Payments for Reforestation in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest

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Brown University
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3204 Murray Hall &
Broadcast to IMS 271

To schedule a meeting with Dr. VanWey, please contact Molly at mollyfrn@live.unc.edu
Title: Payments for Reforestation in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest

Abstract: While slowing deforestation has captured headlines and research attention for decades, there is a growing policy and scientific focus on reforestation as a way to restore functioning landscapes and sequester carbon. Brazil has committed to restoring 12 million hectares of forest by 2030 and participates in the Latin America-wide 20X20 initiative to reforest 20 million hectares by 2020. 4.5m ha of Brazil’s reforestation commitment is in the Atlantic Forest, a biome hugging much of the eastern coast of South America. In Brazil, the Atlantic Forest was the first site of European settlement, and today shows the legacy of 500 years of intensive use. It is a working landscape that houses 70% of Brazil's population. In this context, we seek to design a payment for reforestation project in private small farms, simultaneously promoting reforestation and well-being in a cost-effective scalable program. This presentation will discuss the region, in the south of the state of Bahia, and the population of roughly 3000 farms to be enrolled in a randomized controlled trial of a payment for reforestation program. The project has collected baseline data, but is still finalizing the experimental design and this seminar will include a discussion to solicit input from attendees about the experimental design, and to discuss the research design tradeoffs when addressing socioeconomic and ecological questions in a human-dominated landscape.