

Challenges and Opportunities in Forest Restoration

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Abstract: *Forest restoration aims to revive forest ecosystems, boosting their ecological health and benefiting people within the surrounding areas. However, monitoring forests for restoration poses a significant challenge, requiring landscape-level assessments that incorporate both social and natural science perspectives. Natural forest restoration faces various obstacles related to economics, society, and the law. Key research and policy focuses include: determining and modeling the ecological and economic conditions that favor natural regeneration as a land-use choice; creating monitoring methods for natural regeneration that local communities can implement; and establishing incentives, governance models, and regulations that encourage the responsible management of naturally regenerating forests. Forest restoration presents significant opportunities for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and carbon sequestration. It also improves livelihoods and helps achieve global goals, particularly through initiatives like REDD+, by utilizing improved science, integrated governance, and market incentives. Restoration process aids in the natural recovery of secondary forests while clarifying land tenure. Successful forest restoration requires science-based, practical, and robust methods. Furthermore, prioritizing collaboration with local communities and securing long-term funding, maintenance, and monitoring are crucial for ensuring sustainable forest cover. This study highlights the major challenges, understanding the causes and benefits of forest regeneration for human well being and nature.*

Keywords: Forest regeneration, forest restoration challenges, Sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services

