



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION'S POTENTIAL FOR JOB CREATION IN BRAZIL

PUBLIC POLICY SUMMARY





ATLANTIC FOREST
RESTORATION
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**BRAZILIAN
COALITION**
ON CLIMATE
FORESTS AND
AGRICULTURE

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION'S POTENTIAL FOR JOB CREATION IN BRAZIL

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Summary

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Related initiatives

Restoration Glassdoor – a survey of restoration supply chain stakeholders in Brazil. Available at: www.sobrestauracao.org.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Restoring ecosystems at a global scale is essential to reversing environmental degradation and attaining multiple benefits, including mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation, water, and food security, and jobs and income generation. However, the social and economic benefits that impact society in the short term are also deeply important, making job creation, integrated with public policy, a central result to be leveraged in the ecosystem restoration supply chain.

Ecosystem restoration initiatives in Brazil can generate many jobs, with the potential to create 1 to 2.5 million direct positions via the restoration of 12 million hectares by 2030 (Planaveg goal – National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation). Those numbers are based on a study that verified the existence of 42 direct positions in the ecological restoration supply chain for every 100 hectares restored in Brazil.

In this publication, we identify bottlenecks in expanding the scale of ecosystem restoration in Brazil and highlight opportunities that can turn restoration into a vibrant and consolidated economic activity in Brazil, reflecting its potential to generate vital benefits for people's well-being and for nature during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

42

DIRECT POSITIONS

FOR EVERY 100 HECTARES
RESTORED IN BRAZIL

1 TO 2.5

MILLION* JOBS

CAN BE CREATED
THROUGH THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
BRAZIL'S COMMITMENT TO
**RESTORE 12 MILLION
HECTARES BY 2030**

$42/100 * 12.000.000 * 20\% = 1 \text{ million}$

$42/100 * 12.000.000 * 50\% = 2.5 \text{ million}$

42 jobs per 100 hectares restored via seed and seedling planting;

12 million hectares (Mha) is the main restoration goal established for Brazil by 2030 by the Planaveg;

For those 12 million, various scenarios were considered in the Planaveg regarding the percentages of areas that will be restored via seed and seedling planting (20, 30, 40, and 50%). We considered the smallest and largest percentages: 20% e 50%.



WHY could the number of jobs be even higher?

We did not consider jobs that are:

- a) Connected to production and processing of timber and non-timber products (fruits, oils, chestnuts, etc.) from areas undergoing restoration;
- b) From areas in which restoration occurs through natural regeneration;
- c) Associated with the ecosystem services provided;
- d) Indirect in general (they could double the total of jobs).

RESTORATION: A FLOURISHING ACTIVITY

The UN's declaration of the 2021-2030 period as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration directed the public's attention to that activity. However, Brazil's restoration value chain needs to develop much further.

Here are the results of a study on the potential for job generation through restoration in Brazil. The results represent the current scenario according to those who work directly in the field.

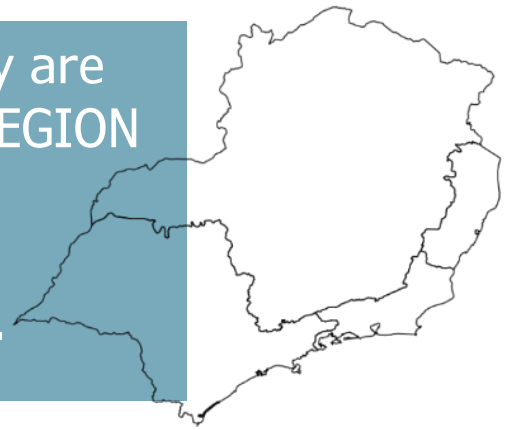
In partnership with SOBRE, Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture, and PACTO, and with support from the Alliance for Restoration in the Amazon, we consulted 356 institutions in 2020 that reported on their formal restoration positions.

More information on the study methods and detailed results can be found in the complete article on the study (see reference on page 2.)

THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION JOB MARKET

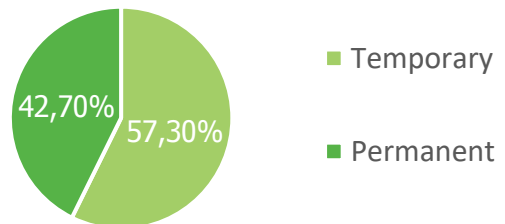
61% of jobs identified in the study are currently in the **SOUTHEASTERN REGION** of Brazil.

44% are in the **ATLANTIC FOREST**.

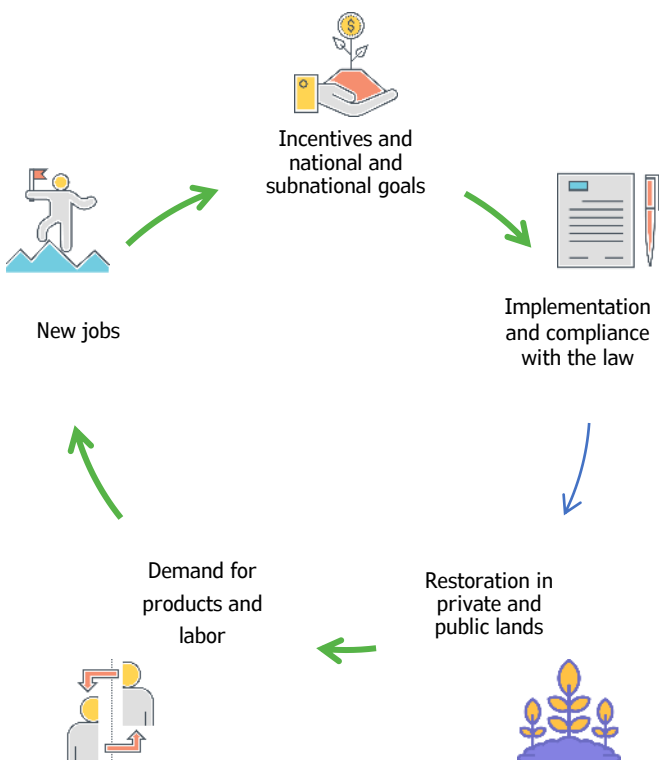


The unequal distribution of jobs is more strongly related to states' GDP than their environmental liabilities. That reflects a wide range of factors that are difficult to separate. Nonetheless, that unequal distribution shows that more investments in the restoration agenda are needed in the biomes with smaller GDPs.

CURRENT JOB DISTRIBUTION



RESTORATION VIRTUOUS CYCLE



The predominance of temporary jobs is connected to the seasonality of ecological restoration activities, which are generally associated with the rainy season. That may change due to the massive adoption of restoration in the diverse regions of Brazil, increasing the incidence of planting, maintenance, and monitoring activities that expand the demand for permanent jobs.

The restoration job market is extremely sensitive to demands, and the lack of public policies that stimulate ongoing support for those activities directly impacts the market.

Thus, it becomes clear that the effective implementation of public policies already established as law (such as the 'Forest Code'; Law 12.651/12) is essential to leverage the restoration production chain and support the creation of new jobs.

50% of the Jobs identified are in organizations that have restoration as their main or only activity



Cooperatives, seed networks, NGOs that operate regionally and statewide, and small businesses account for almost half of the jobs in the restoration sector. Those grassroots organizations require funding and incentives.

•Unlike many ecological restoration benefits, which generally take decades to be noticed by society, most jobs are generated at the beginning of the process.

•Ecosystem restoration can become a powerful, job-generating alternative in rural areas, contributing to economic growth, the inclusion of vulnerable communities, and the decrease in social problems caused by rural exodus, in addition to promoting environmental benefits for society and the planet.

LINKS IN THE PRODUCTION CHAIN

SEED
collection



PLANTING and
MAINTAINING



SEEDLING
production



TECHNICAL
SERVICES and
MONITORING



Many organizations are part of one or more links in the production chain. Diversifying activities can be a strategy to make room for new permanent jobs.



FINDINGS

Ecosystem restoration is an emerging economic activity with enormous potential to generate jobs, especially through local organizations.

Ecosystem restoration has great potential to promote economic growth associated with job creation, which can be crucial to countries' concrete commitment toward the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Grassroots institutions (small/medium businesses and local and regional nonprofit organizations) have a very important role in expanding the scale of restoration and social-economic development in the post-COVID-19 period.

The positive outcomes resulting from the economic activities in the restoration production chain depend on long-term funding commitments equitably distributed among Brazilian regions and biomes, along with choosing restoration techniques and methods that favor local job creation and socio-economic development.

To ensure the consolidation of the restoration production chain and job creation, environmental laws must remain in place and be implemented in their totality.

An initiative of:



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ALLIANCE
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