

CALI Launch Event

Q&A

Question from the audience (Q): Is the methodology applicable for other Landscape Approaches goals (water, waste, biodiversity, climate change)? or is it focused only on land use and deforestation?

Answer (A): The Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions (CALI) methodology is currently targeted at landscape interventions aimed at reducing deforestation. However, the methodology can be easily customized to be applied with a focus on other landscape goals (incl. in the areas of water, waste, biodiversity, and climate change).

Q: Is the guide readily available?

A: The CALI guidebook is readily available and can be downloaded from the [CALI webpage](#) or directly at [this link](#).

Q: What is the right time for this exercise during project implementation? I mean in which phase of the project is this done?

A: CALI can be applied at any time during project implementation. The recommendation is to apply CALI at least twice through the project lifecycle: at project start (once the project team is on board) and mid-way through project implementation.

Q: Does the CALI methodology currently, or will it, recommend specific tools or means of reporting landscape progress? (E.g. LandScale, FPC Reporting Framework)

A: The CALI methodology currently recommends several tools and repositories of information (data sources) for project teams to retrieve secondary data on key target variables, such as forest cover and deforestation rates. Among these, references are made to LandScale and other tools.

Q: How long would the initial phases of the work (e.g. stakeholder mapping, system mapping..) take before getting into the main work of causal pathway analysis and ToC rethinking?

A: Preparations time vary depending on the extent of information already available to the project re: definition of landscape boundaries, stakeholders, other interventions affecting deforestation in the landscape, project performance data (outcome + output level). Developing a systems map from scratch with landscape stakeholders may take 1-2 full days.

Q: Are there trained consultancies in CALI methodology in other countries, eg: Brazil?

A: So far, we have been working with international consultants who can leverage the expertise matured in some contexts (e.g. Peru) to support implementation of CALI in other contexts. However, as we work on strengthening and scaling capacities for application of CALI, we want to develop a roster of trained local consultants who can support application of CALI in several country landscapes.

Q: How does CALI get to “causality”?

A: The methodology recommends several ways of exploring causality with landscape stakeholders, the most basic of which is a question-based approach (see “Review” and “Assess Project Impact Pathways” sections) that can be complemented with more thorough contribution tracing – as explained in Appendix I.

Q: Will the implementation of CALI be compulsory for all UNDP projects?

A: We are not in the position of making application of CALI compulsory for all UNDP projects. Over the next year, we will continue to promote and raise awareness on the methodology and hope that several projects will embed it in their project design and/or adopt it to strengthen their implementation.

Q: Will there be project budgetary consequences of applying CALI and also of coming up with an adjusted ToC and therefore an adjusted logframe and workplan as a consequence?

A: Certainly – budget and delivery projections will need to be adjusted to reflect any agreed changes to the project scope, suite of deliverables, and schedule of implementation.

Q: I wonder how flexible GEF will be if CALI is applied at any other time of the project cycle and the findings of the assessment are such that there are major changes that have to go to the GEF?

A: This is more of a question for the GEF – however, in general, CALI is a good sensemaking tool to complement the UNDP/GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) process, and the recommendations resulting from CALI can feed into the PIR Adaptive Management section.

Q: How does CALI help to assess trade-offs and synergies between different interventions/objectives?

A: CALI takes a systemic approach to the review of a project's Theory of Change, impact pathways and project implementation strategy (workplan). The recommended process allows the project team – together with landscape stakeholders – to “step to the balcony” and look at the big picture (including other relevant interventions in the landscape), as they go through a review and prioritization of the objectives to be pursued and different strategies to get there. Impact pathways and project implementation strategies are reviewed and refined in small teams, while a project committee will have a final say on prioritization considering the big picture, as well as budgetary and resourcing constraints.

Q: Who will pay for the application of the CALI tool in a UNDP project? Is there UNDP money for this?

A: In principle if we design project workplans properly, we should be able to allocate a proper budget for learning and adaptation, including through the use of a tool like CALI. As such, it is important to embed it from the start in the design of landscape projects aiming to reduce deforestation. Then, if M&E teams are adequately trained, they may be able to carry some of the tasks involved in the application of CALI, and only recur to consultants for limited specialized support (e.g. on systems mapping).

Q: How long does it take for the project team to conduct a CALI and get the output to customize the ToC?

A: We recommend to plan for about 2.5 days of workshops for a first application of CALI (at project start), and 2 full days of workshops for any further application. This obviously does not take into account preparation and info processing times, and as a result the full process for each application can take about 1 to 2 months from the time the consultants are on board to delivery of results.

Do you have further questions? Contact Andrea Bina, UNDP FACS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist, at andrea.bina@undp.org