



European Chapter of the
Society for Ecological Restoration

Annual Report 2013

ORGANIZATION

SER Europe status as NGO

Since June 2012 SER Europe is officially recognized as an international non-profit organization. The NGO was established in Belgium, close to European decision making, and is hosted by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest in Brussels. The full text of our statutes can be consulted on the SER Europe website.

Management

Executive Committee members:

- Norbert Hölzel (Chair), University of Münster, Germany
- Jordi Cortina (Vice Chair), Universidad de Alicante, Spain
- Agata Klimkowska (Secretary), Eco-Recover, Netherlands/Poland
- Kris Decler (Treasurer, webmaster, policy-interface, representative in SER International), Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Belgium

Other board members:

- Anne Tolvanen (SER2014 Conference), Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finland
- Kathrin Kiehl (at large), University of Applied Sciences Osnabrueck, Germany
- Katalin Török (at large), Institute of Ecology and Botany, Hungary
- Sabine Tischew (at large), Hochschule Anhalt, Germany
- Jim Harris (at large), Cranfield University, UK
- Elise Buisson (at large), l'Université d'Avignon, France
- Camiel Aggenbach (at large), KWR Watercycle Research Institute, Netherlands
- Karel Prach (at large), University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic

New logo

The logo of SER and SER Europe was re-designed on request of SER International and chosen by members in an open Logo Competition.

New Bank account

With the legal establishment of SER Europe, bank accounts were opened at the socio-environmentally friendly TRIODOS bank: BE07 5230 8062 5566 (current account) and BE36 5230 4627 9381 (savings account). Maintenance of both accounts is free of charge.

ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION

New website

The website of SER Europe got a substantial face lift (www.ser-europe.org). It can now be added to the list of your favorite sites in your web browser. Our website is meant to link you with news items, upcoming events and archived documents of past events. Members are invited to deliver contents as: announcements, reviews of books and reports, contributions to

SER-Europe Knowledge Base, reports on activities and else. Contributions and comments should be sent to Kris.Decler@inbo.be.

Newsletters

Agata Klimkowska assembled a SER Europe newsletter in January and August 2013. Newsletters contain details of SER activities as well as reports on meetings, courses and other activities relevant to SER Europe members. The newsletters can be accessed at <http://chapter.ser.org/europe/publications/ser-europe-newsletter/>. Contributions for future editions of the SER newsletter can be supplied to info@ser-europe.org.

SER Europe Knowledge Base

One of the aims of SER Europe is to disseminate knowledge on ecological restoration in Europe to practitioners, policy people, stakeholders and scientists. With our Knowledge Base and its supporting search engine we want to provide a tool for the restoration community to share knowledge, best practice experience, interesting case studies, etc. Several contributions were added to the knowledge base throughout 2013. Contributions and comments can be sent to Kris.Decler@inbo.be.

CONFERENCES and TRAINING EVENTS

In 2013 SER Europe co-organized the following events:

- International workshop 'AWARE': Approaches in wetland restoration – focus on fen landscapes, Poland (21-25 April 2013)
The event was held in Warsaw and was followed by an excursion and field-discussions in fens of NE Poland. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants from 11 countries: scientists, students and representatives from nature protections agencies. The challenges in wetland restoration were. Submitted posters and some of the contributions summarized in Extended Abstracts are published on the workshop website www.biol.uw.edu.pl/aware.
- SER Europe mini-symposium: "New developments in restoration research and applied ecology", Münster, Germany (26-28 April 2013)
The symposium brought together researchers from Czech Republic, Spain, France, and Germany to discuss current research topics and plans for joint projects. Participants enjoyed the excursion to the Ruhr region with some outstanding nature locations in an old industrial landscape. The symposium was also attended by students in landscape ecology. Assumedly, the next meeting will be held in Spain, at the University of Bilbao.
- Summer School 2013. Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse & Aix-Marseille Université (13 - 18 May 2013)
Eleven students and young researchers and 9 practitioners, from 14 countries, attended the 2013 SER Summer School, funded by OT-Med, Région PACA and Université d'Avignon. Participants came from Europe (Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Estonia, the UK), but also from Brazil, Colombia, USA, Russia, Algeria, Tunisia and Niger. Nineteen experts, 12 researchers and 7 practitioners, from France, Spain, Germany and Italy, lectured indoors and in significant restoration projects in south-eastern France (More information: elise.buisson@univ-avignon.fr).

- International conference “Open Landscapes 2013: Ecology, Management and Nature Conservation”, Hildesheim, Germany (29th Sept. – 3rd Oct. 2013)
A wide range of topics was covered, including ecological pattern and processes in undisturbed and disturbed ecosystems; consequences of global change for biodiversity and/or ecosystem services; plant-animal relationships; tools and targets for ecosystem restoration and innovative strategies for nature conservation. The focus was on all kinds of open landscapes including wetlands, coastal ecosystems, grasslands, wood-pastures, mountain ecosystems, agricultural landscapes and other open habitats. About 300 participants joined the conference with about 80% originating from outside Germany. More information: www.open-landscapes2013.de.

SER Europe actively supported the following events in 2013:

- 3th Iberoamerican-Caribbean Conference on Ecological Restoration, Bogota, Columbia (29-31 July 2013).
The meeting was a great success: 500+ experts and 200+ presentations. SER Europe provided support to this meeting and to the creation of the Sociedad Iberoamericana y del Caribe de Restauración Ecológica (SICRE), and encouraged SICRE members to strengthen the links with SER. More info: www.congreso2013.redcre.com

Furthermore, over the year SER Europe was busy with the preparations for two major events in 2014 en 2015:

- SER2014: biennial SER Europe Conference in Oulu, Finland (3-8 August 2014)
Under the enthusiastic coordination of Anne Tolvanen all necessary preparations were taken to organize once more a very successful European Conference on Ecological Restoration. By the end of 2013 all but one key note speakers were already fixed and more than 20 special sessions were announced. There are 25 sessions open for Abstract submission as of middle January 2014. Registration will begin late January or early February 2014. Web pages have been updated concerning anything else but the registration fees; there is detailed information on e.g. the Conference excursions, which will be organized in collaboration with people from different organizations. More info: www.ser2014.org.
- SER2015: biennial SER World Conference to Manchester, UK
The SER Europe board provided support to the Manchester bid for SER 2015 World Conference. The candidature was successful, and the UK and Europe will be honored again by this outstanding event. Congratulations to the local organizers: David Haley, The SER Europe board will provide support to the local organizers and encourages SER Europe members to take an active role in it. More info: www.ser2015.org

POLICY ADVICE

SER Europe became recognized by the European Commission as official scientific stakeholder organization to advise policy matters prepared by DG Environment, in particular the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. In 2013 SER Europe actively participated in the following working groups:

- 15% restoration objective (target 2, action 6a)
- Green Infrastructure objective (target 2, action 6b)
- No Net Loss objective (target 2, action 7)

Additionally SER Europe is member of the European Habitats Forum where European policy matters are discussed amongst different European conservation societies, organizations and institutions. As such, SER Europe also attends biannual in-person meetings with the leadership of DG Environment.

More information: Kris.Decler@inbo.be;

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

With three members of the board present, SER Europe actively participated in a EU workshop on 29-30 May, to set "Priorities for the Restoration of Ecosystems and their Services" under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

SER Europe communicated with DG Research (Directorate I - Climate action and resource efficiency) on Research Priorities in ecological Restoration in the Horizon 2020-context. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/area/environment-climate-action>.

Katalin Török is member of the Steering Committee of EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy) and member of the multidisciplinary expert panel of IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). More info:

www.epbrs.org; www.ipbes.net

COLLABORATION

Wetlands international

Agata Klimkowka gave a short presentation about SER-Europe to Wetlands international staff (ca. 10 people present). The response was very positive. Ways to collaborate with WI, including support to future WI conferences and conferences of the European River Restoration Center will be explored. More info: www.wetlands.org

European Habitats Forum

Kris Decler presented SER Europe to the assembly of European non-governmental conservation societies, organizations and institutions (ca. 20 organizations present). The response was very positive and representatives were keen to explore further collaboration in the future. More information:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/work/?uNewsID=50>

Collaboration with other organizations

Over the year several board members have established contacts with several organizations to promote interaction and collaboration. These include Desert Restoration Hub (<http://desertrestorationhub.com>), Asociación Española de Ecología Terrestre (www.aeet.org), EC Joint Research Center at Ispra (www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc), Réseau d'Echanges et de Valorisation en Ecologie de la Restauration (www.reseau-rever.org).

SER International

Collaboration with SER International has continued over this year, particularly with the Chapter Relations Working Group, Science and Policy Committee, Awards Committee and International Development Working Group. Kris Decler represents SER Europe in the SER International board of directors. A large number of SER Europe delegates attended the SER2013 World Conference in Madison, US. (more info: www.ser2013.org)

Financial Report

Income	Amount
donations	
membership dues received from SER International	
Total Income	€ 438,81
Expenses	
Bank account costs	
Domain name/mailbox SER Europe	
Total expenses	€ -66,33
Net income	€ 372,48



SER Europe thanks all the members and other donors who contributed to the Society in 2013

Join SER and support our efforts to advance ecological restoration.

Contact: info@ser-europe.org; European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Kliniekstraat 25, 1070 Brussels, Belgium.

