



# The potential for a long-term impact evaluation program on forest reforms in East Africa (and beyond?)

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# Frustrations in the past

- Lack of baselines
- Small samples - not representative
- Cross-sections (rather than panels)
- Lack of interaction between researchers and project implementors:
  - What is driving implementation/selection?
  - Little feed-back from research to design
  - Research not acted upon
- Ad hoc choice of issues to be evaluated

# Opportunities:

- Similar forest sector reforms (at various stages) in a number of East African countries;
- Still early stages of implementation – better design, and upscaling can make a difference!
- Local capacity interested and capable to collect panel data in order to analyze impacts and affect design and implementation.
- LET'S TRY TO DO IT RIGHT!

# 1. Dialogue gov't - academia

Examples:

- SFA/Peking U with support of WB;
- Involvement in the review of the forest policy in Tanzania;
- Response to forest policy needs in Ethiopia.

=> Academic institutions can play an important role, but needs a long-term mandate to enable an iterative learning process.

## 2. What to analyze/evaluate?

1. Political motivations of reform (Godius)
2. Theoretically derived responses – 4D (Liz)
3. Market implications (Jintao)
4. Efficiency in forest management (Kei)
5. Implications of international interventions such as REDD(Erin)
6. "Indirect" effects such as choice of fuel/stove/health/gender effects etc (Subhrendu)

### 3. How to do it?

1. Careful and elaborate identification strategy
  - Representative sampling
  - Control for selection in implementation
  - With/without, before/after
  - Panel data
2. Domestic academic institutions with "stake"  
(ie capacity, interest and stamina)
3. Inter-disciplinary

# Potential components

- Modelling
- Data collection
- Capacity building
- Experience sharing
- Focus on:
  - Design
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation
  - Forest management
  - REDD-readiness

## 4. Potential stakeholders

- Government agencies
- Academic institutions
- Forest associations
- International organizations (RRI, AFF, CIFOR, IFPRI...)
- Donors

## 5. Next steps

- Reactions, comments, interests welcome, relationship to other related initiatives;
- Drafting of proposal;
- Stakeholder consultations;
- Identification of donors;