

Symposium 10: Global change and transitions in forest landscapes

DYNAMICS OF REFORESTATION IN COUPLED SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS: THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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Considerable progress has been made in understanding the dynamics of tropical deforestation, which is a major factor associated to global environmental change. It is recognized that reforestation can take place simultaneously with deforestation but the conditions under which a region transitions from a phase of net deforestation to one of net reforestation is largely an untapped research frontier. In the State of São Paulo, inventories have indicated a slight increase on Atlantic Forest area over the two last decades. Our study aims to investigate if reforestation has taken place on rural properties of selected municipalities, and to analyze the factors driving to this outcome. Structured interviews were performed in 600 rural establishments at six municipalities: Campinas, Jundiá, Monteiro Lobato, São José dos Campos, São Luís do Paraitinga and Ubatuba. Most of respondents declared that forest cover increased in their land over the past five years. Aesthetical values and environmental conservation were frequently reported as important drivers of reforestation, while economic and government incentives were reported as of little or no importance. The households' and landowners' attributes influence over the odds of reforesting are discussed, as well as the relative importance of planted and native forests within the studied landscapes.

Symposium 9: Management and conservation of Mediterranean forest landscapes

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A NOVEL TOOL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN EVERGREEN OAK WOODLANDS?

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The western Mediterranean evergreen oak woodlands have been shaped since historical times into open woodlands, or silvo-pastoral systems, in different regions. When well-managed, these systems harbour high biodiversity, provide direct commodities and generate important ecosystem services. Abandonment and lack of management will cause shrub encroachment, loss of habitat heterogeneity and increased risk of wildfire, imperilling the conservation and cultural values of the system. For example, in cork oak woodlands, cork, a non-timber forest product periodically harvested without killing the trees, has been the main economic incentive maintaining the management of the system. World devaluation of cork market prices however is leading to abandonment of cork oak woodlands in different regions. Payment for ecosystem services is a relatively novel conservation tool potentially applicable to the conservation of cork oak woodlands. We identify, at the regional level, main ecosystem services provided by cork oak woodlands in Southern Portugal and suggest how this tool may be used for the conservation of these systems.