

## Chapter 29



### *Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA)*

#### *Working Group 10*

#### *Conservation, Restoration, and Forest Transitions (Opportunities, Strategies and Challenges in Terrestrial and Aquatic systems)*

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#### **Restoration priorities and benefits within landscapes and catchments and across the Amazon basin**

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## Chapter 29

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### 1 KEY MESSAGES

- 2 • Identifying priority locations for restoration across the Amazon basin depends  
3 mainly on targets (e.g., increasing carbon stocks or conserving threatened species).  
4 These priority regions must be identified through participatory approaches  
5 involving local peoples and governments, supported by up-to-date scientific  
6 evidence.
- 7 • Restoration strategies will be more effective if they consider complementary  
8 conservation measures, such as the protection of remaining primary forests (see  
9 Chapter 27).
- 10 • For long-term success, restoration policies and programs must generate  
11 socioeconomic benefits for local populations (e.g., food security, employment, and  
12 income opportunities) and raise awareness of the benefits that forests and other  
13 natural systems provide.
- 14 • Considering where and how to restore at the catchment or landscape scale can help  
15 return much higher benefits than simple site-based approaches.
- 16 • Implementing restoration at the landscape- and catchment-scale must consider a  
17 broad range of restoration options, from encouraging the natural regeneration of  
18 secondary forests to restoring economic activities in degraded lands. This will help  
19 ensure restoration delivers the greatest benefits to the broadest range of  
20 stakeholders.
- 21 • Restoring ecosystems in the context of climate change requires rebuilding more  
22 resilient ecosystems for the future, for example selecting tree species that are more  
23 adapted to drier climates or helping maintain the natural flow regimes in aquatic  
24 systems.

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### 1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Restoration can be applied in many different Amazonian contexts, but will be most  
3 effective at leveraging environmental and social benefits when it is prioritized across the  
4 Amazon basin and within landscapes and catchments. Here we outline the considerations  
5 that are most relevant for planning and scaling restoration across the Amazon.

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### 1 **1. INTRODUCTION**

2 When restoration has been identified as an important action to achieve a particular target  
3 (e.g. Chapter 28), the first tier of prioritization involves identifying which areas to restore. Across  
4 ecosystems, systematic conservation planning aims to support decision making regarding  
5 the allocation of resources (Margules and Pressey 2000). These approaches have been  
6 widely used to help identify priority areas for conservation or restoration across the world  
7 (e.g. Strassburg *et al.* 2020) and within catchments (e.g. Beechie *et al.* 2008; McIntosh *et al.*  
8 2017). In this chapter, we go beyond the specific restoration options outlined in chapter 28  
9 to examine benefits of planning conservation across the basin and in catchments and  
10 landscapes. We then outline how restoration can be used to speed up a forest transition in  
11 the Amazon, before outlining some of the important crucial societal benefits. Finally, we  
12 explore the resilience of restoration to climate change, and what measures could help  
13 encourage large-scale restoration across the Amazon.

### 14 **2. PRIORITIZING RESTORATION ACTIONS ACROSS THE AMAZON BASIN**

15 Despite a growing number of global and ecosystem level prioritization exercises  
16 (Crouzeilles *et al.* 2020; Strassburg *et al.* 2020) very few formal analyses exist prioritizing  
17 restoration actions across the Amazon basin (e.g. weplan-forests.org) or identifying optimal  
18 scenarios to realize multiple aims. Here we outline some of the key ecological and societal  
19 benefits that could be attained from a large-scale, basin-wide restoration program.

#### 20 **2.1. Conservation of Amazonia’s threatened species and unique ecosystems**

21 Habitat loss is the main cause of biodiversity loss globally and it is not surprising that the  
22 most threatened terrestrial species in the Amazon have distributions coinciding with the  
23 most deforested and degraded regions such as Andean slopes and the “Arc of  
24 Deforestation”. In these regions, restoration could play a key role in supporting the  
25 conservation of some of the Amazon’s most threatened forest-dependent species (Figure 1),  
26 including the recently rediscovered Belem Curassow *Crax [fasciolata] pinima* (Alteff *et al.*  
27 2019), Black-winged Trumpeter *Psophia obscura*, and the Kaapori capuchin *Cebus*  
28 *kaapori*, which was only described in 1992, all of which are Critically Endangered on the

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1 IUCN list. However, the first priority in these regions is avoiding further deforestation and  
2 degradation by protecting existing forests from logging and forest fires (Chapter 27, Silva  
3 Junior et al 2020), and to reduce hunting pressure by tackling commercial hunting and  
4 illegal trade, providing alternative livelihoods to communities dependent on bushmeat,  
5 changing cultural attitudes, encouraging community-based management with local benefits  
6 from ecotourism (Bragagnolo *et al.* 2019) or even incentivizing alternative hunting practices  
7 that are less likely to affect the rarest arboreal species (such as hunting with dogs  
8 (Constantino 2019).

9  
10 **Figure 1: (to be included) Amazonia's threatened species (photos of key taxa**  
11 **organised by their red list status). To include: Belem Curassow *Crax [fasciolata]***  
12 ***pinima*, Black-winged Trumpeter *Psophia obscura*, the Kaapori capuchin *Cebus***  
13 ***kaapori*, Harpy eagle, Jaguar and white-lipped peccary.**

14 While proactive conservation needs to focus on the Critically Endangered and/or range-  
15 restricted Amazonian species, there are many widespread species that are of conservation  
16 concern that could be supported by large-scale restoration. These include large and  
17 charismatic vertebrates such as the Near-Threatened Harpy eagle and Jaguar and the  
18 Vulnerable White-lipped peccary (BirdLife International 2021, IUCN Red List for birds,  
19 IUCN Red list 2020). While these species also require alternative interventions across the  
20 basin to reduce hunting pressure and persecution (Section 27), their populations could also  
21 benefit from restoration actions that help reconnect remaining forests and important habitat  
22 such as flooded forests. Actions that allow degraded forests to recover will also be key, as  
23 they will improve keystone resources such as important fruiting trees that are vital for wide  
24 ranging species such as the White-lipped peccary, or a viable prey base for apex predators  
25 such as the Harpy eagle and Jaguar.

26 Species-based restoration actions in the Amazon needs to consider the different habitat  
27 types within the biome. Some of these hold distinct biota, most notably white sand forests  
28 (Guilherme et al. 2018), bamboo-dominated forests of SW Amazonia (Kratler 1997),  
29 varzea and igapó (Haugaasen and Peres 2007), and the savanna enclaves (De Carvalho and  
30 Mustin 2017). These ecosystems are both diverse and unique in their own right, and can

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1 hold high levels of endemism. Some of these ecosystems are even yielding new species  
2 discoveries – the Near Threatened Campina Jay (*Cyanocorax hafferi*) was only discovered  
3 in 2002 and is endemic to campina enclaves in and around the Madeira-Purus interfluvium. It  
4 is well known that afforestation of open habitats - including oil palm expansion in savannas  
5 - can have negative consequences for biodiversity (Fernandes et al. 2016) and it is vital that  
6 restoration efforts protect the integrity of Amazonian savannas and other unique habitat  
7 types (Lees *et al.* 2014).

### 8 **2.2. Improved functional connectivity of river systems**

9 One vital advantage of a basin-wide approach is that the integrity of river systems relies on  
10 a high degree of spatial connectivity that operates in multiple dimensions; that is,  
11 longitudinally (upstream-downstream), laterally (river channels-riparian zones-floodplains),  
12 and vertically (surface-subsurface-groundwater) (Ward 1989; Castello and Macedo 2016).  
13 Further, seasonal and interannual flows represent a temporal fourth dimension of  
14 connectivity. The river continuum concept (Vannote *et al.* 1980) and the flood pulse  
15 concept (Junk *et al.* 1989), two foundational paradigms describing riverine and floodplain  
16 structure and function, are premised on the importance of longitudinal and lateral  
17 connectivity as central organizing features of energy flow, food web structure, and nutrient  
18 dynamics of running water systems. Freshwater ecosystems display an acute dependency  
19 on subsidies of materials, nutrients, and organisms that originate from elsewhere in the  
20 riverscape and landscape, and restoration efforts need to ensure these material and  
21 organismal transfers are not disrupted by barriers (Freeman *et al.* 2003; Flecker *et al.*  
22 2010). Likewise, maintenance of natural flow (Poff *et al.* 1997) and sediment regimes  
23 (Wohl *et al.* 2015) are fundamental for the functioning of rivers and floodplains. For  
24 example, sediments that build Amazon floodplains are transported long distances from their  
25 source of origin in the Andes (McClain and Naiman 2008). Thus, restoring aquatic  
26 ecosystems to more natural states involves supporting vital multi-dimensional linkages  
27 found throughout river basins, as well as sustaining the organisms embedded in these  
28 systems. Such restoration needs to focus on the full hydrological network, from headwaters  
29 through to the main channels.

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### 1 **2.3 Global and biome-wide climate benefits**

2 According to the IPCC, adding up to 24 million ha of forest across the world every year  
3 until 2030 would store around one-quarter of the atmospheric carbon necessary to limit  
4 global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels (IPPC 2018). Natural forest regrowth  
5 following complete or nearly complete removal of forest vegetation can therefore play a  
6 significant role in climate change mitigation (Chazdon *et al.* 2016a; Lewis *et al.* 2019;  
7 Cook-Patton *et al.* 2020). For example, the 2.4 Mha of secondary forests in tropical Latin  
8 America could accumulate a total aboveground carbon stock of 8.48 Pg C (petagrams of  
9 carbon) in 40 years (Chazdon *et al.* 2016b). This is equivalent to all the carbon emissions  
10 from fossil fuel use and industrial processes across all of Latin America and the Caribbean  
11 from 1993 to 2014 (Chazdon *et al.* 2016).

12 Where climate change mitigation is a priority, restoration will be most effective on a per  
13 hectare basis if it occurs where growth rates are fastest – which is generally in the aseasonal  
14 regions and in the western Amazon where soils are more productive (Heinrich *et al.* 2021),  
15 and where the previous land-use intensity was low. However, to date most deforestation has  
16 occurred in drier regions of the Amazon, and, as a result, most secondary forests (and also  
17 most opportunities for large-scale restoration) are in regions that are seasonally dry, have  
18 suffered higher land use intensities, and have low levels of remaining forests cover (Smith  
19 *et al.* 2020) For example, secondary forests in the Brazilian Amazon have a mean annual  
20 precipitation of 1,945 mm, compared to the regional average of 2,224 mm, while their  
21 average maximum climatic water deficit is –375.5 mm compared to a regional average of  
22 –259 mm. In the drier and most deforested regions, carbon accumulation rates of secondary  
23 forests are some of the lowest in the Amazon (Elias *et al.* 2020; Heinrich *et al.* 2021).  
24 However, this does not mean that these regions should not be a priority for restoration, as  
25 the slow growth is offset by the higher availability of land for restoration, and the lower  
26 opportunity costs of conducting restoration on degraded farmland that is often unprofitable  
27 (Garrett *et al.* 2017). Furthermore, forest restoration in highly deforested areas may be more  
28 important for biodiversity and climatic benefits: these new forest fragments may act as  
29 important habitat for species, and the increase in forest cover can potentially increase local  
30 rainfall (See section X). The importance of these opportunities for restoration are  
31 recognized within climate change targets – for example, the Brazilian state of Pará aims to

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1 restore 5 Million hectares of forest as part of its “Plano Estadual de Amazonia Agora”,  
2 helping it achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 (Pará State Decree 941/2020).

3 Crucially, restoration may support the integrity of the biome itself, enhancing its resilience  
4 to climate change by reducing the influence of climatic extremes and avoiding dangerous  
5 tipping points resulting from climate and land-use change (Chapter 23). The climatic  
6 benefits from terrestrial restoration could also help the Amazon maintain its hydrological  
7 integrity, with evapotranspiration from restored forests contributing to the east-west  
8 transfer of moisture. This could help support aquatic ecosystems, ensuring the maintenance  
9 of river discharge dynamics across the basin, and even the nutrient transfer from freshwater  
10 to floodplains and beyond. Restoring the basins hydrological functioning would maintain a  
11 more humid climate, helping prevent the forest fires, which are one of the main  
12 determinants of any sudden tipping point (Nobre *et al.* 2016). However, care must be taken  
13 to ensure that restoration itself does not make landscapes more flammable; for example,  
14 secondary forest understories tend to be hotter and drier in the day than primary forests  
15 (Ray *et al.* 2005), and, depending on what systems they replace, have the potential to aid  
16 the spread of fire across landscapes.

### 17 **2.4 Societal benefits**

18 Restoration of forests and sustainable economic activities are a high priority for some of the  
19 most deforested regions of the Amazon, as these older deforestation frontiers include some  
20 of the municipalities with the lowest Human Development Index values (HDI), Rodrigues  
21 *et al.* 2009). The transformation of unproductive lands into productive and sustainable  
22 agricultural or agroforestry systems could yield many direct economic and social benefits  
23 (Chapter 30), but there are also many indirect effects of restoration that could provide  
24 benefits for society beyond the producers. For example, the climatic benefits of increasing  
25 forest cover (e.g. Alkama and Cescatti 2016) could mitigate some of the higher  
26 temperatures associated with climate change, thereby improving other economic activities  
27 across the landscape and supporting wellbeing. Some of these benefits could be of  
28 considerable economic importance, as maintaining or even reducing dry season length  
29 could enable the continuation of the ‘double cropping’ system that is vulnerable to climate

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1 change (e.g. Andrea *et al.* 2020). The restoration of aquatic systems will not only improve  
2 access to clean water, but could also support new fisheries. Landscape restoration can also  
3 be a very efficient tool for fire prevention and control, preventing the many negative social  
4 costs of fire (Chapter 19).

5 Restoration could also have important political consequences, although these remain  
6 understudied, especially in developing countries (Blignaut *et al.* 2013). Many Amazonian  
7 countries have included restoration as part of their NDC commitment to the Paris  
8 Agreement, and several Amazonian countries (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil) have made  
9 commitments for restoration through programmes such as Initiative 20x20. Ecological  
10 restoration, like all political initiatives, needs to be placed within the context of policies,  
11 negotiating over tradeoffs between competing objectives and different constituencies, and  
12 the distribution of scarce resources among diverse societal spheres (see Meadowcroft  
13 2009). As a result, governance and institutional framework becomes significant. Viewed  
14 from such a perspective, negotiations can then develop around what types of restoration  
15 projects are to be implemented and where, and who manages the land afterwards (see  
16 Chazdon *et al.* 2020). Restoration is likely to be important in this context as it influences  
17 many aspects of wellbeing targeted by political decision makers, from products that  
18 harvested from the restored ecosystems, health benefits such as water quality or changes in  
19 exposure to air pollution or high temperatures, the reduced exposure to natural disasters  
20 such as flooding, or the improvements in wellbeing from improved access to natural  
21 systems.

22 Recovering landscapes also generates additional value such as soil and water protection,  
23 microclimate regulation and goods. This change in political economic value of the  
24 landscape may generate new interests, which could potentially shift the balance of power,  
25 conflicts, and use of natural resources, as well as improving inequalities and land tenure  
26 rights (Ding *et al.* 2017). Expanding restoration beyond site or project level, to the  
27 landscape scale requires an increase in the number of stakeholders, thereby adding further  
28 complexity to governance that rarely corresponds to any single political unit. Such  
29 spatialization of governance is not about creating new layers for political and administrative  
30 structures, but about identifying new institutional domains for stakeholders to meet,

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1 negotiate and co-create the necessary conditions for restoration (van Oosten *et al.* 2021). It  
2 also ensures that governments uphold important constitutional responsibilities related to  
3 environmental protection and accessibility (see the Atrato River legal case in Colombia).  
4 Incorporating these benefits into political decision making could help garner support for the  
5 implementation of restoration across the basin.

### 6 **3. LANDSCAPE AND CATCHMENT APPROACHES TO RESTORATION AND** 7 **CONSERVATION**

8 Once a region has been identified as a priority for restoration, landscape and catchment  
9 approaches can help ensure that the restoration actions are more effective and deliver the  
10 greatest benefits to the broadest range of stakeholders. The scale of these interventions  
11 varies, but is broadly as “*a contiguous area, intermediate in size between an ‘ecoregion’*  
12 *and a ‘site’, with a specific set of ecological, cultural and socioeconomic characteristics,*  
13 *distinct from those of the neighbouring areas* (WWF 2004)”.

14 Within the region of interest, landscape approaches aim to “*provide tools and concepts for*  
15 *allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in*  
16 *areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with*  
17 *environmental and biodiversity goal*” (Sayer *et al.* 2013). They have become redefined as  
18 “*integrated landscape approaches*”, reflecting the need to reconcile multiple and  
19 conflicting land-use claims and help establish multi-functional landscapes (Reed *et al.*  
20 2016). The term now encompasses a wide-range of approaches (Reed *et al.* 2016),  
21 including aquatic approaches such as integrated watershed management (e.g. Shiferaw *et al.*  
22 2008). Restoration specific approaches include Forest Landscape Restoration (Ianni 2010)  
23 which is now promoted by many leading environmental NGOs, and developed by FAO into  
24 the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism that aims to “*restore degraded*  
25 *landscapes by identifying and implementing practices that restore a balance of the*  
26 *ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of*  
27 *land uses*”. The broad approach of FLR enables decision makers to consider all components  
28 of a landscape, from agriculture to restoration and forestry, and support long-term  
29 sustainability decisions through economic zoning (Celentano *et al.* 2017). They also call for  
30 a consideration of all ecosystems within a region, supporting restoration beyond *terra firme*

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1 forests, including savanna enclaves and flooded forests (Chazdon *et al.* 2020b; Ota *et al.*  
2 2020; César *et al.* 2021).

3 Considering where and how to restore at the catchment or landscape scale can help return  
4 much higher benefits than simple site-based approaches. We outline some of the key  
5 benefits of planning restoration within landscapes and catchments.

### 6 **3.1. Integrating aquatic and terrestrial systems**

7 Terrestrial and aquatic systems are often considered separately but are inextricably linked.  
8 Moreover, considering them together can provide large benefits for aquatic biodiversity at  
9 no cost to terrestrial biodiversity (Leal *et al.* 2020a). It has long been established that  
10 riparian zones can act as buffers for sediment and nutrient retention (Peterjohn and Correll  
11 1984; Allan 2004; Saad *et al.* 2018; Luke *et al.* 2019), can moderate extremes in stream  
12 water temperatures (Macedo *et al.* 2013), and are important for biodiversity in both streams  
13 and floodplains systems (Arantes *et al.* 2019; Dala-Corte *et al.* 2020). In southeast Brazil,  
14 modeling efforts using InVEST have explored different riparian restoration strategies that  
15 can reduce soil loss and river sediment export by filtering sediments before they reach  
16 streams (Saad *et al.* 2018). Even in highly modified agricultural landscapes, the condition  
17 of riparian zones can strongly influence stream water quality via nutrient retention. For  
18 example, research in the Brazilian Amazon-Cerrado frontier in the state of Mato Grosso  
19 highlights the capacity of functionally-diverse riparian vegetation to capture and sequester  
20 nutrients (Nóbrega *et al.* 2020). Concentrations of nutrients (organic carbon, total nitrogen,  
21 phosphorus, calcium, and potassium) in overland flow from croplands are substantially  
22 greater than from nearby riparian gallery forest. Moreover, soils from intact gallery forest,  
23 especially those with biodiverse plant assemblages with varied root systems, display  
24 properties that better enable nutrient uptake, as well the degradation of nutrients and  
25 pollutants as compounds travel through hyporheic zones. With respect to stream  
26 temperature, a study of 12 catchments in the upper Xingu watershed reported warmer water  
27 temperatures in streams from pasture and soya-dominated catchments, with daily maxima  
28 3-4°C higher than in forested catchments (Macedo *et al.* 2013). Collectively, these studies  
29 provide rationale for placing a premium on gallery forest and riparian zone restoration, for  
30 mitigating impacts on sediment export, water chemistry and thermal regimes.

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1 Source water protection involves a suite of management practices to protect water quality  
2 and quantity, especially in the context of water supplies for urban areas (Abell *et al.* 2019).  
3 When coupled with strategic land protection in targeted catchments, restoration can play an  
4 important role in source water protection, via activities such as revegetation, riparian  
5 restoration, livestock exclusion, and wetland restoration. Source water protection is an  
6 actively promoted restoration strategy in parts of the Amazonian Andes to improve water  
7 quality and preserve biodiversity (Bottazzi *et al.* 2018). In the Bolivian Andes, a program  
8 known as *Watershared* is a Payment for Ecosystem Services effort that pays farmers and  
9 cattle owners to prevent forest conversion and exclude livestock from riparian forest, all  
10 predicated on the notion that improving the condition of riparian zones translates into  
11 tangible outcomes for water quality and quantity. Contamination of drinking water by the  
12 bacterium *E. coli* is of particular concern where livestock graze freely in streams and  
13 fencing has been shown to be a successful strategy for reducing per capita human cases of  
14 diarrhea by preventing livestock intrusion (Abell *et al.* 2017). Similar practices of livestock  
15 removal coupled with riparian revegetation have been implemented elsewhere in the  
16 highlands of the tropical Andes to improve water quality and supply for urban areas  
17 (Goldman *et al.* 2010; Higgins and Zimmerling 2013).

18 In addition to water quality, land use modifies the magnitude and variability in river flows.  
19 Although studies have evaluated changes in river discharge with deforestation and the  
20 conversion of land to intensive agriculture in Amazon catchments (Hayhoe *et al.* 2011;  
21 Davidson *et al.* 2012; Dias *et al.* 2015; Farinosi *et al.* 2019), there have been few attempts  
22 to track stream flow responses to terrestrial restoration and afforestation. A systematic  
23 review of more than 300 study cases worldwide examining impacts of forest restoration on  
24 stream flows found nearly two-thirds of cases reported decreases in base flows, and an even  
25 greater proportion, nearly 80%, observed decreases in annual water yields (Filoso *et al.*  
26 2017). Likewise, in an analysis of temporal trends in river flow responses following forest  
27 re-establishment, annual flows often displayed substantial reductions even after 25 years  
28 and were especially pronounced in catchments with high annual precipitation (Bentley and  
29 Coomes 2020). In an experimental study of hydrological response to land use and  
30 afforestation in the Ecuadorian páramo highlands, water balance and flow duration curves  
31 were compared among four small headwater catchments (Buytaert *et al.* 2007), including

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1 one afforested with pine (*Pinus patula*), a catchment with intensive livestock grazing and  
2 potato cultivation, and two catchments with intact páramo vegetation. Flow regimes were  
3 dramatically modified in the afforested catchment, with severe reductions in base and peak  
4 flows. Although the cultivated catchment also displayed altered flows, they were less  
5 drastic than observed in the catchment with planted pines. These results suggest that in the  
6 Andean highlands, afforestation by non-native tree species used to reduce hillside erosion  
7 could result in significant decreases in base flows and compromise water supply.

8 While the studies to date suggest forest restoration may reduce streamflow, this is just one  
9 of the many important response variables, and it is unlikely that results from temperate or  
10 arid zones are applicable in the humid tropics. For example, study in Madagascar shows  
11 how forest restoration can reduce erosion and flooding related to overland flow (van  
12 Meerveld *et al.* 2021). In a study in the Phillipines, increased infiltration in forest  
13 restoration more than offset the reductions in water balance from evapotranspiration,  
14 leading to a net positive trade-off benefit on streamflow (Zhang *et al.* 2019). Forest  
15 restoration could also support streamflow if it reduces landscape temperatures and increases  
16 rainfall (see Sections XX).

### 17 **3.2. Improving landscape and catchment connectivity for biodiversity**

18 Island biogeography theory has underpinned the discipline of landscape ecology, guiding  
19 much of the theoretical and empirical evidence on the outcomes of habitat fragmentation.  
20 There are long-running debates about the relative importance of habitat extent versus  
21 habitat fragmentation (changes in landscape configuration without changing habitat extent)  
22 (e.g. Fletcher *et al.* 2018; Fahrig *et al.* 2019), but a growing consensus recognizes that  
23 while habitat extent is the most important factor, the configuration of that habitat also  
24 matters for species across the world (Arroyo-Rodríguez *et al.* 2020). Crucially, tropical  
25 species are inherently more sensitive to fragmentation than temperate species (Betts *et al.*  
26 2019). For example, many Neotropical understory birds have a limited capacity to fly more  
27 than a few tens of meters (Moore *et al.* 2008) and are reluctant to cross even small roads  
28 (Lees and Peres 2009), making them highly susceptible to human activities that fragment  
29 habitat into discrete patches (Ferraz *et al.* 2003; Lees and Peres 2006). Freshwater species

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1 are also susceptible to changes in connectivity (Hurd *et al.* 2016), and the Amazon's  
2 migratory catfish show the most spatially expansive metapopulations of all the world's  
3 freshwater fish (Hurd *et al.* 2016) The low dispersal ability is evident over evolutionary  
4 time scales, as rivers have been major barriers in the evolution of Amazonia's diversity  
5 (Chapter 3).

6 Given the high sensitivity of many Amazonian species to habitat fragmentation, restoration  
7 will be most effective if is deployed in a way that both increases habitat *and* maintains or  
8 enhances connectivity between remnant forest patches or in rivers to ensuring migration  
9 can take place and gene flow is permitted between populations. Mixed suites of restoration  
10 strategies can better improve connectivity between higher quality patches. Vegetation  
11 restoration efforts can create corridors that encourage movement between the last  
12 remaining habitat patches – such strategies have proven successful for increasing the  
13 population size and reducing the threat status for species such as the Black lion tamarin  
14 (*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*) in the Atlantic Forest. Similar approaches would support  
15 conservation efforts for some of the Critically Endangered species in the most deforested  
16 regions of the Amazon (Figure 1), including in the Maranhão-Pará border, Rondônia and in  
17 the Andean regions. However, enhancing connectivity in these regions will only be  
18 effective if carried out in conjunction with complementary conservation measures that  
19 protect the last remaining populations and habitats for these species (Chapter 27).

20 For some species, connectivity can be enhanced without physically connecting the disjunct  
21 patches. For example, high quality habitat will be functionally connected if species are able  
22 to cross the non-habitat “matrix” in between them (e.g. Lees and Peres, 2009). This  
23 permeability of the agricultural matrix could be influenced by restoration: cattle pastures  
24 and mechanized agriculture represent very hostile matrices, and even occasional trees (e.g.  
25 Rossi *et al.* 2016) or agroforestry could enable some forest species to disperse across the  
26 landscape, linking previously isolated faunal populations and facilitating seed dispersal and  
27 pollination for plants. Connectivity across the landscape – and benefits for aquatic systems  
28 – could also be enhanced by restoring a full network of riparian vegetation (Rossi, Jacques  
29 Garcia Alain Roques and Rousselet 2016; Kremen and Merenlender 2018).

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### 1 3.3. Local climate benefits

2 Forest cover is known to influence local climate, reducing regional temperatures and  
3 maintaining rainfall (WG 3). Restoration in deforested regions could provide important  
4 benefits for local and regional climate (Mendes and Prevedello 2020). For example, studies  
5 across the world show that it can help reduce the effect of urban heat islands if conducted  
6 around cities (Bhagwat *et al.* 2008), and can reduce the occurrence of excessive stream  
7 temperatures (Hall *et al.* 2020). There is also some evidence that the configuration of forest  
8 cover in a landscape could influence climatic benefits of restoration, with more fragmented  
9 patterns actually increasing rainfall and maximising the reductions in land surface  
10 temperature (Mendes and Prevedello 2020). However, there is uncertainty about how this  
11 occurs at scale; one modelling study suggests that rainfall increases on agricultural land and  
12 decreases on the forests themselves (Garcia-Carreras and Parker 2011), which could  
13 increase forest flammability and enhance drought sensitivity. Furthermore, while a  
14 fragmented configuration may reduce the temperature of the deforested area, it is also likely  
15 to increase understory temperatures in the remaining forests, contributing to faster drying  
16 and increasing flammability. The local climatic benefits of restoring forests in a particular  
17 configuration require further research.

### 18 3.4. Reducing the risk of socio-environmental disasters

19 Landscape or catchment level restoration can be used to reduce the risk of events that are  
20 detrimental to Amazonia's people and nature. Forest fires and wildfires in open areas are a  
21 growing threat to Amazonia (WG8), and targeted restoration could be part of the solution.  
22 By influencing temperature and humidity (section 2.3), landscape-level restoration could  
23 make fuels on the forest floor less flammable by increasing humidity and reducing  
24 temperatures. Restoration could also be used to 'buffer' primary forest edges by creating  
25 green firebreaks; although we are not aware of any research into this, we believe such  
26 firebreaks could have two complementary roles. First, primary forest edges are drier and  
27 hotter than forest interiors, which contributes to them being frequently degraded due by fire  
28 incursion (Silva Junior *et al.* 2020); the restoration of closed canopy vegetation alongside  
29 primary forests would help buffer those forests edges from the hot microclimate of the  
30 agricultural matrix, making them less flammable, and could also help suppress pyrophytic

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1 grasses that help spread fires. Second, restoration alongside primary forests would help  
2 isolate those forests from the wider landscapes where ignition sources are most prevalent.  
3 While the use of these ‘green firebreaks’ remain untested in an Amazonian context, the  
4 ‘Green Hug’ project (Abraço Verde) in the Atlantic forest provides an interesting insight  
5 into the long-term viability of projects using agroforestry buffers to project forest edges  
6 (Chazdon *et al.* 2020a). Research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of green firebreaks  
7 in the Amazon, including understanding the ideal widths and what active restoration  
8 measures (tree planting or enrichment) are required to maximise other benefits (e.g.  
9 economic returns). It will also be important to and minimise the risks that the restored areas  
10 such as secondary forests could themselves become ‘wicks’, helping conduct fire across  
11 the landscape (e.g. (Ray *et al.* 2005).

12 Catchment-scale restoration can also help mitigate the risk of flooding, which are  
13 exacerbated by deforestation (Bradshaw *et al.* 2007). Evidence from China suggest  
14 broadleaf trees are especially effective (Tembata et al 2020), casting doubt on the flood  
15 mitigation value of oil palm or other species that are planted at low densities. Models  
16 suggest that sub-catchment restoration of riparian forests is likely to be one of the most  
17 effective mechanisms to reduce flooding, with restoration across 10-15% of the catchment  
18 reducing the peak magnitude of flooding by 6% after 25 years (Dixon *et al.* 2016).

### 19 **3.5. Meeting multiple aims and optimizing benefits**

20 The landscape or catchment scale is often considered the most appropriate to consider  
21 different land use and ecosystem functions, meet different needs and consider trade-offs,  
22 and achieve multiple benefits (Reed *et al.* 2016). First, going beyond site-specific  
23 management and planning at the landscape or catchment level allows restoration to use  
24 optimization techniques to quantify the trade-offs or complementarity between various  
25 restoration targets. Such approaches are helping prioritize restoration across the world  
26 (Strassburg *et al.* 2020), and could allow restoration actions to achieve a broader range of  
27 benefits whilst minimizing the losses of each one (Stanturf *et al.* 2015). For example,  
28 within Amazonia, optimization has shown the complementarity between biodiversity and

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1 carbon storage targets, highlighting the large gains that can be made for biodiversity  
2 conservation with very minor reductions in carbon storage (Ferreira *et al.* 2018).

3 With so many potential co-benefits of restoration, it is vital that these are considered as part  
4 of an integrated planning process with full consideration of landscape and catchment  
5 processes (Reed *et al.* 2019). For example, peri-urban restoration aimed at providing  
6 climatic benefits for cities could also provide important social benefits if the species provide  
7 fruits or other products that are consumed locally. Similarly, restoration aimed at terrestrial  
8 conservation could also support aquatic biodiversity, without any cost to terrestrial  
9 conservation objectives (Leal *et al.* 2020a).

10 Planning beyond specific sites also allows restoration to consider and compare the relative  
11 benefits of a full suite of interventions, helping ensure efforts are invested in the most  
12 effective measures. For example, landscape-scale planning is essential to decide when and  
13 where to adopt active or passive restoration of secondary forests, or whether strategies  
14 should target reforestation or focus on alternative measures such as avoiding degradation of  
15 existing forests or economic recovery in degraded lands. Work on restoration options in the  
16 eastern Amazon is addressing this, and shows that avoiding degradation in existing forests  
17 can be a cost effective approach to conserving carbon and biodiversity.

### 18 **4. ENCOURAGING A BROADER FOREST TRANSITION**

19 Forest loss and gain across the Amazon can be seen in terms of a forest transition. The term  
20 forest transition, introduced by Mather (1992), refers to a change in forest cover (either  
21 shrinkage or expansion) over a given area (landscape, regional, national level) and time  
22 period. This process typically shows three main periods. First comes a phase of intensive  
23 deforestation due to forest conversion into agricultural lands and pastures, followed by a net  
24 gain of forest area through reforestation and restoration actions as well as passive natural  
25 regeneration. The third and last phase is a stabilization phase with a constant forest cover  
26 area. Europe and North America, and more recently some tropical countries, have already  
27 gone through their forest transition and have registered constant forest cover increase since  
28 (Mather 1992) (Meyfroidt and Lambin, 2010).

29

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1 In most countries where a forest transition has occurred, the new forests are very different  
2 in structure, composition, and function. While generalist species can benefit, these new  
3 forests do not provide conservation benefits for the specialist species restricted to old-  
4 growth systems (Wilson *et al.* 2017; Lees *et al.* 2020)). Moreover, evaluations of forest  
5 transitions require an understanding of global trade and leakage. Improved environmental  
6 performance and expanded forest cover in more developed countries may have come at the  
7 cost of environmental destruction elsewhere, typically in the Global South (Lees *et al.*  
8 2020). This can also occur within regions and ecosystems; within an Amazonian context,  
9 care needs to be taken to ensure conservation and restoration activities in one area do not  
10 simply push social and environmental pressures elsewhere, including from one region of  
11 the Amazon to another, or from the Amazon to other ecosystems (e.g. de Waroux *et al.*  
12 2016).

13

14 While a forest transition may occur naturally in the Amazon, it is not yet the case as the  
15 most deforested regions of the basin have failed to see an increase in forest cover since  
16 1997 (Smith *et al.* 2021). However, actions that avoid the loss and stimulate the gain are  
17 critical for the basin as a whole: the Amazon forest generates approximately one third of its  
18 own rainfall (Staal *et al.* 2018), and excessive deforestation could have huge environmental  
19 consequences, particularly on precipitation regimes and consequently on the capacity of the  
20 remaining forest to survive (Nobre *et al.* 1991; Oyama and Nobre 2003; Hutyra *et al.* 2005;  
21 Sampaio *et al.* 2007), with tipping point estimates ranging from 20-25% (Lovejoy and  
22 Nobre 2018) to 40% deforestation (Sampaio *et al.* 2007). Furthermore, if deforestation goes  
23 beyond these estimated thresholds, natural reforestation itself could also be hampered by  
24 unfavorable climatic conditions (e.g. Elias *et al.* 2020).

25

26 How can restoration mitigate the loss stage of the Amazon's forest transition? One way that  
27 it could help is if it was partly oriented towards timber production, which would release the  
28 pressure on natural forests which are still the main provider of timbers in the region. During  
29 the last 50 years of recent colonization of the Amazon, natural forests have been selectively  
30 logged and 108 Mha of forest (20% of the total forest area) are exploited for timber

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1 production (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and International  
2 Tropical Timber Organization 2011).

3

4 There are many reasons why it would be beneficial to replace timber production from  
5 natural forests with timber plantations on degraded land. First, although sustainable forest  
6 management practices are considered a potential tool for Amazonian forest conservation  
7 (Putz *et al.* 2008; Edwards *et al.* 2014) and provide income and employment (Putz *et al.*  
8 2012), natural timber production itself is unsustainable under present-day conditions of  
9 logging intensities and rotation cycle duration (Sist *et al.* 2021). In the Amazon, selective  
10 logging regulations typically set a rotation cycle of 20 to 35 years with a logging intensity  
11 varying from 15 to 30m<sup>3</sup>/ha (Sist *et al.* 2021). Several studies showed that under such  
12 extraction regimes, less than 50 % of the timber extracted can recover within this rotation  
13 duration (Schulze 2003; Sist and Ferreira 2007; Putz *et al.* 2012). A recent study simulating  
14 the timber recovery in all the region confirmed this result and showed that even under long  
15 rotation length of 65 years and a logging intensity of 20m<sup>3</sup>/ha, the timber recovery would  
16 be only 70% (Piponiot *et al.* 2019a). This means that under the present logging regulations  
17 natural Amazonian forests alone will not be able to supply the timber market demand in the  
18 long term (i.e. as soon as in the second rotation, 30 years from now). Second, timber in  
19 natural forests generates low profits when carried out using best practices (Putz *et al.* 2008).  
20 Third, while it is much better than non-forest land uses for conservation and carbon storage,  
21 most logging practices in the Amazon continue to be illegal (Brancaion *et al.* 2018) and  
22 these generate high damage to the stand. Such practices open up the forests, making them  
23 more accessible to hunting (Peres 2001) and more vulnerable to forest fires (Holdsworth  
24 and Uhl 1997). Finally illegal logging continue to threaten the financial profitability of  
25 improved tropical forest management.

26

27 If reforestation was used to meet some of the demand for timber, it could decrease the  
28 pressure on natural production forests – allowing larger areas to be set aside for  
29 conservation and allowing lower-intensity management of production areas. It will also  
30 allow promotion to specific markets and uses of timbers coming from natural forests with  
31 higher prices than timbers from plantations. This new market for timber extracted from

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1 natural forests should take into account the specific wood property of old natural timber,  
2 the costs of sustainable forest management practices and finally the environmental services  
3 provided by well managed natural forests. Selective logging could be sustainable if it  
4 adopted much longer cutting cycles (65 years), and by reducing logging intensities  
5 ( $10\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$  instead of  $20\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$  presently) and incidental damage to the stand through reduced-  
6 impact techniques (Piponiot *et al.* 2019b; Sist *et al.* 2021). Although post-logging  
7 silvicultural interventions (e.g. liana cutting, future crop tree liberation, and enrichment  
8 planting) could be promoted to improve commercial yields from merchantable species,  
9 such practices might not be sufficient to meet rising demands for wood products on a long-  
10 term basis. Additional sources of timber such as plantations of exotic or native species,  
11 enriched secondary or degraded forests, integrated crop-livestock-forestry systems and  
12 other agroforestry systems could be implemented within forest restoration programs under  
13 the Bonn initiative (Lamb *et al.* 2005). The rising interest in tropical forest restoration,  
14 crystallized by the Bonn challenge in 2011, is a unique opportunity to initiate this forest  
15 transition by encouraging restoration of economically viable timber plantations in  
16 deforested areas of the Amazon and promoting the management of secondary regrowing  
17 forests in abandoned agriculture lands (Ngo Bieng *et al.* 2021). However, the success of  
18 any forest transition program depends primarily on forest law enforcement fighting against  
19 illegal logging and promoting sustainable silvicultural practices.

20 The theory of forest transitions focuses on the terrestrial part of a landscape, but what  
21 would an aquatic transition look like? Within the Amazon, avoiding the worst outcomes for  
22 aquatic systems will require preventing the most damaging new dams from being built,  
23 preventing land-use change, and regulating the use of harmful agrochemicals – all of which  
24 could be supported by alternative energy sources, novel bio-economies, and the  
25 encouragement of better agricultural practices. Within the aquatic zone itself, as discussed  
26 in chapters 20 and 30, overfishing might be mitigated by implementing, encouraging and  
27 strengthening co-management systems over large regions. Improving the status of fish  
28 populations would also benefit some key ecological processes in floodplain systems, as  
29 some of the species that have been declining with harvesting pressure such as tambaqui  
30 (Tregidgo *et al.* 2017) provide important ecosystem processes (Costa-Pereira *et al.* 2018).

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1 Aquaculture also provides a complementary way to reduce pressure under fishing  
2 resources. Sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices could also reduce demand for  
3 protein such as beef, that requires orders of magnitude more land per kilo of protein, even  
4 when inputs are considered (Piva Da Silva 2017). Despite the potential of aquatic to  
5 contribute to curb overharvesting problems, many issues still require further analysis and  
6 investigation, as for example whether supplying farmed fish will relieve pressure on wild  
7 fish stocks, or if the many risks of Aquaculture (increased nutrient loads, risks on species  
8 introduction, increased demand on natural fish populations or crops as food sources for  
9 produced fish) can be managed.

### 10 **5. ENSURING BROADER SOCIETAL BENEFITS FROM RESTORATION**

11 Restoration exists within a social context, and therefore produces environmental conditions  
12 that must not only be ecologically sound but also economically feasible and socially  
13 acceptable. Whilst the primary aim of restoration is environmental, it is guided by cultural  
14 expectations and values which determine both the goals set for restoration and whether  
15 projects are judged to be successful (de Bell *et al.* 2020); and can be determined by  
16 people's perception of the landscape as places of traditions, memories, myths and stories.  
17 Restoration can, therefore, result in people feeling either alienated or unconnected to a  
18 once-familiar landscape. If applied to ecosystem restoration in Amazonia, it implies that  
19 there is some inherent worth in protecting and restoring nature.

20

21 A recent study showed that nearly 300 million people in the tropics live on lands suitable  
22 for forest restoration, and about a billion people live within 8 kms of such lands (Erbaugh *et*  
23 *al.* 2020). Many of these people live in poverty. Given the implicit challenges to restoring  
24 complex and stochastic systems, landscape restoration has considerable potential to include  
25 local populations and improve local livelihoods over the long term (Palmer *et al.* 2005;  
26 Reed 2008; Lee and Hancock 2011; Erbaugh *et al.* 2020). Through engaging a diverse  
27 range of stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors, and building and  
28 sustaining such coalitions of support restoration is imperative. When done in this way,  
29 restoration can increase well-being through the sale of forest products, increases in food  
30 supplies, improved water security, and the promotion of the diverse cultural values people

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1 place on landscapes (Aronson and Alexander 2013; Sabogal *et al.* 2015; Brancalion and  
2 Chazdon 2017; Stanturf *et al.* 2019). In most cases this requires thinking beyond the  
3 individual site being restored and taking into account the broader benefits at the landscape  
4 scale: it is well documented that the success of FLR requires the empowerment and  
5 capacity building of local communities and their engagement in the decision-making  
6 process. For example, in Colombia restoration is helping to generate income in the long  
7 term, allowing communities and individuals to plan ahead in terms of future investments,  
8 and has been advocating messages such as ‘trees planted today will generate income to pay  
9 for the education of their children’.

10  
11 Along with the climate and biodiversity benefits from restored landscapes, restoration can  
12 influence tenure likelihood, feasibility and likely success of restoration efforts. In such  
13 scenarios, conflicting tenure regimes and property rights may complicate matters,  
14 especially if there are multiple landowners, public and/or private. While tenure security is  
15 not essential for restoration, tenure insecurity has been cited as a disincentive to invest in  
16 restoration (Fortmann and Bruce, 1991; Cotula and Mayers, 2009). Equally, landscape  
17 restoration may in turn affect tenure and land rights positively for many local and  
18 indigenous communities and landowners, where returning vegetation to the land may entitle  
19 them to legal tenure. It may also increase family incomes, employment opportunities, and  
20 community resilience (Adams *et al.* 2016; Erbaugh and Oldekop 2018). Though outside the  
21 scope of this study, reforested lands within the Brazilian Atlantic Forest have created over  
22 200 jobs related to native seed collection, seedling production, planting, maintenance, and  
23 downstream manufacturing of timber and non-timber products (Calmon *et al.* 2011), as  
24 well as emerging opportunities from biodiversity-derived innovations. Using native species  
25 to restore a landscape is often considered a good value judgement. Therefore, restoration is  
26 not only an effort in technology, but also infused with value considerations, and similar  
27 restoration potential can be realised throughout Amazonia.

28 Regaining land title and authority over restored lands also has health benefits for many  
29 marginalized and indigenous peoples. Wellbeing encompasses much more than economic  
30 solvency and indicators of health can be categorized as material (food, water, shelter,  
31 security), social (identity, belonging and self-esteem) and spiritual/cultural benefits (related

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1 to sacred places, totemic animals and artefacts, beliefs, customs and languages (Hiemstra et  
2 al, 2014). Additionally, pollution often affects people's health, and remediation and  
3 restoration efforts need to consider a broad approach that includes physical and mental  
4 well-being. This is particularly relevant for oil and mining pollution, which have had direct  
5 effects on indigenous and marginalized communities in the Amazon (see Chapter 20). It is  
6 vital that the full social and ecological costs of mining are factored into decisions about  
7 where and when it takes place.

8  
9 Restoring degraded landscapes can also offer a means to restore landscape connectivity,  
10 rebuild communities and decentralize governmental institutions. For instance, about 6000  
11 indigenous people reside in the Xingu Indigenous Park in Brazil, with other communities  
12 inhabiting the heart of the basin in downstream extractive reserves of the Terra do Meio  
13 which have been negatively affected by changes in the quantity and quality of water that  
14 enters their lands (Schwartzman *et al.* 2013). Through restoration of the riparian forests  
15 around the springs and along all water courses draining into the Xingu Indigenous Park,  
16 run-off from crops and pastures were prevented from contaminating water bodies (Sanchez  
17 et al., 2012; Schiesari et al., 2013), with a recovery of 50 km<sup>2</sup> of forests within the Xingu  
18 River Headwaters (Schmidt *et al.* 2019).

19

### **Box 1. the Xingu Seed Network as a social-ecological collaboration.**

*In the above example, to reduce restoration costs, collective action involving private landowners and local and indigenous communities was galvanised (Futemma et al., 2002; Tucker, 2010; Urzedo et al., 2016; Schmidt et al., 2019). This is important as many governmental officials do not always appreciate the full extent of the importance of landscape to local and indigenous communities in terms of food security, income, nutrition, employment, energy sources and wellbeing. The principle of social involvement in restoration led to the creation of the Xingu Seed Network involving seed collection using traditional knowledge and promotes forest economy by generating income. This initiative encompasses 568 collectors from 16 municipalities of Mato Grosso state, distributed in 20 indigenous villages and 14 agrarian reform settlements, totaling 2564 ha under restoration with more than 300 landowners involved, generating US\$380,000 (Durigan et al 2013,*

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*Urzedo et al., 2016; Schmidt et al., 2019). By restoring degraded landscapes, it provides new opportunities to build relationships between private landowners and communities, and/or between communities and governments, based on collaboration rather than confrontation. While such progress is often slow at the landscape level, partly due to entrenched attitudes in bureaucracy, it offers significant potential shifts in attitudes and working relationships that can lead to evolution in socioecological policies (WG11)*

1

### 2 **6. THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF RESTORATION OPTIONS**

3 Restoring ecosystems in the context of climate change requires understanding when it is  
4 best to rebuild past ecosystems, and when it is better to attempt to build resilient  
5 ecosystems for the future(Harris *et al.* 2006). Determining where historical baseline targets  
6 are viable and where alternative targets must be considered is site-dependent and associated  
7 with projected changes(Jackson and Hobbs 2009). We consider these issues in terrestrial  
8 and aquatic systems.

#### 9 **6.1. Climate resilience of terrestrial restoration**

10 Amazon's primary forests are affected by climate change and climatic extremes, resulting  
11 in increased mortality of individual trees (Phillips *et al.* 2009; McDowell *et al.* 2018), and  
12 changes in species composition(Esquivel-Muelbert *et al.* 2019) (see also Chapter 23), and  
13 several studies show strong associations between tree mortality and climate changes such as  
14 the increased intensity and the duration of dry season (Aleixo *et al.*, 2019a; Adams *et al.*  
15 2017) and warmer temperatures (Sullivan *et al.*, 2020; Allen *et al.* 2010). But what about  
16 the sensitivity of secondary forests? Here we outline five lines of evidence suggesting they  
17 may be particularly sensitive to climatic change.

18 The first is spatial; secondary forests may be especially vulnerable to ongoing climate  
19 change as they are mostly situated in the drier and more seasonal parts of the Amazon  
20 where deforestation has predominated (Smith *et al.*, 2020). The second is physiological,  
21 secondary forests are dominated by fast-growing trees with low wood densities (Berenguer  
22 *et al.* 2018) or have large thin leaves that do not conserve water, and these may be  
23 especially vulnerable to drought by cavitation or carbon starvation (Phillips *et al.* 2009;

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1 McDowell *et al.* 2018; Aleixo *et al.* 2019b). The third line of evidence is empirical;  
2 secondary forests monitored over time have been shown to have significantly lower rates of  
3 carbon accumulation during drier periods (Elias *et al.* 2020). This is in part driven by  
4 mortality: several studies in primary and secondary forests recorded higher tree mortality  
5 after global extreme climatic events associated with El Niño/la Niña Atlantic oscillation  
6 (NAO) in the Amazon in 2005 and 2016 (Chazdon *et al.*, 2005; Philips *et al.* 2009; Leitold  
7 *et al.*, 2018). However, in secondary forests it is also driven by reduced growth (Elias *et al.*  
8 2020). The fourth reasons relates to their structure and microclimate; the low canopies and  
9 the high rates of stem turnover in secondary forests mean they have higher understory  
10 temperatures and lower humidity levels (Ray *et al.* 2005), making them more vulnerable to  
11 extreme climate conditions as well as to fire events (Uriarte *et al.* 2016). Finally, while  
12 many primary forest trees are known to have a very deep rooting depth (Nepstad), this  
13 seems less likely in secondary forests where average stem sizes are much lower. It is  
14 notable that seedlings are more vulnerable to drought in disturbed forests in Borneo, and  
15 that droughts also push the community composition back towards ruderal pioneers (Qie *et*  
16 *al.* 2019).

17 This heightened sensitivity to climate change could be offset if existing gradients in dry  
18 season intensity and rainfall drive adaptations to greater drought or heat sensitivity.. First, it  
19 may be that existing gradients in dry season intensity and rainfall have led to species  
20 adaptations that infer greater drought or heat sensitivity in the drier and hotter parts of the  
21 Amazon. Primary forests are responding to climate change through changes in species  
22 composition (Esquivel-Muelbert *et al.* 2018), and the fast turnover of secondary forests and  
23 the high dispersal capacity of pioneer species may facilitate these changes in secondary  
24 forests that are functionally connected to the rest of the forest in the region. As such, one  
25 possibility is that drought-resilient secondary forests emerge in the future, perhaps  
26 resembling the species composition and successional trajectories found in regenerating  
27 tropical dry forests where the initial stages of forest succession are dominated by species  
28 with drought tolerant traits (e.g. (Lohbeck *et al.* 2013). Where forests are unable to change  
29 naturally, or where a faster rate of change is desired, then enrichment planting could help  
30 encourage species with traits that are better adapted to heat stress of longer dry seasons.  
31 The cutting of climbers and liberation thinning could provide additional support (Philipson

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1 *et al.* 2020), although evidence from Borneo suggests that the benefits of liana cutting may  
2 be reduced during extreme droughts (O'Brien *et al.* 2019). Finally, restoration at the  
3 landscape scale could help maintain a cooler and more humid regional climate (see section  
4 23)

5 Drought is not the only cause of mortality. Aleixo *et al.* (2019) showed that trees died more  
6 often during wet months than in drought years, and rain and storms that occur during the  
7 transition from dry to wet seasons in the Amazon might be the main cause of tree mortality  
8 during the wettest months (Negrón-Juárez *et al.* 2010). Forest restoration is also highly  
9 susceptible to fire, which can arrest successional processes in terra firme (e.g. (Berenguer *et*  
10 *al.* 2018; Heinrich *et al.* 2021) and flooded forests (Flores *et al.* 2017). As large-scale forest  
11 fires are strongly linked to extreme droughts (Chapter 19), forest restoration activities need  
12 to be aligned with actions that reduce landscape flammability and support for farmers that  
13 enable them to control ignition sources.

### 14 **6.2. Climate resilience of aquatic restoration**

15 Hydrological effects of climate change are likely to more strongly impact Amazonia than  
16 other regions of South America (Brêda *et al.* 2020). Notably, uncertainties in restoration  
17 linked to climate change may be exacerbated by land use changes. This is especially true in  
18 the Amazon, where climate change interacts with deforestation in particularly strong ways.  
19 As an example, coupled climatic and hydrologic models forced under contrasting  
20 deforestation scenarios suggest that the consideration of climate responses to deforestation  
21 shift precipitation outcomes from mean positive to mean negative changes (Lima *et al.*  
22 2014). In addition, deforestation can increase the duration of dry seasons and magnify  
23 seasonal amplitudes in discharge. Importantly, water balance changes are not confined to  
24 deforested sub-basins, as atmospheric circulation spreads the effects basinwide (Coe *et al.*  
25 2009).

26 Changes in water balance associated with climate change and deforestation will likely  
27 affect floodplain and river ecosystems in many ways (see also Chapter 23). Decreased mean  
28 annual rainfall (Brêda *et al.* 2020) combined with increased frequency of extreme weather  
29 events in the Amazon (Marengo 2009) will change seasonal inundation patterns, impacting  
30 species composition and biogeochemical cycling in Amazonian freshwater landscapes.

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1 Reduced inundation length can alter the selection for flood-tolerant species and ultimately  
2 the composition of floodplain forests; moreover, because floodplain trees generally lack  
3 traits linked to fire and drought resistance, the frequency, severity and ecological impacts of  
4 fires may exacerbate (Castello and Macedo 2016). In rivers, precipitation and discharge  
5 regimes regulate sediment transport and aquatic nutrient dynamics (Devol *et al.* 1995;  
6 Almeida *et al.* 2015, and flood extent governs the input and processing of vast quantities of  
7 organic matter produced in terrestrial and seasonally flooded ecosystems that is further  
8 outgassed as carbon gas (Abril *et al.* 2014; Almeida *et al.* 2017). In the biological realm,  
9 altered seasonality in flood regimes could affect plankton community interactions, with  
10 potentially cascading food web effects (Feitosa *et al.* 2019). Thus, in addition to  
11 understanding site-level conditions prior to disturbance, effective restoration of Amazon  
12 aquatic ecosystems should be attentive to watershed-scale hydrological, biological, and  
13 chemical alterations brought about by climate change.

14

### 15 **7. ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL RESTORATION AT SCALE**

16 Restoration science has developed rapidly over recent decades, and while some knowledge  
17 gaps remain in the tropics, it has reached a point where it can provide clear evidence-based  
18 guidance to support restoration in a wide range of contexts (Chapter 28) and across whole  
19 biomes and landscapes (this chapter). Restoration cannot happen in isolation – we have  
20 outlined here how it must be linked by a broader suite of conservation measures that avoid  
21 further loss (Section 26.1). Crucially, research has shown it needs to be integrated with  
22 society and political context, and can inform how to do it in a way that is as inclusive as  
23 possible of all people in a landscape (while recognizing that not all stakeholders will  
24 necessarily benefit) (Reed *et al.* 2018). But how can this knowledge be used effectively?  
25 Here we examine the policy levers and incentives that can support the large-scale  
26 restoration that is required to mitigate climate change, avoid dangerous tipping points,  
27 reduce pressure on primary forests, support local livelihoods, and develop a thriving and  
28 flourishing Amazonian bioeconomy.

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### 1 **7.1. Enforcement and Monitoring**

2 Many have experimented with technological and organizational solutions to restore  
3 environmentally-sensitive and sustainable economic production<sup>e.g.</sup>(Brondizio *et al.* 2021).  
4 Yet, they will not be taken to scale as long as the negative externalities of exploiting the  
5 forest's natural capital go unaccounted for. For example, the low market prices of illegal  
6 timber undermine the value of legal timber (Brancalion *et al.* 2018), making it much more  
7 challenging for companies that follow legal and certification scheme practices to fund the  
8 monitoring and enforcement required to ensure post-harvest forest integrity across  
9 expansive and remote concessions (see Chapters 14, 19 and 29). Countering this requires  
10 changes in policy and governance (laws, taxes, subsidies) to make illegal logging  
11 economically unattractive. Green financial institutions are key partners to invest in land and  
12 landscape restoration, which requires efficient tools to monitor and verify environmental  
13 performance at plot, farm, and landscape levels. Monitoring and enforcement is also key to  
14 avoiding perverse effects of economic restoration, where technologies and policies  
15 promoting greater agricultural or silvicultural productivity paradoxically lead to increased  
16 deforestation(Garrett *et al.* 2018), or where large-scale ecological restoration causes  
17 “leakage” of environmental harm <sup>e.g.</sup>(Alix-Garcia and Gibbs 2017).

### 18 **7.2. Incentive-based measures**

19 Restoration can be incentivized by carbon and/or biodiversity offsetting, payments for  
20 ecosystem services (PES), and/or certification schemes. Yet, PES often fail in gaining  
21 scale(Coudel *et al.* 2015), and such market-based interventions can generate conflict and  
22 weaken social ties(Pokorny *et al.* 2012). Interestingly, less obvious policies may have  
23 important indirect effects on restoration dynamics, such as the Brazilian School Meal  
24 Program that has been fundamental in encouraging the consolidation of agroforestry  
25 systems and agrobiodiversity in some areas of the eastern Amazon(L. Resque *et al.* 2019).

### 26 **7.3. Community-led restoration**

27 Some site-level restoration actions can be implemented by liaising with a relatively small  
28 set of stakeholders, such as property owners or reserve managers. Yet, to achieve  
29 sustainable transformations across landscapes and catchments, it is vital that the restoration

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1 measures are viewed favorably by the people who live in or benefit from the economic  
2 activities. For example, implementing integrated farming systems on unproductive  
3 farmland requires the participation of all relevant stakeholders, both in the design and  
4 implementation of the research and extension programs to assure they meet the  
5 socioeconomic needs and the cultural values of the beneficiaries. This ensures that research  
6 and extension programs meet the socioeconomic needs and cultural values of intended  
7 beneficiaries (Leal *et al.* 2020b). Unsurprisingly, some of the most successful examples of  
8 active restoration involve strong community buy in and leadership. The Rede Sementes do  
9 Xingu & community-led fisheries restoration and management programs provide positive  
10 examples of community engagement and leadership. The success of restoration initiatives  
11 involving local people will be highly dependent on effective and long-term support for  
12 capacity building and technical assistance, and ongoing and wide-ranging social  
13 collaboration and participation (Chapter 30).

### 14 **7.4. Policies**

15 Restoration can also be supported at the national level through official commitments and  
16 legislation. For example, the Brazilian (NVPL, orforest code) sets forest-area limits for  
17 legal reserves, and requires vegetation to be preserved along watercourses and on other  
18 ecologically sensitive settings such as steep slopes (Brasil 2012). The NVPL allows  
19 landholders to compensate for past forest clearance by buying forests elsewhere; given  
20 issues around permanence, this has provided a mechanism to support restoration of illegal  
21 farmland on national parks (Giannichi *et al.* 2018). Yet national legislation varies greatly  
22 across Amazonian countries. Developing a common set of approaches could be encouraged  
23 by linking national policies to the many international declarations and incentives that  
24 promote restoration, including the New York and Amsterdam declarations, the Bonn  
25 Challenge and Initiative 20x20, Sustainable Development Goal 15 Life on Land, the  
26 Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
27 Change, zero deforestation commitments, and the fight against imported deforestation.

28

29

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### 1 8. CONCLUSIONS

2 To maximize its ecological and societal impact, restoration needs to be implemented in  
3 ways that consider its benefits across scales, including at the level of the biome, within  
4 landscapes and catchments, and across different groups of local actors and stakeholders.  
5 Applying the most appropriate restoration approaches to the right places will require novel  
6 prioritization exercises that consider multiple benefits and include the societal feasibility,  
7 ecological need, and the risks posed by climate change.

8

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