SER AND RESTORATION IN ASIA

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Society for Ecological Restoration

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Roadside Restoration Project - January 1988

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RRP - Same Site – October 2013

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Donaghy's Corridor - 1200 x 100m Wildlife Corridor

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Donaghy's Corridor - January 1995 Planting

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Donaghy's Corridor - Same Site – October 2013

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Pipeline Construction – PNG - November 2012

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Pipeline Construction – PNG - October 2013

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Pipeline Construction – PNG - November 2014

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About SER

- SER has over 2500 members in 14 chapters across the USA, Australasia, Europe, Canada and Nepal
- Produce a quarterly journal “Restoration Ecology” and other resources , aimed at researchers, practitioners and policy makers
- Members throughout Asia - formation of an Asian SER Chapter is under discussion

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SER Australasia (SERA)

- Australasian chapter formed 2011, includes members from New Zealand/New Caledonia
- Australia/New Zealand National Restoration Standards were released in 2016 (http://www.seraustralasia.com/pages/standards.html)
- Standards are critical to outcomes and provide enhanced security for public and private investment

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What is Restoration?

"The process of repairing damage caused by humans to the diversity and dynamics of indigenous ecosystems". (SER)

- The amount of repair undertaken varies depending social and ecological factors
- Together, Asian societies and ecology produce a spectrum of approaches between natural regeneration, ecological restoration, rehabilitation, agroecology and forestry

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Technique	Description
Natural Regeneration	No inputs, requires forest close by & knowledge of weed ecology No specific focus but maintains options Suited to protected area margins
Ecological Restoration	Planting of indigenous native species to create new habitat Focused on biodiversity outcomes Suited to wildlife corridors, riparian zones , protected areas
Rehabilitation	Planting a mixture of native species and benign exotic species Focused on soil stabilisation Suited to mine-sites, industrial developments
Agroecology (agroforestry)	Planting mixtures of native and exotic species for food, fibre, medicine Emphasis on agriculture and biodiversity Suited to village land-holders
Forestry	Planting exotic species only Focused on commercial returns Suited to large areas on low-value soils

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Successes

Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU)

- Thai knowledge and experience being transmitted to neighbours – Laos, Cambodia
- Undertakes restoration, research, village extension and training
- Published 3 manuals on restoration planning, implementation and monitoring
- Derives income from private sponsorships
- Success partly due to Chiang Mai University involvement

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Restoration Challenges

- Forest Fragmentation
- Biodiversity Decline
- Climate Change
- Invasive species

- Poverty
- Land-use, Conflict and Tenure
- Regulatory Frameworks
- Performance Standards

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Imperata Grasslands

- 4% of the Asian continent is affected
- Indonesia and India together have 16 million ha, Sri Lanka (23%tla), Philippines (17%tla), Laos, Thailand and Burma (4%tla each)
- Maintained by fire and avoided by agriculture
- Opportunity to apply a range of restoration options

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Successful Forest Restoration

can transform landscapes and livelihoods, if;

- Goal(s) are clearly stated
- Government forms effective partnerships with the private sector and landholders/participants
- All stakeholders are engaged
- Projects are monitored and evaluated across a range of measures

"You cannot value what you don't measure" (TEEB)

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