

## SER AFRICA CHAPTER: THE AFRICA RESTORATION SERIES, PART ONE

Date 30 June 2023

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yoZZxybSRWeGa9quepgF6w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yoZZxybSRWeGa9quepgF6w)

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) advances the science, practice, and policy of ecological restoration in a bid to secure water, sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, and re-establish an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture. The SER has a global footprint with members and chapters on every continent except for Antarctica. The youngest SER chapter was established in Africa (SER Africa) about two years ago. Since then, SER Africa has seen a steady increase in membership and its reach on the continent. One of the key activities that SER Africa has been consistently involved in is the celebration of Africa Day in the month of May each year. Africa Day is intended to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the Organisation of African Unity now the African Union from its creation on 25 May 1963, in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, as well as the progress that Africa has made while reflecting upon the challenges that the continent faces in a global environment. For the past two years, SER Africa has hosted symposia on Africa Day in collaboration with the Water Research Commission of South Africa (WRC) that have attracted more than twenty speakers and two hundred attendees from all over the continent. This year SER Africa in collaboration with WRC would like to celebrate the continent of Africa through a five-week webinar series titled “The Africa Restoration Series”. The theme for the webinar series will be “Empowering Africa through ecological restoration”.

The Africa Restoration Series aims to showcase the work of five restoration ecologists and/or organisations from different parts of the continent who are tackling a plethora of issues related to ecological restoration. All members and non-members of the chapter are invited to attend. Particularly, students, young professionals, restoration ecologists, academics, practitioners, funders, citizen scientists, and policy makers. The Africa Restoration Series will be hosted via Zoom (11:00 Central African Time) to allow maximum participation from the continent. There will be five parts of the Africa Restoration Series: 30 June, 7 July, 14 July, 21 July, and 28 July. Each part will be one hour long with a pre-recorded 20-minute presentation and 25 minutes reserved for discussion. Each part will be chaired by a different member of the SER Africa Board.

Programme for part one of the Africa Restoration Series (30 June 2023):

Chair: Dr Mlungile Nsikani (South African National Biodiversity Institute & SER Africa Chair)

| Time        | Title   | Speaker              |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 11:00–11:10 | Welcome and opening remarks   | Chair                |
| 11:10–11:30 | Restoration for water security and biodiversity resilience through entrepreneurial lens | Mr Bonani Madikizela |

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|-------------|------------|--|
|             |            | Water Research Commission<br>of South Africa |
| 11:30–11:55 | Discussion | All  |
| 11:55–12:00 | Close      | Chair  |

The programme for part two to part five of the Africa Restoration Series will be announced in due course via the SER Africa and WRC mailing lists, and social media platforms.

For enquiries, please contact the SER Africa Chair, Dr Mlungile Nsikani at [M.Nsikani@sanbi.org.za](mailto:M.Nsikani@sanbi.org.za).