



The socio-ecological and politico-economic dynamics of ecological restoration through tree planting schemes in the global South (TreesForDev)

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In response to the global climate and ecological crises, an unprecedented political will has emerged to engage in ecological restoration (ER) to repair damaged and degraded landscapes. The aim of this project is to examine the socio-ecological and politico-economic implications of the expansion and implementation of different types of ER involving tree planting schemes, through situated empirical analyses combined with a global analysis of these changes. The project addresses the following overarching research questions:

1. What are the key drivers and barriers to the expansion of ER tree planting schemes in the global South?
2. What are the key factors that determine the success or failure of ER tree planting schemes in the global South?
3. How effective are current ER initiatives in promoting sustainable development in socially just and inclusive ways in vulnerable communities in the global South?
4. How do the different motivations and interests of financial donors (e.g. development aid, carbon markets, grassroots financing), particularly from Finland and the EU, impact the governance, design and implementation of ER on the ground?
5. What kind of interdisciplinary knowledge should be considered for better monitoring and evaluating the impact of ER tree planting schemes in the global South?

Our five research questions are addressed through both a global and multi-sited case study analysis involving global data and ethnographically-oriented field research in collaboration with our international partners in



Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Brazil. The research will produce novel insights on how development cooperation around ER can be designed, financed, and implemented in ways that include the perspectives of vulnerable communities in the global South. The results of this research will also inform policymakers and practitioners on how to enhance the implementation and impact of such schemes in a socially just and inclusive way, while contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field of sustainable development. The results will carry especially important value for the global South populations living next to or within new ER tree-planting areas. The broader impact of the project is to ensure restoration projects supported by Finnish development funding and under the UN restoration goals work to reduce inequality and poverty, while addressing the needs of sustainable food production, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity-supporting development.

Pictured from left to right: Project Team - Ossi Ollinaho, Maria Ehrnstöm-Fuentes, Sophia Hagolani-Albov, Marketta Vuola, Markus Kröger, Project Partner Sergio Sauer; not pictured Linda Annala-Tesfaye, Heidi Herlin.

Publications:

Ehrnstöm-Fuentes, M., and Böhm, S. (2022). [The Political Ontology of Corporate Social Responsibility: Obscuring the Pluriverse in Place](#). *Journal of Business Ethics*.

Ehrnstöm-Fuentes, M., & Kröger, M. (2018). [Birthing extractivism: The role of the state in forestry politics and development in Uruguay](#). *Journal of Rural Studies*, 57: 197–208.

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Kröger, M. (2021). [Studying Complex Interactions and Outcomes Through Qualitative Comparative Analysis: A Practical Guide to Comparative Case Studies and Ethnographic Data Analysis](#). New York: Routledge.

Ollinaho, O. & Kröger, M. (2021). [Agroforestry transitions: The good, the bad and the ugly](#). *Journal of Rural Studies*, vol. 82, pp. 210–221.

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