



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



environment, forestry  
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Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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## WRC Webinar

### Workshop: UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: Methods Development and their Application in Africa-India, Pakistan and Australia

**Date:** 17 November 2020

**Time:** 09:00-11:30

**Registration link:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vkqQ319hTQeOLrMQSEhqvw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vkqQ319hTQeOLrMQSEhqvw)

#### Background:

The nations of the world adopted the SDG:2030, made up of 17-goals, with the core objectives being the eradication of poverty, conservation of biodiversity, water security, combat climate change and betterment of peoples' lives. However these noble goals, including the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and those of South Africa's NDP, cannot be achieved unless the extensive degradation of ecosystems is stopped and restoration undertaken on hundreds of millions of hectares all over the world. Several studies have been conducted on the economic gains to society by investing in restoration. A global estimation is that for every R16 (roughly a dollar) spent on restoration, up to R1 200 (75-dollars) of economic benefits can be recovered. It is for this reason that globally, economists are paying more attention to green economic recovery strategies post COVID-19. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to speed up collaboration amongst all stakeholders and across all UN member states to invest in restoration. There are several impediments to restoration, such as financing, technical and labour skills, methods and guidelines, political will, business and incentives for restoration and maintenance. Restoration is an inclusive process which needs uptake and support by all stakeholders to be sustainable. It needs resources.

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) together with South Africa's Water Research Commission (WRC) and Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration conference in Cape Town, attracting more than 900 delegates from more than 60 countries. A statement in support of the UN Decade was collectively issued by members and participants. The statement also supports the CBD efforts in nature conservation with 2021 being the Year of Biodiversity celebration. These global efforts are taking place in the same year, 2021. The WRC was also mandated at this conference by the SER Board to spread the restoration network in the continent in partnership with society members and interested parties. This process is underway, under the supervision of WildTrust staff that represent Africa on the Board of SER. Africa, is one of the few continents that remain without a chapter to SER (formal community of practice). Therefore, the aim of this webinar is to demonstrate some of the restoration tools, including environmental flow determinations, their application in Australia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique and in South Africa. The webinar hosted by the emerging SER-African restoration network is also aimed at assessing the readiness of Africa to engage the UN decade of ecosystem restoration. This is the first in the series.

#### Audience:

Society for Ecological Restorations members and global practitioners in restoration, Government Departments, such as National Treasury, Tourism, Environment-Forestry and Fisheries, Science and Innovation, Economic Development, Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, Research councils, Municipalities, Academia, consultants, Private sector, Citizen Scientists, NGO's, etc.

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### Draft Programme

**Facilitator:** Dr Mamohlong Tlthagale, Water Research Commission (WRC)

Time	Item	Responsible Person
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome and Purpose of the meeting	Prof: Stanley Liphadzi, Group Executive, WRC
09:15 - 09:30	Partnership in green economy resource recovery strategy for a better future for all	Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, CEO, WRC
09:30 - 09:50	Guidelines in balancing environmental flows and developmental needs-reversing ecosystem degradation	Prof: Cate Brown, Southern Waters, ER&c, South Africa.
09:50 - 10:10	Ravi river eco-revitalization: The case of India/Pakistan	Dr Vaqar Zakaria, Managing Director, Hagler Bailly, Pakistan.
10:10 - 10:30	Water Funds for restoration case studies in Africa/beyond	Dr Richard Bugan, TNC.
10:30 - 10:50	Restoration lessons from Kenya: Kenya Water Towers Agency (KWTA)	Dr Winnie Musila, Director, Ecosystem Assessment, Planning and Audit
10:50 - 11:10	The Restoration Economy: Cases and lessons from Australia	Prof: Kingsley Dixon Curtin University-Australia.
11:10 - 11:20	Open Discussions-Way Forward: Facilitated	Mr Bonani Madikizela, Research Manager, WRC
11:20 - 11:30	Comments and Closing remarks	Mr Andrew Whitley, Wild-Trust, Society for Ecological Restoration.