ESALQ
Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture
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Piracicaba, July 10th, 2021

Dear Dr. Kevin Gaston, Kai Chan, Robert Fish, Rosemary Hails and Cecily Maller,
Editors, *People and Nature*

Dear Dr. Stephen Murphy and Dr. Holly Jones,
Editors of the cross-journal, cross-society joint Special Feature on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration of The Society of Ecological Restoration and the British Ecological Society

We herewith submit the manuscript entitled "**Ecosystem restoration supply chain and jobs in Brazil**" to be considered for publication as a "Research Article" in *People and Nature*.

Although most of the narrative and evidence-based practice supporting ecosystem restoration has relied on environmental gains, key global players like governments may be more interested in social and economic outcomes for their constituents, such as job creation. Here, we aimed to describe the ecosystem restoration supply chain in Brazil and evaluate its potential to generate jobs. Based on a widely-distributed online survey led by the main restoration networks in the country, we explored the structure, job distribution, and outputs of the national restoration supply chain. To our knowledge, this is one of the largest assessments of the ecological restoration supply chain ever made, including the six Brazilian biomes and a variety of ecosystem types.

We found that ecosystem restoration has the potential to create from 1.0 to 2.5 million jobs through the implementation of Brazil´s restoration target, which could offset the growing number of unemployed people in rural areas and alleviate the social and economic shocks caused by agriculture modernization and the current pandemics. To put this number in context, restoration alone could potentially generate more jobs than the 1.3 million direct jobs generated by the whole plantation forestry sector, which involves multiple economic activities (pulp, paper, saw wood, furniture, chemicals), has a R$97 billion annual revenue, and corresponds to 1.2% of Brazil's GDP. It may further contribute to reduce the concerning number of 14.4 million jobless people in the country. We conclude by reinforcing the potential value of ecosystem restoration in promoting economic development and creation of jobs, which can be crucial to promote countries' effective engagement in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and highlight the critical role of grassroots organizations to maximize restoration opportunities to socioeconomic development in times of post-pandemic economic recovery.

We hope you agree that this is a robust study of broad international importance that merits publication in *People and Nature*, in order to bring our findings to the highest level of world attention. We have previously discussed this submission with Dr. Murphy and Dr. Jones, for the aforementioned cross-journal special feature.

We look forward to receiving your response to our submission.

Sincerely,
Pedro Brancalion, on behalf of all the co-authors

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