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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FROM THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the "Supplementary information from the Society for Ecological Restoration on technical aspects of ecological restoration", prepared by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

2. The supplementary information from the Society for Ecological Restoration on technical aspects of ecological restoration is relevant to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular with regard to Article 8(f) and decisions X/2, X/17, XI/16 and XII/19.

3. The report is presented in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1/Rev.1.

SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Technical Guidance on Ecological Restoration for SBSTTA 20

Introduction

Recent global initiatives and ambitious mandates to restore degraded ecosystems have the potential to conserve biodiversity, improve ecosystem function, and enhance human well-being at a broad scale. Restoring ecosystems, however, is a complex process that requires substantial knowledge about ecosystem science and management, as well as the human dimensions inherent in restoration practice. In many instances, restoration investments do not yield anticipated results or fall short of project goals. In order to maximize the benefits generated by restoration projects and programs, and leverage the growing awareness of the urgency to act, policymakers and managers need access to the latest technical guidance on the science and practice of ecological restoration. Towards that end, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)—an international member-based organization focused on advancing the science behind effective restoration practice—has developed numerous resources to guide the implementation of ecological restoration projects from global to local scales. Founded in 1987, SER has members in more than 70 countries who are actively engaged in ecologically-sensitive repair and management of ecosystems.

The SER resources listed below may be of special interest to SBSTTA participants.

Resources to Enhance Understanding of Technical Aspects of Ecological Restoration.

- ***The Science and Practice of Ecological Restoration Book Series***
  Published through a partnership between SER and Island Press, this series currently features 28 full-length titles offering practical knowledge, field-tested solutions, scientific insight, and inspiration from experienced restoration practitioners and scientists from around the world. As the name of the series suggests, it was born of the overriding goal to create an international forum devoted to advancing restoration science and practice, as well as promoting their integration with the conservation sciences.

- ***Restoration Ecology***
  Restoration Ecology is SER's bi-monthly scientific and technical peer-reviewed journal published by Wiley Periodicals, Inc. It fosters the exchange of ideas among the many disciplines involved with ecological restoration and includes original papers describing experimental, observational and theoretical studies spanning both the natural and social sciences. The journal has become a major conduit for addressing global concerns in the field and communicating them to the international community of restoration researchers and practitioners.

  Relevant example articles:

  - Aronson, J. and S. Alexander. 2013. Ecosystem Restoration is now a Global Priority: Time to Roll up our Sleeves. *Restoration Ecology* 21: 293–296.

- Alexander, S., C.R. Nelson, J. Aronson, D. Lamb, A. Cliquet, K. Erwin, M. Finlayson, R. de Groot, J. Harris, E. Higgs, R. Hobbs, R.R. Lewis III, D. Martinez, and C. Murcia. 2011. Opportunities and Challenges for Ecological Restoration within REDD+. *Restoration Ecology* 19: 683-794.

- ***SER International Primer on Ecological Restoration***
  The SER Primer presents a concise overview of the key concepts and fundamental principles upon which ecological restoration is based. With a wide readership from around the globe, the Primer includes the most widely-cited definition of ecological restoration and defines nine attributes of a restored ecosystem as the basis for determining when restoration has been successful. The document is currently available in ten languages.

  English version
  Spanish version
  French version
  Portuguese version
  Chinese version
  Arabic version
  Italian version
  Indonesian version
  Vietnamese version
  Thai version

- ***National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia***
  The SER Australasia Chapter, in collaboration with 12 non-profit partners, released the world's first set of standards for the practice of ecological restoration in March 2016. This document identifies the principles underpinning restoration philosophies and methods, and outlines the steps required to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate a successful restoration project. The Standards are intended for adoption by community, industry, regulators/government and land managers to raise the quality of ecological restoration and rehabilitation practice across all sectors in Australia.

- ***Ecological Restoration for Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Best Practices***
  This publication provides a framework to guide the efforts of protected area managers and partner organizations in restoring the natural, cultural and other important values in protected areas of all categories and all governance types. The most comprehensive source of guidance on restoration for protected areas produced to date, the document has as its foundation a clear set of principles which, rather than defining rigid processes, provide the tools and perspectives for a holistic, collaborative approach to restoration that engages stakeholders and achieves desired results.

- ***Ecological Restoration: A Means of Conserving Biodiversity and Sustaining Livelihoods***
  This paper was produced through a joint working group of SER and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management to outline a rationale for making ecological restoration a cornerstone of conservation and sustainable development programs throughout the world. While the conservation benefits of restoration are obvious, this paper sheds light on its inherent capacity to simultaneously improve human well-being in degraded landscapes by renewing economic opportunities, rejuvenating traditional cultural practices and refocusing the aspirations of local communities, among other benefits.

- ***Investing in Our Ecological Infrastructure: The Economic Rationale for Restoring our Degraded Ecosystems***
  This short leaflet discusses the economic dimensions of ecological restoration and its importance in protecting and enhancing our so-called natural capital, the "ecological infrastructure" that sustains all life. Through a series of case studies, the leaflet illustrates both the far-reaching economic impact that effective restoration programs can have and the fundamental need to properly account for nature's goods and services within all decision-making processes governing the world's economic activities.