

George D. Gann Resume

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 nearly 40 years George has completed hundreds of projects, published more than 100 articles, technical reports, websites, and a book, and given more than 100 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 South 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, as well as more modern approaches including ecological restoration, rare species reintroduction and augmentation, and utilizing regional matrices of protected and restored areas to conserve native plants and animals. His use of floristic plant data to drive conservation strategies has been ground-breaking. He has extensive experience in directing and managing non-profit 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	1984
	Study Abroad Student University of Costa Rica, San Jose	1983

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

International Policy Lead, Society for Ecological Restoration. 2019-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, Global Environmental Facility); 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.

Executive Director and Chief Conservation Strategist, The Institute for Regional Conservation. Delray Beach, Florida. 1995-present. Responsible for managing non-profit 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 non-profit 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). Provide consulting services to select clients including the Society for Ecological Restoration, Gemini Botanical Garden, Raymond Jungles, Inc., AquaTerra Design Group and Arquitectonica Geo. 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. 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 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 given 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 revegetation 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, and clearing USDA inspection.

SAMPLE CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

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, Conservation, and Restoration The Institute for Regional Conservation	2002

NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

President & Board Chair, The Institute for Regional Conservation	2004-present
Board Member, The Institute for Regional Conservation	1984-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

Lead Author, Version 2, International Principles and Standards For the Practice of Ecological Restoration Society for Ecological Restoration + Institute for Regional Conservation	2017-present
Global Restoration Ambassador, Society for Ecological Restoration Society for Ecological Restoration	2016-present
Science and Policy Committee, Society for Ecological Restoration Chair 2009-2010, 2017-2018	2007-2010; 2016-present
Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sharm al Sheikh, Egypt	2018
Co-Organizer, Forum on Biodiversity and Global Forest Restoration Society for Ecological Restoration + IUCN + Institute for Regional Conservation Iguassu Falls, Brazil	2017
Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Cancún, Mexico	2016
Lead Organizer, International Standards For the Practice of	2016

Ecological Restoration

Society for Ecological Restoration + The Institute for Regional Conservation

Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress Hawaii, USA	2016
Delegate, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the first Conference on Ecosystem Governance Beijing, China	2015
Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, special invited meeting, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat Montreal, Canada	2008
Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress Barcelona, Spain	2008
Head of Delegation, Society for Ecological Restoration, at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Bonn, Germany	2008
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, 3th IUCN World Conservation Congress Bangkok, Thailand	2004
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

Member, North America Plant Red List Authority IUCN Species Survival Commission	2017-present
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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

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	1997

American Littoral Society, Cape Florida Project

Conservation Colleague Award 1994
The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter

Outstanding Citizen Award 1989
Council of Garden Club Presidents of Dade County

Phi Beta Kappa 1984
Society for Ecological Restoration

Dean's List or Chancellor's Honor Roll. 1980-1984
University of Colorado, Boulder. Fall

Eagle Scout 1979
South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America

Best Director 1979
Dade County Model United Nations

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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