



THE ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ALLIANCE OF BOTANIC GARDENS IN THE UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

ERA mission:

To mobilize botanic gardens, arboreta and seed banks to carry out science-based ecological restoration by marshalling their expertise, networks, and resources to help achieve the restoration outcomes needed for human well-being and a sustainable future for life on Earth.



ERA
Ecological Restoration
Alliance of Botanic Gardens

ERA strategy 2021 – 2025

GOAL 1:

Develop and implement the Global Biodiversity Standard certification to influence ecological restoration policy and practice at large scale, ensuring there is a strong focus on biodiversity and the use of appropriate plant materials for restoration

A1.1: Develop the Global Biodiversity Standard certification methodology that builds on the 10 Golden Rules paper and that specifically recognises the value of incorporating native (and threatened) species and creates an incentive for the protection of existing habitats, and incorporating native plant species into restoration



A1.2: Use the Global Biodiversity Standard certification as a vehicle for deploying BGCI and ERA expertise at scale through:

- Carrying out site visit assessments for certification applicants
- Providing mentoring services to practitioners of large scale restoration, reforestation and agroforestry
- Establishing training hubs of expertise available to practitioners of large scale restoration, reforestation and agroforestry (see Goal 2)

A1.3: Use the Global Biodiversity Standard certification scheme to:

- Develop strategic partnerships with other certification agencies, e.g. SER, FSC, Plan Vivo
- Develop strategic partnerships with large scale restoration and tree planting programmes, including corporate entities, NGOs and GOs
- Seek endorsement and partnership with other conservation organisations interested in promoting biodiversity conservation and recovery at scale

GOAL 2:

Build ecological restoration capacity in botanic gardens, local communities, academia, industry, government, NGOs and international bodies

A2.1: ERA project sites and expertise are used for training a diverse mix of people undertaking ecological restoration or other restorative activities, particularly to ensure they consider biodiversity and incorporate an appropriate mix of native species

A2.2: Establish national or regional restoration training hubs

- Identify locations for the regional hubs, based on priority areas for restoration
- Conduct skills, resources and capacity gap assessments for each regional hub
- Support collaboration between botanic gardens to enable regional hubs to offer comprehensive training courses

A2.3: Ensure members are represented on BGCI's ecological restoration expertise directory to facilitate partnership development and consultancies

A2.4: Support botanic gardens to adopt a stronger focus on ecological restoration, particularly those in areas where there are not currently ERA members

- Determine the barriers preventing more botanic gardens being involved in ecological restoration via a survey to BGCI network
- Offer mentorship, partnership and training to build capacity within botanic gardens

A2.5: Provide an open access online knowledge hub for ecological restoration, available in multiple languages and for different ecosystems

- Collate ecological restoration training resources from the ERA network and ensure these are accessible online, including addition of propagation protocols to BGCI's PlantSearch database
- Collate project examples that show best management practices for different ecosystems
- Develop resources to fill gaps, including online training modules

A2.6: Support the development of supply chains to provide appropriate material for restoration

- Address research problems (e.g. germination and propagation protocols)
- Provide training in practical aspects of native plant seed collection, seed processing, seed storage, seed germination, nursery establishment, etc.
- Support botanic gardens to scale up seed producing capacity (increased seed testing and seed processing capabilities) and scale out number of seed sourcing centres (training and potential to franchise nurseries).





GOAL 3:

Work with partners to set up, maintain and document a series of **long-term sustainable restoration projects** in diverse biophysical, political, and cultural contexts around the globe that demonstrate the value of a carefully designed, science-driven approach to sustainable ecological restoration.

A3.1: Continue to **develop a portfolio of restoration projects** that adhere to best practice, in a diverse range of ecosystem types and cultural contexts. Projects will;

- Be ecological restoration projects that incorporate a wide mix of native species
- Or projects delivering supporting services that substantially contribute to biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration practice

A3.2: Seek opportunities to **scale up projects & mainstream biodiversity into national / regional / large-scale approaches** (e.g. agroforestry, FLR).

- Deliver joint projects with larger restoration players (e.g. government, World Bank, etc.)
- Develop partnerships with governments that have made large scale commitments to restoration

GOAL 4:

Build recognition of the value of involving botanical organisations, botanical expertise and biodiversity in ecological restoration

A4.1: **Publish the Kew Declaration** and seek signatures throughout the UN Decade

A4.2: Continue to **expand the evidence base** for best practice ecological restoration

- Publish research from ERA projects and sites



- Collate research articles and make them accessible via the ERA website

A4.3: Continue to **grow ERA membership** to ensure we have a strong voice on every continent and for a diverse range of ecosystems

A4.4: **Provide a voice for biodiversity and promote the role of botanic gardens in ecological restoration** in the UN Decade.

- Develop a suite of materials throughout the Decade that promote the importance of biodiversity and the role of botanic gardens in ecological restoration, including revamping the ERA website, running webinars and developing a social media kit
- Seek opportunities to publish ERA news and stories via other channels, e.g. SER, Ecosia
- Promote biodiversity and the role of ERA at conferences and meetings, including holding annual symposia or thematic conferences

