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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIR Ása L. Aradóttir

RESTORATION IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THE 11TH EUROPEAN SER CONFERENCE PROGRAMME BOOKLET

9 - 13 September 2018 in Reykjavik, Iceland

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the 11th SER Europe Conference, *Restoration in the Era of Climate Change!* Over the next few days, over 400 people, representing 49 countries from all inhabited continents will meet in Reykjavík to share their experiences, ideas and enthusiasm about ecological restoration and its role for our future.

Ecological restoration has a growing role in environmental management and sustainable development. Mitigation of climate change, safeguarding of biodiversity, reversal of land degradation and increased ecosystem resilience are examples of important goals for ecological restoration today. At the same time restoration outcomes can be influenced by ecological responses to climate change, which may call for reassessment of restoration approaches. These and related issues will be addressed at the conference, which should provide a platform for discussions of means to attain ecological restoration goals in an effective, efficient and engaging manner; not only from ecological point of view, but also within the wider sociological and economic context.

Iceland provides an ideal background for this conference. A volcanic island at the edge of the Arctic, Iceland has ample examples of extreme ecosystem degradation but also a long and rich history of reclamation and ecological restoration. Retreating glaciers are a visual reminder of climate change, frequent volcanic eruptions drive home the importance of ecosystem resilience and widespread primary succession on new surfaces gives valuable insights into key restoration processes. The conference excursions will give you the opportunities to experience some of these issues first hand.

We are thankful for the enthusiastic response to the conference from the restoration community. The conference program includes over 200 oral presentations, about 80 posters and six workshops, in addition to an open Climate Forum that aims at linking science, policies and businesses. Keynote lectures will draw attention to the conference theme and location. The seven distinguished keynote speakers represent diverse backgrounds, from local activists to world renowned scientists.

This conference is hosted by the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, Agricultural University of Iceland, UNU-Land Restoration Training Program and the Icelandic Environmental Association (Landvernd) in cooperation with SER Europe. We want to use this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent team of colleagues from the host institutions that has worked together on the conference planning and preparation over the past two years. We also thank the sponsors who made this conference possible.

Welcome to Iceland! We hope that you enjoy the SER Europe 2018 conference.

Ása L. Aradóttir, Agricultural University of Iceland Þórunn Pétursdóttir, Soil Conservation Service of Iceland Guðmundur Halldórsson, Soil Conservation Service of Iceland 38

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Improvement and sustainable management of river corridors in the Iberian Atlantic Region Jorge Marquínez García¹, María Luisa Alonso González¹, Arturo Colina Vuelta¹, Tomás Emilio Díaz González², María Fernández García¹, Elena Fernández Iglesias¹, José Antonio Fernández Prieto¹, Laura García de la Fuente¹, Pilar García Manteca¹, Mauro Sanna¹, Antonio Torralba Burrial², Jesús Valderrábano Luque¹ ¹Universidad de Oviedo-INDUROT, MIERES, Spain ²Universidad de Oviedo, OVIEDO, Spain

In the Iberian Atlantic Region, there are several landscape change processes (changes in the land use, presence of invasive species, activities regarding public use, intensification of agricultural and livestock farming, climate change) and phytosanitary problems (alder diseases caused by *Phytophthora* ssp.) that, currently, are threat factors of river corridor habitats. These factors are deteriorating and fragmenting them, and having a relevant impact on their functionality.

The LIFE Fluvial project aims to mitigate these consequences, to improve the conservation status and to develop sustainable management measures of river and fluvio-estuarine corridors. Selected areas in the project are Natura 2000 sites belonging to several river basins located in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal). To this aim, LIFE Fluvial has designed the following actions:

A detailed analysis of the current status and implementation of a trans-national model for the sustainable management of river corridors to reduce the negative impact caused by the threats and to avoid their spread towards other UE territories.

Design and implementation of restoration projects to improve conservation *status* of the natural habitats of interest, connectivity and to reduce fragmentation.

Control of invasive flora species that pose a threat to the conservation of river corridors, and improvement of their phytosanitary state by removing trees infected by *Phytophthora*

Dissemination of the environmental relevance of river corridors and social awareness in terms of socioeconomic benefits and ecosystem services provided.

Improvement of training/education and technical empowerment of the stakeholders involved in the management and conservation of river corridors.

The project lasts four years (2017-2021) and includes a system to monitor the impact of the actions on habitats and ecosystem services provided by river corridors.