



Media Release
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Planting for regrowth

Not all tree plantings are the same and researchers have today announced the best methods for particular outcomes at the 2009 Annual MTSRF Conference.

Griffith University Associate Professor Carla Catterall is the leader of a team of researchers who have studied the topic *Reforestation the landscape for biodiversity and carbon: varied outcomes under different approaches*.

"Restoration of rainforest to formerly-cleared land takes place through a variety of different pathways, including intensive ecological restoration ("biodiversity plantings"), lower-diversity timber plantations and "natural" regrowth," A/Prof Catterall said.

"Our research has compared the outcomes of different types of tree-planting in the Wet Tropics, and is also investigating the rate of development of biodiversity within ecological restoration plantings," she said.

Results indicated that, when restoration plantings are well managed, they develop very rapidly within the first 5-10 years, and their performance is superior to timber plantations in terms of not only biodiversity outcomes, but also resilience to cyclone damage, and ability to sequester above-ground carbon.

"They also have potential timber values, even though they were not designed with harvest in mind," A/Prof Catterall said.

However, the planting techniques which produce these outcomes are relatively expensive, and there can be considerable variation within each type of approach.

More than 80 scientists are presenting the results of their studies at the 2009 Annual MTSRF (Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility) Conference in Townsville Rydges Southbank on April 28-30.

Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) is funded through MTSRF and Managing Director Sheriden Morris said the significance of the scientific research by MTSRF is that it must have a purpose for an end user.

