

Group 2: What is the theory of change underlying our work?

1. Can we have a theory of change? This implies a linear journey, but it will likely be more messy than that.
2. Two pathways, policy level versus local (community) level
3. There is scepticism about the policy level due to implementation issues and misappropriation of science/or narrative
4. The attraction is the impact at scale
5. However, empowered communities who make strong calls can enact change and can reconstruct power, and ESPA have had success speaking directly to local stakeholders

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6. But there is also concern about the local level issue due to scale issues, at the end you have only worked with 4 villages
7. This might ignore the need to explore higher power dynamics that place restrictions on local change (e.g. corporations and international trade)
8. Power can be complex, messy, and is double-edged
9. In different context different types of power become more or less relevant, there will always be spaces for change but they may be small
10. The framing of the ESPA programme allowed work on the political economy, but perhaps didn't lend itself to problem driven exploration
11. Researchers have an element of power themselves but perhaps we are not always reflecting on our positionality.