Informed Consultation and Participation: Legacy, indigenous people and livelihoods

#iaia17

Mainstreaming the Mitigation Hierarchy in Impact Assessment
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Project Development

Infrastructure projects: hydropower, roads, transmission lines, etc

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there are IMPACTS

natural resources

people

Project Development

CHANGE is central

- There is loss and re-organization of natural resources – land, water and biodiversity
- Livelihoods are influenced

Project Development

- From a familiar landscape

Project Development

- Transformed to entirely different landscape

Potential issues arising from infrastructure development

Stakeholders are weary
Concerned about change

When changes are uncertain and unknown**, the degree of concern and mistrust is high and can grow over time.**

pre-conceived notions of what (permanent and non-permanent) impacts really are and thus what projects will bring in the future.

Potential issues

Those involved in any aspect of ESIA are thus faced with the task of:

Not only to,

(i) Demystify notions of impacts

but also to,

(ii) Respect rights of stakeholders in being informed and consulted

and, importantly,

(iii) water resource usage, water/riparian rights, forest access and use, and ecosystem changes (services). land restoration-maintenance needs. and environmental flow

Communication

The Performance Standards…. call for

early stakeholder engagement in the project development cycle.

Communication with Stakeholders

- *meaningful consultation*

WHEN DOES COMMUNICATION HAVE TO BEGIN?

Practice?

In relation to baseline data acquisition: Biological, social-economic, cultural etc

Examples of Projects

- Vietnam Hydropower projects (transboundary, Laos-Vietnam)
- Georgia, hydropower project lower Caucasus mountain range (Khudoni)
- Philippines Hydropower Project, Ifugao
- Indonesia project road development (SIAP5, Java and Kalimantan)

Projects: Vietnam-Laos, Georgia, Philippines and Indonesia

- History of Proponents – 5 to 10 years at least
- One-way information provision – technical (in some case provided by technical design teams, mitigation (national)
- Communication strategy, purpose and skills – unclear
- Indigenous people (IP) treated only when there were national requirements. (except in Philippines: Indigenous organization and policy (ILO 169)). Non-indigenous people treated very differently
- Baselines had significant gaps
- National EIAs?

Projects

Challenges

- Proponent role and Information sharing: Project development planning and activities
- Access roads –early and without information to local communities
- Scoping and national EIA activities focused on selected aspects of land cover, forest/fish diversity, households numbers, water quality and mitigation.
- Community links to surrounding environments unclear. Use?
- No knowledge of other projects in area.
- Ethnicity not always certain.

Projects

- Upgrade and gap filling for IFC/MIGA/ADB compliance – ESIAs
  - biodiversity – aquatic and terrestrial
  - affected people profiling/mapping
  - communication

- One of the aims was to - Establish a baseline on the degree of dependency (detailed well-nuanced links of) of livelihoods and surrounding environment.
- Tools used – field surveys, FGD, KII and observations

Projects

- Biodiversity status - deforestation, shifting agriculture and grazing

- River dependence – waterways, fishing, burial rituals

- Forest – production and protection for use. (not ‘natural’ – Vietnam). Forestry, domestic use, rituals and sacred areas.
- Forest - protected forests (conservation) –Georgia and Indonesia. Grassland ecosystems - Philippines.

Projects - findings

Historical aspects

- Information shared varied over time
- Nearby existing and project development: impacts and relocation had already tainted local views towards incoming project.

High dependence on surrounding ecosystems

- Livelihoods, cultural: biodiverse areas (forest, grassland and river)

Indigenous and non-indigenous people

- ritual sites, sacred areas – river and forest

- **High level of mistrust in consultants and proponents**

Projects

The high degree of mistrust required a communication approach which would address the concerns of the affected people

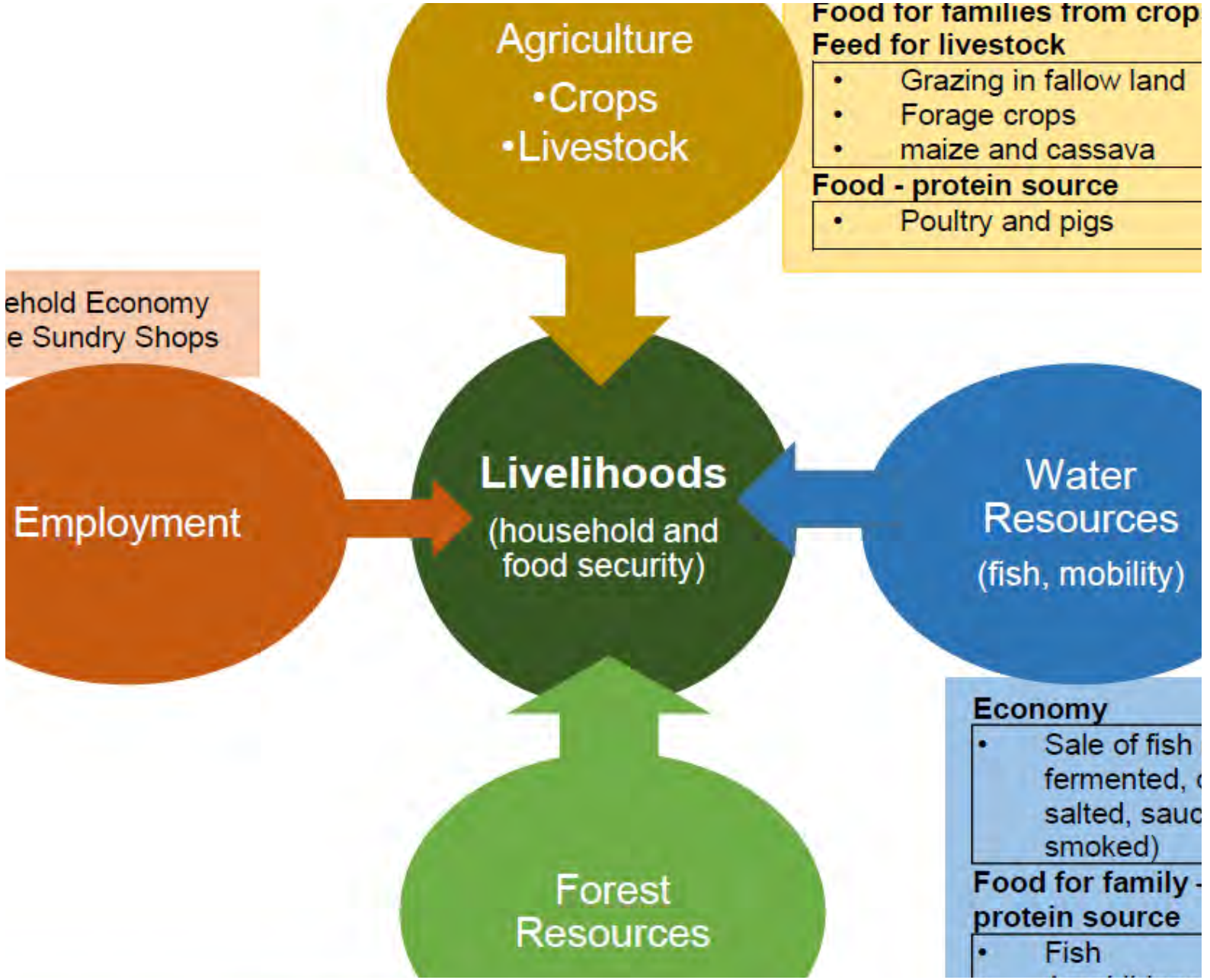
Communication Approach involved revisiting the results of the field work to show consultant/proponent knowledge of the affected people livelihoods, natural resources and potential impacts – trust building.

Livelihoods

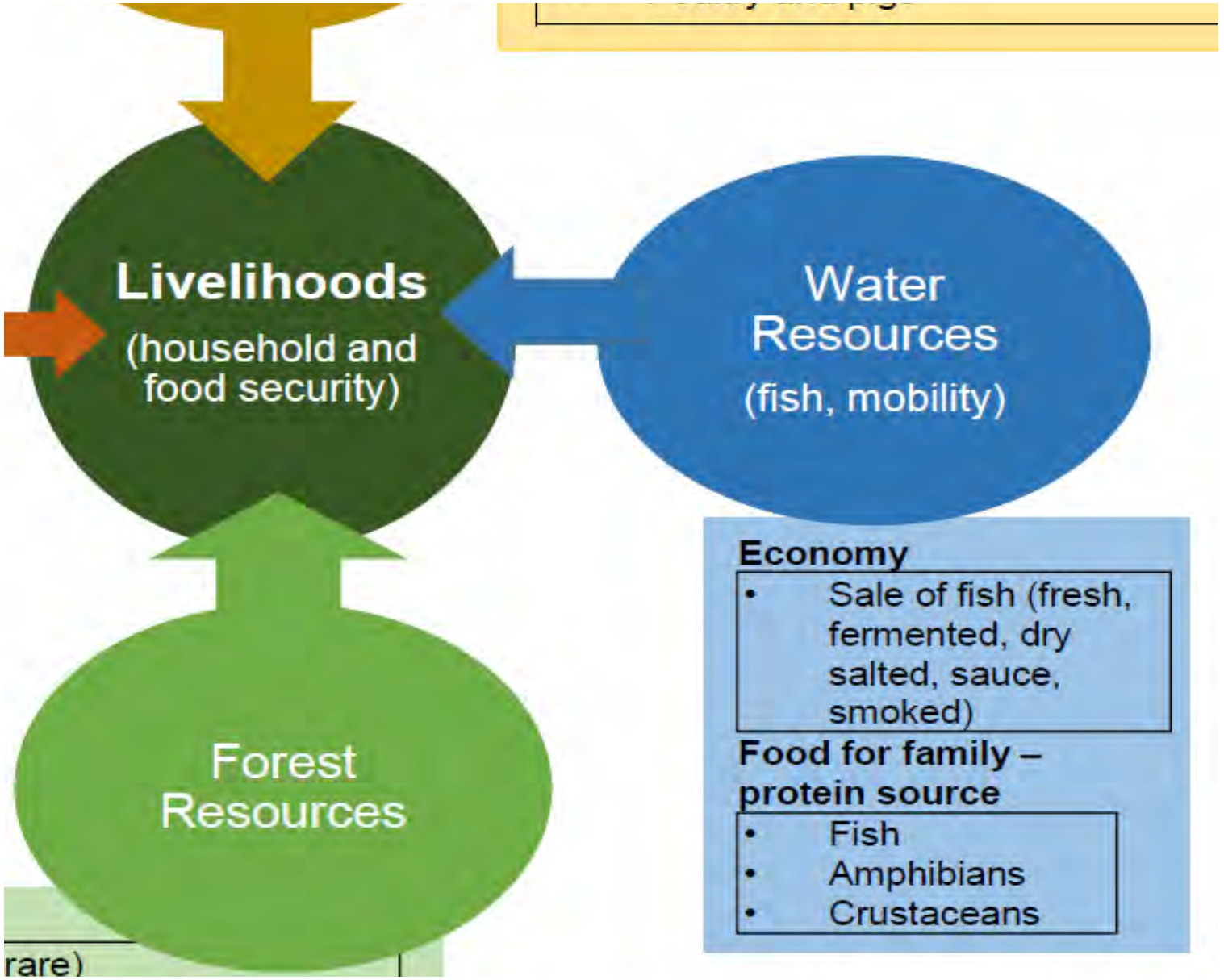
- Livelihoods and Culture of affected people

contribution of agricultural activities, commons, forest, aquatic species, river, employment

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services



Livelihoods, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity



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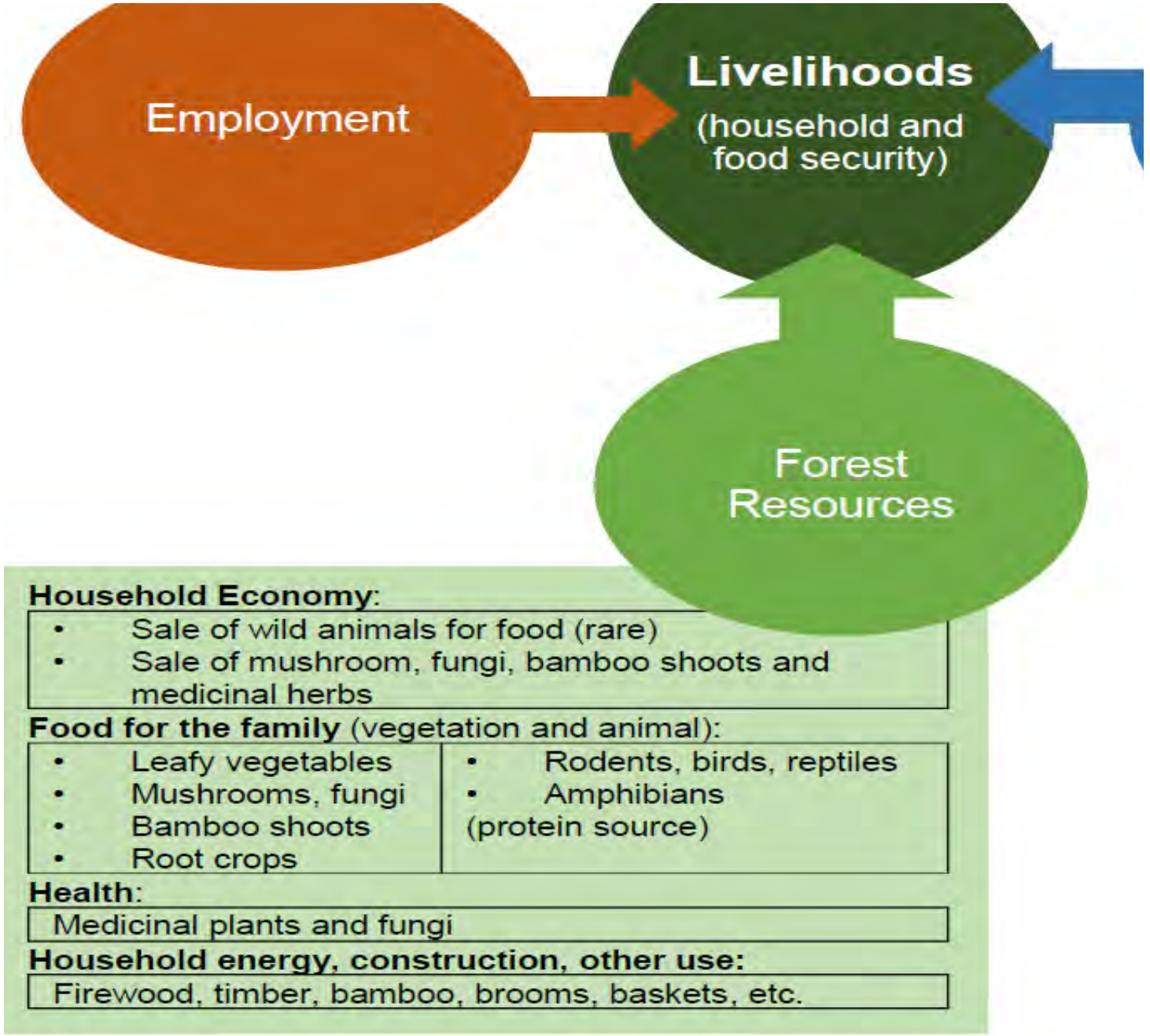


Projects

Communication was central in being able to convince communities that the database used for impact assessment was in fact real.

The need to recognize and identify their realities in the data used was vital.

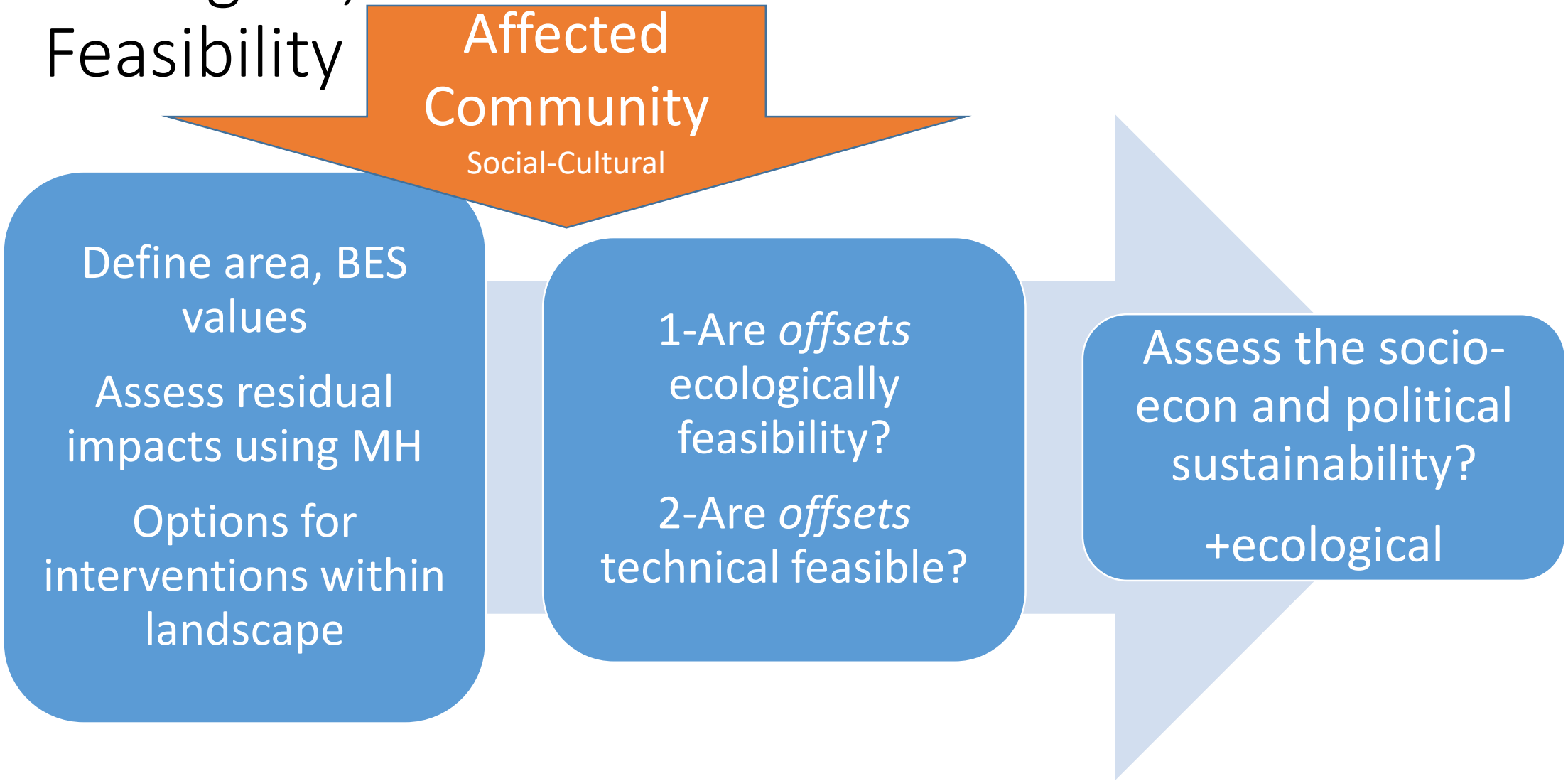
Biological baseline – Social baseline

Communication

The early cross disciplinary approach also allowed for a better FPIC process and regional government agreements.

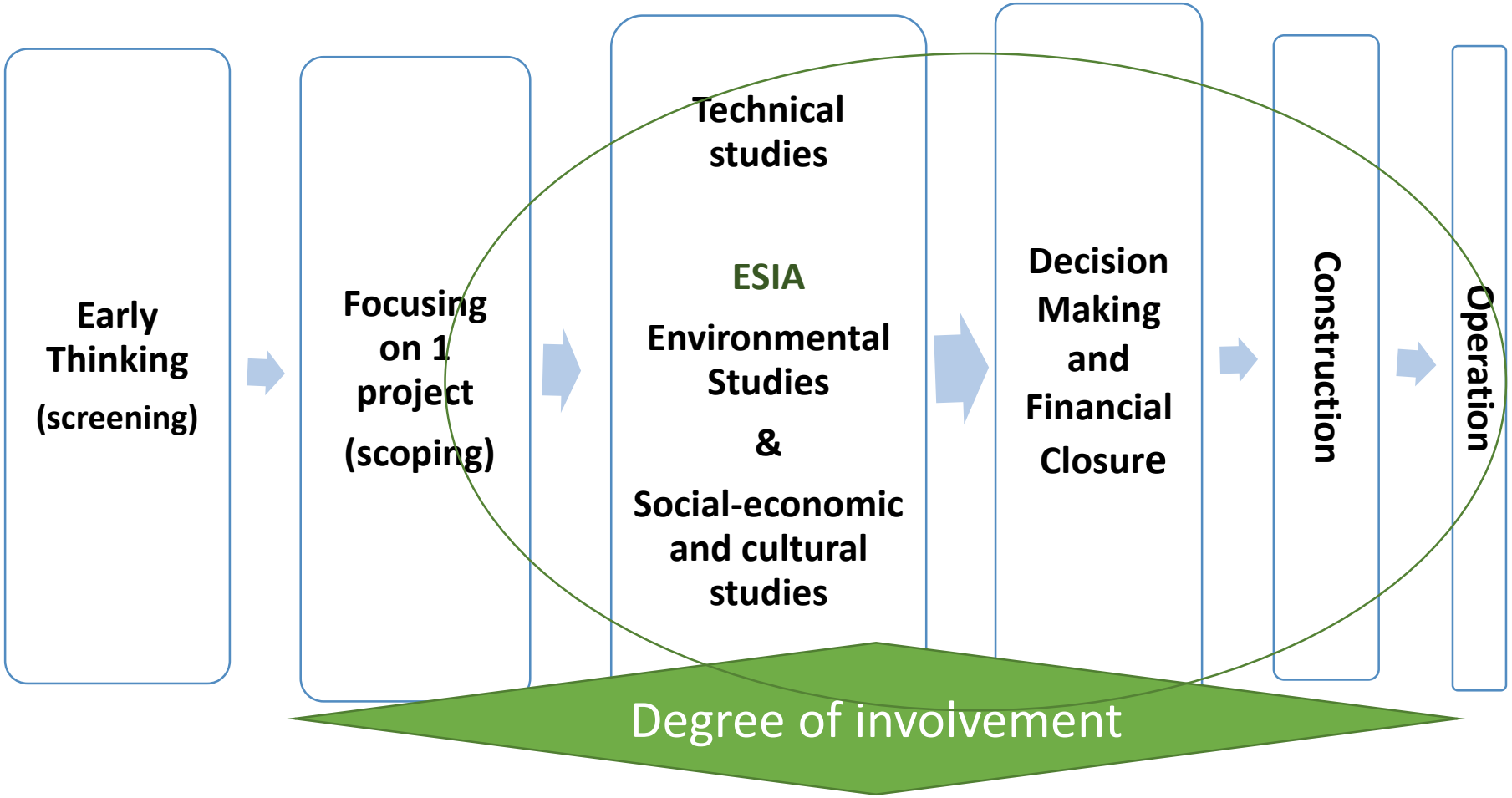
FPIC
free, prior, and informed consent

Ecological, Technical and Soc-Econ & Political Feasibility

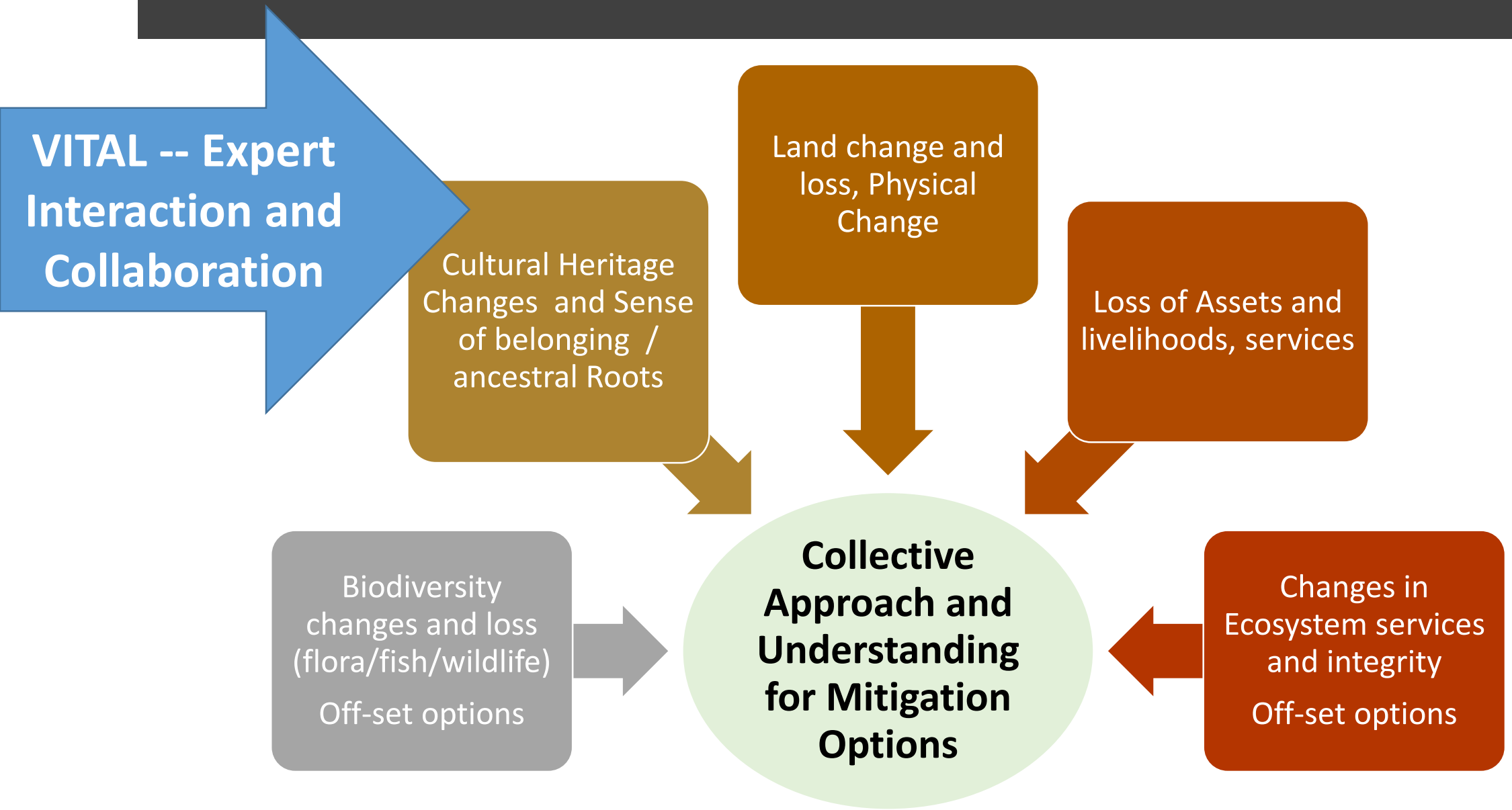


- Steps in assessing the feasibility of a biodiversity conservation target in a setting where communities environmental dependency is high?

Broad time-line for project development and stakeholder engagement

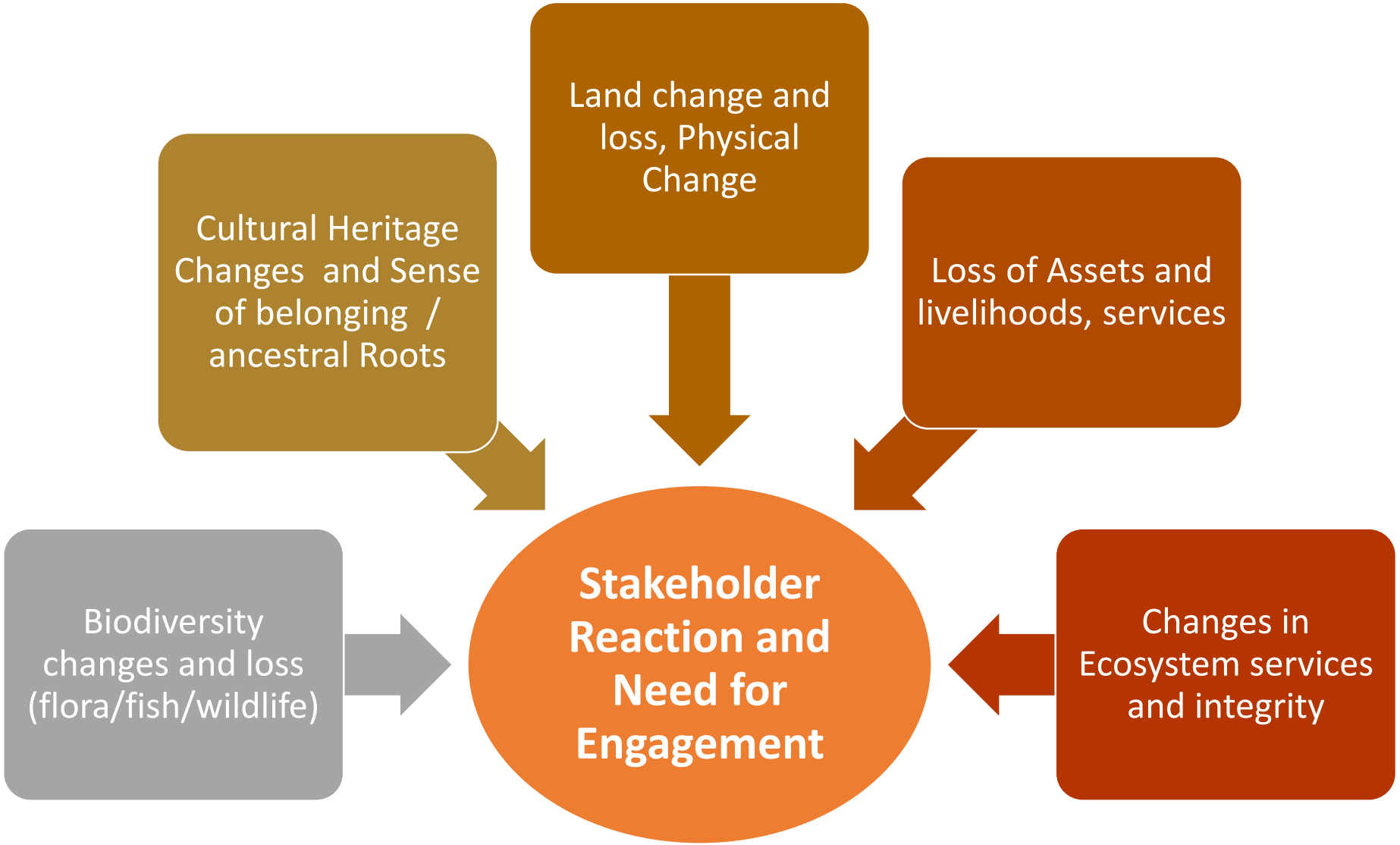


ESIA and ESMP/ESMAP



Source: Dhillion, 2014.

ESIA and ESMP/ESMAP



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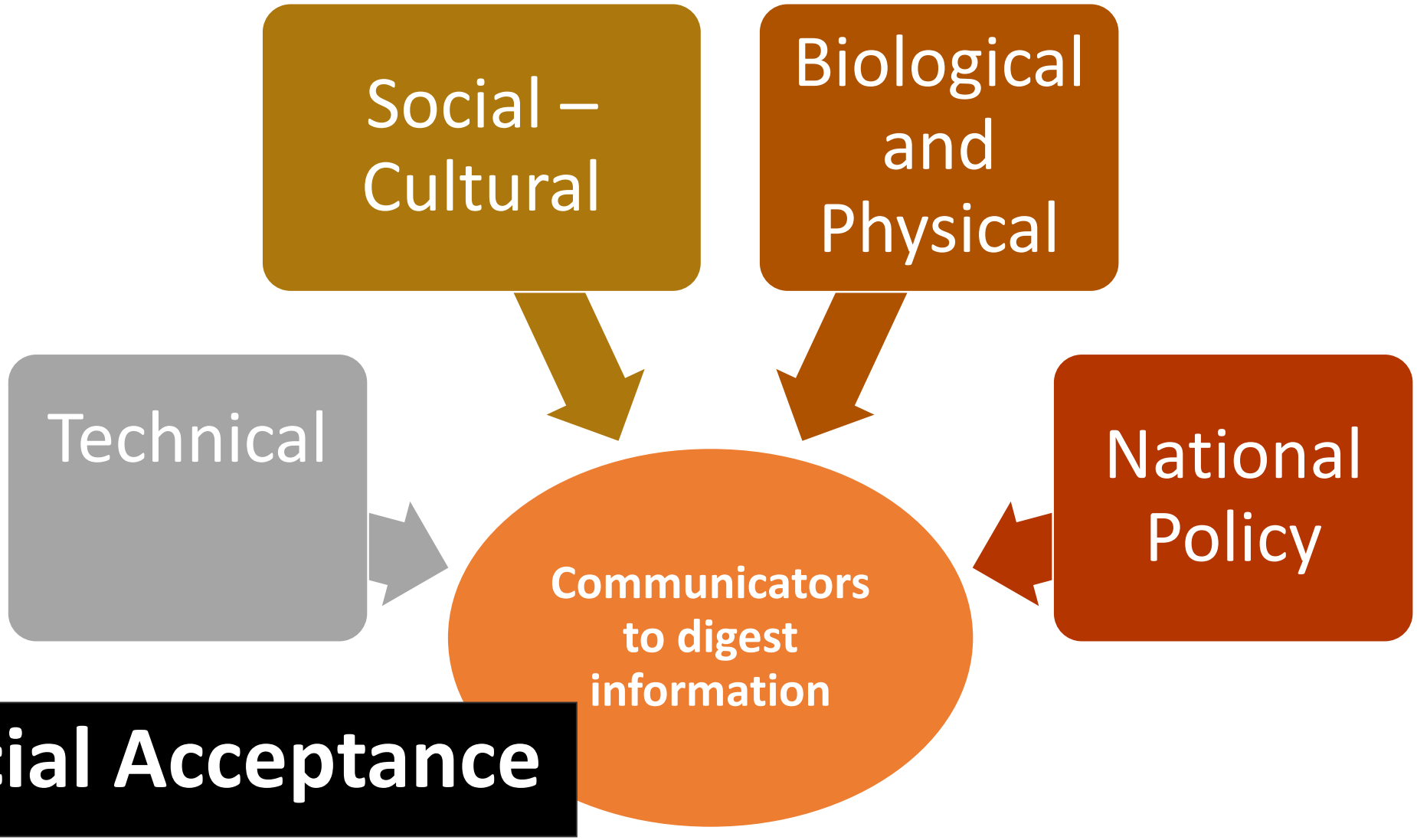
Communication



➢ **Social Acceptance**

Source: Dhillion, 2014.

Thank you