

Restore more- it's all about multifunctional landscapes

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Globally, large land areas are in need of restoration but the main part is located in Africa. In most of these areas people live and use the land for their livelihood. It is therefore important to bear in mind that the land has to provide multitude functions such as e.g. food and energy.

A large proportion of pastoralists who reside in dry and semi-dry areas are believed to be at risk of food production deficit, with potential declines in pasture and water availability all exacerbated by extreme climate events. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 40 percent of the total available land is mainly used for livestock; 25 million pastoral and 240 agro-pastoral farmers depend on livestock as their primary source of income. Many drylands have a history of being overgrazed and degraded lands with low productivity, recurrent struck by famines, arena for land conflicts with economic and political marginalization of pastoralist communities. They are also faced by the challenges posed by the combination of climate change and accelerated growth in demand for livestock products due to human population growth, rising incomes, continuing urbanization and changing food preferences. This presupposes interdisciplinary research with a capacity to uncover the human- and socio-environmental dynamics of emerging agro-pastoralist systems, with a focus on driving forces, processes and sustainability outcomes

Besides challenges in the drylands, millions of hectares of tropical rainforest has been deforested or degraded resulting in loss of ecological services such as, biodiversity, carbon and soil quality. Poor rural people in tropical countries have to live with these consequences and many now depend on degraded forest ecosystems for their existence. A major challenge, but also an opportunity, for the future is to balance the trade-offs between production of raw materials while at the same time minimizing negative impacts to ecosystem services, and in turn, improving people's livelihoods.

Many aspects of land and land uses are thus important for local lives and livelihoods and when it comes to degraded lands and sustainable and resilient mosaic restoration new insights based on interdisciplinary development studies are crucial. The proposed panel is linked to the reduction of food insecurity and poverty, increased equality (including gender), increased health and education, and thus fits extremely well in the Agenda 2030 discussion. Can the landscape be the frame for a driving change for Agenda 2030? We think so!

We foresee that researchers from Swedish universities as well as Universities in e.g. Africa join this panel. The panel will also attract different organizations.