

# Session I : Perspectives on the forest sector and ecosystem restoration

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# SHARING STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

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SESSION I: PERSPECTIVES ON THE FOREST SECTOR AND  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

# BREAKOUT SESSION

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SESSION I: PERSPECTIVES ON THE FOREST SECTOR AND  
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# SESSION I : BREAKOUT SESSION QUESTIONS

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*Thinking about your work on restoration, what are the biggest challenges that you face and what do you see as the barriers to scaling up restoration?*



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# BREAKOUT SESSION REPORT BACK

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SESSION I: PERSPECTIVES ON THE FOREST SECTOR AND  
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# GROUP 1

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- **Business case for restoration**
  - Outside company areas is not always strong
  - Benefits for local people are different to corporate actors
  - Interest in temperature/outside the tropics
  - Use restored areas – is it appropriate?
- **Monitoring and measurement**
  - Lack of clarity on what to measure
  - Lack of consistency
  - How to monitor success
  - Clarity around the theory of change
  - Variety of quantitative measures
- **Values, interests and expectation of the funder/restorer**
  - Timelines don't always line up
  - Realities of restoration
- **Restoration classification**
  - Passive/active
  - Defining success
- **Allowing for local conditions**
  - Social, cultural
  - Slow and expansive
  - Depth and breadth of complexity
  - Tenure and land right
- **Interest of private sector**
  - Conservation compared with restoration
  - No readiness of projects that are of interest to private sector
  - Opening communications from forest sector and others
- **Need for training and knowledge sharing**
- **Governance and regulatory barriers/not favoring restoration**
  - Engagement in governance
- **Technology opportunities**
  - Challenges with how to classify restoration
  - Improving over time
- **Acceptance of restoration strategies**
  - Accepted in theory but in practical terms it is still a challenge (metrics and monitoring)

# GROUP 2

## Challenges and Questions:

1. Matching scale of projects with appropriate funders/opportunities
2. Carbon crediting as motivation for restoration
3. Role of private sector for expertise; business case for forestry private sector to provide expertise
4. Drivers of restoration priorities
5. Restoration for conservation or improved production
  - a. Private sector ready to invest if restoration objective is conservation
6. Long-term sustainability: Sustainable forest management in relationship to restoration

7. Cultural dimensions: land tenure and rights
  - a. Who has the right to plant trees? Who are the decision-makers?
8. Fragmentation of efforts: pledges; cross-sectoral divide
9. Assess progress of disparate global goals
10. Need for quantitative indicators—qualitative dominates.
11. Integrity of data management (enforcement and regulatory conflicts)
12. How to adequately account for and acknowledge shifting markets and the geopolitical landscape?
13. What is restoration readiness? Importance of locally controlled forestry/restoration
14. Sustainable consumption is wed to restoration and sustainable production

# GROUP 3

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1. **Wide scope of restoration:** but can also be used for our advantage. Understand what should be included and create an operating environment for what is desired rather than putting definitions into smaller boxes for further debate

- a. Bottom up approach for inclusion - Local stakeholder views should define objectives, instead of having prescriptive policies from top down
- b. The need to find synergies from carbon, social, and climate policy incentives
- c. Set local, site-specific objectives

2. **Finance:** not bankable, not just a project lens, but integrated into the business model

- a. Accessibility issue - lots of leftover grant not accessed

b. Profit-driven view of companies – make sure companies have a wide KPI set to understand the monetary value of restoration

3. **Access to seedlings and technology,** site-specific design

- a. Too much focus on planting

4. **Accountability** – science is needed in keeping accountability.

- a. An over-reliant on science for accountability and western science. Need to find more creative ways
- b. Lack of scientific metrics at the same time
- c. Reputation concern – visibility brings risk to companies

5. **Legal barriers:** rights for land, rights of nature, etc.

- a. Not having local government involvement, weak institutions



# GROUP 4

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## 1) Economic:

- a) Need for returns on investments
- b) Lack of business case for restoration
  - i) Companies are basically doing this pro-bono, but it's very expensive
- c) Lack of Funding mechanisms
- d) Lack of incentives

## 2) Knowledge and capacity gaps

- a) Lack of knowledge of local species
- b) Access to local knowledge
- c) Lack of availability of recorded knowledge
- d) Limited seedling supply
- e) Need for innovative approaches
- f) Need to consider diverse sources of knowledge
- g) Expand definitions of stakeholders and considering what engagement means
  - i) Dealing with power imbalances, poor governance, fractured relationships
- h) Exploring potential to automate processes
- i) Concerns about sustainability of operations in scaling up

# GROUP 4

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## 3) Engagement and partnership

- a) Top down and bottom up need to meet in the middle
- b) Economies of scale can sometimes limit diversity
- c) Limited examples of community and company collaborations

## 4) Policy:

- a) Lack of agreement over policies, conflicting policies
- b) Resources available for monitoring, including monitoring of social outcomes, are limited
- c) Integrating carbon markets into restoration agenda
  - i) Who owns the assets?
  - ii) Need to look beyond carbon markets, but also Payments for other ecosystem services

## 5) Ecological:

- a) Resilient restoration in the face of climate change
- b) Must address differences across geographies
  - i) Tropical vs. temperate vs. Boreal, within countries

**\*\*Violence against human rights defenders**

**\*\*Must start with conserving, then restoring forests**