



New Forests (NewFor)

From 2019-2023 | Total budget € 609,500

Understanding restored forests to benefit people and nature

Large-scale restoration in the Atlantic Forest region of Brazil calls for a novel approach to upscale from thousands to millions of hectares. This project evaluates how upscaling is possible, taking into account the potential of restored forests to benefit people and nature in the Atlantic forest. Here we consider all new forests, encompassing young restoration plantations, natural regeneration, agroforests, and abandoned monoculture tree plantations. We will determine characteristics of new forests and their drivers for regeneration and deforestation, assess their aboveground diversity, evaluate key forest functions using a functional trait approach, and predict new forests' potential contributions to ecosystem services. We will also develop a method based on remote sensing to identify areas with the highest forest restoration potential to promote ecosystem services. Our results will inform the development of novel policies and market instruments to foster and stimulate new forests. In an era of ambitious restoration commitments and societal demands for ecosystem services, we will provide alternative landscape developments and promote a sustainable future of the Atlantic forest region.

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More information:

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