

February 24, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International and Parks Canada, in accordance with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) mandate provided by the adoption of motion CGR4.MOT051, and in collaboration with Parks Australia, the New Zealand Department of Conservation, Parks Victoria, and the Western Australia Department of Environment and Conservation, are organizing an expert workshop on Best Practices for Ecological Restoration in Protected Areas.

This expert workshop is to be held during [SER's 19th international conference](#) in Perth, Australia from August 23 – 27, 2009. Its goal is to make significant contributions to the development of an *IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration* as called for at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in October 2008. It will also build awareness and support for related initiatives such as the implementation of article 8 f (ecosystem restoration and species recovery) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We would like to invite you to nominate at your earliest convenience but no later than **April 15, 2009**, an expert who can participate in the workshop.

Participants are expected to include experts in the field of ecological restoration, protected area managers and other professionals with an interest in promoting the role of ecological restoration in enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to climate change and other global changes as well as improving protected area management and contributing to public education, visitor experience, and human well-being. Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vita that clearly indicates the areas of relevant expertise of the nominee.

The provisional agenda for the workshop will be forwarded to the selected experts in May 2009. The workshop will be conducted in English. We look forward to receiving your nominations. Please contact Karen Keenleyside (Karen.Keenleyside@pc.gc.ca) or Sasha Alexander (sasha@ser.org) to submit your nomination or to request additional details.

Yours Sincerely,



Mike Wong
Executive Director, Ecological Integrity Branch
Parks Canada



George Gann
Chair, Society for Ecological
Restoration International

Background and Additional Information

At the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (October 6 – 13, 2008 in Barcelona, Spain), IUCN members voted in favour of a motion – sponsored by Parks Canada, SER, Park Victoria (Australia), and Ontario Parks – calling for the IUCN Director General to produce a *Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration*. The motion’s co-sponsors have agreed to continue to work together on this undertaking, and in doing so, to engage a broad range of stakeholders and partners. The best practice approach agreed to in Barcelona calls for ecological restoration to be **effective** in restoring and maintaining ecological integrity, **efficient** in using practical and economic terms to achieve success, and **engaging** through implementing inclusive processes and by recognizing and embracing interrelationships between culture and nature. It is modeled on the Canadian approach, which builds on the SER Primer and was developed in collaboration with numerous partners, including several members of SER and SER’s Indigenous Peoples’ Restoration Network. It is available in English and French at http://pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/resteco/index_e.asp (the Spanish text will be available soon).

This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to advancing the field of ecological restoration in protected areas and providing practical solutions to some of the worlds most pressing conservation challenges. The morning session will include an overview of the proposed best practice approach and present case studies that demonstrate best practices in addressing regional or issue-specific considerations in making decisions about ecological restoration in protected areas (e.g., climate change, desertification, tropical forests, marine). In the afternoon, participants will work in small groups to develop content for the best practice guide, identify gaps, and make recommendations for a future work programme that will facilitate its completion.

Details regarding the Society for Ecological Restoration International World Conference: Making Change in a Changing World can be found at <http://www.seri2009.com.au/>