



## RESEARCH DIRECTIONS IN NEOTROPICAL FOREST RESTORATION

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Recent international initiatives, such as the Bonn Challenge and the more recent New York Declaration on Forests, have set targets of restoring hundreds of millions of hectares of tropical forest worldwide. In order for these efforts to succeed, we need to design projects incorporating results of past research and to scale up future research efforts. I will draw on my own research and examples throughout the neotropics to illustrate the main conclusions we can draw from past research on tropical forest restoration. For example many studies highlight the fact that often tropical forests are resilient and can recovery passively. In cases where forests are actively restored strategies need to be tailored site-specific barriers to recovery and the landscape context. Then I will discuss a number of future research priorities illustrating each with specific methodologies and examples. Broad restoration priorities include (1) working at larger spatial scales, (2) studying longer temporal scales, (3) integrating costs and considerations of human livelihoods into restoration decisions, and (4) facilitating knowledge sharing and capacitation.