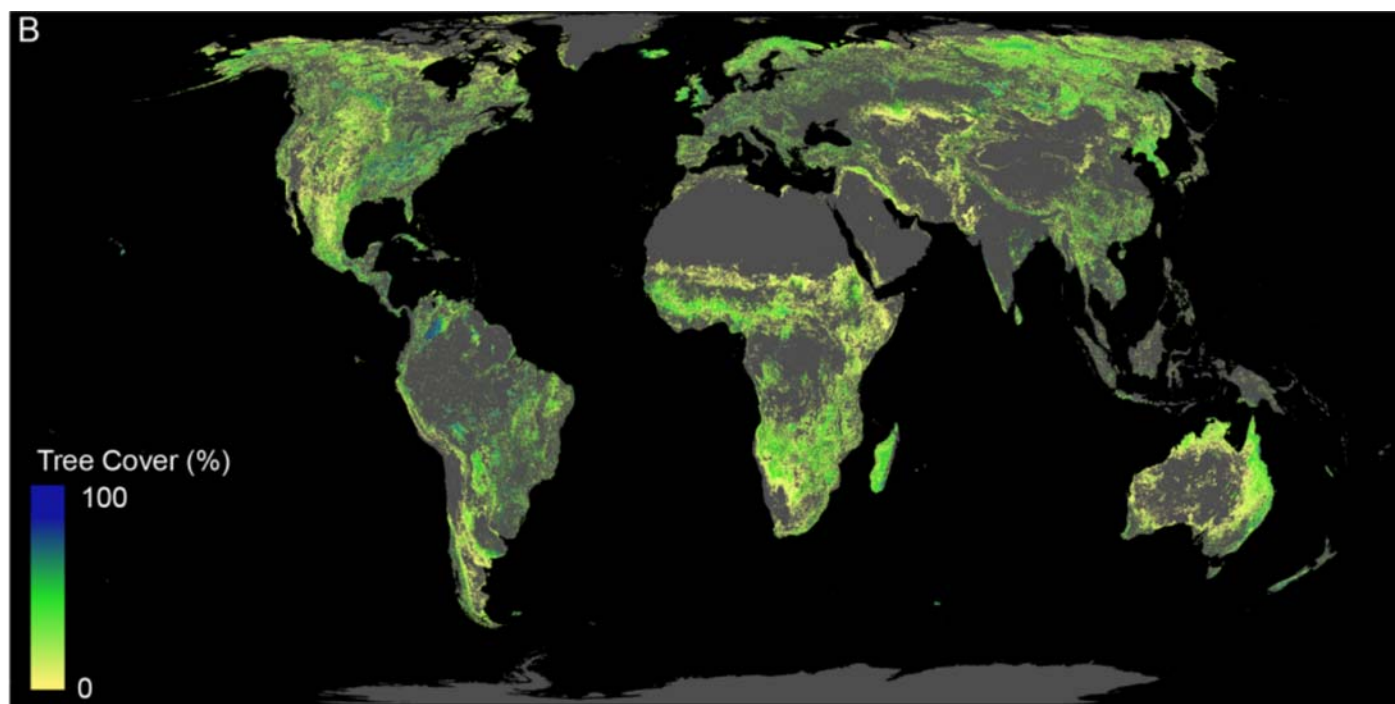


Total land available that can support trees across the globe (total of current forested areas and forest cover potential available for restoration). (Image: Crowther Lab / ETH Zurich)

## Russia best suited for reforestation

The study also shows which parts of the world are most suited to forest restoration. The greatest potential can be found in just six countries: Russia (151 million hectares); the US (103 million hectares); Canada (78.4 million hectares); Australia (58 million hectares); Brazil (49.7 million hectares); and China (40.2 million hectares).

Many current climate models are wrong in expecting climate change to increase global tree cover, the study warns. It finds that there is likely to be an increase in the area of northern boreal forests in regions such as Siberia, but tree cover there averages only 30 to 40 percent. These gains would be outweighed by the losses suffered in dense tropical forests, which typically have 90 to 100 percent tree cover.



Land available for forest restoration (excluding deserts, agricultural and urban areas; current forestland not shown). (Image: Crowther Lab / ETH Zurich)

\*In the initial version of the media release, afforestation was described as "the best climate change solution available today" and the title as "could trees could save the climate". This statement and the title was clarified on 17.10.2019.