Understanding the political economy of REDD+ national processes

Monica Di Gregorio and Maria Brockhaus

Bonn, 16th May 2012
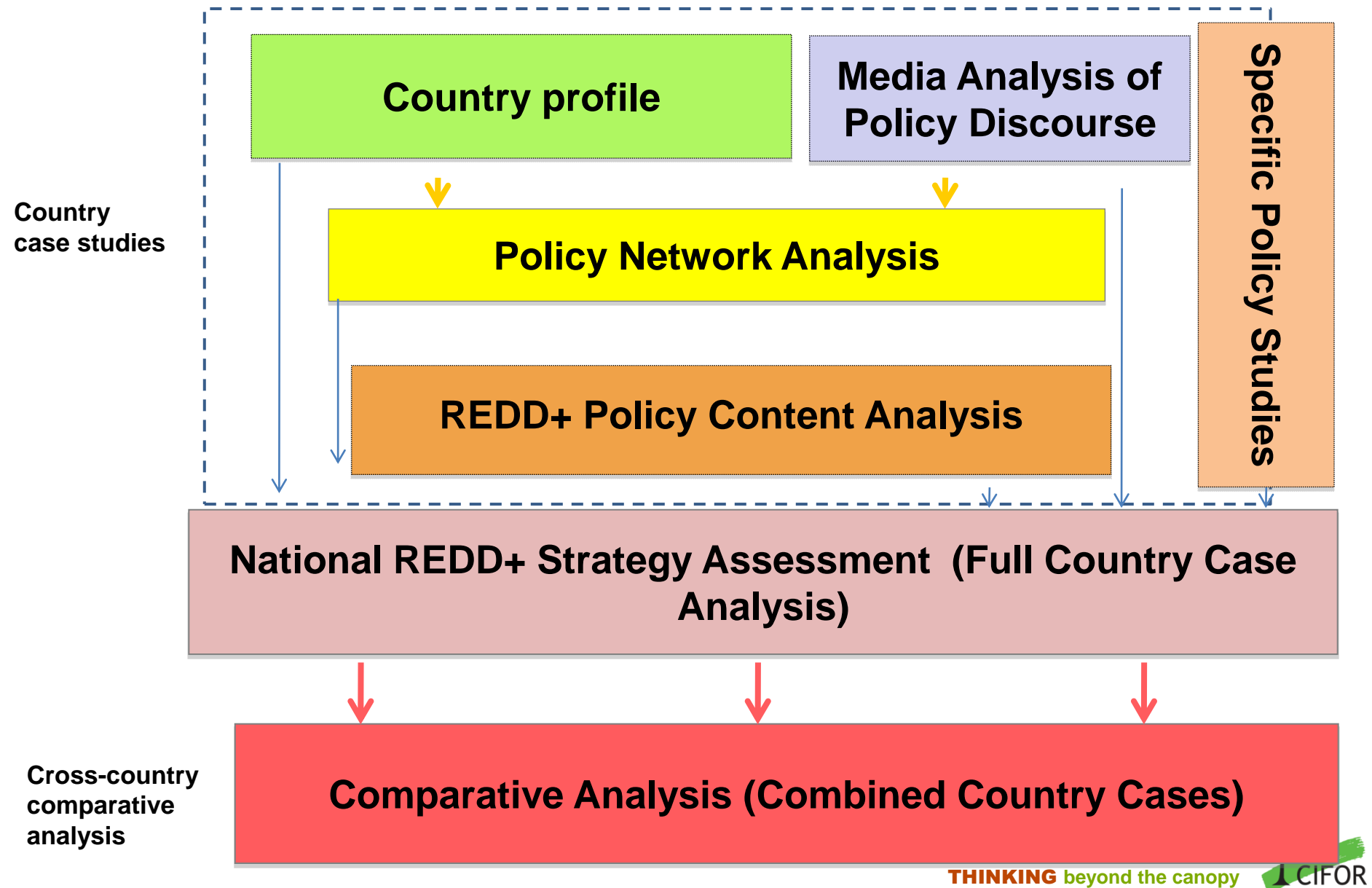
THINKING beyond the canopy

CIFOR

Analysis of national REDD+ policies and processes in 12 countries since 2009

Research Design

Country case studies

Country profile

Media Analysis of Policy Discourse

Specific Policy Studies

Policy Network Analysis

REDD+ Policy Content Analysis

National REDD+ Strategy Assessment (Full Country Case Analysis)

Cross-country comparative analysis

Comparative Analysis (Combined Country Cases)

THINKING beyond the canopy   CIFOR

Political Economy Framework

Institutional and political path-dependencies
•Institutional arrangements (especially related to land use)
•Past policies supporting or clashing with REDD+
•Level of inclusion of political processes

Actors' interests
•**Sectors driving D&D**
•**State: level of autonomy**
•**Civil society**
•**International actors**

Actors' ideas
•**Beliefs and ideology**
•**Development model**

Policy process
Political coalitions, cooperation or contention
to move from:

Business as usual:
State capture by DD sectors
Low inclusiveness in policy processes
Int. actors dominate nat. policy processes
Business as usual dominant coalition

Shifts in economic incentives, discursive practices and power relations

Transformational change:
State autonomy from DD sectors
Inclusive policy processes
State leads policy processes
Transformational coalitions

Key findings context, policies & path-dependencies

- **Slow progress** in formulation of national REDD+ strategies
- National **policies facilitating D&D** reveal lack **of autonomy** of the state vis-à-vis business
- **Regime types** influence **level of inclusion** of REDD+ policy processes (Vietnam, Nepal etc)
- **Decentralization and recentralization** processes in forestry (RI, DRC..) affect **participation** in policy processes and **benefit-sharing**
- Historical path-dependencies (colonial and post-colonial) **affect land tenure** arrangements affect **benefit-sharing**
- **Weak governance** challenges most countries (mostly unrecognised by political elites) - **capture** by special interests

CIFOR

Key findings: policy actors shaping media discourse

- **State actors** dominate media and policy discourse in **Indonesia, Brazil, Vietnam** and **Bolivia**

- **International actors** dominate media and policy discourse in **Cameroon, Peru**

- **Civil society** (forest user associations) dominates media and policy discourse in **Nepal**

CIFOR

Key findings: media discourse analysis

- REDD+ media discourse reflects the stage of policy processes and actors interests

- Most state actors do not challenge institutional path-dependencies and policy constraints

- Business largely absent from the media and operates mainly behind the scenes

- Civil society is the main actor in transformational coalitions, but is isolated and weak

- Business as usual coalitions are dominant; coalitions for transformational change are minority coalitions

THINKING beyond the canopy

CIFOR

Overall findings

- Preconditions for overcoming politico-economic hurdles:
  - relative autonomy of state actors from key interests driving D&D
  - national ownership of REDD+ policy processes
  - inclusive REDD+ policy processes
  - presence of coalitions for transformational change
- Major challenges where international actors are the only force driving REDD+ policy processes
- Transformational coalitions need participation of both state elites and business actors

Source: Di Gregorio, Brockhaus, Cronin and Muharrom. 2012. A comparative analysis of politics and power in REDD+ national processes, in Angelsen et al (eds). Analysing REDD+: challenges and choices. CIFOR, Bogor (forthcoming).

THINKING beyond the canopy

CIFOR

Overcoming challenges to achieve transformational policy change …

AGENTS OF CHANGE

- robust policy coalitions for change to move beyond rhetoric

ANALYSIS

- tailored policy mix to respond to drivers of D&D needs further quantification of sectoral contributions to D&D (national and sub-national scale)

COORDINATION

- reviewed legislation and strengthen coordination of land-use policies

POLICY LEARNING

- established information flows and learning mechanisms that feed past experiences and pilot activities outcomes back into the policy process

Output so far...

http://www.forestsclimatechange.org/global-comparative-study-on-redd/national-redd-processes-and-policies.html

Acknowledgements

THINKING beyond the canopy

CIFOR