Scenarios of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Offsetting Mechanisms in the Forests of the Congo Basin

Background in formation

- The forests of the Congo Basin: 10% of the wildest areas on Earth….

- They have been classified as globally outstanding for their biodiversity….

- Level of threat on biodiversity is comparatively low compared to other eco-regions in Africa….

(Sanderson et al. 2002; Scholes & Biggs 2010)

- The loss of rainforest is an emerging issue in the Congo Basin.

(Scholes & Biggs 2010)

The forests of the Congo Basin will change in the coming decades:

- The 21st century could thus mark a transition for the biodiversity of the Congo Basin, with forests approaching the limits of their resilience as climate change modifies precipitation patterns

(Mayaux and Malingreau 2001).




POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Mining and the African Environment

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ORIGINAL PAPER

Agro-industrial plantations in Central Africa, risks and opportunities

Laurène Feintrenie

- **The potential impacts of these measures are huge, and not well understood…..**

One potential mechanism for mitigating these pressures is biodiversity offsetting,

Biodiversity offsetting

wherein a developer contemplating a project that will destroy a habitat will design, fund and implement conservation actions elsewhere to compensate for that loss.

General Objective :

- **To provide guidelines** and identify critical bottlenecks, pitfalls and opportunities for **the successful implementation of compensation mechanisms**…..

- That will enable better trade-offs between conservation and development in the landscapes of the Congo Basin, particularly the TriDom.

In order to achieve this, the project will

1. **Understand the systems:**

- Identify, characterize and analyze compensation mechanisms and social and environmental responsibility…

- Policies developed by public and private operators in the TriDom landscape, as well as the rules, norms and policies surrounding their development.

In order to achieve this, the project will

2. Construct scenarios:

- Develop participatory, trans-sectoral scenarios to analyze the links between the implementation of large-scale compensation schemes, the changes of biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services….

In order to achieve this, the project will

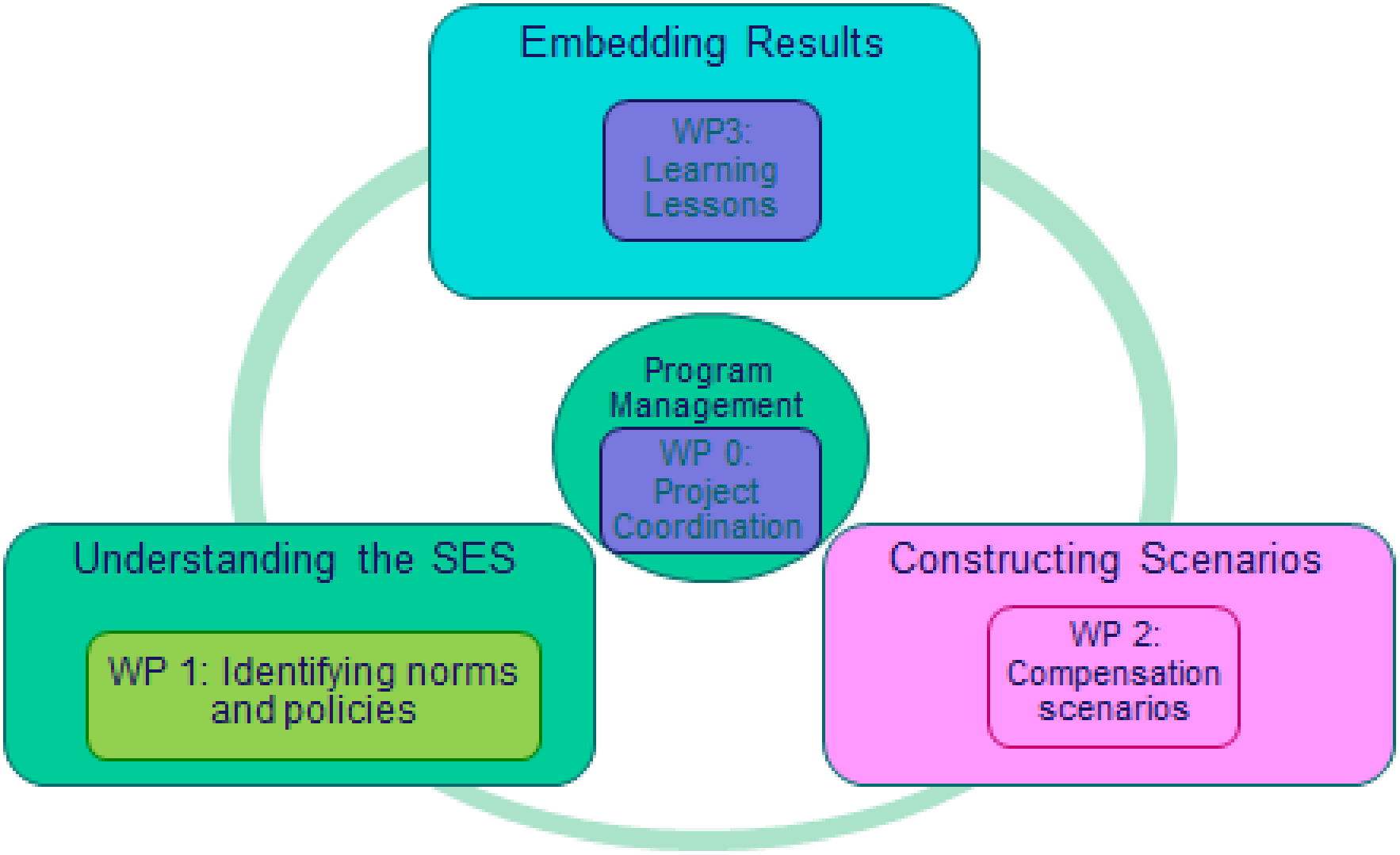
3. Embedd results:

- Propose narratives of possible futures for the TriDom Landscape, and guidelines for the design and implementation of compensation mechanisms,

- Through an efficient science policy interface, embedding the results of our research in the decision making process at the regional and national levels

Project Structure

CoForSet



Expected results and benefits

- The results from CoForSet will enable policy makers and stakeholders to assess the benefits and risks of such mechanisms, and

importantly help to identify the factors which contribute to such mechanisms achieving desired conservation benefits.

Deliverables relevant for stakeholders

WP0:

I. Training of African partners to participatory modeling of scenarios

WP1:

II. Evidence Based Review of offsetting schemes (report)

WP2:

III. A process of participatory modeling and scenario exploration with stakeholders in the TRIDOM.

WP3:

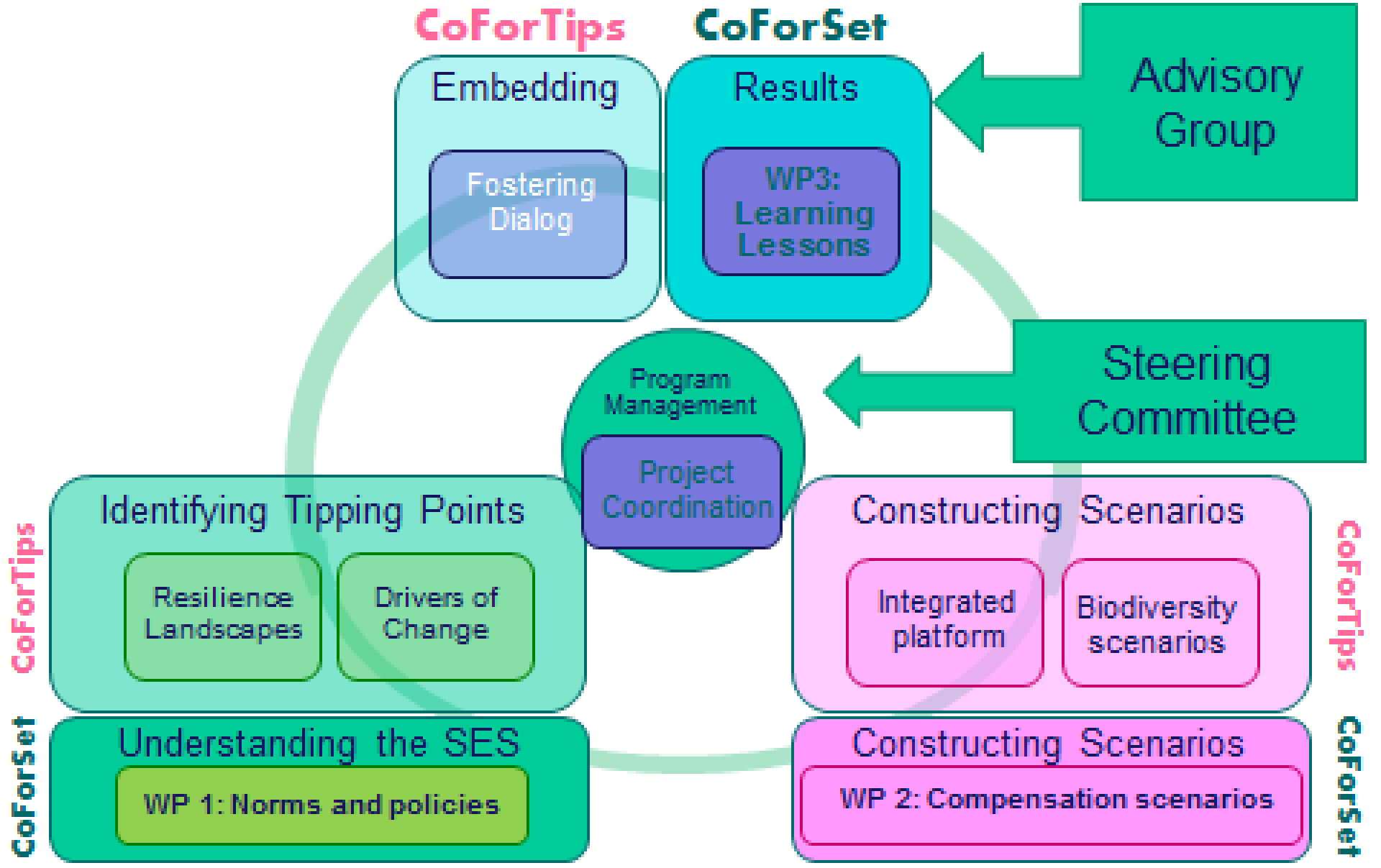
IV. Policy brief on the outcome of scenario modeling

V. Guidelines to design and implement biodiversity offset mechanisms

VI. Training for public and private operators on biodiversity offsets

Project Structure

CoForTips + CoForSet



Partners

CIRAD
IRET
IRAD
BIOTOPE

The partnership with African academic institutions is built upon FORENET, a forestry research network initially created in Africa

(1) Indefor (Guinee Eq), (2) IRET (Gabon), (3) IRAD (Cameroun), (4) Univ Douala (Cameroun), (5) Univ M. Ngouabi (RC), (6) Univ Bangui (RCA) , (7) ERAIFT (RDC)

IUCN
WWF
WCMC
GEMBLOUX


THANK YOU