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Organizations: ¹ *University of Western Australia, Kings Park Botanic Garden and Chicago Botanic Garden;* ² *USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and Society for Ecological Restoration*

Objective: Objective 4.2: Partnerships: Working together

Session Type: Symposium

Session Title: Get Smart in Using Native Seed – the International Network for Seed-based Restoration

Participants:

INSR I Moderator: Olga Kildisheva

1. Kingsley Dixon, Nancy Shaw, and Olga Kildisheva. Session Introduction: International Network for Seed-based Restoration and the value of partnerships.
2. Cara Nelson. Challenges and opportunities for seed-based restoration strategies in Chile.
3. Karma Bouazza, Khaled Sleem, Mohammad Nsour, and Anthony S. Davis. Addressing seed challenges in Lebanon and Jordan.
4. Becca Lieberg and Anthony S. Davis. Agroforestry and Citizen Science in Togo, West Africa.

INSR II: Moderator: Nancy Shaw

5. Alicia Melgoza, Carlos Morales, Otilia Rivera. Native plant propagation for restoring rangelands.
6. Kingsley Dixon. Integration of seed into broad-based restoration programs.
7. Sara Oldfield, Katherine O'Donnell and Xiangyin Wen. The role of botanic gardens in native plant restoration.
8. Costantino Bonomi and Marcello de Vitis. NASSTEC: A European project aimed at strengthening collaboration among native seed stakeholders.

Abstract:

According to a 2010 United Nations Environment Programme Rapid Assessment, nearly two-thirds of the world's ecosystems are degraded. There is a critical need for a strategic, multinational approach to advancing ecological recovery on this growing scale. On highly degraded sites or when rapid recovery is needed, restoration using native plant seed is the most feasible solution toward accomplishing this goal. Despite significant efforts of land management agencies, restoration practitioners and landowners there remains a wide range of challenges that must be addressed to ensure that native plant community recovery can be successfully achieved in a repeatable and cost-effective manner. The need to build a cohesive way forward in managing native seed through directed, multi-stakeholder, and cross-disciplinary approaches has led the creation of tactical initiatives such as the U.S. Native Seed Strategy and the formation of linked organizations that include: the International Network for Seed-based Restoration (INSR), Native Seed Science Technology and Conservation Initial Training Network (NASSTEC), Australian National Centre for Mining Restoration (ITTCMR), and the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA). If we are to be effective in moving forward with the use of native seed, active communication between networks is critical to the goal of accelerating the pace and effectiveness of restoration efforts worldwide. This session brings together representatives from a suite of international organizations and individuals engaged in seed-based restoration in an effort to enhance collaboration, communication, knowledge, and technology transfer across research institutions, industry partners, practitioners, as well as community and land managers.