

PRESS RELEASE

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Lisbon to Host the World's Largest Conference on Ecosystem Restoration in 2027

Portuguese consortium's successful bid, selected by an international panel of experts, was presented earlier this month in the United States.



Brock Bowles, co-chair of the SER2025 conference in Denver, passing the baton to Alice Nunes, co-chair of the next edition in Lisbon. Denver, United States of America, October 2025. Author: SER.

Lisbon has been chosen to host the 12th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2027) in September 2027 – the world's largest and most influential event dedicated to ecosystems' recovery. For the first time, Portugal will welcome more than a thousand participants from across the globe, including researchers, policymakers, business leaders, NGOs and members of civil society. The winning bid was led by Dr Alice Nunes, representing the University of Lisbon, the Portuguese Ecological Society (SPECOL) and the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER-Europe).

Following Darwin, Australia (2023), and Denver, USA (2025), the global spotlight will turn to Lisbon. The announcement was made earlier this month in Denver, in front of a large international audience, and was met with “**visible enthusiasm and immediate expressions of support from major international organisations, foretelling the event’s success**” said Dr Nunes, who presented the proposal and coordinated the consortium behind this ambitious and highly competitive global bid.

The choice for Lisbon recognises not only the scientific excellence of the proposal but also Portugal’s growing leadership in ecological restoration. The country stands out for the diversity of its ecosystems – from the cork oak woodlands and steppes of the Alentejo to the mountains of Serra da Estrela; from the wetlands of the Tagus, Ria Formosa and Ria de Aveiro to the Laurissilva forests of the Azores; and through to innovative restoration projects in urban areas. Across these varied landscapes, Portugal is developing pioneering initiatives in habitat recovery, desertification control, climate resilience, post-fire restoration and protection of threatened species.

More than a scientific event, SER2027 will serve as a global platform for dialogue, collaboration and exchange. Under the theme *Restoration in Motion: From Land to Sea, Knowledge to Action*, the conference will bring together science and practice – connecting academic research with local knowledge, corporate vision with technological innovation, and civil society with policymakers – to advance stronger, more effective public policies.

Taking place in the midst of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), and at a crucial moment when the EU Nature Restoration Law and national measures are expected to yield their first concrete results, the conference promises to make a lasting contribution to restoration science and policy worldwide. “**Ecosystem restoration lies at the heart of tackling the climate and biodiversity crises, socio-economic sustainability, and the health and well-being of current and future generations**” said Dr Alice Nunes. “**Hosting this global conference in Lisbon is therefore of great significance and comes at a most timely moment for Portugal and the international community. We expect the urgency and relevance of this theme to galvanise the scientific community, economic partners, policymakers and society around Nature and Ecosystem Restoration**”.

Dr Nunes is a researcher at the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (CE3C) at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon. She coordinates the Ecological Restoration Network of SPECO, represents the Knowledge Network for Nature Restoration in the National Restoration Plan Working Group coordinated by the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), and serves as Vice-President of SER-Europe. The organising team also includes Prof. Cristina Branquinho and Dr Patricia Rodríguez-González, both from the University of Lisbon, and already benefits from strong institutional support – including international backing from SER’s African, Ibero-American and Caribbean, and Australasian chapters, and national support from the Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Regional Government of the Azores, the ICNF, and the Lisbon City Council.

With this success, Lisbon is set to become the world capital of ecological restoration in 2027, strengthening Portugal’s position in science, international cooperation and the shared pursuit of a more sustainable future.



SER 2027

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CE3C - Centre for Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Changes: An R&D center of excellence based at the Faculty of Sciences of ULisboa, University of the Azores and the National Museum of Natural History and Science. We conduct fundamental and applied research, integrating life and climate sciences, from organisms to ecosystems (natural and anthropogenic), in Portugal, Europe, Portuguese-speaking countries, and beyond.

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