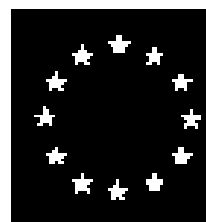




THE NATIONAL
FOREST PROGRAMME
FACILITY



Working Document for Forests and Livelihoods Action Learning Group (ALG)

Research Framework

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

1. Background

This research framework has been developed for the case studies under the regional project on ***“Practices and policies that improve forest management and the livelihoods of the rural poor in the insular Caribbean”*** funded by the European Commission’s Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries [2007-2009].

The overall objective of this project is to maximise the contribution of sustainable forest management to the rural poor of the insular Caribbean.

The specific objective is to identify, promote, and build capacity for institutional arrangements which optimise the socio-economic contribution of forest resources to the rural poor of the insular Caribbean.

2. Purpose and approach

The research framework defines the key areas that will be analysed in order to determine the relationship between the external environment that shapes the institution, the nature of the institutional arrangement, the degree of participation, and the socio-economic benefits and costs to the rural poor.

Each case study will therefore need to examine (to varying degrees depending on scale of the institutional arrangement being studied) the larger environment that shapes the arrangements, the external forces that shape that enabling environment, the arrangements themselves, the relationships and power dynamics between the different actors in the arrangement, and the benefits and costs to the rural poor.

The research framework is presented in Figure 1.

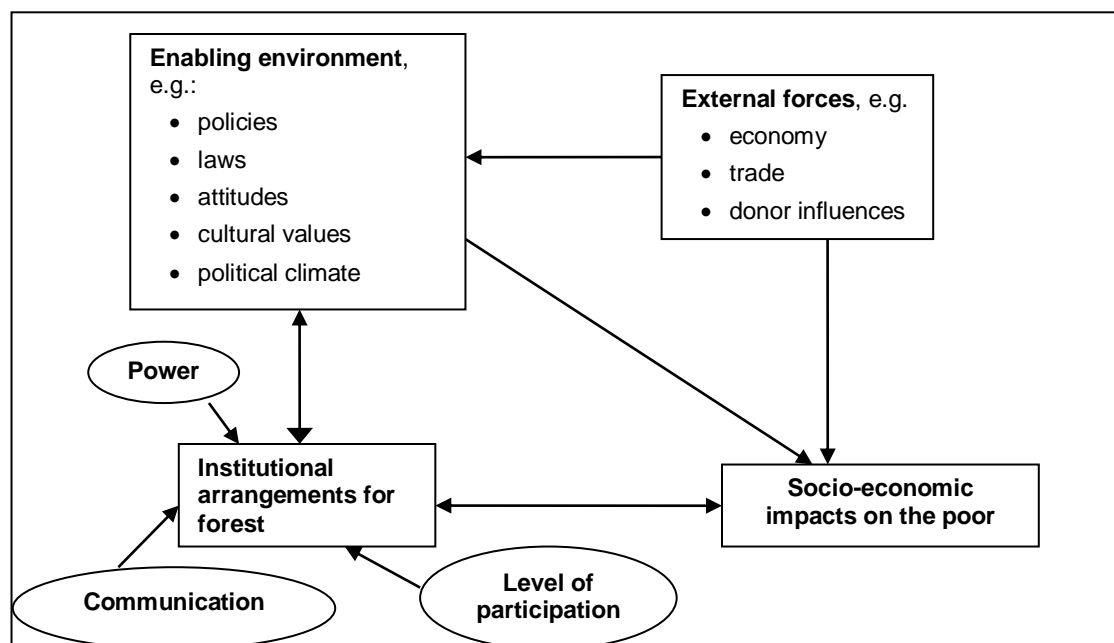


Figure 1: Research framework

3. Overarching research question

The overall research question is:

What type of institutional arrangement for forest management optimises the socio-economic benefits to the rural poor?

4. Thematic research questions

In order to examine this research question, the following thematic research questions will be examined:

1. *Enabling environment and external forces:* What factors (social, political, economic, etc.) have shaped a particular institutional arrangement and how do those factors influence the socio-economic benefits coming out of the arrangement and the way they are allocated among beneficiaries?
2. *Socio-economic impacts:* What are the socio-economic (livelihood) impacts (positive and negative) of a given institutional arrangement on the rural poor?
3. *Institutional arrangements:* How does the level of participation by rural poor stakeholders in a given institutional arrangement influence the generation and allocation of benefits to the rural poor?
4. *Capacities:* What are the key capacities and who has to have them in order to optimise socio-economic benefits to the rural poor from the use of forests?

Each case study will then identify specific issues and questions to examine within the context of these overarching research questions.