



**Convention on
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Fifteenth meeting

Montreal, 7-11 November 2011

Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda*

SER 2011 CALL TO ACTION:

**MESSAGE OF THE 4TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, an information document presenting the Call to Action from the delegates of the Society for Ecological Restoration 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The message congratulates the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for their practical and forward-looking Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and, in particular, targets 14 and 15 relating to ecological restoration and strongly urges them to act swiftly to deliver on these commitments. The message is relevant for agenda item 3.2 (Ways and means to support ecosystem restoration).
2. The document is being circulated in the form in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/1/Rev.1.



Message of the 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration to the Convention on Biological Diversity

SER2011 Call to Action

The delegates of the Society for Ecological Restoration's 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2011) congratulate the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for their practical and forward looking Strategic Plan 2011-2020 including Targets 14 and 15 in which the Parties have agreed that by 2020, ecosystems of particular importance to water security, human health, and sustainable livelihoods are restored and their resilience and contribution to carbon stocks enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including the restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

This is a call to action from the 1000 delegates - representing scientists and practitioners, environmental NGOs, private corporations, government agencies, and community and indigenous leaders from over 60 countries – who gathered in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico from August 21-24, 2011. The delegates addressed many of the challenges and opportunities associated with restoring ecosystems and re-establishing the essential link between nature and culture.

Recognizing the critical importance of our global ecological infrastructure as the foundation for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and future economic prosperity, the delegates strongly urge the CBD Parties to act swiftly to deliver on the restoration commitments embedded in the new CBD Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to:

- Integrate ecological restoration into updated national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as well as legislative and regulatory frameworks which include all sectors of society that use and manage natural capital;
- Increasingly use ecological restoration as a tool in ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation strategies which enhance social and ecological resilience and carbon sequestration and storage;
- Prioritize the immediate need to reinstate the flow and improve the quality of ecosystem services to alleviate poverty and increase human well-being while taking into account social, cultural, economic and political values;
- Increase stakeholder involvement, public education and awareness to effectively engage local and indigenous communities in restoration activities and safeguard their right to a healthy and sustainable future;
- Support and promote investments and incentive mechanisms, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), and other innovative financial mechanisms to restore degraded ecosystems and landscapes that provide multiple co-benefits to biodiversity, ecosystems and communities;
- Increasingly use ecological restoration to improve connectivity within and between protected areas and other ecosystems that are critical for biodiversity conservation, and to increase their adaptive capacity through the restoration of degraded habitats, landscapes and seascapes ; and
- Adopt guidance for establishing priorities and the goals of restoration activities, and facilitating the transfer of knowledge, tools and technologies.

The SER2011 delegates also call on the World Bank, Global Environmental Facility, and other multilateral and bilateral funding institutions to support, through capacity building and other means, the development and implementation of national and sub-national ecological restoration projects and programs.