



IA at CIFOR (& FTA)



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Outline

- Background
- Impact assessment at CIFOR
- Highlights of an ongoing assessment
- FTA
- Closing



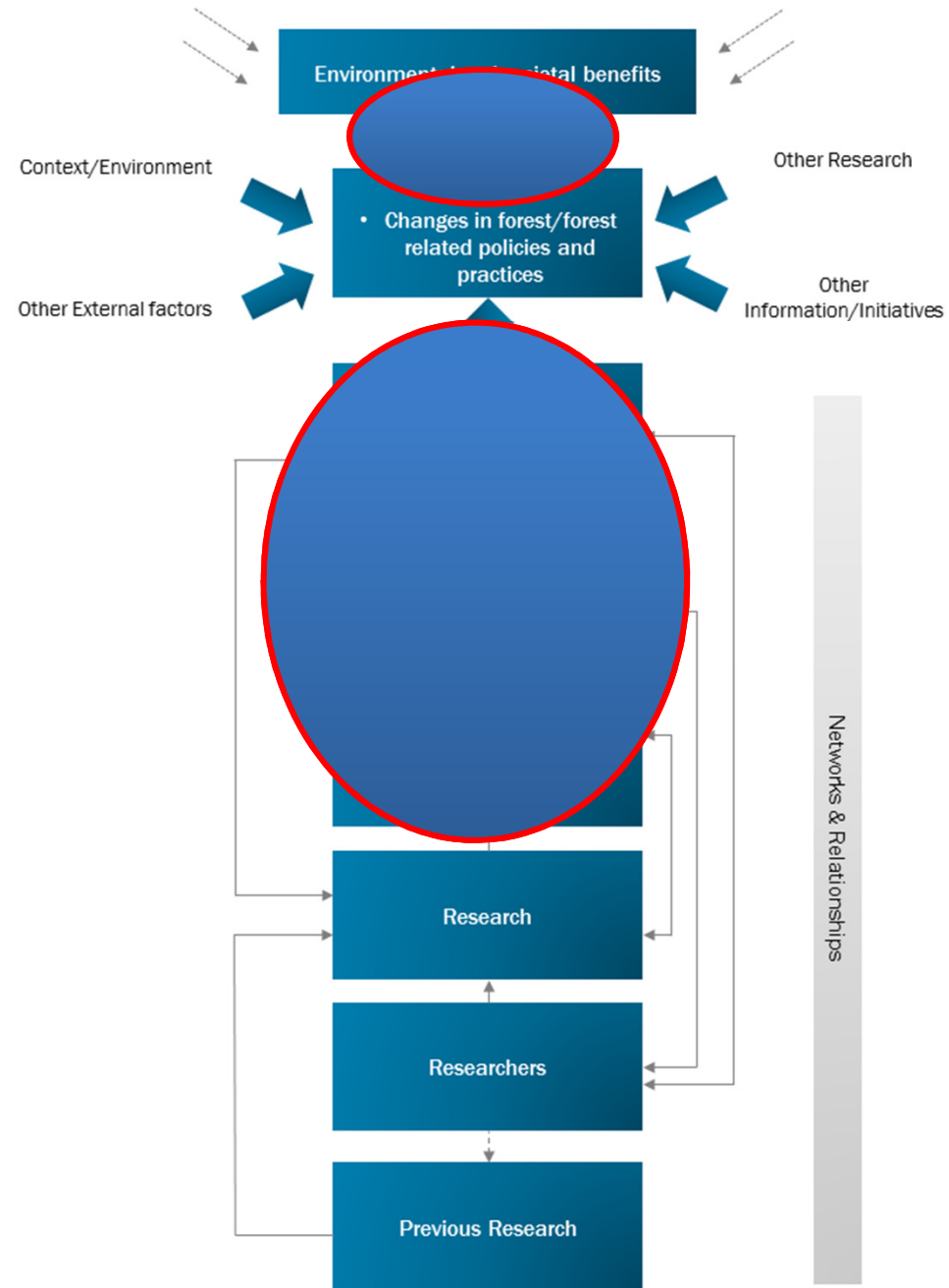
Background (1)

- CIFOR engages in policy research.
 - Very little intervention or action research.
- CIFOR gets to impact through *influencing policy and practice*.
 - A systematic review: Contandriopoulos et al (2010) “Knowledge Exchange Processes in Organizations and Policy Arenas: A Narrative Systematic Review of the Literature.” *The Milbank Quarterly*, 88(4):444-483.
 - Internal validity per se does not influence information use.
 - Who you know is key – interpersonal trust facilitates and encourages communication, and repeated communications create trust.



Policy implementation

polycymaking



Background (2)

- Policy-oriented research impact assessment (PORIA) is challenging.
 - The norm:
 - Small N.
 - » International agreements, countries, forests, districts.
 - Selection into “treatment”.
 - Uncertainty in policymaking: time lag; other contributing factors are usually dominant.
 - Ditto with policy implementation.
 - Influencing policy is highly context dependent - PORIA has little external validity.
 - What happens when there is no policy change, or if the policy changes translate to nothing on the ground?



IA at CIFOR (1)

- The basis is the familiar two-stage PORIA:
 - research -> policy; policy -> environment and societal benefits.
 - Rigorously assessing the first stage is very important.
 - We implement IAs that focus solely on the first stage.
- Relies on an explicit ToC.
 - Understand context, why and how; record evidence of progress on the fly; and understand external validity.
 - In many cases, ToC retrofitted. Not ideal.
 - For new projects: ToC defined at design stage.
 - Heavy focus on influencing policymaking.
 - Gets more tentative as we move away from output to impact.



IA at CIFOR (2)

- Methods
 - We want to improve the rigor of the first stage. Currently testing:
 - Theory-based methods: Contribution Analysis; RAPID Outcome Assessment.
 - » Focus on an identified uptake/influence and work back through time.
 - » Explicitly recognizing other actors, contributory factors.
 - » Get to at least a qualitative understanding of “how influential were we?”
 - Text-analysis of policy documents.
 - Ex-ante impact assessments (under planning).
 - For our global public good outputs with impacts taking place in the future (but donor wishing to find out now).
 - Part of improving project design.
- Collaborations with Overseas Development Institute, Virginia Tech, Australian National University.

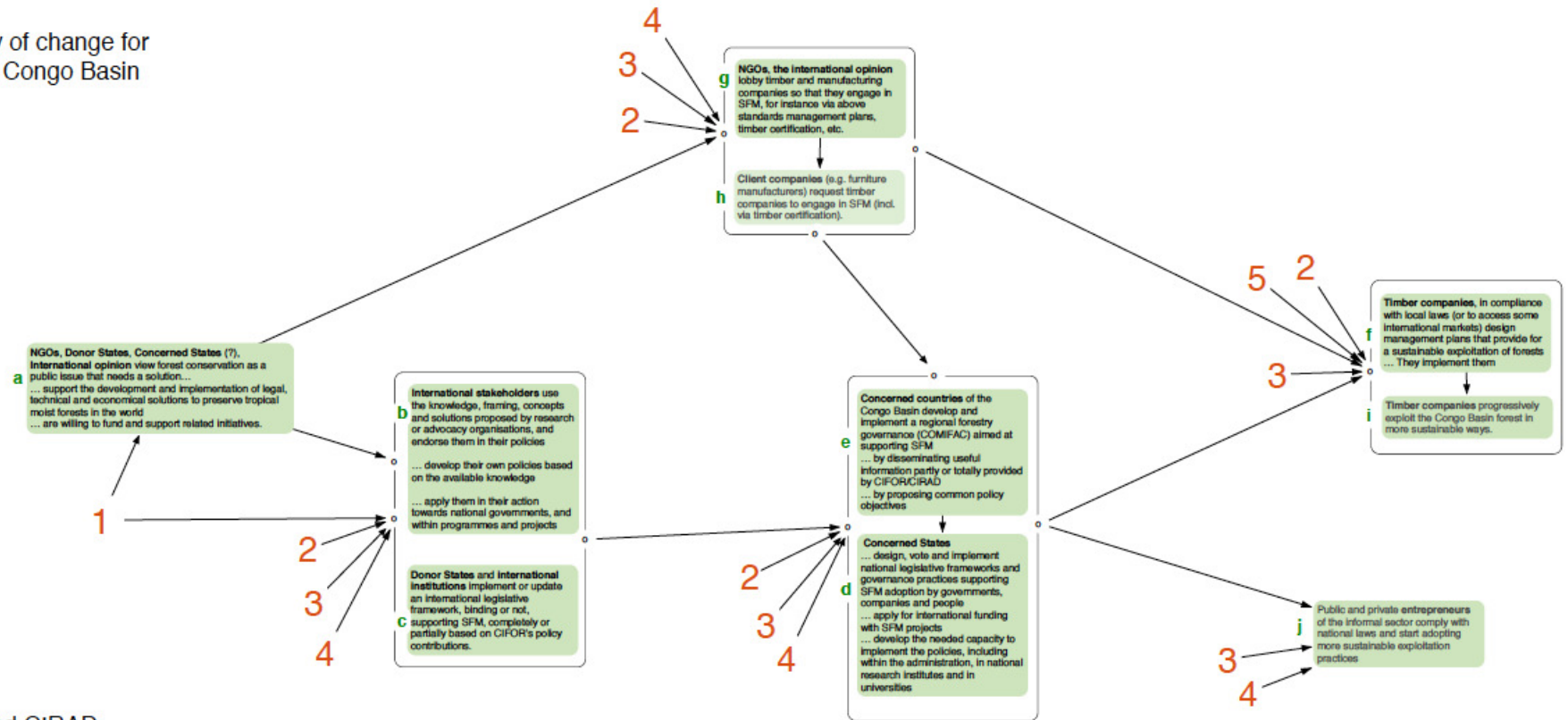


Ongoing IA: Congo Basin

- Question: what has been the contribution of CIFOR & CIRAD to changes in SFM in Congo Basin over 15 years?
- Outcomes assessed: changes in policies and practices (first stage!)
- Method: Contribution Analysis
 - Causal packages; competing hypotheses; ascertaining “large or small” contribution -> counterfactual.
 - 60+ in-depth interviews.
- Output:
 - Three case studies: certification, NTFP, Cameroon
- Findings: not yet available. But I have something more interesting to show...



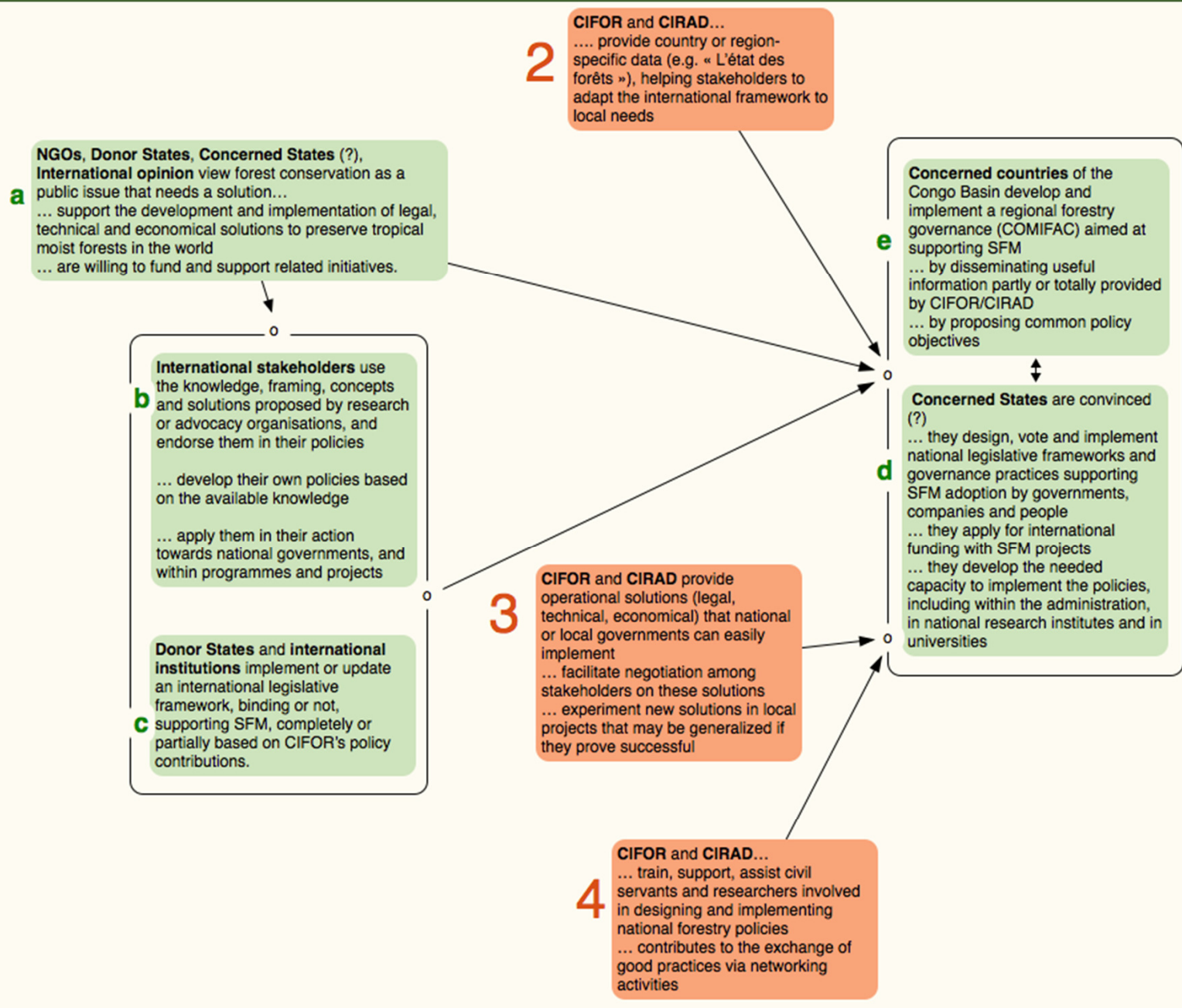
The Theory of change for SFM in the Congo Basin



CIFOR and CIRAD contribution mechanisms

- CIFOR and CIRAD** ... frame the forest issues in the Congo Basin... propose concepts that help understanding and dealing with these issues... propose solutions to address the issues at stake (i.e. Sustainable Forest Management) ... progressively focuses and improves the concepts and solutions it proposes, based on lessons of experience, evaluations ... contribute to raise the profile of forestry issues among stakeholders
- CIFOR and CIRAD** ... provide country or region-specific data (e.g. - L'état des forêts -), helping stakeholders to adapt the international framework to local needs
- CIFOR and CIRAD** provide operational solutions (legal, technical, economical) that national or local governments can easily implement ... facilitate negotiation among stakeholders on these solutions ... experiment new solutions in local projects that may be generalized if they prove successful
- CIFOR and CIRAD** ... train, support, assist civil servants and researchers involved in designing and implementing national forestry policies ... contributes to the exchange of good practices via networking activities
- CIFOR and CIRAD** ... train people, and some of them become consultants or work in timber companies ... provide guidance and data supporting the development of management plans relevant to the features of the concerned forests





FTA

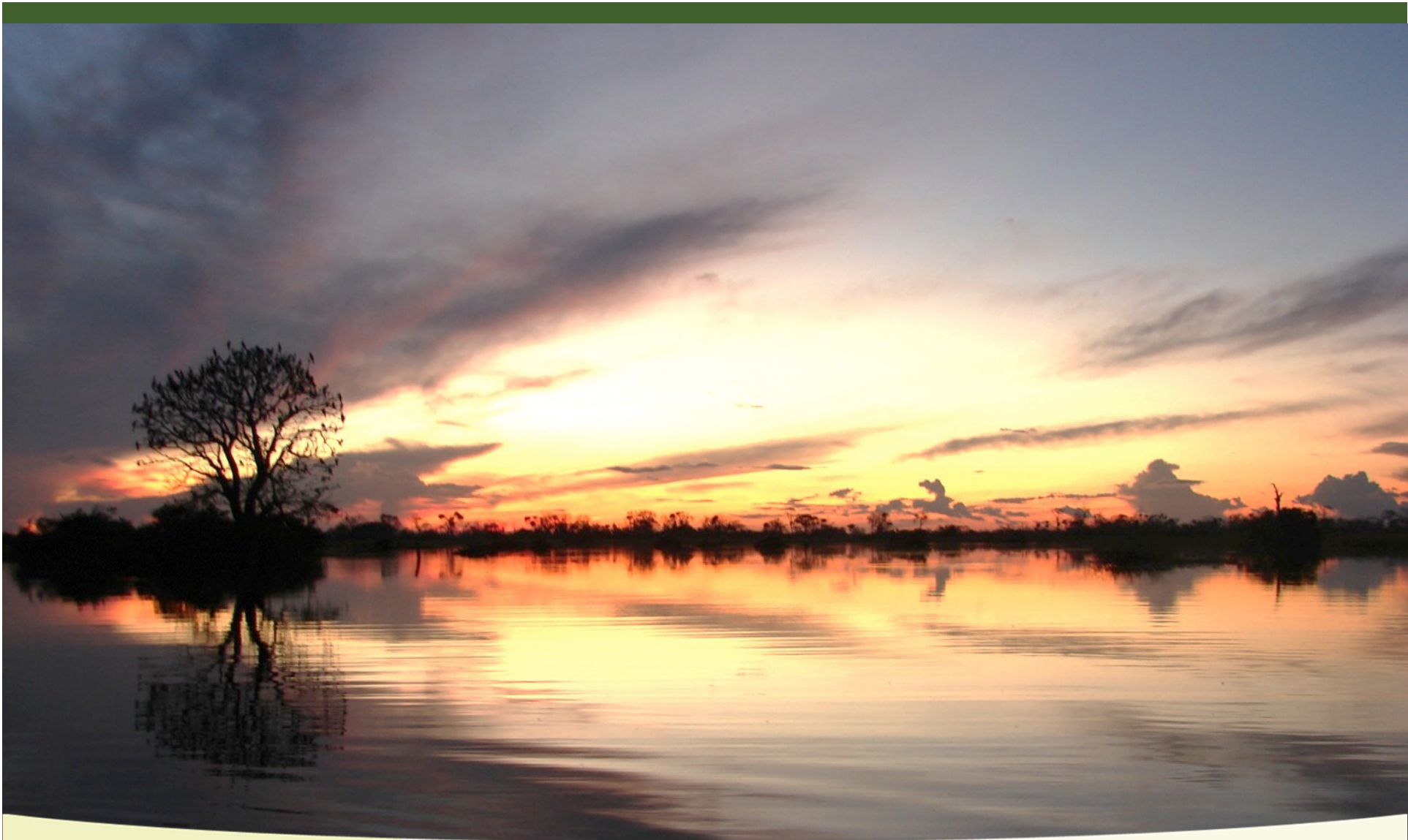
- IA of LAMIL project in West Africa – forest co-management intervention.
 - Outcomes assessed: household socioeconomic status; biodiversity & environment; governance & policies.
 - Mixed qualitative and quantitative methods (matched double difference).
- Sentinel Landscape baseline data.
 - Long-term monitoring and intervention sites.



Closing

- Planning to test more research -> policy IA methods:
 - Network analysis.
 - Qualitative comparative analysis.
- Looking for collaborators in developing and testing PORIA methods.





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