



Society for Ecological Restoration

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February 13, 2011

To: Ahmed Djouglaf, CBD Executive Secretary & Anada Tiega, Ramsar Secretary General

For: Distribution to the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) on the occasion of their 4th Meeting, February 13, 2011 in Gland, Switzerland

From: The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)

Re: Possible Joint Work Activities on Ecosystem Restoration Guidance

Dear Chairs,

Ecological restoration is being increasingly recognized as a valuable tool in our efforts to protect biodiversity, mitigate/adapt to climate change, and reverse land degradation and desertification while enhancing the delivery of vital ecosystem services. There is a need for practical guidance on appropriate, science-based restoration that can deliver multiple co-benefits to biodiversity and society. As a global network of volunteers and professionals engaged in the ecologically-sensitive repair of degraded and destroyed ecosystems, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) is ready to assist the Scientific Advisory Bodies with this important work that will support the Parties in meeting the strategic objectives of the biodiversity-related Conventions and other MEAs.

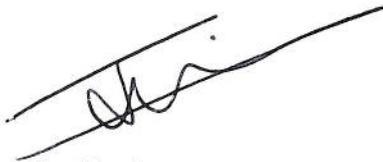
SER is currently working on various Convention and MEA restoration related initiatives, including: reviewing of Ramsar's wetland restoration guidance; developing of IUCN-WCPA best practice guidelines for ecological restoration in protected areas; and providing information notes to the CBD. At the recent CBD COP in Nagoya, SER reinforced its commitment to assist the Secretariat and the SBSTTA with their future programme of work, such as "The identification of ways and means to support ecosystem restoration, including the possible development of practical guidance on ecosystem restoration and related issues" (see Attachment 1 for SER's statement).

While SER is the only international NGO solely dedicated to the science and practice of ecological restoration, we recognize that other related organizations and bodies also have

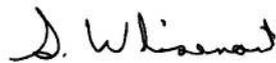
much to contribute to this work. To take advantage of the wealth of global expertise available, SER and the Chairs and Secretariats could co-host an expert workshop at the SER2011 World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Merida, Mexico (August 21-25, 2011). Such a workshop could serve to develop the conceptual framework as well as provide supporting documents for the individual Secretariats and their Scientific Advisory Bodies.

We look forward to your ideas and suggestions on how SER can best assist with the development of practical guidance for ecosystem restoration.

Sincerely,



Jim Harris
Chair



Steve Whisenant
Incoming Chair



Amanda Jorgenson
Executive Director