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## Key Emerging Issues for Forests and Livelihoods in the 21st Century - June 2019

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# Key emerging issues for forests and livelihoods in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



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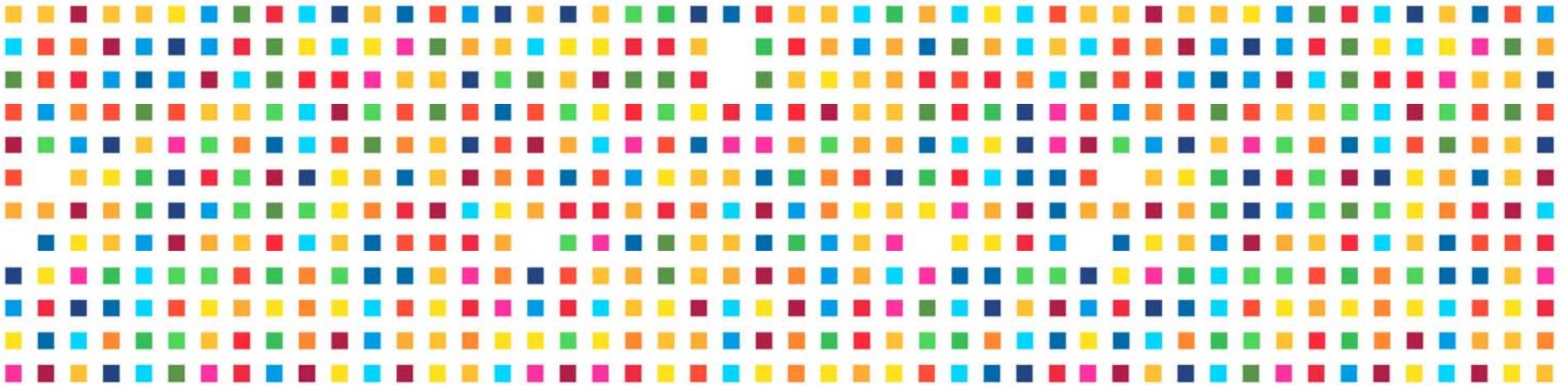


### **FLARE Mission and Activities Statement**

The mission of the FLARE network is to establish a **Community of Practice that advances the state of knowledge of the intersection of forests and livelihoods**. In bringing together stakeholders – researchers, practitioners, donors, and decision makers – FLARE will leverage efforts that enrich the understanding of forest-livelihood interactions.

**FLARE will focus on the developing and understanding THEORY, IMPLEMENTATION and IMPACT**

**THEORY: What are the most pressing conceptual, political, and practical issues concerning forests and livelihoods?**



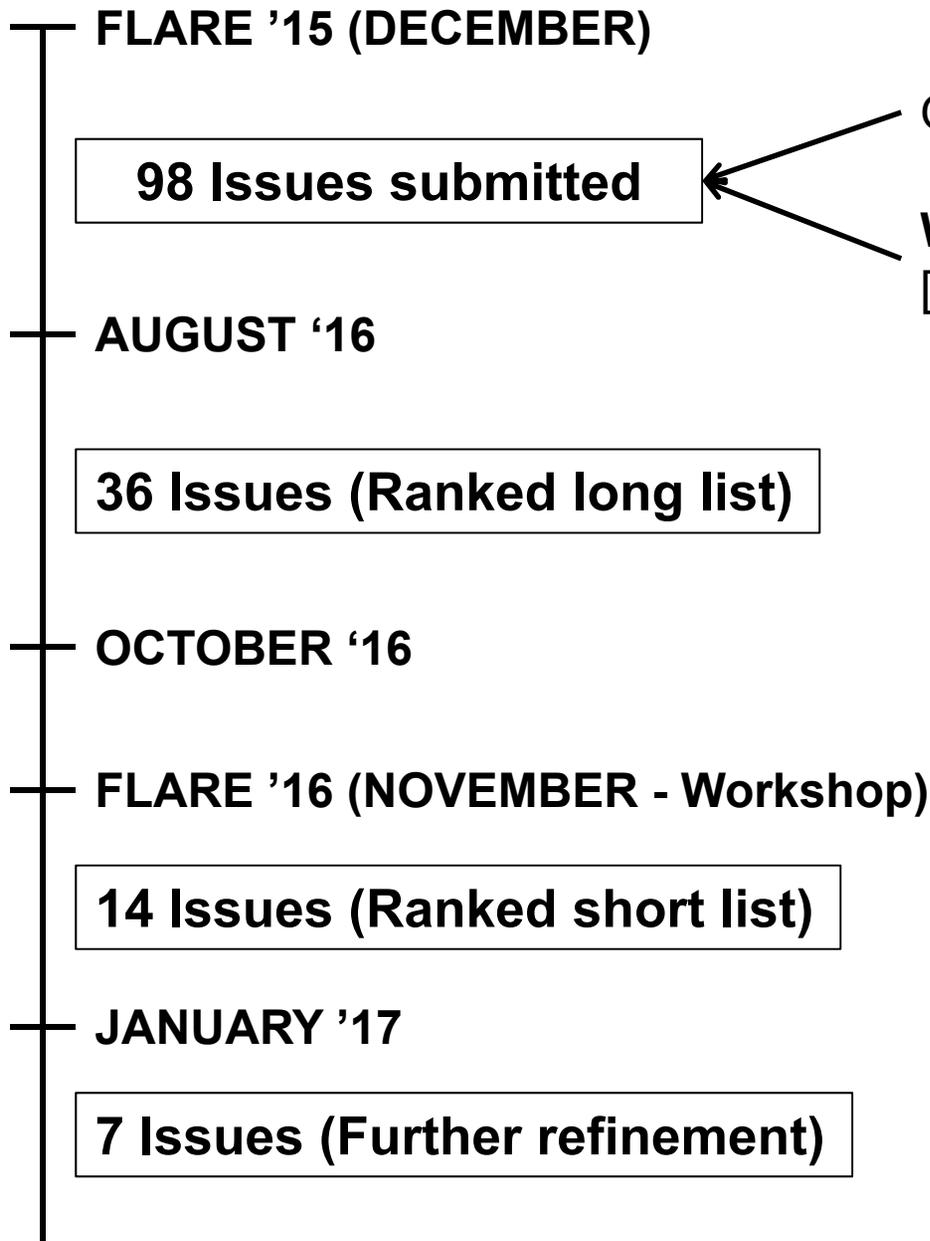
### **Straight after FLARE '15**

We started a open consultation looking for new themes that the SDGs agenda would bring to the forefront, or critical issues that are relevant to the SDGs but for which existing knowledge was insufficient.

#### **Themes had to be:**

- Related to forests and wellbeing.
- Formulated as a general theme (not as a question).
- Of a spatial and temporal scope that could reasonably be addressed through a realistic research design.

**Delphi-like technique**



Open consultation

**Working Group of 23 Experts:**  
[core set of people *and* an open invitation]



# Key emerging issues for forests and livelihoods in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

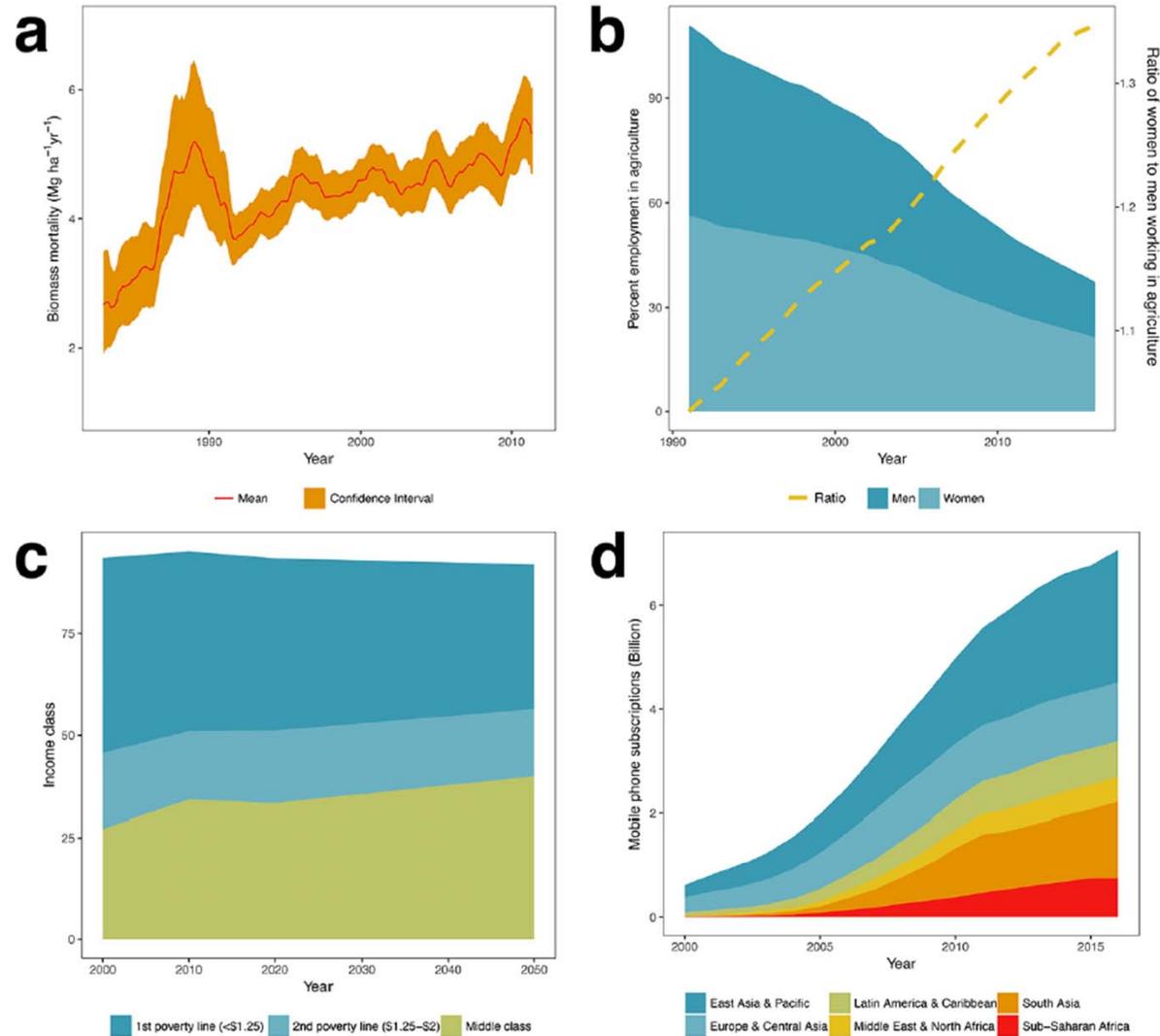
- 1:** Climate change and forest mega-disturbances  
*- Degradation, novel ecosystems, and zoning*
- 2:** Changing mobility patterns and gender relations in forest-dependent communities  
*- Changing demographic patterns and circular knowledge exchanges*
- 3:** Role of forests for meeting future demand for food and nutritional security  
*- How can forestry and agricultural sectors be managed in tandem*
- 4:** Rise of urban middle-class in the Global South  
*- Increasing demands for food (meat) and urban investments in rural areas*
- 5:** Step change in infrastructure, hydro-electric power development, and illegal mining  
*- 60% increase in length of roads by 2050 / 246 new hydroelectric dams in Brazil*
- 6:** Rise in the availability, access, and use of digital technologies  
*- Sevenfold increase in mobile phone subscriptions since 2000; ease of collection, compilation and dissemination of forest sector data, monitoring platforms.*
- 7:** Increased regulation and monitoring of supply chains, and possible perverse effects  
*- e.g.: zero-deforestation targets: concentration of large-scale production on already deforested lands, pushing people onto more marginal lands. Displacement of environmental degradation to other ecosystems (Savannahs).*

# Rejection is the Rule

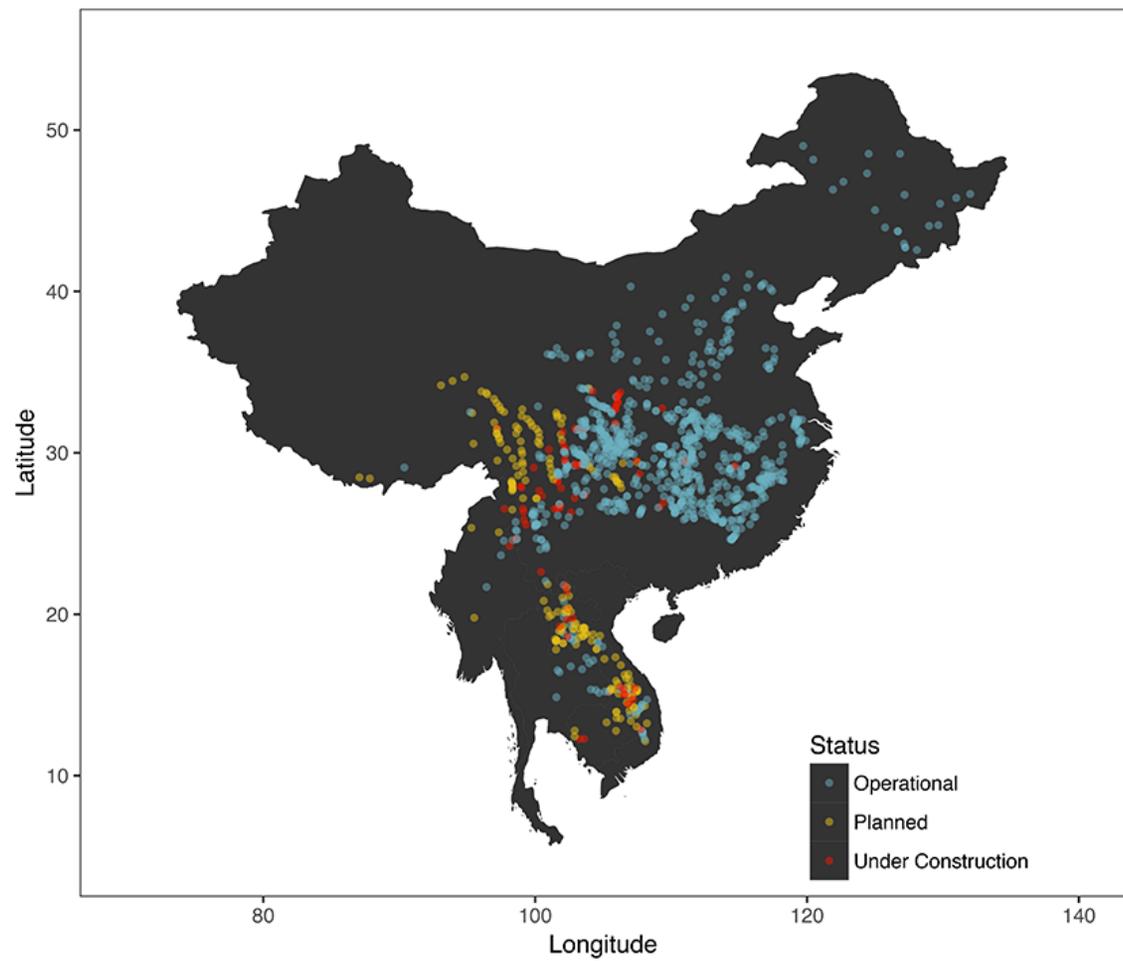
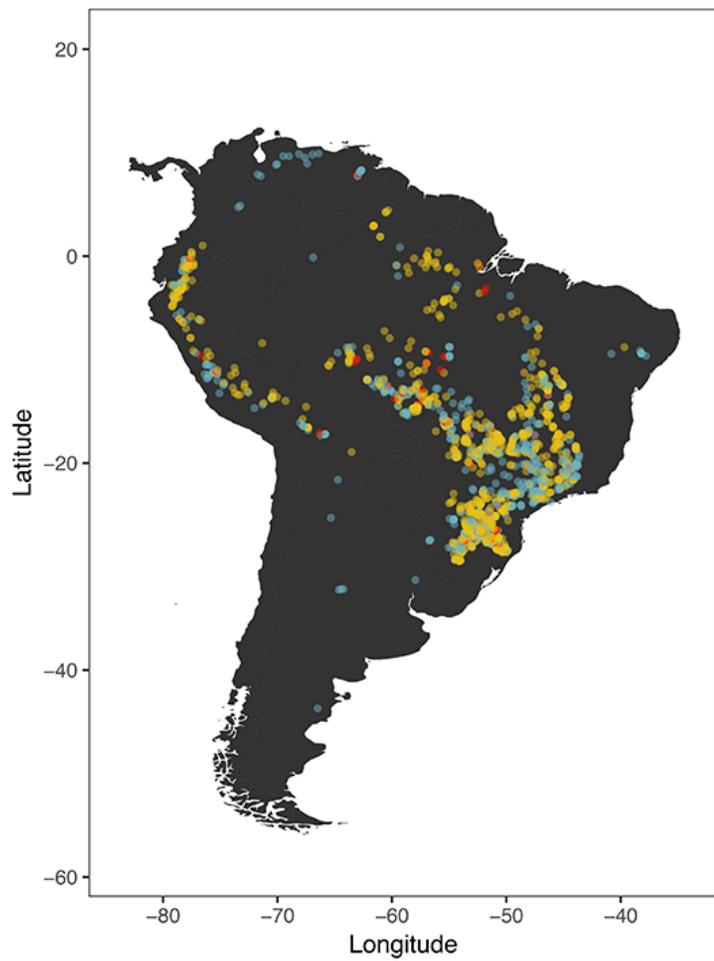
Dear Dr. Oldekop,

Thank you for your submission. After careful consideration and comments from two reviewers, we regret to inform you...

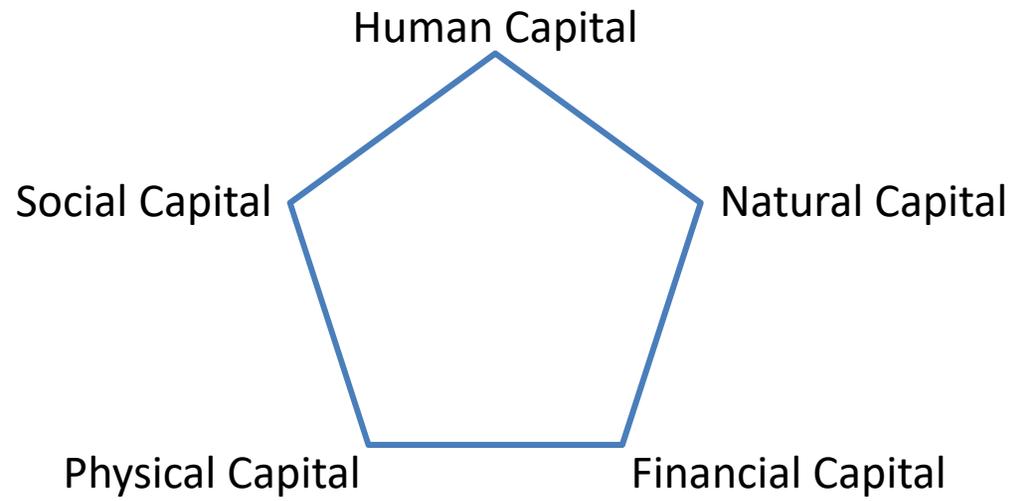
But would you be willing to consider writing a PERSPECTIVE (5000 words).



**Figure 2 | Changes in key socioeconomic and biophysical trends.** a-d, increased biomass mortality in 321 forest plots in the Amazonian rainforest (Brienen et al., 2015) (a), changes in the proportion of men and women working in agriculture in China (World Bank, 2018) (b), rise of the middle class in Africa (African Development Bank, 2011) (c), and increases in global mobile phone subscriptions (World Bank, 2018) (d).



# Forests and Livelihoods

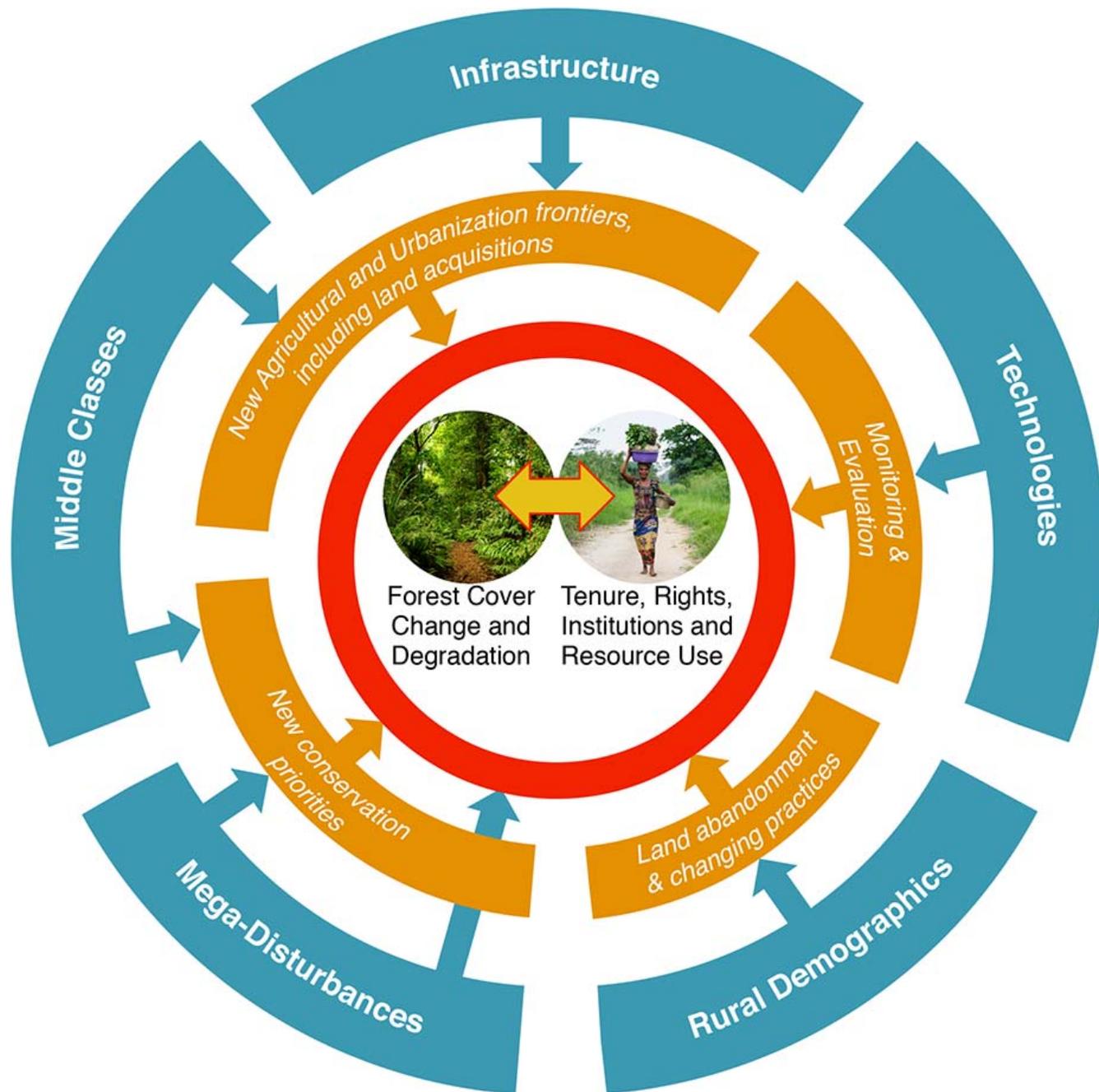


## Forces external to forest-dependent communities

New challenges related to forests and livelihoods at regional, inter-continental and global scales.

Issues identify emerging:

- **actors** (urban middle-classes in the Global South);
- **technologies** (ICTs and digital forest monitoring platforms);
- **mobility patterns** (changing gender relations and circular knowledge exchanges);
- **global trends** (forest mega-disturbances, sustainable commodity supply chains, agriculture and forestry interconnections, and accelerating infrastructure development and natural resource exploitation).



Infrastructure

Technologies

Monitoring & Evaluation

Rural Demographics

Mega-Disturbances

Middle Classes

New Agricultural and Urbanization frontiers, including land acquisitions

New conservation priorities

Land abandonment & changing practices



Forest Cover Change and Degradation

Tenure, Rights, Institutions and Resource Use

## **Expanding the forests and livelihoods research agenda**

- i) a move beyond case studies (or collections of case studies) of households or communities to understand these externally-driven biophysical, economic and political processes and how they affect local decision-making processes and forests,
- ii) a greater focus on causality to better understand causal chains and interactions between “novel” drivers of forest and livelihood change;
- iii) a deeper exploration of geographical scales to understand relative effects of different processes, their spatial heterogeneity, and how they accumulate at local, national, international levels.