

# Community capacity, governance, social landscapes and FLR

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# Insights from:

- Baynes, J., Herbohn, J., Dressler, W. (2016a) Power Relationships: Their Effect on the governance of community forestry in the Philippines. *Land Use Policy* 54 pp. 169-176.
- Baynes, J. Herbohn, J. Fisher, R. Unsworth, W. (2016b) Enabling Conditions for Community-based Reforestation in PNG. Paper presented to 'Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement' conference, 2-5 December 2016, Edinburgh, UK.
- Baynes, J., Herbohn, J., Smith, C., Fisher, R., and Bray, D. (2015). Key Drivers Affecting the Success of Community Forestry in Developing Countries, *Global Environmental Change* 35, pp. 226-238.
- Baynes, J., Herbohn, J. And Unsworth, W. (2017). Reforesting the grasslands of Papua New Guinea: The importance of a family-based approach. *Journal of Rural Studies* 56 124-131.
- Gregorio N, Herbohn J, Harrison S, Pasa A, Fernandez J, Tripoli R, Polinar B. 2015. Evidence-based best practice community-based forest restoration in Biliran: integrating food security and livelihood improvements into watershed rehabilitation in the Philippines. In: Kumar C, Saint-Laurent C, Begeladze S, Calmon M (eds) Enhancing food security through forest landscape restoration: lessons from Burkina Faso, Brazil, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Ghana, Ethiopia and Philippines. IUCN, Gland, pp 174–217.
- Le, H.D., Smith, C and Herbohn, J.L. (2014). What drives the success of reforestation projects in tropical developing countries? The case of the Philippines. *Global Environmental Change* 24:334-348.
- Baynes, J. Herbohn, J. Gregorio, N. and Unsworth, W. Applying group and collective action theory to community forestry in a social landscape. Submitted to Environmental Conservation



# Overview

1. Community forestry and FLR
2. Biliran case study as a context
3. Power relationships and governance
4. Collective action and group theory as applied to CF and FLR
5. Community capacity and FLR
6. Our evolving ideas on the social elements of FLR



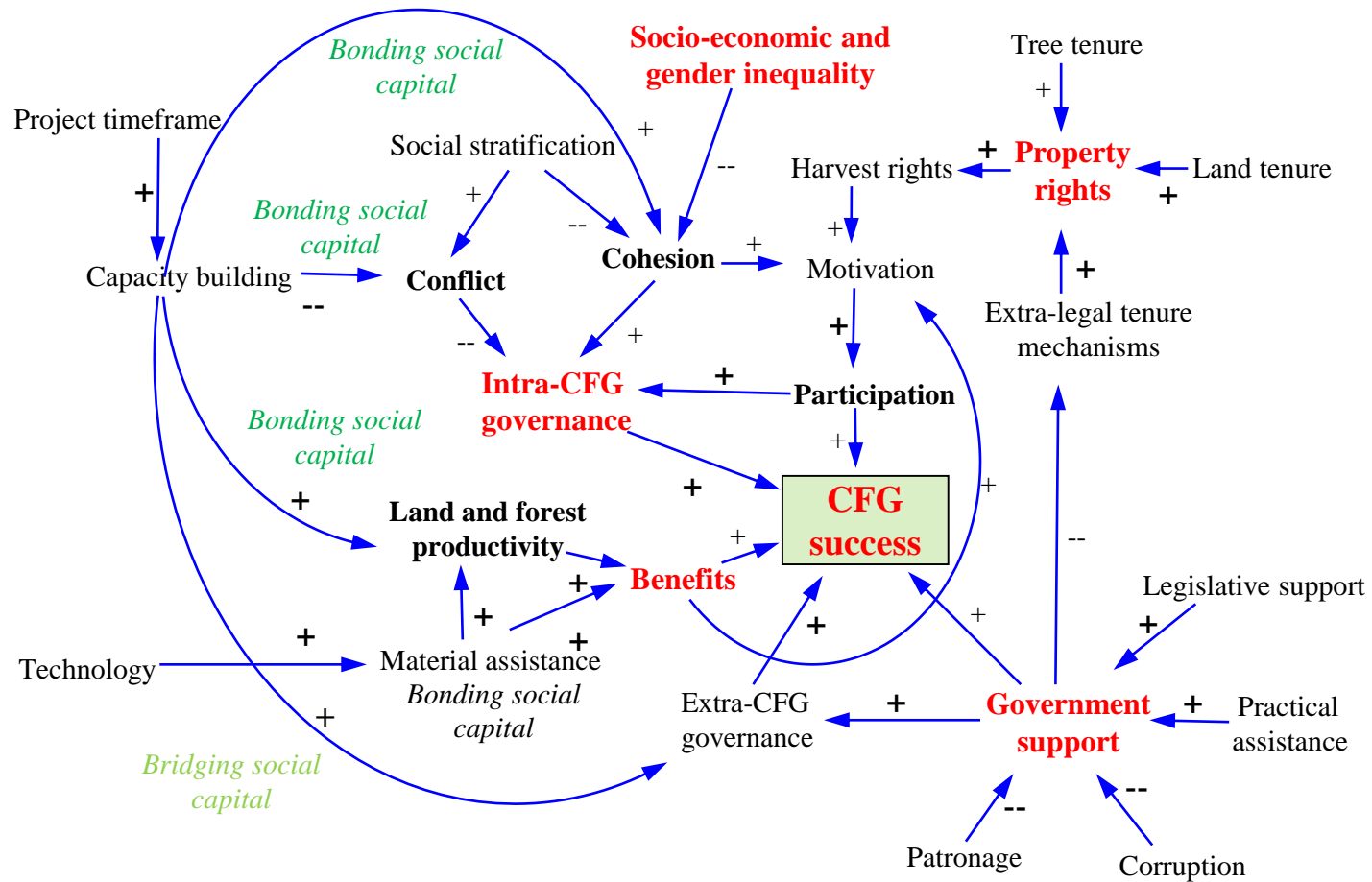
# 1. Community forestry and forest restoration

- Community forestry is the mechanism through which FLR will be implemented in many Asia-Pacific economies
- Success of community influenced by large array of factors



Community forestry helps restore degraded grasslands in Western Highlands, PNG

# Community dynamics, policy, social capital and livelihood issues



## 2. Bilran FLR pilot reforestation site



- 26 ha of upland in Kawayanon, Caibiran, Biliran Province
- Grassland, low soil fertility, rugged landscape, steep slopes, severe soil erosion and wind-affected ridges
- Poor community, swidden agriculture as major source of income and food
- Planted with trees under four national reforestation programs since the 1980s
- Regular fire occurrence decimated the trees
- Disbanded Peoples Organisation with poor experiences with previous reforestation programs

## Block 2

## Block 1

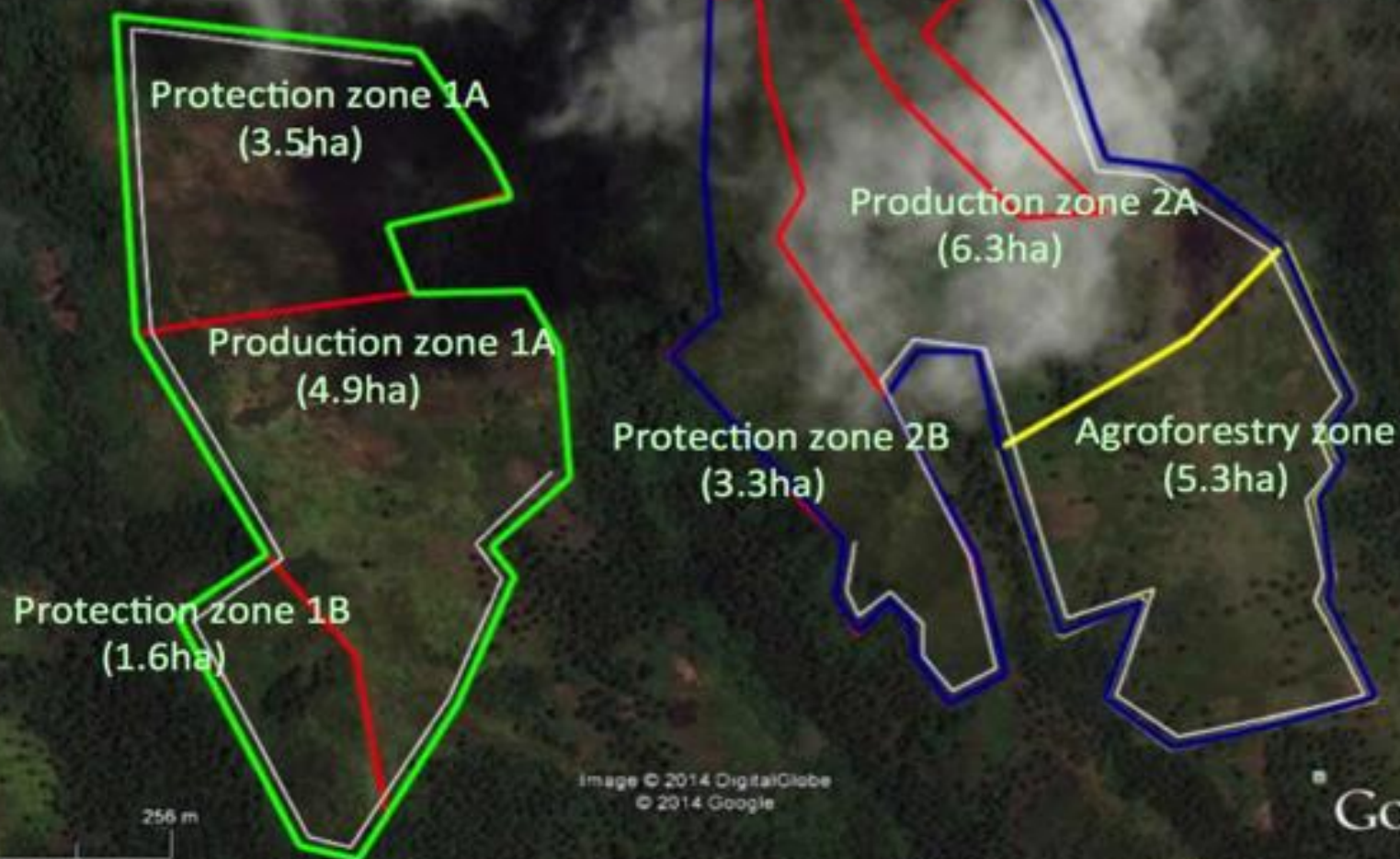
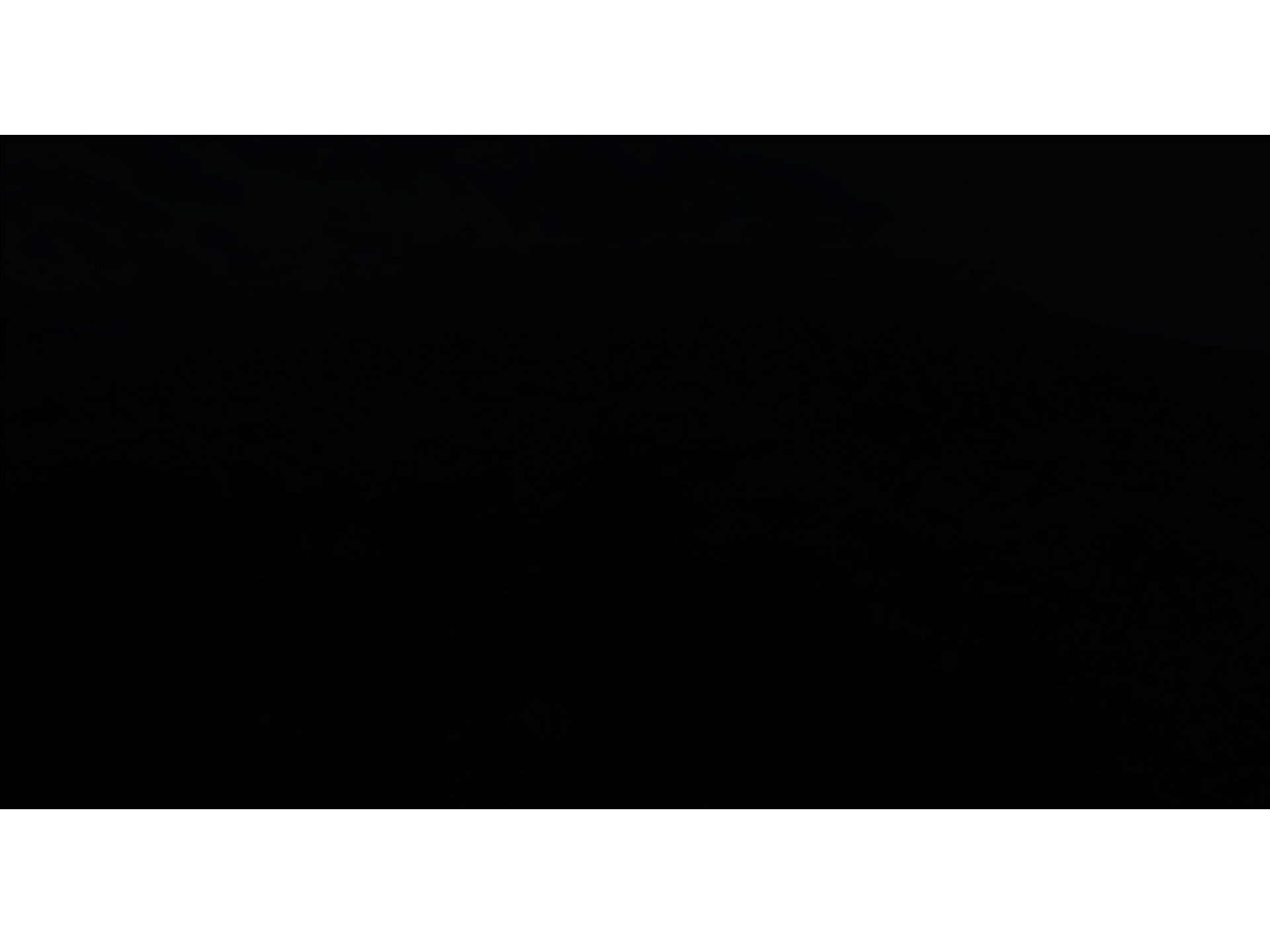


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# Lessons learned

1. Appropriate project design
2. Adequate social preparation
3. Necessity for a strong and honest PO leadership
4. Transparency in handling funds
5. Sustainable livelihood and food security measures
6. Sufficient project funds and timely disbursement
7. Adequate institutional arrangements and a supportive policy environment
8. Security of land tenure
9. Presence of extension officers
10. Women play a vital role in promoting the success of community forestry
11. 'Family-based' community forestry



*A member of the PO measuring trees **2 years** after planting*

### 3. Power relationships and their effect on governance of Community Forestry in the Philippines

- Devolution of power has long been considered to be a 'magic bullet' in the governance of CFGs.
- However, poor governance which involves unequal power relationships between state agencies, forest user groups and rural people, produces unequal access in decision-making, sharing of authority and responsibility.
- Engenders local resistance from those who feel excluded and marginalised in the process.

*20yr old A. mangium cleared for kaingin (right) and ringbarked for firewood (below)*



# Power relations and their effect on governance of Community Forestry

- Drawing on Bourdieu's notion of 'symbolic violence', we examined how unequal power relationships between State and local agencies have facilitated destruction of mature and newly planted timber plantations.
- Two case studies - harvesting trial involving mature A. mangium and the Biliran reforestation project as case studies
- found that the adverse effects of poor governance occurred at two tiers
  - upper level between the government and CFGs,
  - lower level between CFG's and local people

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# Power relations and their effect on governance of Community Forestry

## Conclusions:

- key requirement for sustainable community-managed forests is to expand benefit sharing to non-CFG local people
- poor governance at upper levels has triggered both symbolic and physical violence on and from people who remained marginal to the benefits of harvesting and reforestation.
- highlight the importance of lower-tier levels of governance within CFGs and between CFGs and local people.



# 4. Applying group and collective action theory to community forestry in a social landscape

- applied group and collective action theory to a case study of the success of community forestry at three sites in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and one site in the Philippines
- Training, material assistance and institutional support was initially effective in promoting collective action, but group heterogeneity re-emerged as a disruptive influence once active support ceased.
- Strong leadership and small group size acted as countervailing forces.
- We conclude that in PNG and the Philippines, attempting to scale up community forestry across a wide geographic landscape may not be feasible.



# Applying group and collective action theory to community forestry in a social landscape

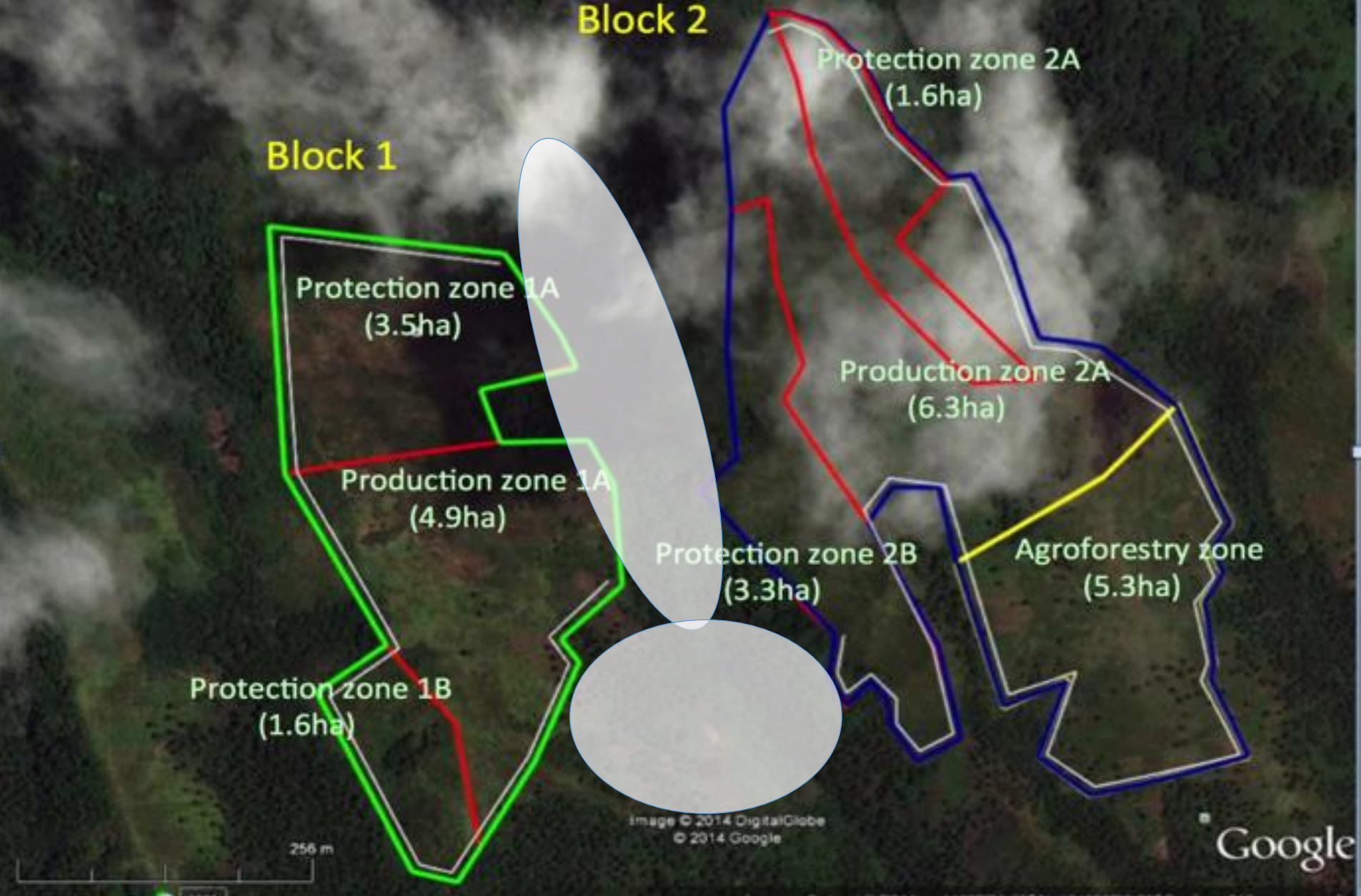
- Successful collective action to plant trees or manage forests is more likely on land on which group activities can be closely managed by their leaders, concomitant with sustained institutional support to develop a collective vision between heterogeneous sub-groups.
- For initiatives like the Bonn Challenge and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, our research suggests that planning and implementation policies should include a social as well as a geographic landscape.



# Applying group and collective action theory to community forestry in a social landscape

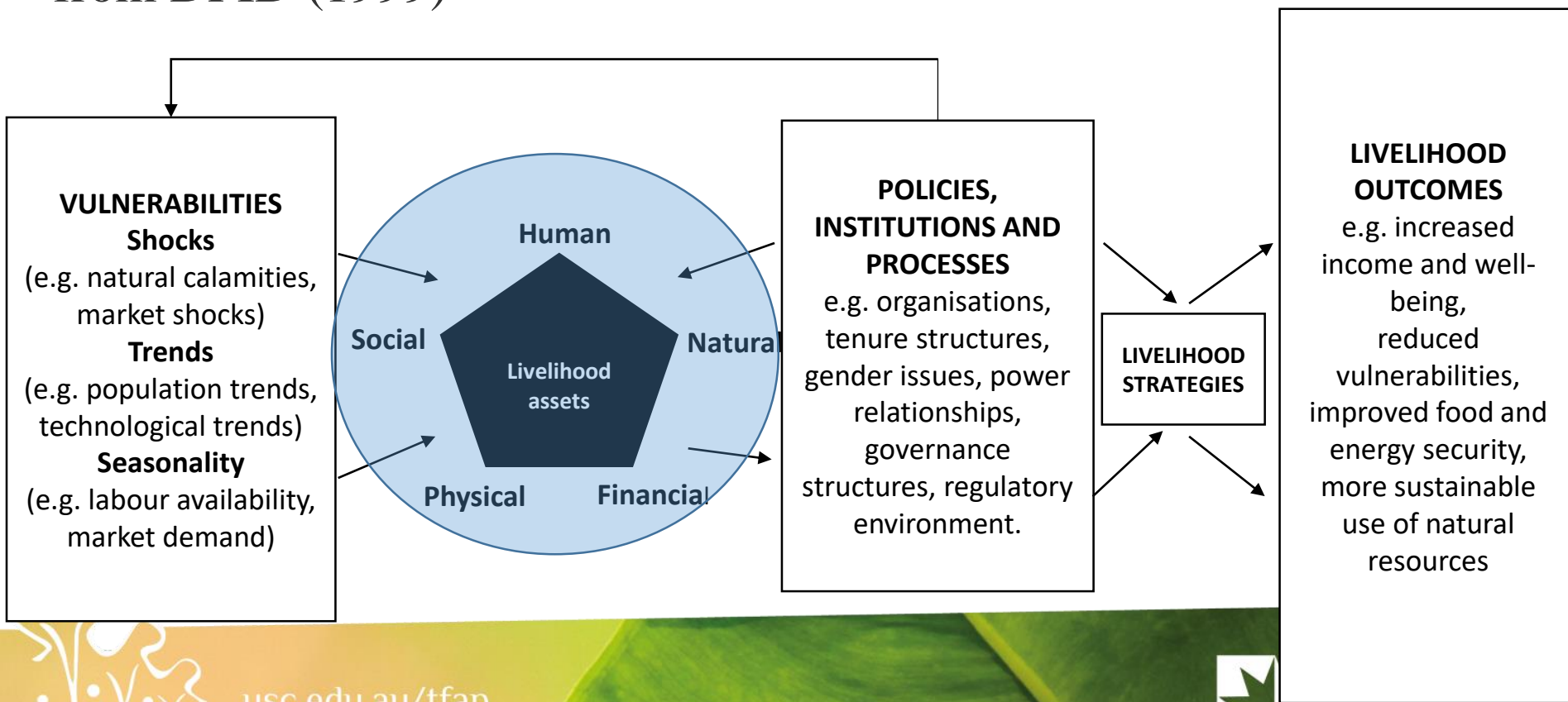
- Customary land tenure complicates community-based reforestation in Papua New Guinea;
- Without extensive investment in bridging social capital, a landscape approach to forest restoration may not be feasible;
- Highly targeted, do-it-yourself, assistance to individual families or family groups may be more effective than participatory approaches to community engagement.
- There are some areas where collective action is simply not worth the effort...

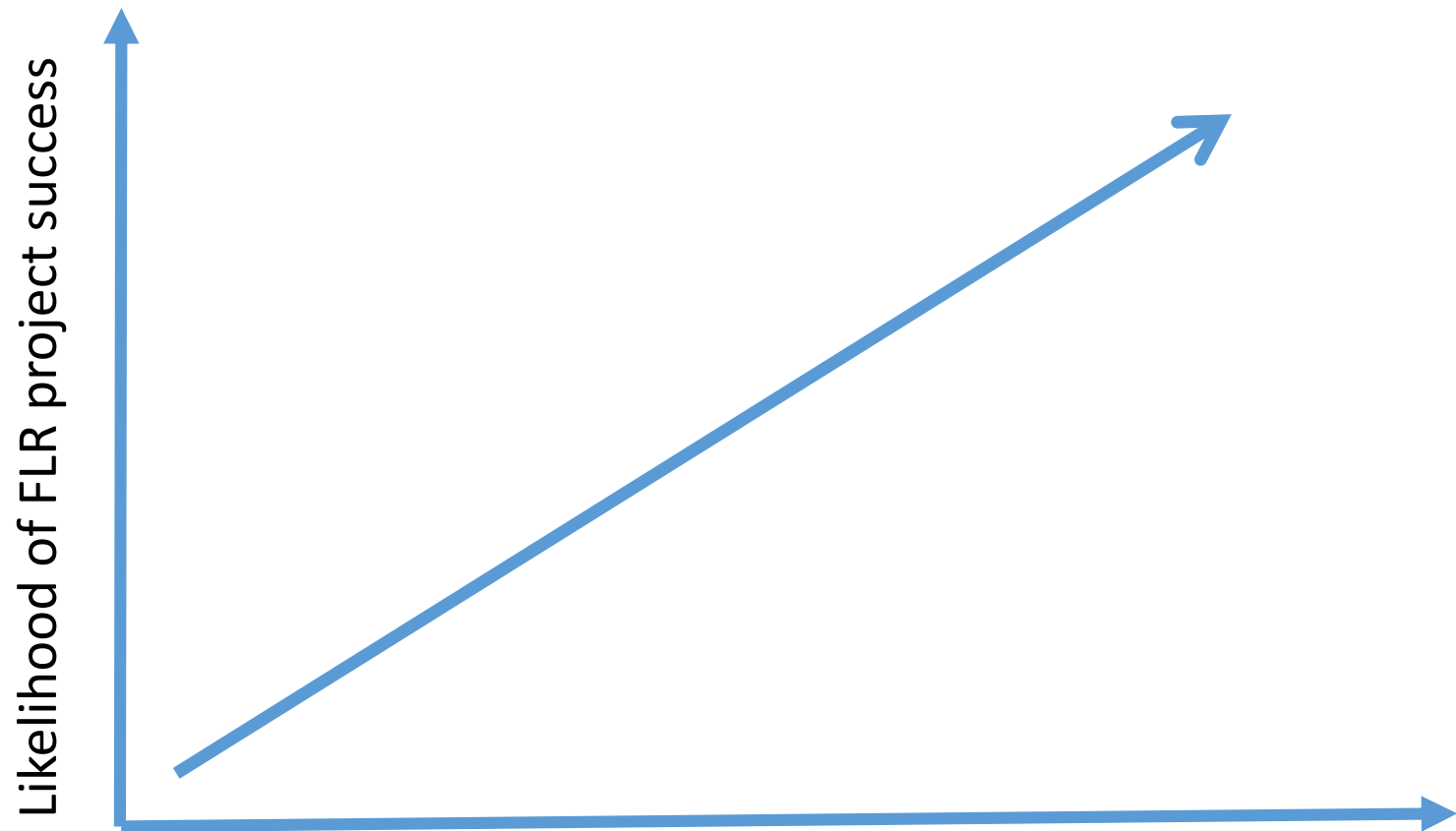




# 5. Community capacity and FLR

Sustainable livelihoods framework. Source: adapted from DFID (1999)

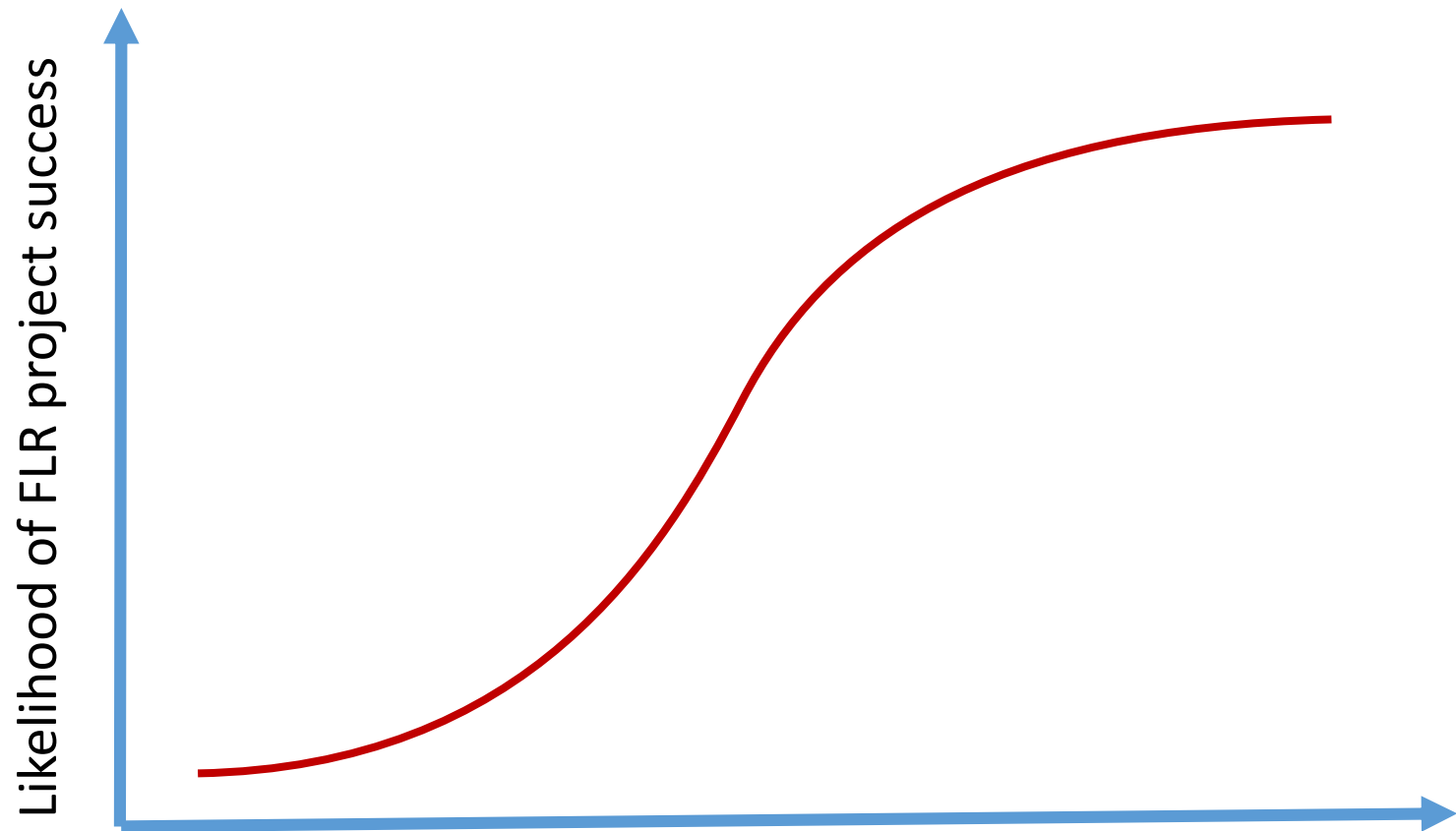




Existing capacity of community/smallholders to  
implement FLR

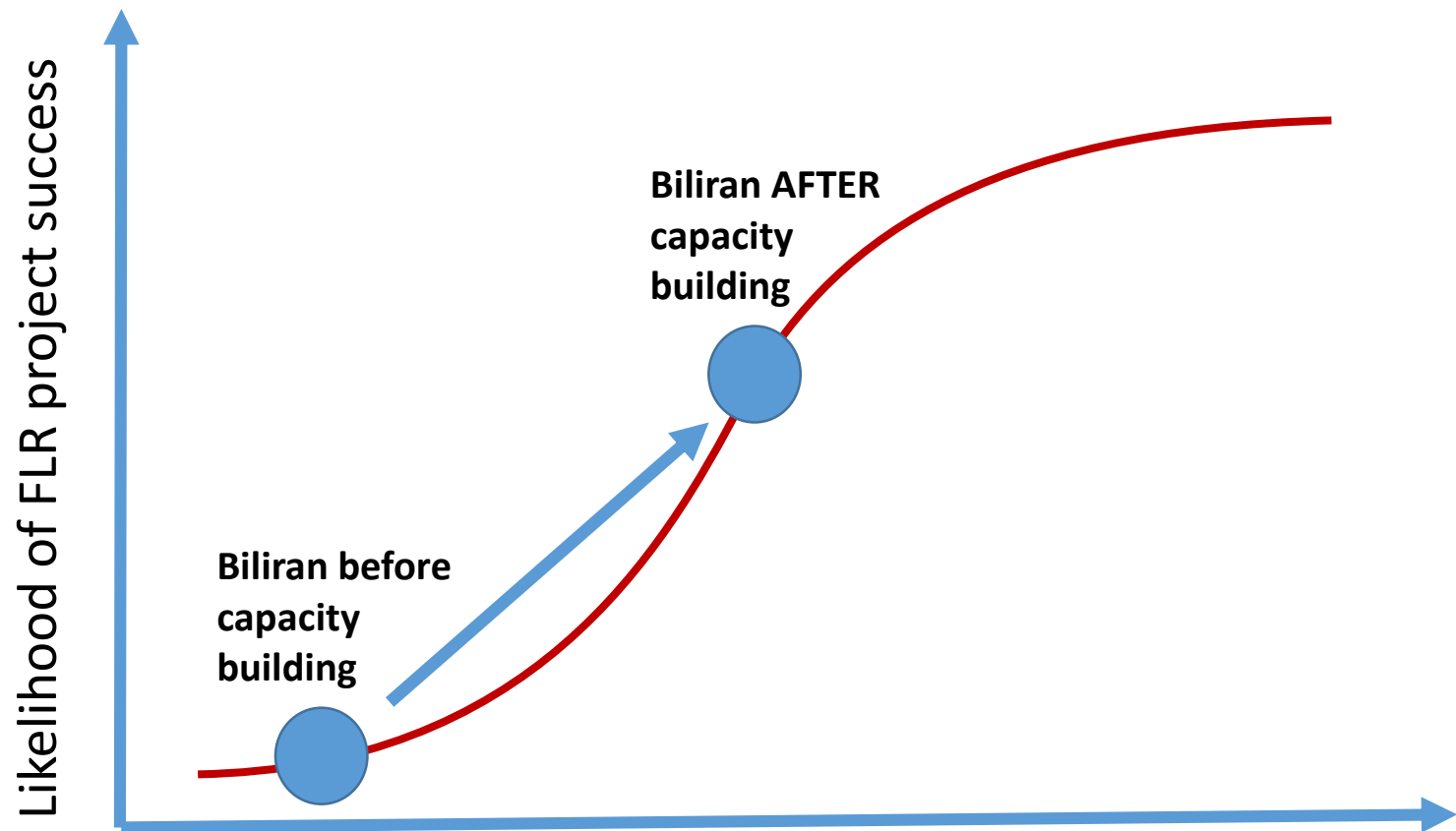
(Human, Natural, Financial, Physical, Social capital)

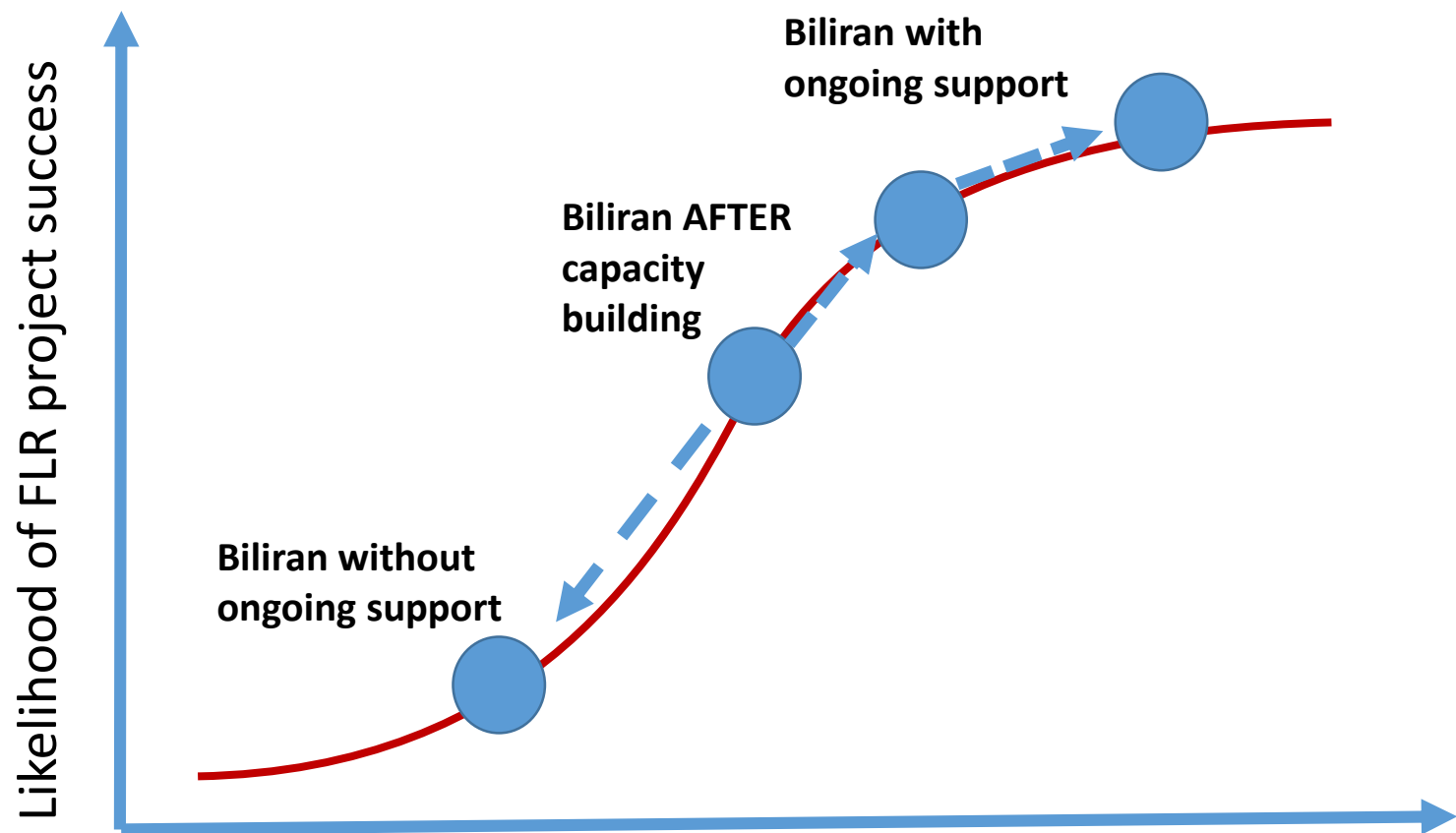




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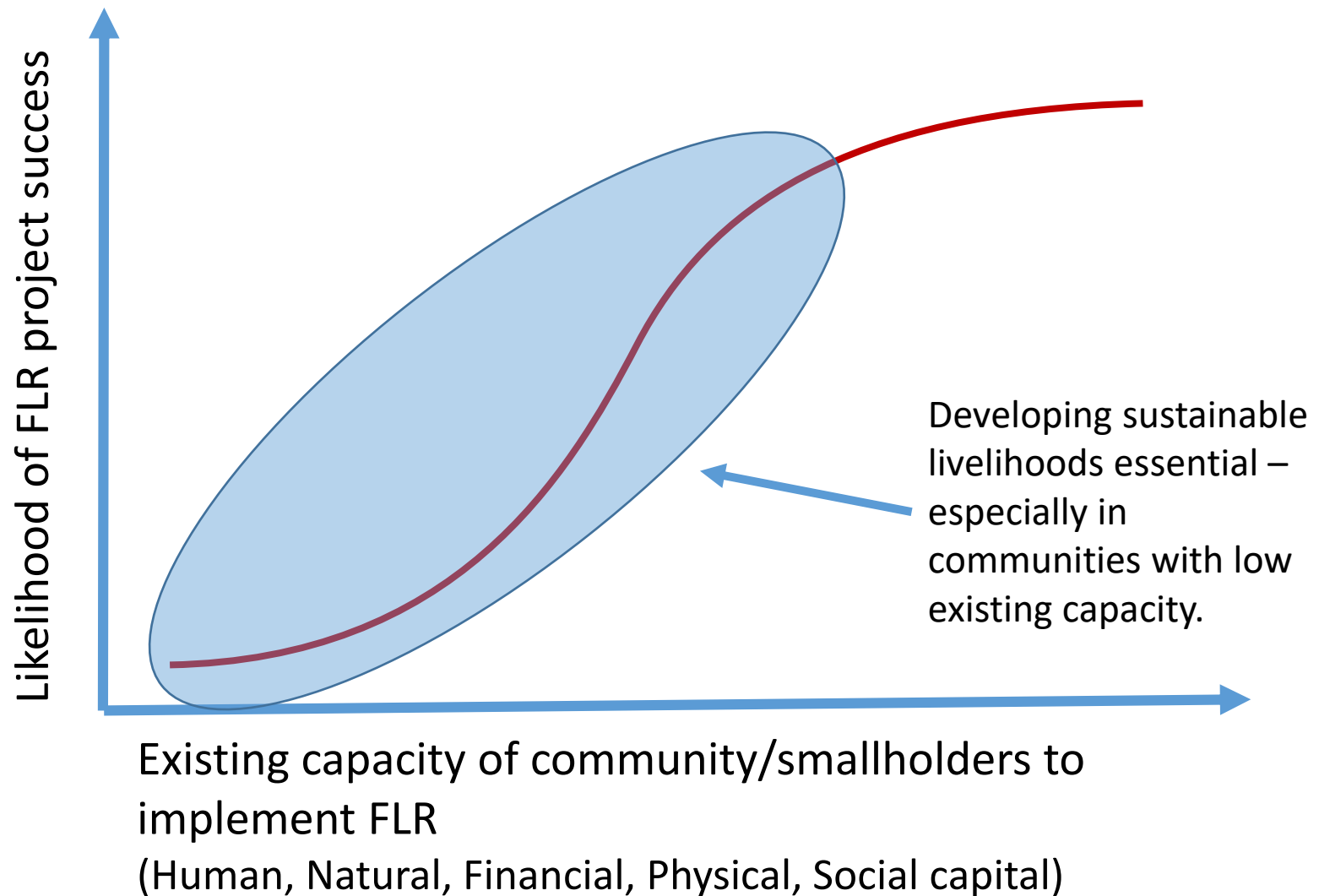
Livelihoods need to be incorporated into almost all FLR projects

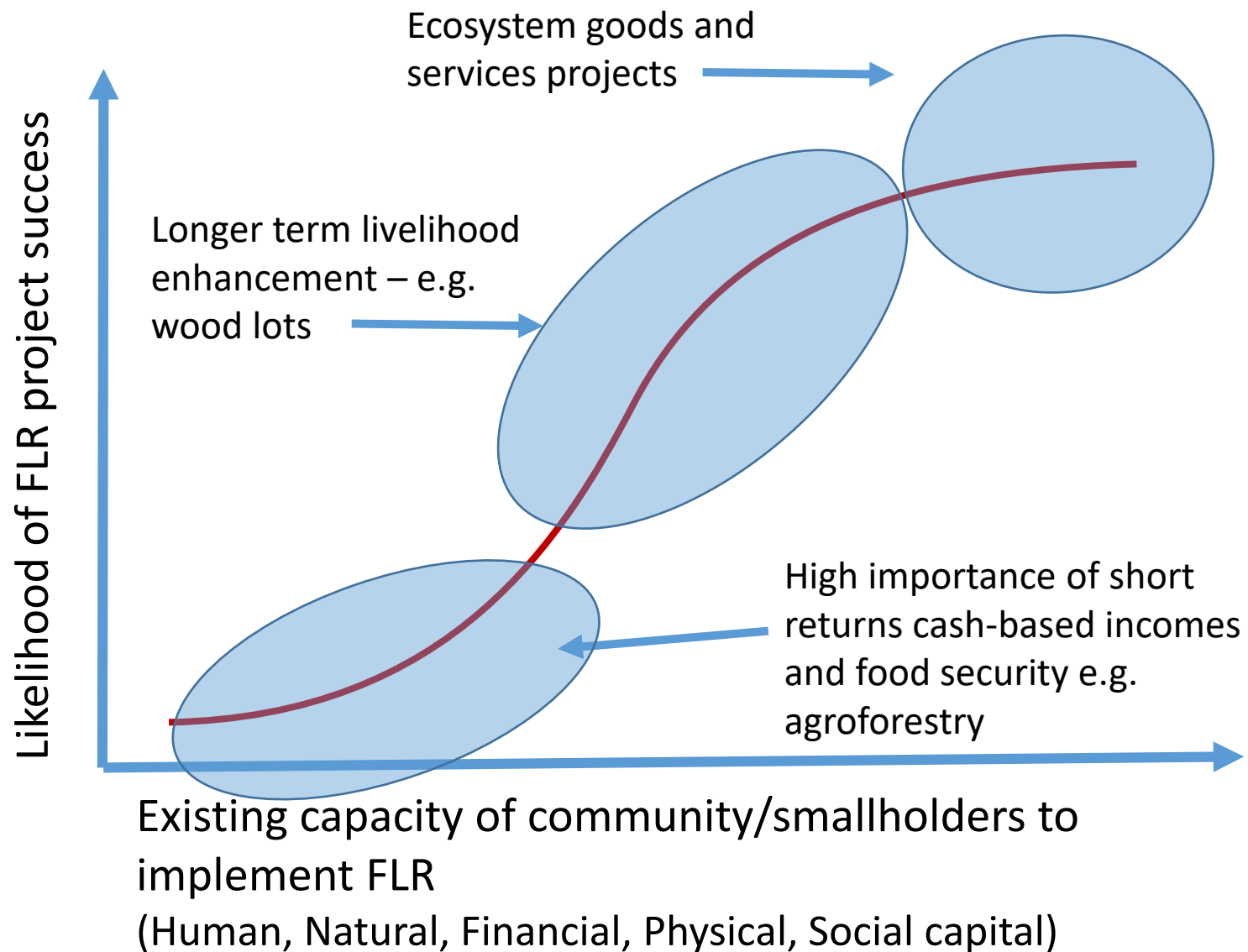


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## 6. Our evolving ideas on FLR, social landscapes and community capacity

- Need to better articulate how we define and operationalise social landscapes
- our cases showed that the first step is to identify the sites in the social landscape which are amenable to collective action
- groups which may have small membership but which possess the strong leadership to support collective action. In the geographic landscape, the land which these functioning groups control is possibly the only land on which reforestation may succeed
- Family-based community forestry is a model that is worth exploring
- To overcome governance and power issues requires substantial and sustained investments – much greater than the cost of planting trees
- Need to consider where communities sit on the community capacity reforestation curve and design context-specific interventions





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# Social elements of best practice

- Need to consider the social landscape as well as the geographic landscape
- Need to consider community capacity when designing and implementing FLR project – need to match the type of reforestation with the community and their stocks of livelihood assets
- Livelihoods need to be incorporated into almost all projects
- **Indicators used to measure success of reforestation need to move from simple metrics associated with area planted and short term survival of seedlings to include indicators of long term success (e.g. livelihood activities, long term survival of trees etc)**



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# The need for forest rehabilitation



Ex mega rice area in Kalimantan, Indonesia – more than 1 Million ha cleared and abandoned



Degraded and abandoned farmland in tropical Australia



Forest clearing in Myanmar



Severely degraded anthromorphic grasslands in the Western Highlands, PNG



Highly fragmented landscape 20 years post logging in Mindanao, Philippines

## Heavy deforestation and degradation in Asia/Pacific

- About 1.35 M ha annually
- 125 M Ha deforested land; 145 M Ha degraded forest
- Causes: fires, poor logging practices, access for shifting cultivations etc
- Various underlying issues/drivers

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# Forest restoration in the Asia Pacific

- Many economies in the Asia Pacific have developed substantial reforestation initiatives
- Philippines: National Greening Program – 7.1M Ha from 2017-2028
- Indonesia: reforest 5.5 M ha from 2015-2018
- China: Increased forest cover by over 120M Ha since 1949
- Viet Nam: Greening the Barren Hills Program and the 5 Million Hectares Reforestation Program
- At a regional scale APEC forum in 2015 pledged to boost forest land by 20M by 2020
- NGOs are also sponsoring reforestation/rehabilitation initiatives e.g. TNC in Myanmar
- Many of these initiatives are part of commitments that fall under Forest and Landscape Restoration
- (see FAO/RECOFTC 2016 Forest landscape restoration for the Asia Pacific)



# What is FLR?

FLR underlies the Bonn Challenge, a global initiative to restore 350 M ha of degraded forestland by 2030

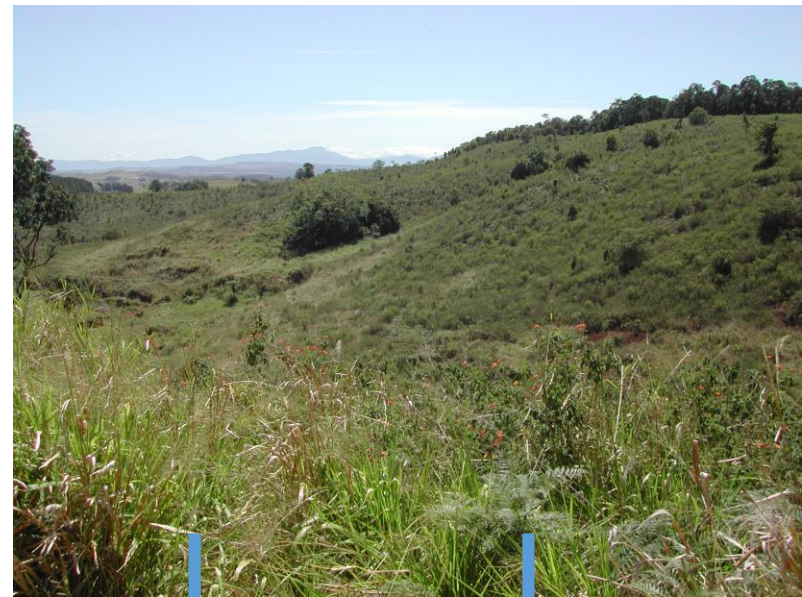
Ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes

Little is currently known about how to best integrate agriculture, forestry and forest restoration at a landscape scale

Community and smallholder forestry is the mechanism through which FLR will be implemented in many developing countries – especially in SE Asia and the Pacific

# Types of reforestation

- **Natural regeneration**
- Assisted Natural Regeneration
- Framework species methods
- Agroforestry
- Multipurpose farm woodlots
- High diversity plantings
- Large-scale monoculture plantations



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Mixed farm forestry plot at Matalom, Leyte. Tree species: *Acacia mangium* (brown boles) and *Eucalyptus deglupta* (green boles). Note also under-planting with bananas and pineapples



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