



December 2015 Newsletter

Dear PARTNERS members,

Another exciting and action-packed year has come and gone for our Tropical Reforestation Network. We are building a community of practice and reaching out to many different groups. Wishing all a new year full of challenges and triumphs. Since the Paris Agreement, it seems that tropical forests may finally get more of the attention they deserve, which makes our work all the more important. Here are some highlights of the past year and sneak previews of events planned for 2016:

Our numbers are growing! We now have over **250 registered members** representing over 40 countries. CIFOR, CATIE, ICRAF, and Rainforest Alliance are joining as organizational partners. We also enjoy fruitful collaborations with our NGO partners from WeForest, EcoAgriculture Partners, NCEP, ELTI, IUCN, WRI, and UCS.

The [PARTNERS Members Discussion Facebook page](#) now has **216 members** with interesting and timely posts appearing every day. Please help us grow this valuable space for conversation and sharing!!

Our [new website](#) launched in June 2015 with a blog, events, literature, and news pages. Many thanks to Claire Salisbury and Trevor Caughlin, blog writers and editors, and to Julian Moll-Rocek who did much planning for the website. If you are interested in contributing blogposts/content to the PARTNERS blog or information on upcoming events, please reply [here](#). We can republish blogs (with permission) from other sites as well.

The five working groups formed during our 2014 workshop are reaching completion of their projects, with several papers published or in review. During January-February 2015 the groups had follow-up meetings in New York City; Rutgers, New Jersey; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Chamela, Mexico, and Piracicaba, Brazil (see list of papers at end).

PARTNERS organized a symposium entitled **Resilient Landscapes: The social and ecological causes and consequences of reforestation in the tropics** at the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation in Honolulu in July 2015. Sarah Wilson received the ATBC Alwyn Gentry Prize for Best Student/Recent Grad Presentation for her presentation "Replanting a Future: Ecosystem Service Scarcity Drives Local Forest Transitions in the Ecuadorian Andes," presented during the symposium.

Five new working groups were initiated during the October 2015 workshop in Storrs: (1) Spatial prioritization of natural regeneration; (2) Economic incentives for natural regeneration; (3) Governance and legal frameworks for forest regeneration and restoration; (4) Certification and restoration value chains; and (5) Corporate responsibility and public-private partnerships. These groups are now advancing on their synthesis projects.

An education session featured descriptions and demonstrations of educational modules, including one game developed by PARTNERS working groups (see list at end).

Four other projects were elaborated at the October workshop. (1) development of an online tropical tree propagation database of resources for seed collection, seed germination, and nursery methods for growing native tree species. This project is led by Leighton Reid, Karen Holl, James Aronson, and Pedro Brancalion. (2) An assessment of global restoration hot spots in the tropics, led by Leandro Tambosi, Leighton Reid, Pedro Brancalion, and Robin Chazdon. (3) a survey of the longevity of restoration projects, coordinated by Sarah Wilson and Leighton Reid. (4) a paper on the need for multidisciplinary and transdisciplinarity in restoration research and practice led by Sarah Wilson, David Lamb, John Herbohn, and Robin Chazdon.

PARTNERS was at the Global Landscapes Forum at the COP21 in Paris in early December, represented by over 20 members. You can view Robin Chazdon's [science-plenary keynote address](#) and the Discussion Session on [Scaling up restoration, bringing down poverty](#) organized by Bernardo Strassburg and Agnieszka Latawiec. Forest and landscape restoration was a major theme of many sessions.

We are joining forces with other networks to achieve common goals. Together with IFRI/FLARE and CIFOR, PARTNERS organized a series of three workshops at SESYNC (National Socio-environmental Synthesis Center) in Annapolis, MD on the Social Dimensions of Reforestation Pathways in the Tropics. The first workshop will be held on 18-20 April, 2016 and will focus on "Reforests", rural livelihoods, and economic benefits. Stay tuned for more details about these upcoming workshops.

Finally, stay tuned for a Special Issue of Biotropica in 2016 on "The Role of Natural Regeneration in Large-Scale Forest and Landscape Restoration," which is being co-edited by Robin Chazdon and María Uriarte and filled with valuable contributions from PARTNERS members.

Photo Gallery (October Workshop in Storrs, CT)



PARTNERS October 2015 Workshop participants; Horsebarn Hill, Storrs, CT
(photographer: Sharif Mukul)



Discussing plans to assess global restoration hot spots (from left: Leandro Tambosi, Leighton Reid, Pedro Brancalion, Robin Chazdon)

Sofia Nanni and Eliane Ceccon



from left: David Lamb, Sean Sloan, David Edwards



from left: John Schelhas, Ashwini Chhatre, Doug Boucher, Scott Landis, Trevor Caughlin

from left: Elena Lazos, Miguel Martínez-Ramos, and Bryan Finegan





Sarah Wilson, Doug Boucher, Jullian Moll- Rocek, Sharif Mukul



Carla Catterall, Aurelio Padovezi Pedro Brancalion, Servino Pinto, Julian Moll-Rocek, and Amanda Wendt enjoying lunch at Dog Lane Cafe



John Herbohn, Robin Chazdon, and Will Unsworth



Gillian Bloomfield and Trevor Caughlin



Panel on restoration value chains and corporate responsibility from left: Servino Pinto, Will Unsworth, Scott Landis, Richard Donovan



Playing Naomi Schwartz and Matt Fagan's thought provoking game to identify tradeoffs associated with reforestation, understand stakeholder conflicts, and discuss the relative importance of environmental services and other social values of reforestation.

[photos taken by Robin Chazdon]

Working Group Synthesis papers:

- 1) Locatelli, B., C. P. Catterall, P. Imbach, C. Kumar, R. Lasco, E. Marín-Spiotta, B. Mercer, J. S. Powers, N. Schwartz, and M. Uriarte. 2015. Tropical reforestation and climate change: beyond carbon. *Restoration Ecology* 23:337-343.
- 2) Chazdon, R. L., P. H. Brancalion, D. Lamb, L. Laestadius, M. Calmon, and C. Kumar. 2015. A policy-driven knowledge agenda for global forest and landscape restoration. *Conservation Letters* 10.1111/conl.12220.
- 3) Rudel, T. K., R. Chazdon, S. Sean, and R. Grau. 2015. The drivers of tree cover expansion: Global, temperate, and tropical zone analyses. *Land Use Policy*, in review
- 4) Chazdon, R. L., P. H. S. Brancalion, L. Laestadius, A. Bennett-Curry, K. Buckingham, C. Kumar, J. Moll-Rocek, I. C. G. Vieira, and Sarah J. Wilson. 2015. When is a forest a forest? The new era of forest and landscape restoration calls for additional forest concepts and definitions. *Ambio*, in review
- 5) Lazos, E., J. Zinda, C. Negra, A. Bennett-Curry, G. Bloomfield, P. Balvanera, and C. Lindell. 2016. Challenges of tradeoffs and synergies in different reforestation scenarios. A case study at the Chamela-Cuitzmala Reserve, Jalisco, Mexico. *Biotropica*, in review
- 6) Uriarte, M., N. Schwartz, J.S. Powers, E. Marín-Spiotta, W. Liao and L. Werden. Impacts of climate variability on tree demography in second-growth tropical forests: the importance of regional context for predicting successional trajectories. in review
- 7) Grau, R., T. M. Aide, J. Graessner, D. Edwards, S. Sloan, S. Nanni. 2016. Reforestation hotspots in Latin America during the 21st century: Distribution and socioecological typologies. In preparation
- 8) Sloan, S., R. Grau, T. M. Aide, J. Graessner, D. Edwards, S. Nanni. 2016. Spatial patterns of new forests: de-fragmentation and distance to preexisting forests. In preparation.
- 9) Edwards, D., R. Grau, T. M. Aide, J. Graessner, S. Sloan, and S. Nanni. 2016. New forests

and Latin America biodiversity: overlapping new forests, threatened and endemic species. Assessing the role of new forests in reducing vertebrate biodiversity losses. In preparation

Educational modules in final stages of development

1) *Forest transitions, biodiversity and livelihoods in tropical landscapes*

Leaders: Sarah Wilson and Tara Cornelisse

2) *Social and ecological trade-offs in tropical reforestation (includes game)*

Leaders: Matthew Fagan and Naomi Schwartz

3) *Resilience of socio-ecological systems*

Leaders: Felipe P. L. Melo & Maria J. S. Specht

4) *Forest transitions and rural livelihoods in tropical landscapes*

Leaders: Sarah J. Wilson and Rosa Goodman

Policy briefs planned for 2016

1) *Concepts, definitions and their implications for forest policy in the new era of reforestation*

Leaders: Robin Chazdon and Chetan Kumar

2) *Social dynamics and tradeoffs in reforestation: the case of Chamela, Jalisco, Mexico*

Leader: Christine Negra