



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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We are grateful for the trust placed in us by our members and funders, who support our activities and make our work possible.

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ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

SER is a global network of members working at the cutting edge of restoration practice, policy, and knowledge, and at their overlap, to heal the planet for people and nature.

For more than three and a half decades, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) has given voice to the field of ecological restoration and provided leadership in all aspects of its development. We are a dynamic global network of over 5,000 members from 130+ countries who foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise among ecological restoration practitioners and scientists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. In addition to developing and communicating leading-edge tools, technologies and scientific findings, SER actively promotes best practices and effective restoration policy around the world.

We work to ensure that ecological restoration is recognized and utilized as a fundamental component of global conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable development programs, and that ecological restoration projects are designed and implemented in a way that provides people with the opportunity to not only repair ecological damage, but also improve the human condition.

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.



Science

We advance science through our journal, *Restoration Ecology*, and development of knowledge-based standards and tools that connect and support restorationists worldwide.



Practice

We strengthen restoration practice with global standards, training, Practitioner Certification programs, and a network for sharing knowledge and field experience.



Policy

We inform policy by offering expert guidance to governments, business, and global initiatives, helping shape restoration strategies worldwide.

A FEW WORDS FROM BETHANIE WALDER

SER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SER is, first and foremost, a professional society, but we also work to advance the restoration field. These two priorities are mutually reinforcing; SER's legitimacy as a global restoration advocate comes from our 5000+ members in 130+ countries across the world. And the global advocacy we engage in provides the underlying structures, finance, and capacity building to support our members' work!

As a professional society, we strive to maintain, support, and grow our community and the connections between our community members. 2024 highlights include: hosting our highly popular bimonthly webinar series; growing practitioner certification both in numbers and global representation; delivering chapter-hosted regional or continental conferences, local/regional field trips, local meet ups, and virtual networking events; and launching our online member networking platform – SERConnect! There are so many ways to be part of this community – we encourage you to engage in person or virtually through SERConnect!

In addition to building our community, SER achieved significant successes in global advocacy, with an emphasis on elevating standards-based restoration. Standards provide a solid foundation for restoration, reducing risk and uncertainty in the delivery of restoration, and improving outcomes and return on investment from restoration interventions.

SER, in collaboration with many high impact partners: 1) finalized the UN Decade *Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration*; 2) supported the development and launch of a standards-based restoration insurance product; 3) co-developed The Global Biodiversity Standard manual and training programs; 4) co-developed the guide for the restoration target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and 5) continued our standards-based restoration in action program, including standards-based restoration trainings and capacity building with local implementation partners.



The successes and accomplishments detailed below (including all of our amazing partners) are a direct result of the incredible engagement by SER members to support our community and advance this field. Thank you for everything you do!

2024 IN NUMBERS



KEY MOMENTS IN 2024

JANUARY

The White Stork: An Advocate for Wetland Restoration in Southern Sweden

As part of SER's Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, conservation groups in southern Sweden are restoring wetland habitats to support the return of the locally extirpated White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

[Read the story](#)



FEBRUARY

Launch event for Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration

In collaboration with FAO and IUCN, SER helped develop and co-launched the *Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration*, a milestone publication supporting the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This globally relevant resource offers over 300 recommendations to guide effective, inclusive, and science-based restoration efforts across all ecosystems.

[Read & watch here](#)



SER and Microsoft support local communities in six countries one year into collaboration

SER and Microsoft celebrated the first year of their global collaboration, supporting community-led, standards-based ecological restoration projects across six countries. Through the Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, these projects are restoring over 200 hectares of land while enhancing local biodiversity, ecosystem services, and community resilience.

[Read more](#)



MARCH

A Cultural and Ecological Restoration Project at the Blacktown Native Institute Site

As part of SER's Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, The Dharug Strategic Management Group is leading a cultural and ecological restoration initiative at the Blacktown Native Institute site, a historically significant location returned to Dharug ownership in 2018. By integrating cultural knowledge and ecological restoration practices, the project aims to restore the endangered Cumberland Plain woodland.

[Read the story](#)



MAY

NatReCo announced, an Insurance Product for Ecological Restoration

SCOR, the world's fourth-largest reinsurance company, has launched NatReCo, an innovative insurance product tailored to support ecological restoration projects. SER collaborated with SCOR over the past year to help shape the product, ensuring the SER Standards are embedded in its core framework. Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners (CERPs) will play a key role in plan development, project reviews, and claims evaluations.

[Learn more](#)



Announcing the 2024-2026 SER Board of Directors

SER announced the election of new and returning members to its Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term. This diverse and globally represented board brings a wealth of expertise from science, practice, policy, and lived experience, ensuring continued leadership in advancing ecological restoration efforts worldwide.

[Read more](#)



European Union takes historic step with Nature Restoration Law pioneering Europe restoration efforts

SER and the SER Europe Chapter celebrated the adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Law, the world's first binding legislation mandating proactive restoration. This landmark achievement affirms the critical role of ecological restoration in addressing climate and biodiversity crises and aligns with SER's mission to advance evidence-based, participatory restoration policy across Europe and beyond.

[Read here](#) [and here](#)



SER's fourth round of Partnership Fund grants strengthen regional connections and capacity

SER awarded nearly \$20,000 USD to six chapters and sections through Partnership Fund grants. The projects funded, ranging from native seed standards translation to Indigenous scholarships and student chapter development, demonstrate SER's commitment to advancing inclusive, global ecological restoration through grassroots support and collaboration.

[Read more](#)



JUNE

Expanding an Old and Traditional Coppice Forest in Denmark

As part of SER's Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program the Expansion of an Old Coppice Forest project in Denmark, aimed to restore and expand Boserup Forest by reintroducing native species and reviving traditional coppicing practices. This standards-based restoration initiative emphasizes biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage preservation, and community engagement.

[Read the story](#)



OCTOBER

Rolling Hills Meadow Wetland Restoration at The Dawes Arboretum

As part of SER's Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, The Stream + Wetlands Foundation and The Dawes Arboretum began restoring 2.5 acres of wetlands at Rolling Hills Meadow, Ohio, to address hydrological degradation and promote biodiversity. The project integrates local expertise and community engagement to enhance ecosystem health and foster long-term conservation.

[Read the story](#)



The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) is Launched

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) officially launched at the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024. The first certified sites were announced in Colombia, Bolivia, and Uganda, led by regional partners including Impulso Verde, SICIREC, and the Jane Goodall Institute. TGBS now offers projects a pathway to credible, standards-based certification with measurable biodiversity outcomes.

[Read more](#)

Launch of the Target 2 Resource Guide

SER co-developed and supported the launch of the *Target 2 Resource Guide* at CBD COP16, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The guide offers practical recommendations to support countries, and the practitioners, funders, and policymakers they work with, to bring 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.

[Read more](#)



DECEMBER

SER at the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

SER participated in UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to elevate the role of standards-based ecological restoration in addressing drought, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. Executive Director Bethanie Walder contributed to multiple sessions, emphasizing restoration as a unifying strategy across global environmental goals and supporting international collaboration through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

[Read more](#)



Mountain Creek Park Habitat Restoration, in Catawba County North Carolina

As part of the Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, SER supported a multi-year restoration project at Mountain Creek Park in North Carolina to address severe erosion and invasive species across 80 acres. The initiative led by the Catawba Lands Conservancy advanced ecological integrity, improved water quality in Lake Norman, and fostered community engagement through volunteer efforts and educational outreach.

[Read the story](#)



NOVEMBER

Restoring a Landfill Site in Quebec City: Revitalizing Mont-Brillant for Nature and Community

As part the Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program, SER supported the restoration of a former construction waste disposal site in Quebec City, aiming to enhance biodiversity and ecological functions in the Saint-Charles River watershed. The project, led by Agiro in partnership with Quebec City and the local community, focused on soil regeneration, invasive species management, and habitat restoration, and promoted local environmental awareness.

[Read in English or French](#)



SER's 2024 North American Conference

The 2024 North American Conference brought together 500 participants from across the globe to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and showcase the depth and diversity of ecological restoration efforts. Hosted on the unceded territories of Indigenous Nations in Vancouver, the conference highlighted collaboration across disciplines and cultures, with a strong emphasis on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and standards-based restoration.

[Read & watch here](#)





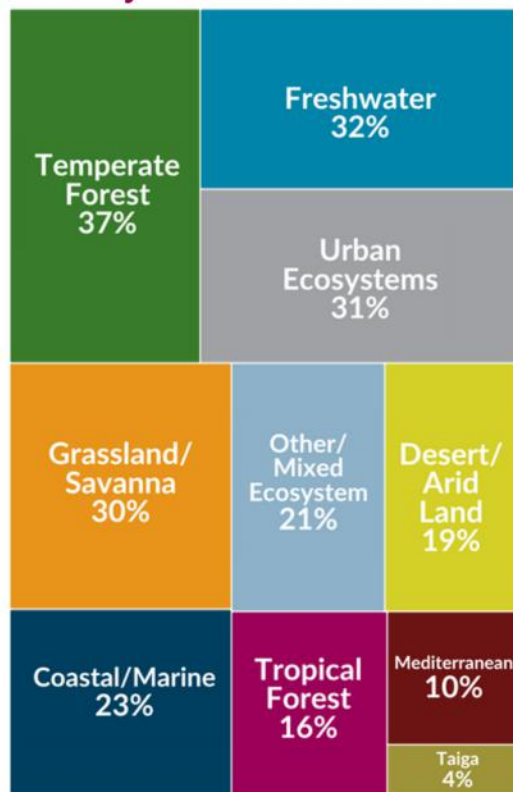
COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) is a global network of 5000+ members in more than 130 countries, united by a shared commitment to knowledge-based and participatory restoration practices. Together, SER members restore ecosystems, advance science-based solutions, and foster inclusive approaches that repair landscapes and support communities around the world.

Ecosystems we restore



“*As a membership organization, our collective mission and shared vision of a planet that enables both people and nature to thrive, has never been more important.*”

Sectors we represent



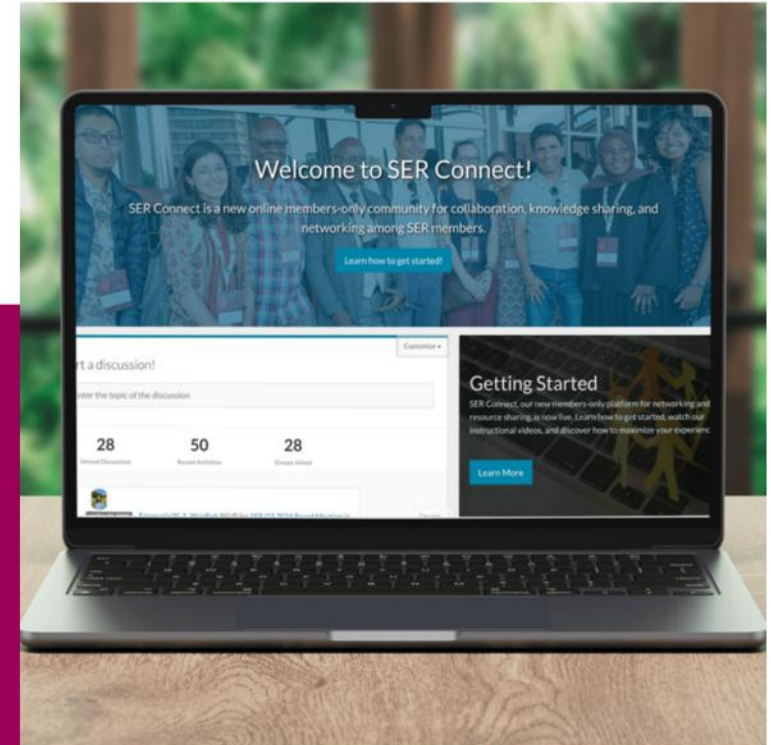
Global impact, local action

In 2024, SER members advanced restoration in over 130 countries, from mangrove recovery in Asia to post-fire repair in Australia, to policy influence in Europe and Indigenous-led restoration in North America. Together, we drove standards-based projects, shared expertise, and turned science into action across ecosystems and borders.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

SER Connect launched

Launched in September 2024, SER Connect is our dedicated online community platform designed to help members engage across regions, disciplines, and sectors. Whether you are looking to exchange knowledge, explore new collaborations, or stay connected with peers, SER Connect offers a space to grow within the global restoration community.



The global restoration community is now online

SER Connect is already creating valuable opportunities for connection and learning. Its value grows each time a member participates. Through this private, member-only platform, you can:

- Join discussions on restoration topics that matter to you
- Share and access tools, publications, and other resources
- Connect through the Member Directory
- Start or support collaborations with other practitioners and researchers

 **Log in to SER Connect to post a question, contribute to a conversation, or share your latest project. The more we participate, the stronger our community becomes.**

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Members in Action

Through Members in Action, we continued to highlight the diverse work of our members around the world. These member spotlights showcased their personal and professional contributions to SER and the field of ecological restoration.

[See all Member in Action profiles](#)

Members drove meaningful restoration worldwide

Valerie Hagger advanced blue carbon strategies to scale coastal ecosystem restoration.

Dr. Ruchira Somaweera promoted community-led wetland and reptile conservation in Sri Lanka and Australia.

Brock Bowles co-led the planning of SER2025, fostering cross-sector restoration collaboration.

Arthur Medeiros led decades-long restoration on Maui, helping native forests thrive on previously degraded land.

Enzo Paolo Martelli Moya represented and supported the unique needs and interests of SER's student and emerging professional members.

Patricia Jaramillo Díaz coordinated botanical garden conservation efforts throughout the Galápagos Islands.

Jackie Fouse championed corporate engagement in ecosystem restoration and sustainability.

Linnea Spears-Lebrun integrated restoration into large-scale infrastructure projects across the U.S.

Matt Holthaus applied SER standards to on-the-ground stream and prairie restoration in the Midwest.



Valerie Hagger



Dr. Ruchira (Ru) Somaweera



Brock Bowles



Arthur (Art) Medeiros



Enzo Paolo Martelli Moya



Patricia Jaramillo Díaz



Jackie Fouse



Linnea Spears-Lebrun



Matt Holthaus

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Sections & Chapters

SER's Chapters, Sections, and Student Associations remain the heart of our global membership community. In 2024, our 16 regional chapters, 3 thematic sections, the Asia Regional Network, and dozens of Student Associations provided a wide range of engagement, networking, and learning opportunities, including two continental conferences (the North America and Europe Conferences), as well as numerous regional conferences, workshops, and events.

To further strengthen our regional reach, SER worked with the Chapter Relations Committee to award Partnership Fund grants to chapters and sections. These grants support collaboration and build capacity to deliver programs and services that advance SER's mission of promoting the science, practice, and policy of ecological restoration. Past grants have supported efforts such as membership outreach, scholarships, webinars, and communications.

Partnership fund impact

In 2024, three chapters and two sections received Partnership Fund grants totalling \$19,273 USD. Since the program's launch, SER has awarded a total of \$78,222 USD, with individual grants ranging from \$800 to the maximum award of \$5,000 USD.



Large-Scale Ecosystem
Restoration Webinar Series



Eco-Cultural Restoration
Through an Indigenous Lens



Seeds of Restoration Podcast



Restoration Success in an Ever-
Changing Continent



SER Student Association Long-
term Development Program

CONTINENTAL

14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration (SERE2024)

SERE2024 was held in Tartu, Estonia, from 26 to 30 August. This conference brought together 673 participants from 47 countries for a dynamic exchange of ideas. Key outcomes included the launch of the Tartu Declaration, urging swift, coordinated action to implement the EU Nature Restoration Law. The event also led to the creation of a new Marine Restoration Working Group within SER Europe.

SERE2024 featured



SER Europe looks forward to hosting the 15th European Conference on Ecological Restoration in Brest, France in 2026.

CONFERENCES

2024 North American Conference (SERNAC)

SERNAC 2024 was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 28 October to 1 November. This was SER's first formal North American conference since 2013 and brought together approximately 500 participants from across the continent and beyond. The event connected professionals and students from many disciplines, all working to restore diverse ecosystems.

SERNAC 2024 featured



The North American Conference Coordinating Committee looks forward to hosting the 2026 event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US.

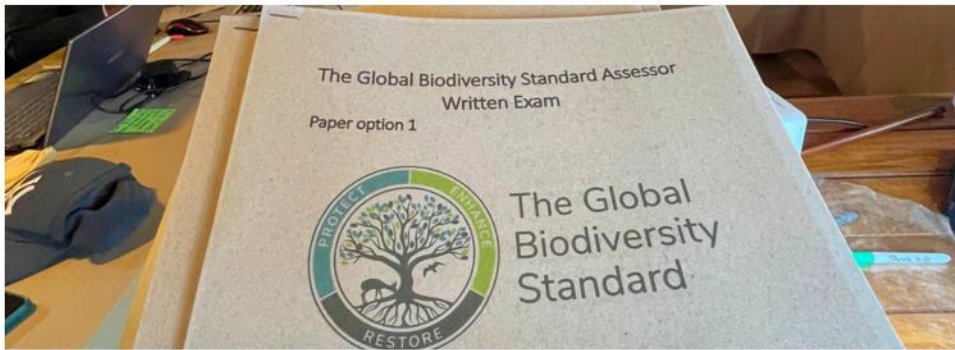
MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEK

Make a Difference Week (MADW) is SER's annual global initiative encouraging people everywhere to take part in local restoration efforts. Volunteers participate in hands-on projects that improve ecosystems and strengthen community connections.

[!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8_img.jpg\) Learn about Make a Difference Week](#)

The impact of MADW in 2024





SCIENCE, PRACTICE, & POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

RESTORATION ECOLOGY JOURNAL

Restoration Ecology, SER's bi-monthly journal, provides a platform for sharing original research that advances the science and practice of ecological restoration. The journal publishes experimental, observational, and theoretical work from both the natural and social sciences, supporting dialogue across disciplines and regions.

All SER members in good standing receive complimentary online access to *Restoration Ecology*.

In 2024, SER renewed its partnership with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to continue the *Restoration Ecology-Arid Lands* (RE-AL) thematic series. Two issues were published in 2024, highlighting restoration science, practice, and policy in arid and semi-arid ecosystems.

Learn more about *Restoration Ecology*

Journal Impact Scores

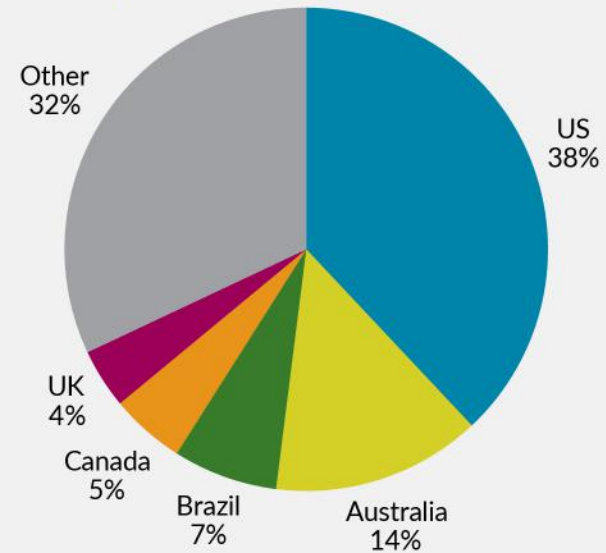


- 2024 CiteScore (Scopus): 5.7
- 2023 Journal Citation Indicator (Clarivate): 0.74
- 2023 Journal Impact Factor (Clarivate): 2.7

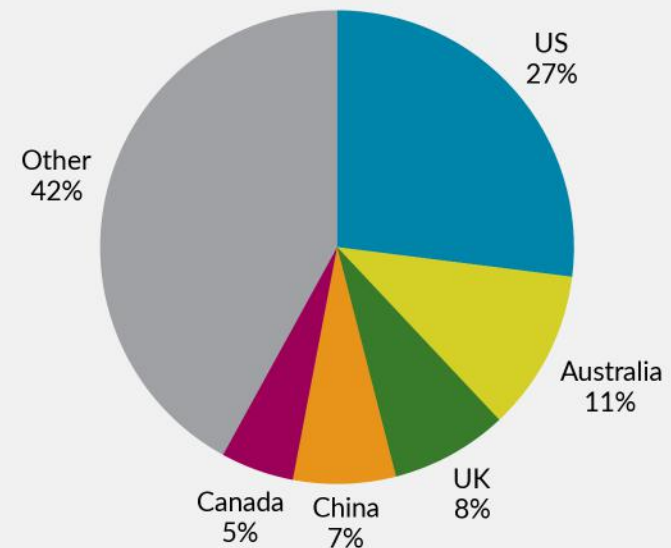


- 2024 Full Text Views: 735,546
- 2024 Total articles published: 274

2024 Top Authors by First 5 Countries:



2024 Top Readers by First 5 Countries



STANDARD-BASED RESTORATION IN ACTION PROGRAM

In 2024, SER supported six new local partner organizations through the Standards-Based Restoration in Action program, in collaboration with Microsoft's Datacenter Community Affairs team. SER worked with both new and returning partners to align their projects with the *International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration*. To date, we have supported Microsoft and local partners to implement restoration projects in 10 countries across five continents in priority locations identified by Microsoft. SER also provides ecological restoration technical support to our local partners, building local capacity for standards-based restoration beyond this collaboration.

[Learn more about the program](#)

Standards-based restoration projects in 2024

1. Rolling Hills Meadow Wetland Restoration at The Dawes Arboretum, Ohio USA
2. Invasive Species Control in Umyeonsan Mountain, Republic of Korea
3. SOS Mata Atlântica Leads an Urban Forest Restoration Project in Hortolandia, Brazil
4. Ecological Restoration of Hotani Satoyama in Osaka, Japan
5. Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Community in Te Atatū Peninsula, New Zealand
6. Restoring the Mangrove Forest in Kampung Sungai Melayu, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

In addition, three existing partners received project expansion grants or new grants:

1. Vernal Pool Restoration & Citizen Science Project in Loudoun County, Virginia USA
2. The Cyberjaya Lake Gardens River Restoration & Education Program in Malaysia
3. Extension of the Ecological Restoration of the Hotani Satoyama Project in Osaka Japan



Ohio, USA



Republic of Korea



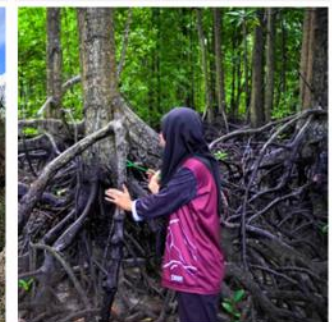
Hortolandia, Brazil



Osaka, Japan



Te Atatū Peninsula, NZ



Johor Bahru, Malaysia

STANDARDS-BASED TOOLS

Expanding access to SER's core resources

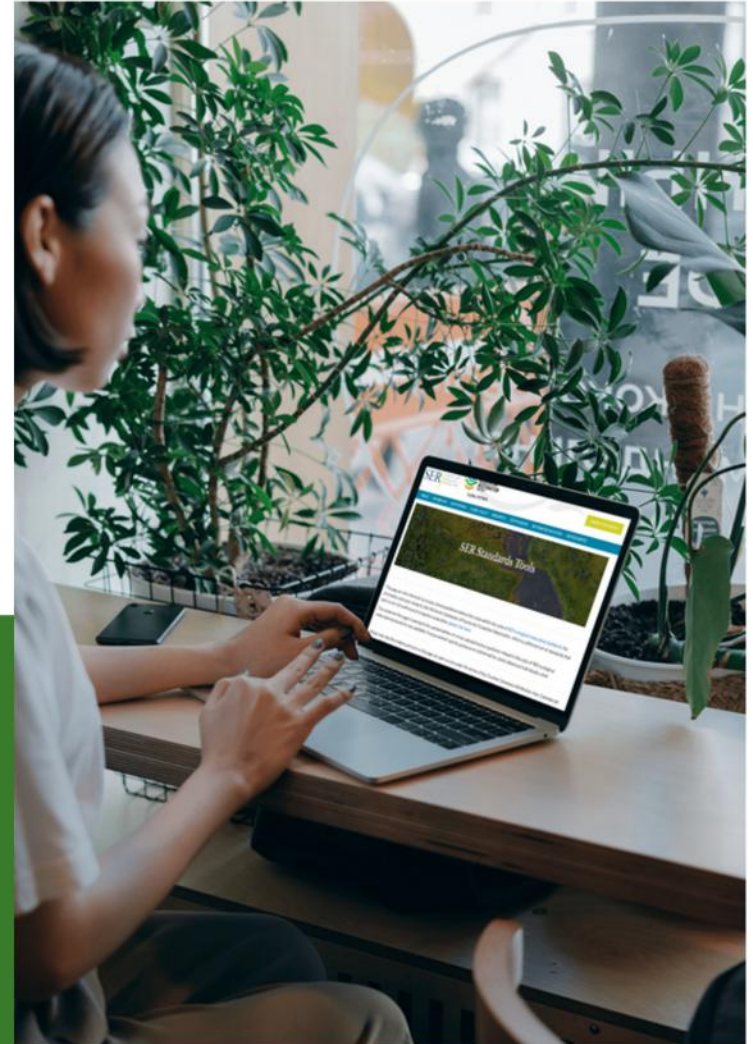
In 2024, SER launched a new Standards-Based Tools webpage to provide members and practitioners with easy access to key tools supporting the application of SER's ecological restoration standards.

The page includes updated and downloadable versions of the Ecological Recovery Wheel, Social Benefits Wheel, and Five-star System, and revised sub-attribute tables. Updates in 2024 include two new sub-attribute tables, developed collaboratively with expert groups, addressing Whitebark Pine ecosystems (in collaboration with the US National Park Service), and arid lands ecosystems (in collaboration with the US Bureau of Land Management).

Access the webpage

Supporting more context-specific application

By improving access to standards-based tools and adding context-specific sub-attribute tables, SER is helping restoration practitioners apply the Standards more effectively across different ecosystems. The new webpage will continue to evolve as additional guidance and sector-specific adaptations are developed and shared.



PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) program sets a global standard for ecological restoration professionals. Certified practitioners (CERPs) and practitioners-in-training (CERPITs) are evaluated against rigorous benchmarks for ecological knowledge, practical field experience, and alignment with core restoration principles.

In 2024, the program continued to grow, not only in overall numbers, but also in the geographic representation. CERPs and CERPITs are now present in 35 countries with seven new countries added in 2024: Ecuador, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Uganda.



[Learn more about Practitioner Certification](#)

2024 Certification Highlights



129
New CERPs and
CERPITs in 2024



617
Active CERPs and
CERPITs in total



13
Active Academic
Alignment partners



35
Countries with CERPs
or CERPITs present

THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY STANDARD

The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) is a site-based global standard for nature-based solutions, including restoration. It is designed to deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity, ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them. Developed collaboratively by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), SER, and a consortium of technical and regional partners, TGBS supports effective restoration across diverse ecosystems and management activities such as tree planting, forest restoration, and agroforestry.

 [Learn more about The Global Biodiversity Standard](#)

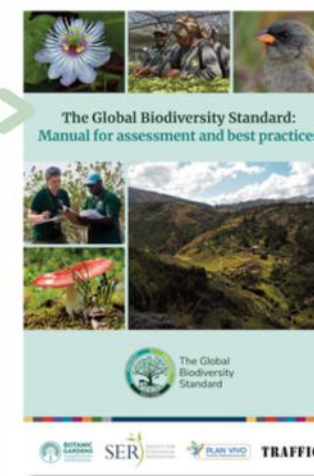


2024 Highlights for TGBS

In January and February 2024, TGBS certified its first cohort of trainers and assessors during a two-week workshop at Araribá Botanic Garden in São Paulo, Brazil. This training equipped 20 participants from nine countries with the skills to assess biodiversity outcomes and mentor restoration projects worldwide.

In June 2024 TGBS released *The Global Biodiversity Standard: Manual for Assessment and Best Practices* through a dedicated webinar and announcement. The manual outlines a site-based certification system to assess and improve biodiversity outcomes. This release supports SER's mission to promote standards-based restoration and advance project certification.

TGBS was formally launched at the 16th United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP16) in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024. At the launch, the first certified TGBS sites were announced: in Colombia, led by Impulso Verde and Reforest'Action; in Bolivia, led by SICIREC and Ecosia; and in Uganda, where the Jane Goodall Institute and Ecosia lead the country's first advanced certified site. TGBS is now available for projects seeking to demonstrate credible, standards-based restoration and achieve measurable biodiversity outcomes through certification.



LIVE WEBINAR SERIES

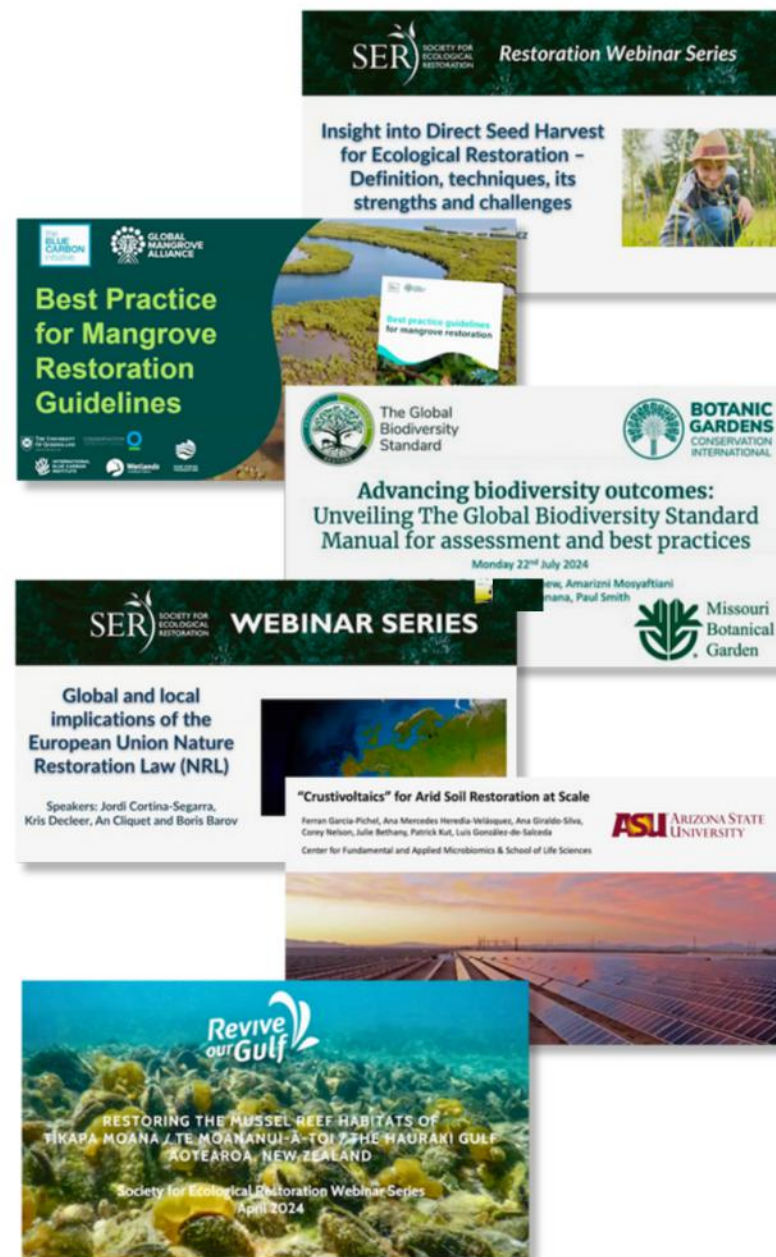
SER's webinar series connects members with experts in restoration science, practice, and policy across academia and the applied field. In 2024, live webinars covered a wide range of topics, including community-based restoration, invasive species management, landscape restoration, natural regeneration, seed-based restoration, revegetation techniques, policy updates, and practical case studies.

Learn more about SER Webinars

The impact of the webinar series

In 2024, SER hosted 26 webinars, drawing over 6450 participants from around the world. The series spotlighted diverse restoration themes, from Traditional Ecological Knowledge and stream restoration to invasive species management and global policy developments. On average, each webinar engaged 250 attendees, with some reaching over 750 participants.

These webinars, which are all available for on-demand viewing in our webinar library, provided a vital platform for knowledge exchange, practical case studies, and emerging science, helping restoration professionals connect across disciplines, geographies, and sectors.



BUILDING CAPACITY IN ARID LANDS RESTORATION

In April 2024, SER delivered a specialized training course titled Advanced Arid Lands Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation for Mojave Ecosystems. Held over four days in Las Vegas, Nevada, the workshop was designed to build technical capacity among US federal agency staff and environmental professionals working in arid and semi-arid landscapes. The curriculum, developed specifically for this offering, featured a calibrated Five-star System Sub-Attribute Table for arid land ecosystems.

Expanding impact through applied learning

The course brought together 30 participants, including 23 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), three from the National Park Service (NPS), and four from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The program included 1.5 days of classroom instruction covering topics such as seed sourcing, standards-based restoration, tribal-led restoration, and biocrust ecology. This was followed by 2.5 days of immersive field visits to nurseries, mine reclamation sites, experimental planting areas, and post-burn landscapes, offering participants hands-on experience to reinforce classroom learning.

The strong engagement and positive feedback from this course have laid the groundwork for two additional workshops in 2025, which focus on restoration strategies in Great Basin ecosystems.



EUROPEAN UNION NATURE RESTORATION LAW

In June 2024, the European Union overcame significant opposition to pass the Nature Restoration Law (NRL). This legislation marks a paradigm shift in global restoration policy by legally requiring a proactive approach to addressing historic, unmitigated ecosystem degradation, whereas most mandatory restoration laws focus on compensating for new environmental damage. SER-Europe engaged directly in supporting the development and adoption of the NRL.



SER actions in support of the NRL

SER-Europe was actively involved in pushing for the strongest law possible, and they continue to engage to support the best possible implementation, including through use of the SER Standards. SER and SER-Europe remain committed to advancing this law through collaboration with governments, communities, and partners.

2024/1991	29.7.2024
REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL	
of 24 June 2024	
on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869	
(Text with EEA relevance)	
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof,	
Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	
After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	
Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾ ,	
Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ⁽²⁾ ,	
Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure ⁽³⁾ ,	
Whereas:	
(1) It is necessary to lay down rules at Union level on the restoration of ecosystems to ensure the recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature across the Union territory. Restoring ecosystems also contributes to the Union's climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation objectives.	
(2) The communication of the Commission of 11 December 2019 entitled 'The European Green Deal' (the 'European Green Deal') sets out an ambitious roadmap to transform the Union into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, aiming to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital, and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. As part of the European Green Deal, the communication of the Commission of 20 May 2020 entitled 'EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives' sets out the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.	
(3) The Union and its Member States are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ⁽⁴⁾ . As such, they are committed to the long-term strategic vision, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention on 18-29 October 2010 by Decision X/2 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, that, by 2050, biodiversity is to be valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.	
(4) The Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 7-19 December 2022, sets out action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. Target 1 is to ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change; to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030 while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local	

INSURANCE FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

In 2024, SCOR, the world's fourth-largest reinsurance company, announced NatReCo, a new insurance product designed specifically for restoration projects. SER worked closely with SCOR for nearly a year on the development of NatReCo, and we are proud that the SER Standards form a key part of its underlying framework and assessment methodology.

NatReCo requires projects to comply with a Standard co-designed by SER and SCOR in order to qualify for coverage, offering a groundbreaking tool to support the delivery of restoration efforts and increase the potential for private investment in ecological restoration. NatReCo represents an important step toward making both private and public restoration projects more financially secure. Because the product is underpinned by the SER Standards, requiring best practices as a condition of insurability, it will also rely on Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners (CERPs) to support plan development, project assessments, and claims evaluations.

[!\[\]\(666e09182d4cd268646ea700ea60dcdf_img.jpg\) Learn more here](#)



***“Bridging the gap between the need and the desire to finance ecological restoration projects - NatReCo*”**

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Adopted in December 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) outlines 23 targets for protecting and improving biodiversity, including Target 2 on restoration. Together with the CBD Secretariat, FAO, and CIFOR-ICRAF, SER is part of the Target 2 Partnership. SER co-led development of *Delivering Restoration Outcomes for Biodiversity and Human Well-Being: A Resource Guide for Target 2* (T2 Guide), which was released during Restoration Day at the CBD COP16 in October in Cali, Colombia.

The T2 Guide inspires restoration action, providing valuable guidance to help countries plan, deliver, monitor and report their restoration efforts. Importantly, the guide elevates standards-based restoration across the full Restorative Continuum by defining “effective restoration” as “standards-based restoration underpinned by agreed principles that results in appropriately balanced sustainable net gain that benefits and enhances biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and human well-being.”

[!\[\]\(99f58673407353e96a019fbca558fd72_img.jpg\) Learn more here](#)

Looking forward...

SER continues to work with the Target 2 Partnership to develop a set of restoration capacity building workshops, with core content following the Target 2 Guide.



UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

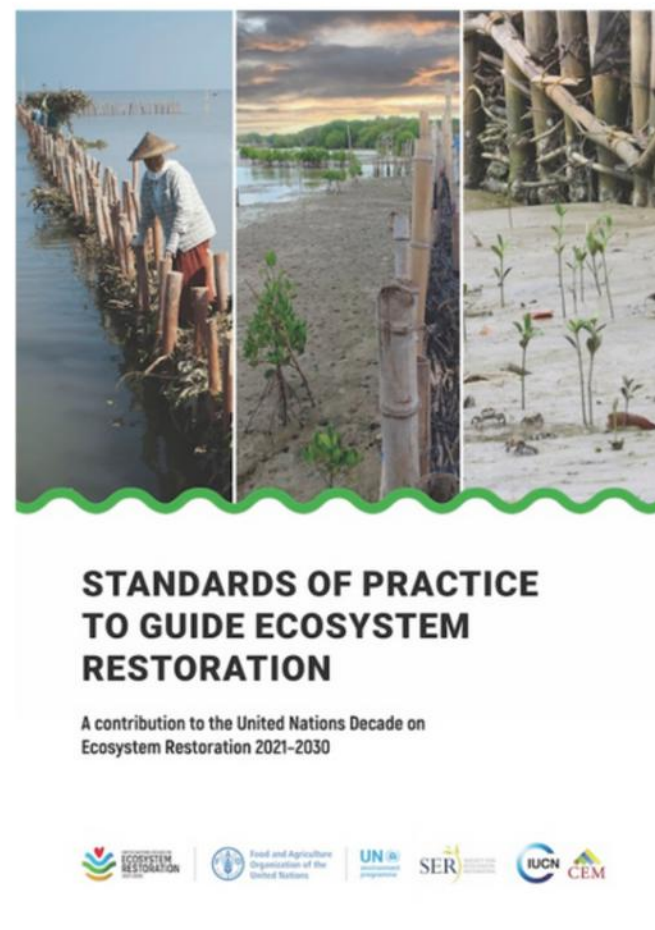
SER continued to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's work in 2024. The finalized *Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration: A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030* were released in early 2024.

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SER staff and board members continued to serve on the Monitoring and Best Practices Task Forces, playing leadership roles in the conception and development of new tools and resources. For example, we began a partnered effort to create an interactive tool to support applicability of the UN Decade Standards and an associated e-learning course (release expected at SER2025).

Similarly, we supported development of the UN Decade Capacity, Knowledge, and Learning Action Plan. In addition, Make a Difference Week was coordinated in collaboration with the UN Decade and World Environment Day.

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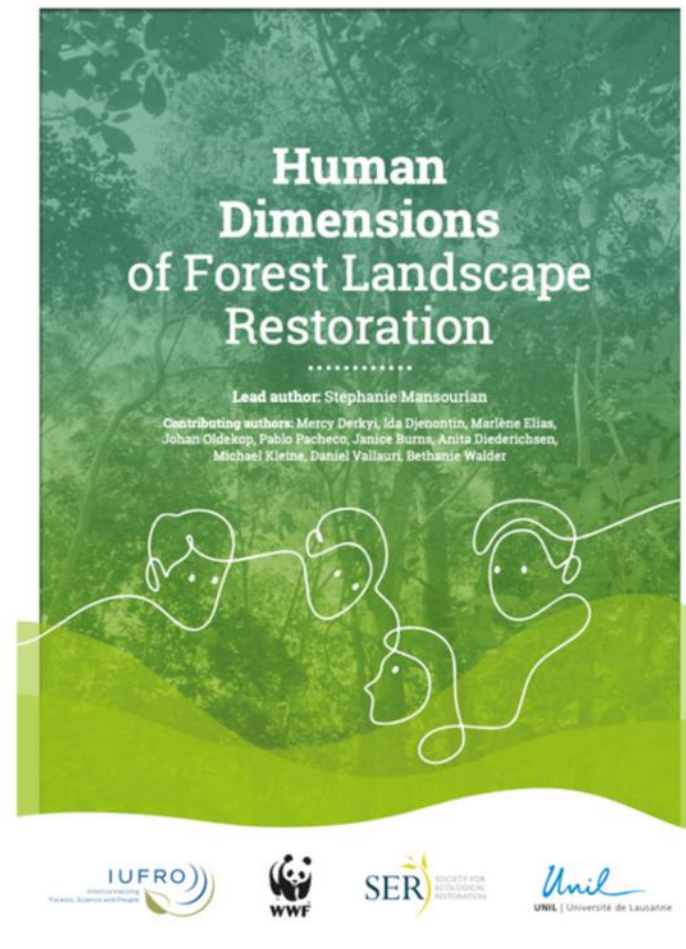


HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GUIDE

Led by SER Board member Stephanie Mansourian, SER partnered with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and WWF-France to develop a new guide on the *Human Dimensions of Forest Landscape Restoration*, which was released at the IUFRO World Congress in June 2024.

In addition to the in-person launch of the new guide, SER featured the guide in our webinar series. Several authors presented key content and shared the report's findings, emphasizing the critical importance of integrating human dimensions into all restoration activities to help deliver successful outcomes.

 Watch the open access webinar



THE SER TEAM

(as of June 2025)



Bethanie Walder
Executive Director



Dianne Watkins
Independent Consultant



Aamir Shehzad Khan
Certification Specialist



Amarizni Mosyaftiani
Policy & Practice Specialist



Harold Manrique-Hernández
Programs Manager



Karen Tekverk
Certification Program Manager



Elise Mackie
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MHR Accounting, Finance



Keith MacCallum
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Marina Best
Associate Director



Wendy Sturley
Membership & Marketing Director



Valter Amaral
Restoration Ecology Managing Editor



Tony Ballard
Meetings & Education Manager



Stephen Murphy
Restoration Ecology Editor-in-Chief



Vicki Stubbes
MHR Accounting, Finance

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Megan Taylor, Membership Coordinator, and Laura Capponi, Director of Membership & Strategic Development, for their dedication and care in supporting SER's members during their tenure at SER.

SER Restoration Fellows



LeeJi Drifwood



Meghan Ward



Mickki Garrity



Zoe Barr

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Switzerland

SER board terms run from 1 July of even-numbered years through 30 June, either two or four years later depending on the type of seat. At-Large seats carry four-year terms; all other positions are two years.

The board members represented above include all individuals who served on the SER Board during 2024, including those whose service ended in June. Some names appear more than once if the individual's role on the Board changed during this period.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Restorationist Circle

Anonymous
Bethanie Walder
Roger and Victoria Stubbs

Lifetime Members

Mark Shepard
Piet Vroeg

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

Anonymous
Buzz Avery
Tony Ballard
William Bennet
Greg Baylus Keydel
Keshav Boddula
Darcia Joan Booth
Judith Carder
Iri Cermak

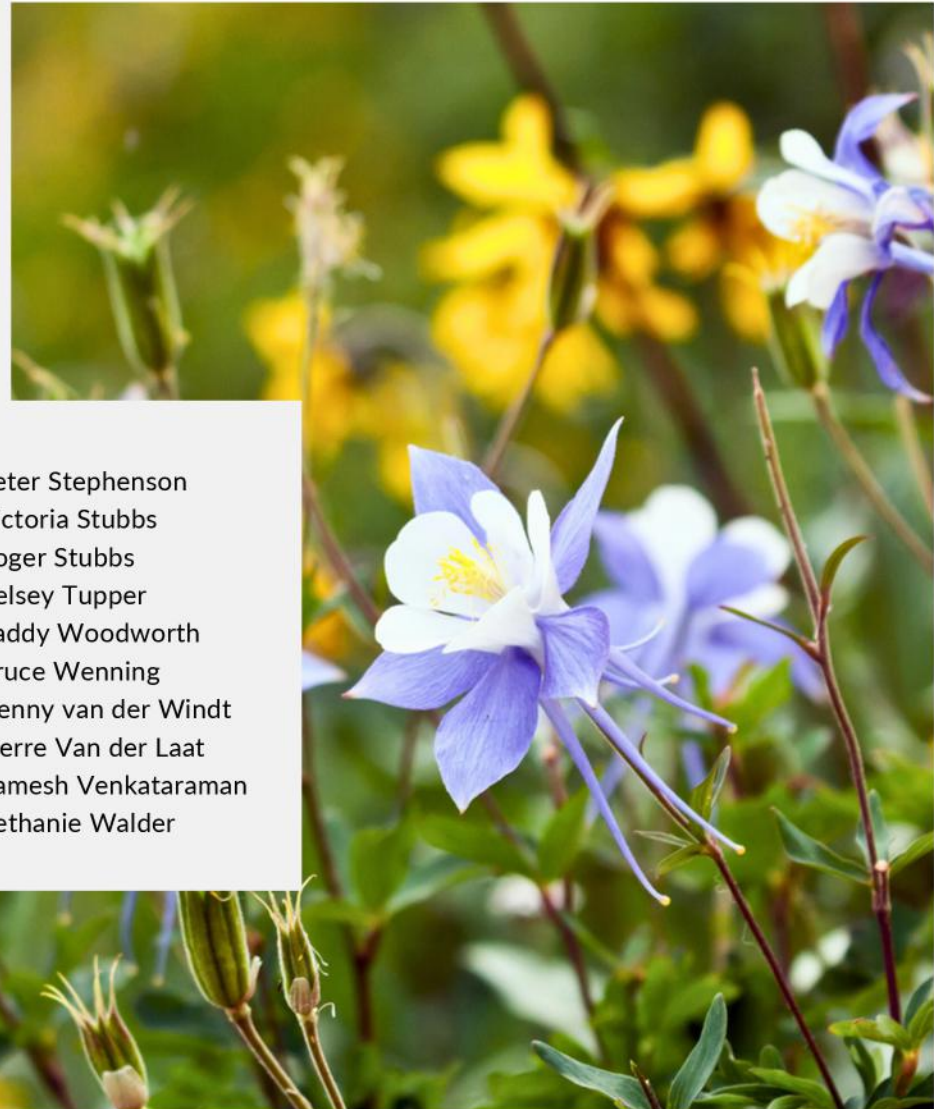
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Ramesh Venkataraman
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Restorer Members

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César Figueroa
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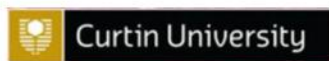


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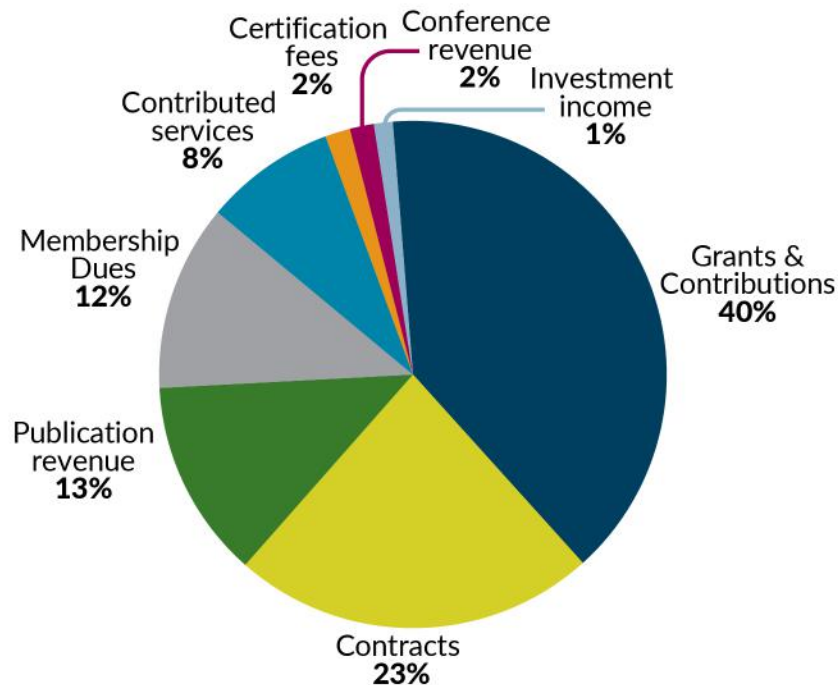
PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



FINANCIAL REPORT

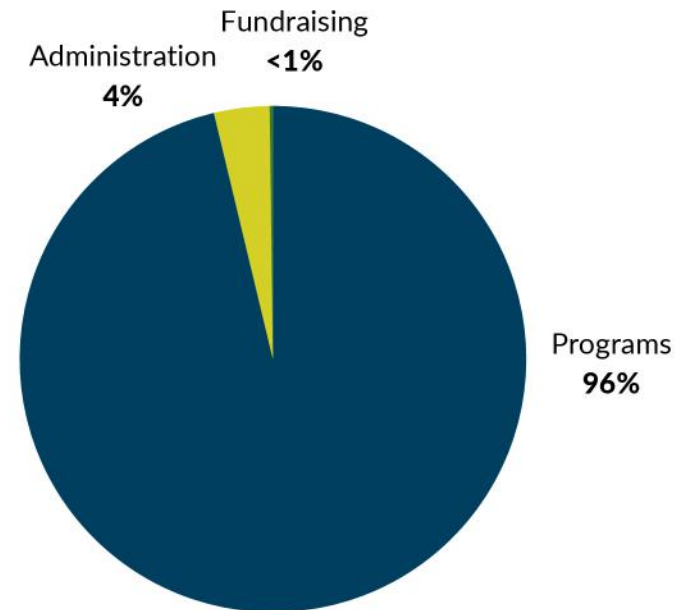
REVENUE

Grants & Contributions	\$1,250,490
Contracts	\$731,614
Publication revenue	\$399,795
Membership dues	\$375,552
Contributed services	\$264,127
Certification fee revenue	\$50,535
Conference revenue	\$48,284
Investment income	\$37,802
TOTAL	\$3,160,199



EXPENSES

Programs	\$2,800,302
Administration	\$103,058
Fundraising	\$5,920
TOTAL	\$2,909,280



LOOKING AHEAD

11TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

SER2025 is set to be a major highlight of 2025, bringing together restoration professionals from around the world. Held in North America for the first time in 12 years, SER's flagship conference offers a biennial opportunity to engage directly with global leaders in ecological restoration and expand your professional network.

 [Learn more here](#)



The conference will feature



A record number of field trips showcasing diverse restoration projects across ecosystems



Specialized training courses designed to deepen practical and technical skills



Make a Difference Day, inviting hands-on participation in local restoration efforts



The Film Festival, returning by popular demand after its successful debut at SER2023 in Darwin





Committed to advancing the
science, practice, and policy of
ecological restoration?

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