

GEORGE D. GANN

Executive Director & Chair of the Board, The Institute for Regional Conservation
International Policy Lead, Society for Ecological Restoration

The Institute for Regional Conservation
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Over 40 years George has completed hundreds of projects, published more than 130 articles, technical reports, websites, and a book, and given more than 160 presentations to both the general public and technical audiences. He has worked intensively on native plants and rare plant conservation in Florida and the Caribbean, from large-scale floristic efforts in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Everglades National Park to intensive small-scale projects at residential sites and in botanical gardens. He has done significant organizational and conservation policy work globally for The Institute for Regional Conservation and the Society for Ecological Restoration, and botanical field work in more than a dozen Latin American and Caribbean countries. He believes in using traditional conservation tools, such as the establishment and management of protected areas, in addition to new approaches including scaling-up ecological restoration to meet global needs, and utilizing regional matrices of protected areas, restored ecosystems, and naturalistic landscapes to recover native plants, animals, and ecosystems. He has extensive experience in directing and managing nonprofit conservation organizations, and has worked professionally in the United States, the West Indies, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

EDUCATION

BA	University of Colorado, Boulder Environmental Conservation and International Affairs With Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa	1984
	Study Abroad Student University of Costa Rica, San Jose	1983

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

International Policy Lead, Global Restoration Ambassador, [Society for Ecological Restoration](#). 2018-present. Responsible for leading SER's international policy program, including the development of long-term institutional capacity and financial support; working with the Science & Policy Committee and SER staff to identify opportunities, needs and priorities for new policy and operational initiatives;

developing and leading a formal engagement strategy with key international bodies working to expand investment in restoration and to improve effectiveness on the ground (e.g., United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature); representing SER at international meetings; working with SER staff, Science & Policy Committee, and Board members to develop a global restoration ambassador program, intended to increase capacity for international engagement worldwide. Recent projects include leading multi-day virtual workshops for the US National Park Service on the restoration of grasslands in the National Capital Region.

Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist, The Institute for Regional Conservation. Delray Beach, Florida. 1995-present. Responsible for managing nonprofit conservation organization that promotes the development of cutting-edge regional biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration programs, especially for plants. Responsible for designing and implementing large-scale plant inventory programs in South Florida and the West Indies, developing and conducting conservation research and implementation projects, providing technical support to government agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations, and developing local and global conservation policy initiatives. Responsible for managing IRC's core Regional Conservation Models program, including regional species assessments, floristic and faunistic databases, and online resources covering South Florida and the Caribbean. Develop and participate in local and global conservation initiatives with numerous collaborators including the Society for Ecological Restoration, NatureServe, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Delray Beach.

President and Owner, George D. Gann Consulting, Inc. 1986-present. (dba EcoHorizons, Inc. 1986-2018). Since 2010, provide consulting services to select clients on ecological restoration and naturalistic landscapes, including: Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), ARC Training Center for Mine Site Restoration at Curtin University (Australia), Gluckman Tang Architects (NY), LANDAU Design+Technology (PA), LandscapeDE (Coral Gables, FL), Raymond Jungles, Inc. (Miami), Arquitectonica Geo (Miami). Current initiatives include facilitating the development of international standards for mine site restoration in collaboration with SER, Curtin University, and SusTech University (China). From 1986-2009, estimated, managed, and successfully completed more than 250 ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation projects in coastal, freshwater wetland, and upland systems, primarily in South Florida, including 7.5 miles of the Miami Beach dune restoration project in the 1980s. Participated as a technical consultant on large multi-agency projects such as the post-Hurricane Andrew sub-tropical forest restoration and the restoration of Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, both in Miami-Dade County, as well as on international conservation teams in the West Indies and Central America. Conducted biological inventories of and contributed to management plans for several protected areas in Florida, including the Disney Wilderness Preserve for The Nature Conservancy. Trained government employees and volunteers in restoration and natural areas management planning and techniques. Acted as technical consultant to Town of Palm Beach, Florida on beach dune and mangrove projects.

Director, Gemini Botanical Garden. Palm Beach County, Florida. 2010-2017. Director and lead designer of 15-acre private naturalistic botanical garden with major collections of Florida and Caribbean palms, cycads and other plants. Conducted international botanical garden research trips to The Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Researcher. Gann's Tropical Greenery and Natives. Miami, Florida. 1985. Researched distributions of native and exotic plant taxa in Florida to develop baseline plant lists for use in designing ecological restoration and revegetation projects. The primary goal was to correlate generalized plant

distributions to specific plant communities and physiographic regions. This research resulted in the development of a computer database which contained information on over 3,500 plant names. This database was later donated to The Institute for Regional Conservation, and became the prototype for both the Floristic Inventory of South Florida Database and Natives For Your Neighborhood.

Park Aide and Park Technician. U.S. National Park Service. Everglades National Park. Homestead, Florida. Summers, 1980-1982. Participated in restoration efforts in an abandoned agricultural area inside Everglades National Park. Participated in 10+ prescribed burns totaling 8,000 acres as crew member, firing crew member, equipment operator and fire behavior officer assistant. Assisted in aerial vegetation and wildlife surveys, fire mapping, planning and demarcation of nature trails, equipment maintenance, and collection of weather data.

Horticulturist and Manager. Gann's Tropical Greenery and Natives. Miami, Florida. Part time, 1975-1979; 1984. While still in grade school, learned basic propagation, cultivation, and fertilization of nursery plants, followed by management of native plant division, supervision of employees, sales, and initiation of new species into production. Also, responsible for removal of invasive plant species from sub-tropical forest restoration site.

Plant Collector. Donald and Joyce Gann. 1972-1978. Beginning at the age of eleven, participated in four expeditions to Latin America emphasizing collections of epiphytes (Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Guatemala). Responsible for collections of plants, identification of specimens, cleaning and preparation of specimens for legal importation into the United States, including clearing USDA inspection.

SAMPLE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Lead Manager, Restoring the Gold Coast Program The Institute for Regional Conservation	2019-present
Lead Manager, Pine Rockland Initiative The Institute for Regional Conservation	2017-present
Principal Author, Natives For Your Neighborhood The Institute for Regional Conservation	2005-present
Lead Principal Investigator, Plants of the Island of Puerto Rico The Institute for Regional Conservation	2001-present
Lead Principal Investigator, Floristic Inventory of South Florida The Institute for Regional Conservation	1994-present
Lead Principal Investigator, Rare Plant Monitoring and Restoration on Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park The Institute for Regional Conservation in collaboration with the National Park Service and funded by the Critical Ecosystems Study Initiative (CESI)	2003-2008
Lead Workshop Leader, Rare Plants of South Florida: Their History,	2002

Conservation, and Restoration

The Institute for Regional Conservation

NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

President & Board Chair, The Institute for Regional Conservation	2004-present
Board Member, The Institute for Regional Conservation	1984-present
Advisory Board Member, Mockernut Hill Botanical Garden	2018-present
Advisory Board Member, Tropical Audubon Society	2008-present
Chair of the Board, Society for Ecological Restoration	1997-1999; 2007-2009
Board Member, Society for Ecological Restoration	1993-2010
Board Member, Tropical Audubon Society	1997-2008
Vice President, Florida Native Plant Society	1996-1997
Board Member, Florida Native Plant Society	1987-1997

INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND OUTREACH

Member, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management	2020-present
Lead Author, International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration, Second Edition Society for Ecological Restoration + Institute for Regional Conservation	2019
Co-Organizer, 2nd Global Forum on Ecological Restoration - The Role of Ecological Restoration in Achieving Global Biodiversity Targets: Broadening the Post-2020 Framework Society for Ecological Restoration + IUCN CEM + Institute for Regional Conservation Cape Town, South Africa	2019
Global Restoration Ambassador, Society for Ecological Restoration	2016-present
Science and Policy Committee, Society for Ecological Restoration Chair 2017-2018, Chair 2009-2010	2007-2010; 2016-present
Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 14th Conference	2018

of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Sharm al Sheikh, Egypt

Co-Organizer, Global Forum on Ecological Restoration - Biodiversity and Global Forest Restoration 2017

Society for Ecological Restoration + IUCN CEM + Institute for Regional Conservation
Iguassu Falls, Brazil

Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2016

Cancún, Mexico

Lead Organizer, International Standards For the Practice of Ecological Restoration 2016

Society for Ecological Restoration + Institute for Regional Conservation

Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016

Hawaii, USA

Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the first Conference on Ecosystem Governance 2015

Beijing, China

Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, special invited meeting, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat 2008

Montreal, Canada

Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008

Barcelona, Spain

Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2008

Bonn, Germany

Chair, Society for Ecological Restoration International – IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management joint working group on ecological restoration 2004-2007

Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress 2004

Bangkok, Thailand

Delegate, International Symposium on the Restoration of the DMZ Korean Society of Environmental Restoration and Revegetation Technology Seoul, Republic of Korea	2003
Keynote Lecturer. Ecological Restoration Symposium, The World Bank East Asia Environment and Social Development Unit Washington, DC, USA	1999

SELECT INVITED EXPERTISE

Keynote Speaker 8 th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, Cape Town, South Africa	2019
Member, North America Plant Red List Authority IUCN Species Survival Commission	2017-present
Assessor, Conservation Assessment Program, Heritage Preservation St. George Village Botanical Garden, US Virgin Islands (2006), Hilltop Arboretum, Louisiana State University (2010), Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden (2014)	2006-2014
Plenary speaker, Great Lakes Urban Habitat Restoration Symposium: Partnering to Restore Great Lakes Urban Nearshore and Riverine Areas Special invitation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Chicago, Illinois, USA	2009
Judge, International Panel to select master plan for 100-hectare Gangbuk Park, Seoul Metropolitan Government Seoul, Republic of Korea	2008
Member, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's South Florida Multi-Species / Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team (MERIT)	2001-2002
Guest Lecturer, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies New Haven, CT, USA	1994, 1998, 2000
Member, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Team	1998-1999

HONORS AND AWARDS

Winner, \$100,000 grant in Environment Category for IRC's Restoring the Gold Coast program	2019
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Impact 100 Palm Beach County

Certificate of Appreciation for “decades of superior leadership in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity” The Institute for Regional Conservation Board of Directors	2019
Commemoration for 18 years as Executive Director The Institute for Regional Conservation	2013
Chair Emeritus Society for Ecological Restoration	2011
Board Appreciation Award Tropical Audubon Society	2007
Golden Trowel Award Society for Ecological Restoration	2005
John Rieger Award for Service Society for Ecological Restoration	2003
Excellence in Leadership Award Society for Ecological Restoration	1999
Restoration Guru Award Restoration Guru Award. American Littoral Society, Cape Florida Project	1997
Conservation Colleague Award The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter	1994
Outstanding Citizen Award Council of Garden Club Presidents of Dade County	1989
Dean's List or Chancellor's Honor Roll University of Colorado, Boulder	1980-1984
Eagle Scout South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America	1979
Best Director Dade County Model United Nations	1979
National Honor Society	1979

PRESENTATIONS

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/aboutus/GannPresentations.asp>

PUBLICATIONS

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/aboutus/GannPublications.asp>

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