

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T13

Restoration of ecosystem services: bridging science, policy, and practice for a nature- and people-positive Europe

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host (s):	Aveliina Helm	SER Europe, University of Tartu	aveliina.helm@ut.ee
Co-host(s):	SER Europe Board	European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration	
Other organiser(s):	Triin Reitalu	University of Tartu	triin.reitalu@ut.ee

Abstract:

Ecosystem restoration is crucial to reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing climate resilience, and ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services for both people and nature. In Europe, the momentum created by the EU Nature Restoration Law and the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 highlights the urgent need for evidence-based and inclusive restoration. Yet science, policy, and practice often remain fragmented, limiting the potential of restoration efforts to deliver multiple benefits.

This session, organised by the Society for Ecological Restoration Europe (SER Europe), will bring together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to critically examine the role of ecosystem services in guiding restoration. By showcasing scientific insights, policy perspectives, and practical case studies, the session will explore how to best align the restoration goals and ecosystem service-based approaches.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Present cutting-edge scientific knowledge on how and whether restoration actions can enhance ecosystem services (e.g. pollination, water regulation, soil fertility, climate mitigation).
- Explore the policy frameworks and governance mechanisms shaping restoration in Europe.
- Share experiences and lessons from restoration projects and practices across different regions.
- Identify barriers and opportunities for integrating ecosystem services into restoration policies and implementation.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- A synthesis of insights presented and discussed during the session, shared with ESP Europe participants and disseminated in SER Europe communication channels.
- A short policy- and practice-oriented briefing note summarising recommendations for better integration of ecosystem services into restoration planning and governance.
- Strengthened collaborations between ESP and SER networks to support future knowledge exchange.

Session format:

Estimated duration would be at least 7 presentations (each 15-20 minutes), but might be more, if suitable presentations are proposed + 30 minute discussion round.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group:

TWG 13 – Role of ES in Ecosystem restoration