

Impact Assessment in Landscapes Research: Practical & Conceptual Considerations

Impact Assessment and Landscapes in CGIAR

Workshop organized by CGIAR ISPC's
Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)
Protea Hotel, Technopark,
Stellenbosch, South Africa
Monday, 8 October 2018

Prof. Brian Belcher
Royal Roads University &
Senior Associate Scientist, CIFOR/FTA



RESEARCH APPROACHES DISCUSSED AT CIFOR ANNUAL MEETING:

- “Landscapes Approach”
- “Restoration Research”
- “Jurisdictional Approach”

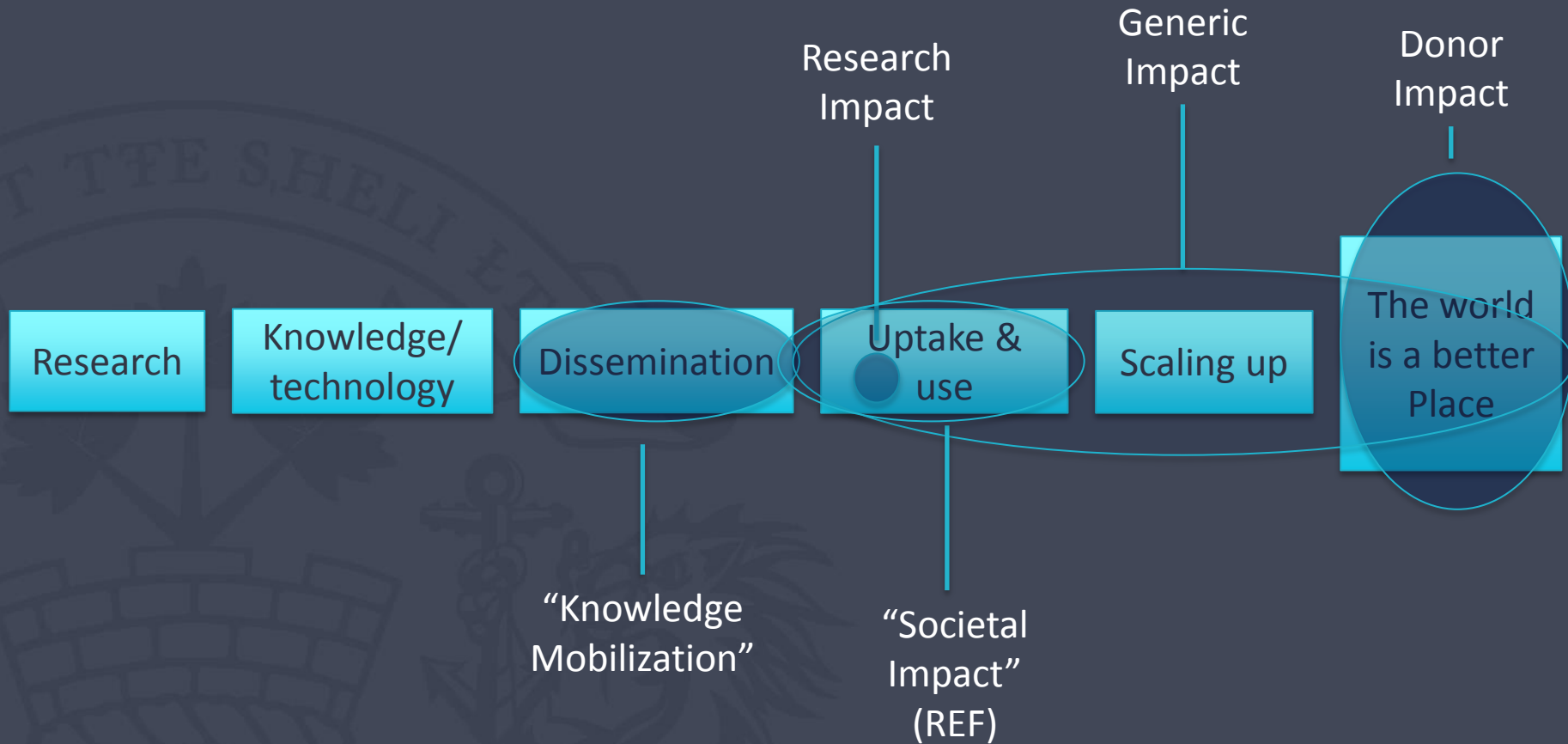
- “Engagement”
- “Boundary Partners”
- “Knowledge Translation”
- “Knowledge Brokering”
- “Co-Generation of Knowledge”
- “Co-Production”

- Nature section on “co-production of research”

“Coproduction must shift stakeholder perceptions from narrow, self-focused views toward a collective understanding of a sustainability problem.”

Schuttenberg, H. Z., and H. K. Guth. 2015. Seeking our shared wisdom: a framework for understanding knowledge coproduction and coproductive capacities. *Ecology and Society* 20(1): 15. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-07038-200115>

DEFAULT RESEARCH TOC



QUANTITATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOC

Impact

Knowledge/
technology

Uptake &
use

Change in
variable(s)
of interest



Reveal Roads

Research

Engagement/K. Translation at Boundary

Higher Level Results

Impacts (=SLO)

Partnerships & Networking

Relationships Building

Improved knowledge creation

Problem ID & definition

Platforms/forums for negotiation

Improved shared understanding of issues & options

Methodology

Research agenda influence

Improved policy environment

Capacity Development

Methods, data contributions

Improved technology employed

Data & analysis

Capacity to do & to use research increased

Wide-spread improved practice

Knowledge & innovation (co) generated

Public Discourse informed

Policy processes informed

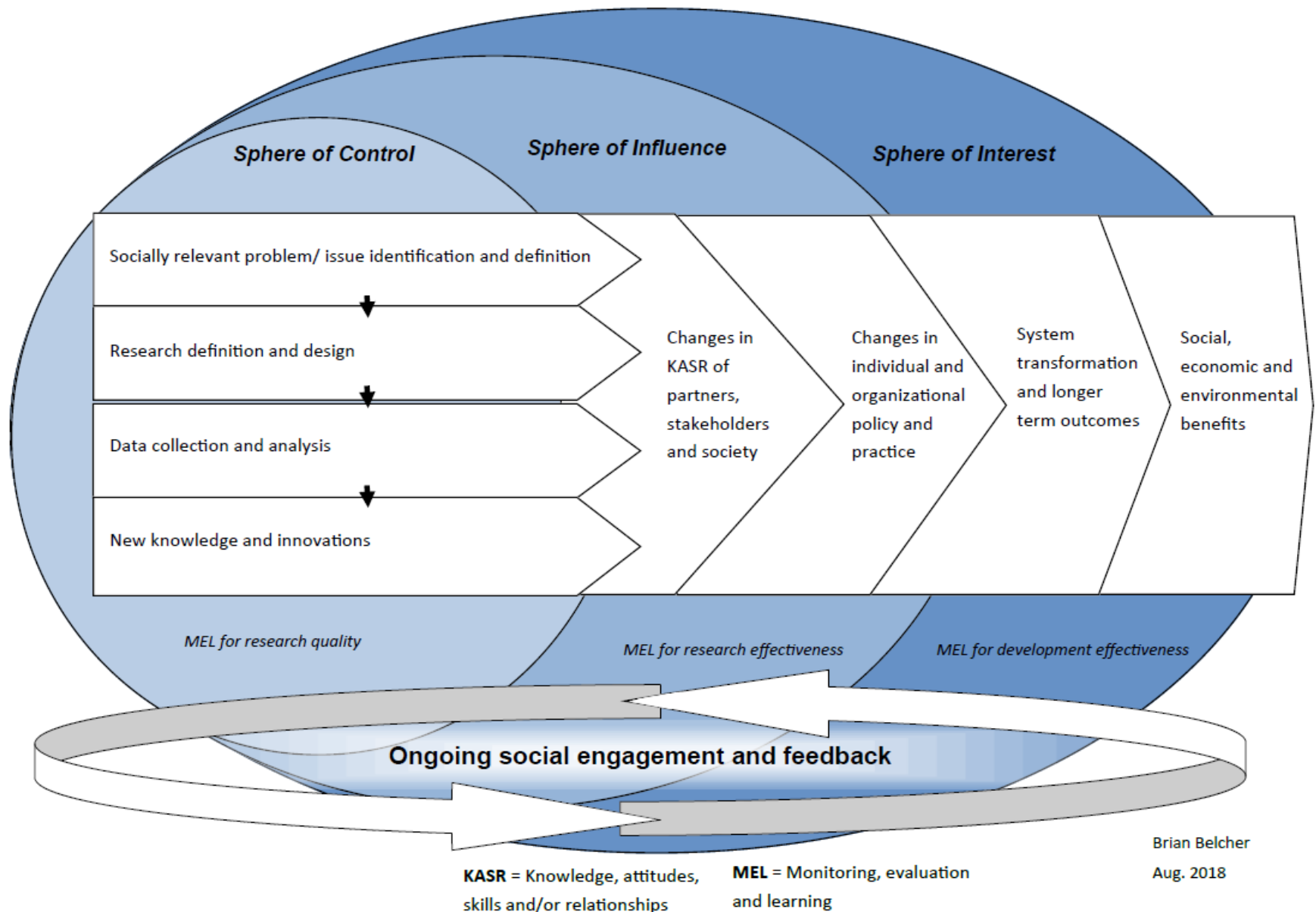
Practice enhanced

Expertise/reputation enhanced

Realized Benefits:

The world is a better Place

Pathways to Research Outcomes and Impacts



Brian Belcher
Aug. 2018

SUPPORTED BY CGIAR QoR4D FRAMEWORK

- Relevance
- Scientific Credibility
- Legitimacy
- Effectiveness

ISPC. (2017). Quality of Research for Development in the CGIAR Context, Brief N. 62. Rome: Independent Science and Partnership Council.

Belcher, B.M., Rasmussen, K.E., Kemshaw, M.R. & Zornes, D.A. (2016). Defining and assessing research quality in a transdisciplinary context. *Res. Eval.* 25, 1-17.

IMPLICATIONS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- IA as research approach
- IA in Research evaluation
- Minimum 1 additional step
- High added complexity
- Research intervenes on multiple variables, pathways
- Not possible to replicate
- Difficult to establish counterfactual

IMPLICATIONS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Theory-based evaluation approach
- ToC as set of testable hypotheses
- Test empirically (mainly qualitative)
- Investigate “mechanisms”
- Articulate and test alternative hypotheses
- Link theoretically to higher-level outcomes and impacts
- Tell plausible stories