

# RESTORING LANDSCAPES: ASSESSING FACTORS INFLUENCING THE POTENTIAL FOR RESTORATION PRACTICES IN THE NORTHERN COAST OF HONDURAS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- The northern atlantic coast of Honduras is known for its vulnerability to extreme weather events in Central America.
- Deforestation and land degradation undermine efforts to build resilience to climate impacts and threaten forest-dwelling communities and biodiversity.
- Scaling up forest restoration efforts is needed to strengthen the climate resilience of communities and ecosystems on the northern coast of Honduras.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

**General objective:** Understand the extent to which existing Honduran forest restoration policies impact local actor support for future restoration efforts on the northern coast of Honduras.

**Specifics objectives or Questions**

**Question 1:** What regulatory instruments or procedures within Honduras's general regulatory framework affect forest restoration implementation?

**Question 2:** What factors currently affect restoration practices according to key social actors?

**Question 3:** What factors could enhance local actor support for future restoration efforts?

## 3. METHODS



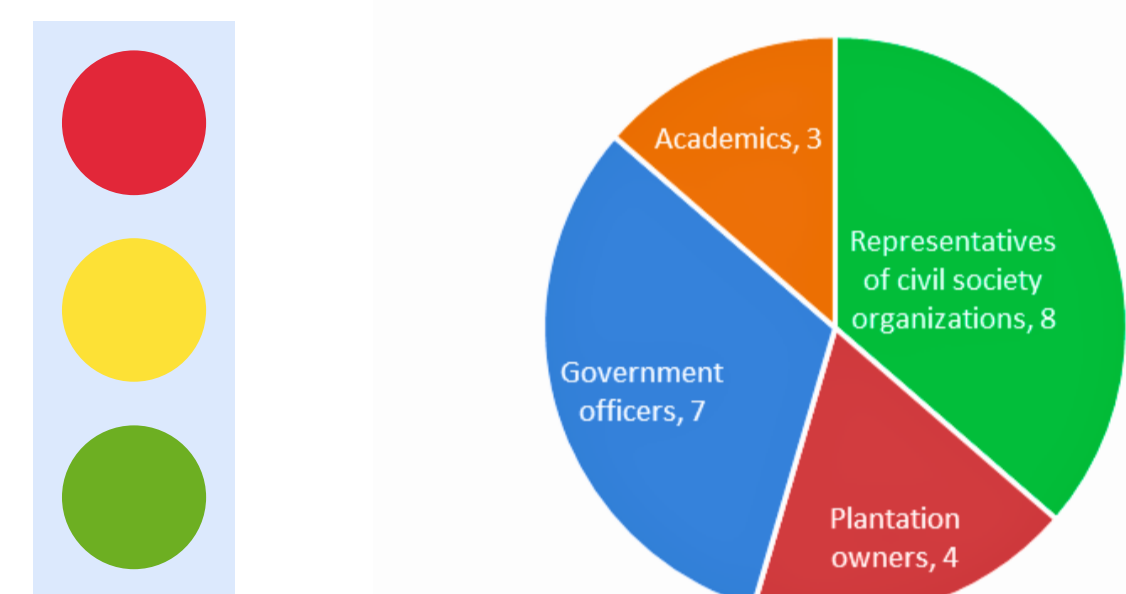
**Review of forest restoration policies in Honduras:** Forest, Protected Areas and Wildlife Law (LFAPVS), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to Climate Change

**Restoration Diagnostic** tool of the World Resources Institute (WRI) and its “key success factors” framework.

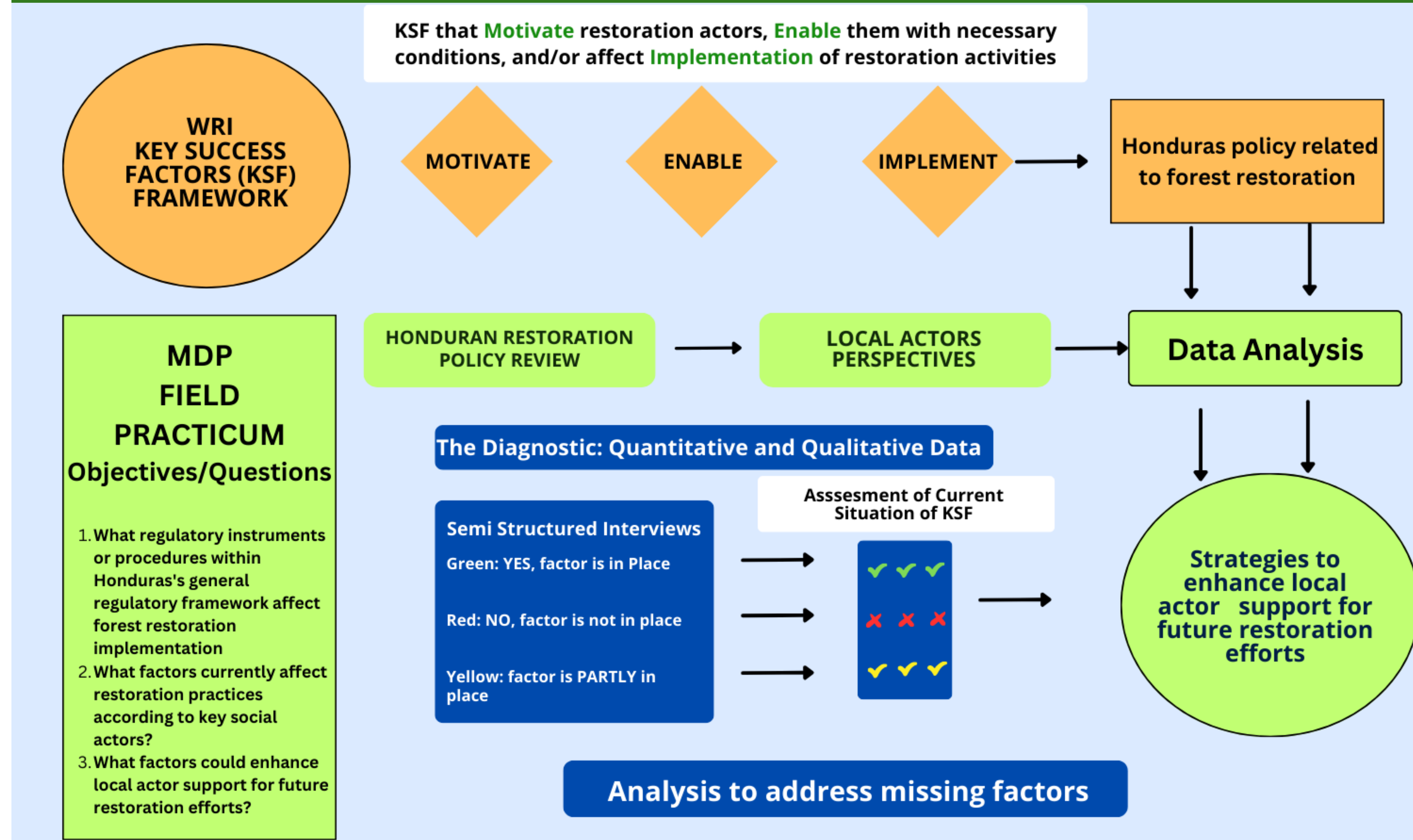
**Interview guide:** Two sets of ten guiding questions were used in semi-structured interviews with two distinct groups of actors: private and public.

**Semi-structured interviews** of ten open-ended questions with 22 key informants in Honduras, from May 21 to June 25, 2023,

**Data analysis** using traffic-light tool for 1) Assessment of success factors and 2) Identify missing factors.



## 4. CONCEPTUAL - CONTEXTUAL FRAMEWORK

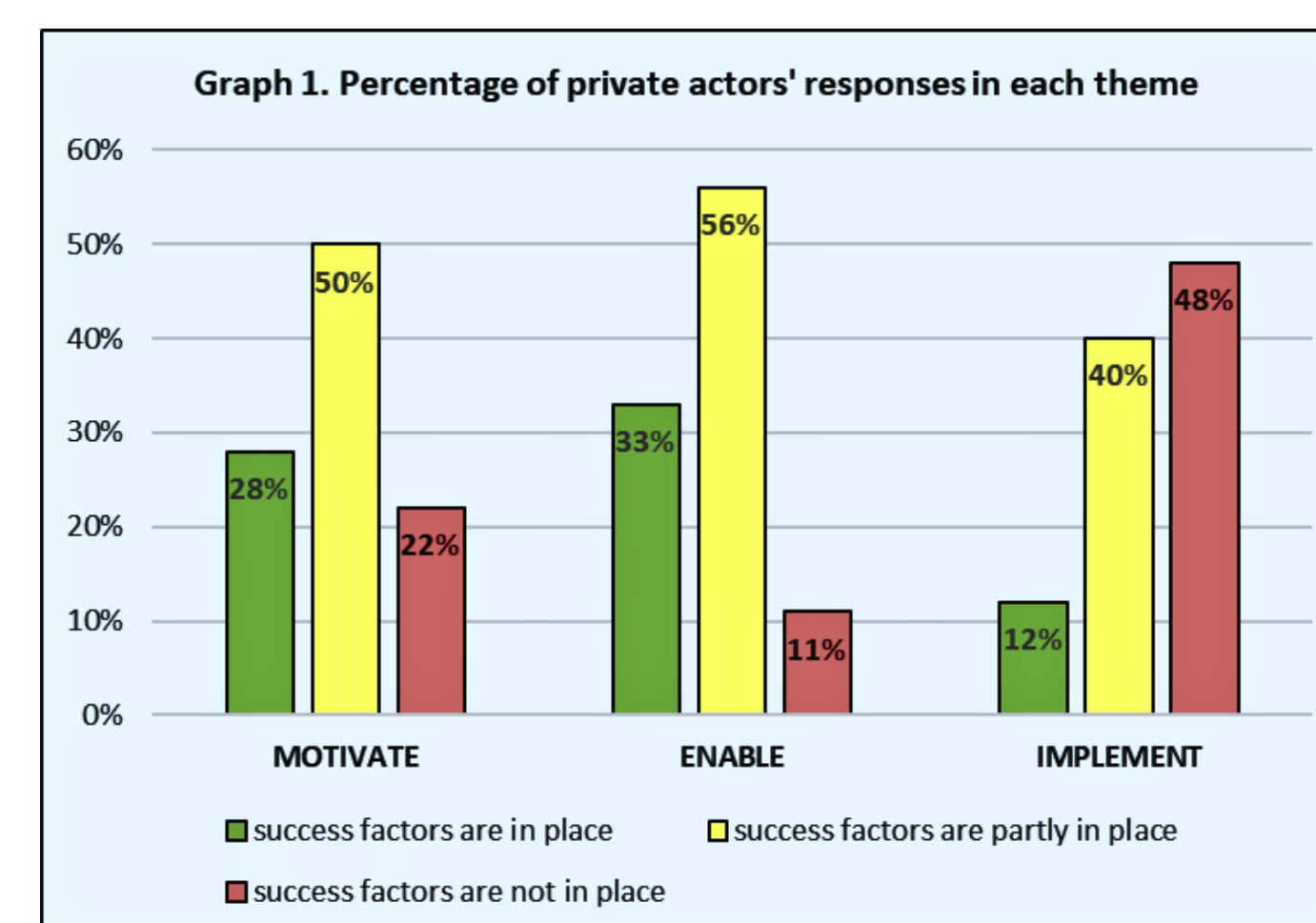


## 5. RESULTS

### • Overview of restoration policies in Honduras

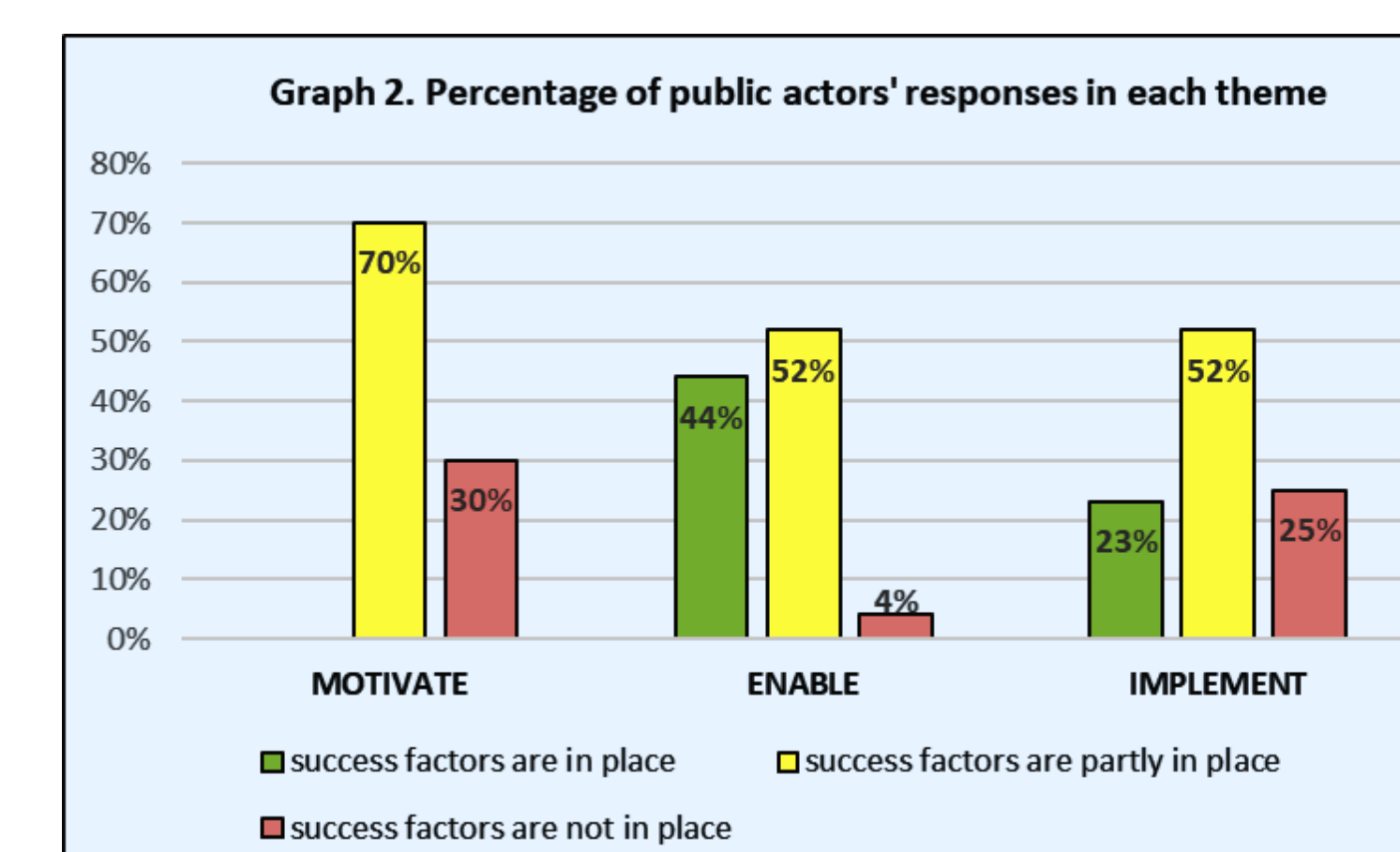
- Eight laws and regulatory instruments;
- Two central ministries and agencies
- Four strategies, plans, and programs.

### • Participant assessment of key success factors



**Graph 1. Private actor responses:** A total of 120 responses from representatives of civil society (8) and plantation owners (4) were tabulated into three themes. Success factors that motivate restoration actors are 28% in place, 50% partially in place, and 22% are not in place. Success factors that enable them with necessary conditions for forest restoration are 33% in place, 56% partially in place, and 11% not in place. Success factors that affect the implementation of restoration activities are 12% in place, 40% partially in place, and 48% not in place.

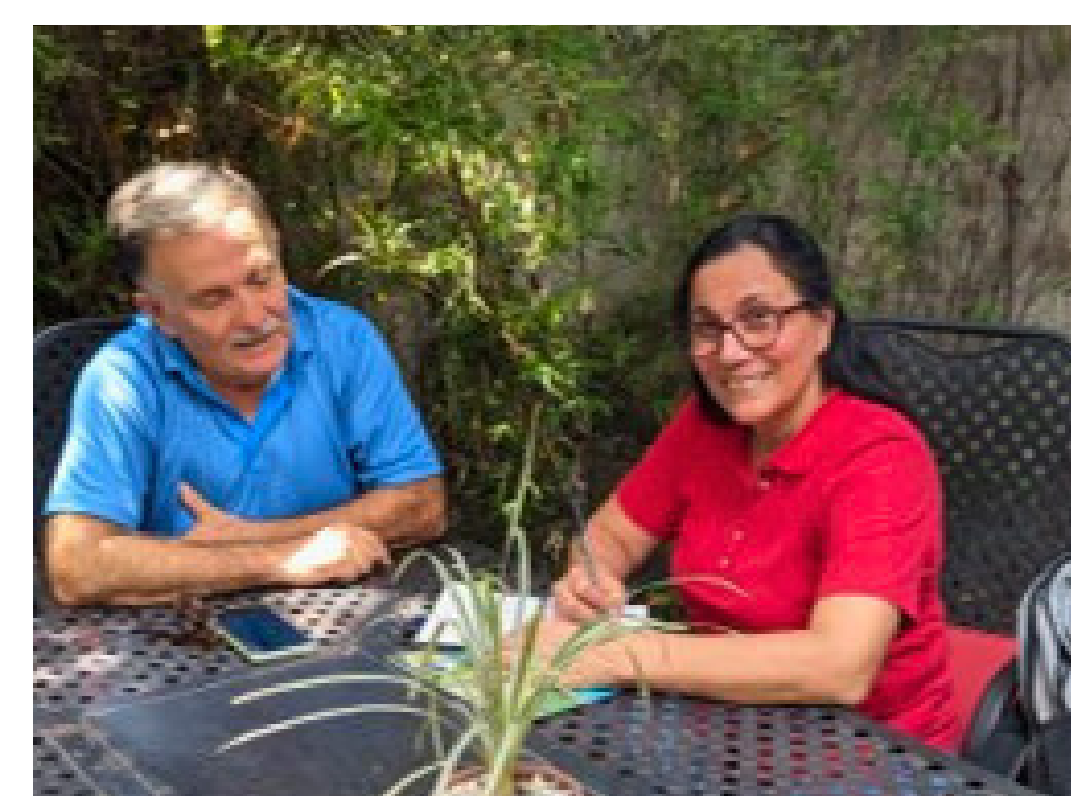
**Graph 1. Public actor responses:** 100 responses from government officers (7) and academics (3) were tabulated into three themes. According to their responses, the success factors that motivate restoration are 70% partially in place and 30% not in place. Success factors that enable them with necessary conditions for forest restoration are 44% in place, 52% partially in place, and 4% not in place. Success factors that affect the implementation of restoration activities are 23% in place, 54% partially in place, and 25% not in place.



## RESULTS

### Identification of missing factors

Motivational features	Enabling features	Implementation features
<p>Law requiring restoration exists and is broadly understood and enforced.</p> <p><i>"The law needs to be updated with terms such as compensation for Ecosystem Services. Indeed, we need instruments to ensure good forest management; however, the law itself is not the problem, but rather that it is applied."</i></p> <p><i>Representative of non-profit</i></p>	<p>Effective institutional coordination is in place.</p> <p><i>"There is almost always one local platform at the beginning of every project, but at the end, it is no longer effective because maintaining it costs money."</i></p> <p><i>Member of academia</i></p>	<p>Sustained political commitment exists</p> <p><i>"Leadership is needed on the part of the government to ensure accurate and precise incentives for restoration that motivate the investors and enforce the law to stop the illegality."</i></p> <p><i>Representative of non-profit</i></p>



## 6. CONCLUSIONS

<b>Regulatory instruments and procedures on forest restoration.</b>	Rules and procedures governing forest restoration <b>need to be updated</b> . This includes the legal framework that allows the use of natural resources and <b>land tenure</b> . The updated framework must be <b>discussed and debated</b> among communities and small landowners to ensure that it is socially acceptable.
<b>Key actors' assessment of current restoration factors.</b>	Actors directly involved in the restoration of forests are <b>aware of the benefits</b> it brings to society and the environment. However, the <b>current legal requirements</b> need to be revised for <b>better clarity and enforcement</b> . There needs to be <b>sustained political commitment</b> from government officials to encourage leadership and leverage local expert <b>knowledge from past</b> restoration initiatives.
<b>Enhancing local actor support for future restoration.</b>	There needs to be <b>better coordination</b> between government, local, and national level institutions. This includes improving initiatives to coordinate with private owners and civil society organizations. <b>Effective monitoring</b> indicators should be designed to ensure that the restoration strategies are working as intended.

