



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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## Improving rainforest revegetation outcomes

A free toolkit designed to assist rainforest revegetation projects will be launched at the 2009 Annual MTSRF Conference in Townsville on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Researchers funded by the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) recently found that decades of tree-planting effort in cleared areas of rainforest may not have produced the desired outcome.

Griffith University Associate Professor Carla Catterall said her team's analysis indicated that monitoring and maintenance of replanting were critical to successful revegetation efforts.

"It's pretty clear that just planting the saplings and leaving them to it doesn't work. Long-term monitoring of the condition of the plantings and regular maintenance interventions are necessary if you want to recover rainforest ecosystems," A/Prof Catterall said.

To help improve the success rate of rainforest revegetation projects, A/Professor Catterall and her team have produced a toolkit entitled *Monitoring rainforest revegetation projects for biodiversity in rainforest landscapes*. The toolkit is aimed at the non-specialist user and features guides to:

- The design of monitoring programs;
- Recording project details;
- Assessing the condition of projects;
- Monitoring forest structure;
- Monitoring plant species composition;
- Estimating carbon sequestration; and
- Managing, analysing and evaluating data.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the toolkit launch at 1pm on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the 2009 Annual MTSRF Conference at Rydges Southbank Townsville.

