
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

Florencia Montagnini

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Can forest plantations contribute to biodiversity recovery and conservation in degraded tropical landscapes?

Studies of plant regeneration in the understory of tree plantations in tropical regions worldwide suggest that plantations can contribute to catalyzing or accelerating the processes of biodiversity recovery on degraded lands. Tree plantations can facilitate secondary forest succession by ameliorating microsite conditions, suppressing aggressive vegetation, attracting seed dispersal agents from nearby forests, and favoring germination and growth of tree seedlings. Different plantation species produce varied conditions of shade and leaf litter accumulation in their understories, which influence tree species recruitment and survival rates. Results of studies from tropical forest regions suggest that native tree plantations can accelerate secondary forest succession on degraded land, but the point to which they can encourage the establishment of species of more advanced stages of succession is still uncertain. Subsequent studies may determine whether the forest species composition favored by native tree plantations approximates more advanced stages of natural forest succession in a given region. Species selection, design, management and positioning of plantations in the landscape can have strong influence on their role in accelerating forest succession. Economic and social factors, such as farmers' preferences and the availability of subsidies can also influence the outcome of forest restoration projects.

Date: April 2, 2008

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to

215-573-3164;

ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/ies>

NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
