

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canada/México/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem  
Conservation and Management

Plenary Session

Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
1:00 – 2:00pm EST

“Strategic Use of Ecosystem Restoration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

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*There has never been a more urgent need to restore damaged ecosystems than now. Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. It can help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent a mass extinction. It will only succeed if everyone plays a part.*

*UN Declaration Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030*

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- Classic restoration aims to return an ecosystem to its pristine condition.
- Productive restoration is an alternative approach that aims at recovering ecosystem services that provide economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Approaches to restoration range broadly from (unassisted) natural ecological succession to (assisted) engineered active management.
- Ecosystem restoration can contribute to achieving a range of environmental and social agendas: biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, combatting desertification, food security, sustainable livelihoods, poverty alleviation, etc.
- Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity act as natural barriers against pandemics; in this sense, conservation and restoration efforts are keys in preventing future pandemics.
- Social license is one condition for effective ecosystem restoration projects.

References

[Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration](#)

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Climate Change and Land Convention on Biological Diversity – Ecosystem Restoration](#)

[Society for Ecological Restoration - Guidelines for Developing and Managing Ecological Restoration Projects](#)

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Agenda

Timeframe	Topic	Speakers
1:00-1:05 pm	Welcome and Introduction	Moderator <b>Dr. Jonathon Mawdsley</b> Chief, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units Program, U.S. Geological Survey
1:05-1:45 pm	<b>Ecosystem Restoration in Times of Global Crises: Shifting Purpose and Scale</b>	<b>Gilles Seutin</b> Chief Scientist, Protected Area Establishment and Conservation Directorate - Parks Canada
	<b>Restoration Experiences in Mexico: What We Know and Where We Need to Go</b>	<b>Dr. Marinés de la Peña Domene</b> Researcher Professor, Interdisciplinary Centre for Education and Social Linkage, ITESO University
	<b>Strategic Ecosystem Restoration to Protect Vulnerable Communities: Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Conservation</b>	<b>Dr. Deborah Roque</b> Assistant Director, Science Applications - USFWS
1:45-2:00 pm	Panel Discussion and Q& A with Speakers Audience perspectives	Moderator <b>Dr. Jonathon Mawdsley</b>