

The suggestion that landscapes should contain 40% of forest cover lacks evidence and is problematic

Cristina Banks-Leite¹, Cecilia Larrosa², Luis Roman Currasco³, Leandro Tambosi⁴, and E.J. Milner-Gulland⁵

¹Imperial College London

²Oxford University

³National University of Singapore

⁴Universidade Federal do ABC

⁵University of Oxford

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Abstract

A recent review on optimal strategies for preserving biodiversity within human-modified landscapes suggests that that forest cover needs to be restored or maintained to at least 40%. While we agree that it is paramount to protect and increase cover in forested biomes, no evidence is presented to support this 40% threshold. Furthermore, there are several issues regarding implementation of such policy or social-economic constraints that makes this suggestion unhelpful and potentially dangerous.

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