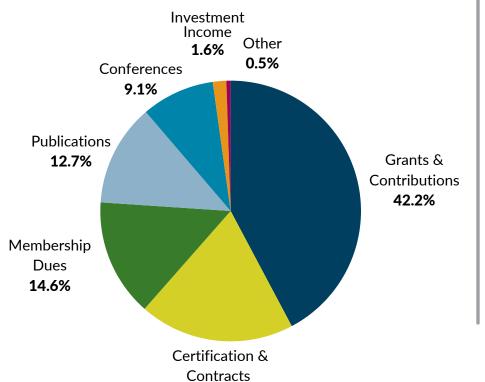




FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

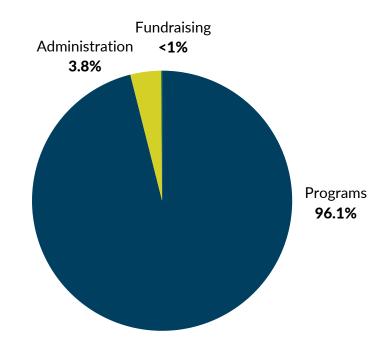




19.3%

EXPENSES

| TOTAL | \$2,445,694 |
|----------------|-------------|
| Fundraising | \$3,236 |
| Administration | \$93,039 |
| Programs | \$2,349,419 |







science, practice, and policy of

ecological restoration?

DINUS

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