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13 **A global analysis of the social and environmental outcomes of community forests**

14

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34

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45 **A global analysis of the social and environmental outcomes of community forests**

46

47 **Abstract:**

48 Community forest management (CFM) has been promoted for decades as a way to merge
49 environmental conservation with economic development and natural resource rights agendas.
50 Yet, many of these initiatives have also led to substantial socioeconomic and environmental
51 trade-offs. We present a comprehensive global analysis of environmental, income, and natural
52 resource rights outcomes of CFM, using data from 643 cases in 51 countries. We find that while
53 the majority of cases reported positive environmental and income-related outcomes, forest access
54 and resource rights were often negatively affected by policies to formalize CFM, countering one
55 of CFM's principal goals. Positive outcomes across all three dimensions were rare. We show that
56 biophysical conditions, *de facto* tenure rights, national context, user group characteristics, and
57 intervention types are key predictors of joint positive outcomes. These findings highlight key
58 conducive conditions for CFM interventions, which can inform CFM design to ensure positive
59 outcomes across multiple sustainability dimensions.

60

61 **Main text:**

62 Forests regulate climate, sequester and store carbon, harbor a large proportion of terrestrial
63 biodiversity, and contribute directly to livelihoods of millions of people who live in or close to
64 forests¹⁻³. The role of forests in achieving sustainability targets has been re-emphasized by
65 national and international sustainability agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals,
66 the Bonn Challenge, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

67 Over the past 40 years, community forest management (CFM—where forest users have
68 some role in determining how local forests are to be managed) has been promoted as a way to
69 merge environmental conservation with economic development and natural resource rights
70 agendas. The rationale underpinning this push rests on the premise that local groups, who have
71 vested interests in maintaining forest resource flows, can make better use of place and time-
72 specific information than more centralized forms of forest governance, which can lead to more
73 sustainable practices and improved livelihoods⁴. Currently, approximately 14% of forests
74 worldwide, and approximately 28% of forests in low and middle income countries, are formally

75 owned or managed by Indigenous peoples and local communities⁵. Yet, while case studies
76 showing that CFM can promote positive outcomes for forests and people abound, many
77 initiatives have led to substantial socioeconomic and environmental trade-offs⁶⁻⁸.

78 Gaining a deeper insight of such trade-offs is critical to advance understanding of the
79 potential for forest governance systems to simultaneously address multiple sustainable
80 development objectives. Recent analyses have sought to assess livelihood and forest outcomes of
81 CFM interventions across a number of case studies or at a national scale⁹⁻¹⁴, but these studies
82 only provide partial understandings of the joint outcomes expected of CFM, with few
83 considering equity outcomes¹⁵. In particular, none of these studies have evaluated changes in
84 resource rights as an *outcome* of CFM, but rather have assumed that formalization of CFM will
85 increase community rights as part of the intervention. Other studies point to incidents where
86 formal rights were not implemented in practice, or where devolved formal rights were more
87 restrictive than existing customary or *de facto* resource rights already in existence^{6,16,17}.

88 Our understanding of these potential trade-offs is currently limited because of a lack of
89 comprehensive global studies that synthesize information on how CFM has contributed to the
90 multiple environmental, livelihood and natural resources rights outcomes it was intended to
91 achieve. We address this knowledge gap by conducting the most comprehensive global analysis
92 of environmental, livelihood, and natural resource rights outcomes of CFM to date. We used data
93 on 643 CFM cases in 51 countries, collated from 267 peer-reviewed studies (from an initial pool
94 of 15,879) resulting from a systematic review^{18,19}, to assess the frequency of joint positive
95 outcomes and trade-offs, and how different outcome combinations are influenced by various
96 socio-economic and biophysical factors.

97

98 **Trade-offs in outcomes**

99 We generated three separate outcome variables, combining reported information on changes in
100 environmental indicators (forest cover, forest condition, and biodiversity), livelihood indicators
101 (community and household income), and resource access rights indicators (commercial access
102 and subsistence access) following CFM interventions (see methods for details). While resource
103 rights are often a structural component of CFM interventions (e.g. devolving harvest or land
104 rights to communities), our goal was to assess whether rights to access resources had indeed
105 increased or decreased for some or all resource users following the intervention.

106 We found that CFM predominantly led to mixed results for forests, livelihoods, and
107 rights. Environmental condition improved after CFM in 56% of the 524 cases tracking
108 environmental condition, and decreased in 32% of cases. Incomes increased in 68% of the 316
109 cases reporting on livelihoods, 26% showed no change in incomes, and only 6.3% of cases
110 reported decreases in income. Finally, 34% of the 249 cases reporting on resource access rights
111 indicated an increase in resource rights after CFM was implemented, 54% reported decreases in
112 rights, and 12% reported no change.

113 This substantial variation in outcomes is mirrored in our assessment of joint outcomes. Of
114 the 186 cases that studied resource rights and forest environmental condition, 45% (n = 83)
115 reported trade-offs between both outcomes (where one outcome increased and the other
116 decreased), with most trade-offs (82% of these 83 trade-off cases) characterized by increases in
117 environmental conditions and decreases in resource rights (Figure 1a). Reductions in resource
118 rights occurred either for all resource users or for those local people who had been left out of the
119 community of rights holders defined in CFM interventions.

120 Studies examining income and access rights outcomes (n=169) found both joint increases
121 (34% of these 169 studies) and trade-offs (31%) with increases in income associated with
122 decreases in access rights (Figure 1b). In many trade-off cases, forest-based income mostly
123 benefited village elites, while the poor and marginalized (particularly women, youth and
124 minorities) suffered from forest use restrictions implemented as part of formalized management
125 plans^{20,21}. In other trade-off cases, individuals participating in newly outlawed activities (e.g.
126 hunting or logging) had their rights curtailed, while others not previously involved in these
127 activities saw benefits from alternative income sources (e.g. NTFP harvesting) or local
128 infrastructure development (e.g. school repairs)²². While these cases would have been coded as
129 “increases in income” in our analysis (the study reported that CFM had brought increases in
130 income), we separately recorded whether a study specifically reported on inequities in benefit
131 sharing: 50% of the 274 cases that reported on benefit-sharing indicated that benefit-sharing had
132 become less equitable following CFM.

133 Of the 223 cases examining income and forest environmental condition outcomes, 46%
134 found simultaneous increases in both outcomes (Figure 1c). For example, cases in India and
135 Ethiopia show that community management and livelihood diversification activities improved

136 key indicators of forest environmental condition and income from both forest-based and non-
137 forest based income streams^{23,24}.

138 Finally, of 122 studies analyzing three-way outcomes, only 18% reported positive
139 outcomes across the three dimensions. These were located in India (n = 8), Nepal (n = 5),
140 Cameroon (n = 4), Bolivia (n = 2), Burkina Faso (n = 1), Philippines (n = 1), and Saint Lucia (n =
141 1). However, when additional livelihood measures are taken into consideration, some of these
142 cases also presented mixed CFM outcomes. For example, community forestry in Cameroon
143 resulted in gains in community rights over local forests, with an improvement in forest condition
144 and generation of community income from the sale of timber, but had yet to show noticeable
145 improvements in living conditions and overall well-being²⁵, indicating the need to consider
146 additional livelihood metrics in future assessments. Additional cases reported increases in
147 outcomes across two dimensions, and no change in the third, and thus were not categorized as
148 having positive outcomes across all three dimensions. But a closer examination of some of those
149 cases showed that “no change” was in itself sometimes a desirable outcome. For example, three
150 cases from Mexico reported increases in incomes and forest condition, and no change in rights;
151 but those communities already had substantial subsistence and commercial rights to the forest for
152 decades prior to the particular intervention.

153 It is worth noting that while our focus is on trade-offs across outcome categories, we also
154 observed trade-offs within categories in a number of cases. For example, we found six cases
155 reporting the expansion of some rights over resources –formally recognizing the existence of
156 local customary rights– while simultaneously restricting other rights, including curtailing
157 commercialization of forest resources or hunting rights. Sixteen cases reported increases in
158 community income (in the form of investments in community development infrastructure, e.g.,
159 schools or wells) while individual or household incomes throughout the community decreased,
160 usually from a loss of access to forest products. In terms of environmental outcomes, 17 cases
161 reported increases in forest cover but decreases in forest biodiversity, or vice versa. While these
162 and other conflicting outcome cases only represent 8% of our sample (and were excluded from
163 the analyses of trade-offs amongst the principal outcome categories of environment, income, and
164 rights presented here, see methods), these conflicting outcomes illustrate the need for closer
165 examination of more nuanced trade-offs within outcome domains.

166

167 **Variables associated with double and triple positive outcomes**

168 We used information from the 643 case studies on 50 contextual variables to identify factors
169 associated with joint double and triple positive outcomes (Figure 2). The 50 variables
170 (Supplementary Table 1) were selected after a detailed literature review^{18,19}. Variables
171 encompass biophysical conditions, local and national-level institutions, market factors, user-
172 group characteristics, and CFM intervention characteristics. Our statistical analysis expands the
173 method developed by Oldekop et al.²⁶, and combines multiple imputation of missing data²⁷ with
174 variable selection and model averaging to account for the large amount of predictor variables in
175 our statistical models (see methods for details and robustness checks using simulated data). We
176 discuss the five predictor variables, grouped thematically, explaining most of the variation in our
177 models for each combination of outcomes (defined as the partial weighted pseudo R^2).

178

179 **Biophysical conditions.** Forest type was linked to all double and triple positive outcomes
180 (Figure 2), although the type of forest associated with particular joint outcomes was outcome
181 dependent (Figure 3). Joint positive environment and income outcomes were more likely to
182 occur in tropical/sub-tropical montane forests than any other forest types (Figure 3a), positive
183 environment and resource rights outcomes were more likely to occur in tropical/sub-tropical
184 humid and montane forests (Figure 3b), and positive income and resource rights outcomes were
185 more likely to occur in temperate montane forests (Figure 3c). While our results show that
186 positive outcomes across two or three dimensions were more likely to occur in mangrove forests
187 than other forest types, the number of mangrove forest cases in our study was small (9 of the 643
188 total cases), highlighting a need for further study of community management of mangroves.
189 Elevation was also a key factor in determining joint environment and income outcomes, and joint
190 environment and resource rights outcomes. Forests at low and medium elevations were more
191 strongly associated with positive outcomes than those at high elevations, where incomes are
192 perhaps lessened due to decreased forest productivity²⁸ and difficulties in harvesting and
193 transporting forest products to market²⁹.

194

195 **Local and national-level institutions.** *De facto* rights, defined as locally upheld rights
196 regardless of their legal standing, were associated with positive outcomes for all but joint
197 environment and income outcomes. Cases were more likely to report positive outcomes when

198 these informal or customary rights over local management decisions existed prior to the
199 intervention (Figure 3 – *de facto* management rights). Having *de facto* exclusion rights (the right
200 to decide who has access to the resource) prior to the intervention was also important for double
201 positive outcomes across dimensions, and having *de facto* management rights prior to the
202 intervention was important for triple positive outcomes. Notably, cases were less likely to see
203 double or triple positive outcomes if the community only had *de facto* access and withdrawal
204 rights without collective choice rights to make the rules for management (see Schlager and
205 Ostrom³⁰ for a typology of resource rights). Lack of exclusion rights can make CFM
206 management rights inoperable⁸; assuming that management entails decisions and actions made
207 with the expectation of future benefits, the lack of assurance that benefits will not be lost to
208 others would discourage management investments. Having only *de jure* access and withdrawal
209 rights prior to the intervention was associated with positive environment and rights outcomes and
210 income and rights outcomes (Figures 3b,c); this is likely because CFM interventions are often
211 accompanied by an increase in formal rights, so those with a lower baseline of *de jure* (formal)
212 rights were more likely to record improvements. The relative importance of *de facto* rights in
213 comparison with *de jure* rights in our analysis reaffirms studies showing that perceived tenure, as
214 well as customary tenure rights and other informal institutions and their enforcement, are more
215 important conditions than formal property rights for ensuring sustainability^{31–34}. The probability
216 of positive joint income and environment outcomes was lower when community members did
217 not adhere to local forest use rules (Figure 3a).

218 The national-level governance score (an aggregate index of six governance indicators
219 obtained for each country from the World Bank data catalog) was negatively correlated with
220 joint income and resource rights outcomes. Similarly, the Human Development Index score (a
221 composite index of income, education and health dimensions) was negatively correlated with
222 joint environment and income outcomes and triple-win outcomes (Figure 3). This may have been
223 due to changes relative to low baselines prior to the implementation of CFM projects –those
224 starting with low HDI and governance scores may have more readily shown improvements in
225 outcomes.

226

227 **Intervention characteristics.** Co-management approaches other than *Joint Forest Management*
228 (JFM, specific programs and institutional arrangements prevalent in India) and *Participatory*

229 *Forest Management* (PFM, specific programs prevalent in eastern Africa) were more likely to be
230 associated with positive joint outcomes for environment and income. While JFM and PFM
231 programs can also be considered types of co-management approaches, we distinguish between
232 the specific JFM and PFM country programs that have narrower objectives³⁵, and studies that
233 used the term “co-management” to broadly denote a more equitable sharing of power and
234 responsibility between governments and local user groups³⁶. Co-management cases performed
235 better than “other” cases. This result perhaps indicates that where both government and local
236 actors are actively engaged in CFM, and where co-management potentially leads to greater
237 access to additional resources (e.g., financial support or extension services), joint environment
238 and income outcomes may result, echoing similar findings in protected area governance²⁶. In
239 cases where a CFM policy change had been implemented in addition to the CFM intervention,
240 the length of time since the enactment of the CFM policy seemed to positively influence the
241 achievement of triple outcomes, indicating that improvements following policy changes take
242 time, but might be longer lasting. Targeted interventions in the absence of policy changes were
243 more likely to achieve triple positive outcomes, but we are unable to predict their sustainability.
244 Whether the CFM intervention included commercial timber extraction (an expected income
245 generator and theorized motivator for sustainable practices^{37,38}) did not emerge as an important
246 predictor of positive joint outcomes.

247
248 **User-group characteristics.** User group characteristics exhibited lower explanatory power in
249 our models than other variables. Echoing other studies^{39,40}, we found that smaller user groups
250 were associated with better joint environment and rights outcomes (Figure 3b). Communities
251 with either no migration, or marked outmigration, were more often associated with positive
252 income and rights outcomes, and triple positive outcomes, than communities with marked in-
253 migration (Figures 3c,d). Rural migration to urban areas and other countries is a frequently cited
254 socioeconomic driver of natural reforestation on abandoned agricultural lands⁴¹⁻⁴³, and local
255 incomes could increase through remittances^{44,45}. With a dwindling population, remaining forest
256 users may also be able to access larger shares of forest benefits and rights. Communities
257 experiencing in-migration were less likely to report win-win outcomes, perhaps because in-
258 migration can lead to further contestation of rights, increased pressure on forest resources, or
259 exacerbate existing inequities⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸. Cases with no migration also fared slightly better relative to

260 cases with out-migration. This may be due to out-migration's effects on local institutions and
261 traditional practices⁴⁹.

262

263 **Discussion**

264 We advance existing scholarship on CFM by analysing its multiple social and environmental
265 outcomes, including changes in resource rights, across different contexts. While previous studies
266 show community-based conservation has resulted in more synergies than trade-offs⁵², our results
267 suggest that CFM initiatives might need to be re-designed to ensure positive outcomes across
268 multiple sustainability dimensions. Our global study significantly expands on the rich literature
269 of individual case studies documenting problems with the devolution of resource rights,
270 including difficulties with the decentralization process itself, the nature of the rights given to
271 communities^{6,53,54}, or the translation of legal rights into rights in practice and realized benefits^{55–}
272 ⁵⁷.

273

274 **Outcome trade-offs: rights are often compromised.** We show that forest access and resource
275 rights are often negatively affected by new formal CFM arrangements, countering one of the
276 principal goals of CFM. Community forestry is often promoted as a means to recognize *de facto*
277 community rights, yet our results highlight the need to carefully examine who in local
278 communities benefit from collective rights, who is left out of the creation of new community-
279 based institutions, and who is negatively affected by changes to individual rights^{47,58,59}.

280 Examples from Nepal, Kenya, Cameroon and elsewhere show that the formalization of rights can
281 actually constrain resource access and customary uses^{54,59}. In some cases, administrative
282 bottlenecks and burdensome regulations restricted the ability of local people to take advantage of
283 newly devolved rights^{47,60}, limiting potential for livelihood improvements. In other cases,
284 communities were often charged with managing degraded forests with little commercial value⁵⁴,
285 providing a possible explanation for positive environmental outcomes: starting conditions were
286 so poor that there was room for quick improvement, and reforms tended to prioritize
287 conservation or restoration¹⁶. It is possible that these cases represent a trade-off where
288 environmental condition has improved explicitly as a result of decreased access rights (keeping
289 people out of the forest allowed for recovery and regeneration), but causal mechanisms behind
290 such results are difficult to isolate through meta-analyses.

291 Trade-offs between rights and income –reflected in many cases by increases in incomes
292 and decreases in rights– were particularly striking, as we expected the two outcomes to be
293 synergistic in improving livelihoods. It is possible that while a CFM intervention may have
294 constrained a community’s *de facto* informal forest rights, having limited but formal rights over
295 some forest products may still result in increased income –individual or communal– due to the
296 ability to legally commercialize those forest products. It is also possible that income increases in
297 these cases were experienced by some while others saw their access to the forest restricted,
298 highlighting distributional asymmetries within communities. A trade-off can be seen in these
299 cases: the formalization of local rights has benefited some in the community by improving their
300 livelihoods, at the expense of others excluded from previously enjoyed access rights. Our results
301 thus suggest that CFM initiatives should pay closer attention to rights in *rights*-based approaches,
302 not only in devolving rights to communities, but how those rights (and thus benefits) are shared
303 within communities.

304 Yet, despite rights being compromised in more than half the cases reporting resource
305 rights outcomes (134 of 249 cases), we see that, where rights were increased (85 cases), forest
306 condition and income were generally either maintained or enhanced: of the cases that reported
307 increases in rights, 75% saw improvements or maintenance of forest condition and all saw
308 improvements or no change in incomes. This suggests that even if development and conservation
309 agents are mostly concerned with improving forest condition, or increasing local incomes, a
310 rights-based approach can be an important predictor of positive outcomes for those goals. This is
311 consistent with studies showing that formal recognition of indigenous rights to traditional lands
312 has been associated with reduced deforestation relative to other ownership and management
313 arrangements (for example, ^{61–63}). While our analysis is unable to disentangle true causal links,
314 the strong association between positive rights outcomes and other outcomes (but not the
315 converse) warrants further study using research designs that can specifically isolate the effect of
316 resource rights.

317

318 **What explains joint outcomes?** Our study provides important new insights into the role that
319 biophysical factors and national contexts play in predicting multiple positive outcomes. We also
320 support findings of seminal studies on the importance of community institutions, intervention
321 types, and user group characteristics in predicting positive outcomes (e.g. ^{64,65}). Notably, no

322 market factors emerged as important in predicting joint outcomes, although market factors were
323 some of the least reported variables in the CFM literature (Supplementary Figure 3), despite
324 strong theories of change linking markets to land use change⁵⁰ and forest community
325 development⁵¹. Here we highlight three factors that were particularly important in predicting
326 multiple joint outcomes: biophysical conditions, national context, and tenure rights. Biophysical
327 factors have often been overlooked as predictors of variation in CFM outcomes, or have been
328 omitted in the scholarship on community-based natural resource management^{52,66,67}. We show
329 that forest type and elevation were key predictors of double-positive and triple-positive
330 outcomes. Similarly, the interactions between the national governance context and national
331 development trajectories in which CFM interventions take place have been less examined at
332 broad scale. While Brooks et al.⁵² did not find evidence that national context influenced
333 community-based conservation success, we found that low national-level development and
334 governance indicators were more likely to be associated with positive joint outcomes.
335 Longitudinal analyses, better collection of baseline data and integration of existing datasets, and
336 greater use of causal inference methods⁶⁸ should be a key consideration for future research to
337 examine the interactions among these drivers of decentralization and development, and outcomes
338 of CFM. Lastly, community institutional arrangements, particularly the types of tenure rights
339 communities held prior to the CFM intervention, played an important role in CFM outcomes.
340 Across the different outcomes, our study provides evidence that having *de facto* management
341 rights prior to the intervention was positively associated with multiple joint outcomes,
342 highlighting the importance of examining how CFM interventions interact with pre-existing
343 resource rights in communities. Our results broadly suggest that CFM interventions have been
344 more successful where strong community institutions already existed prior to the intervention.
345 While having management rights entails a variety of institutional arrangements across cases,
346 with varying degrees of decision-making autonomy¹⁷, our results support studies linking local
347 participation in decision-making and management to positive social and environmental
348 outcomes^{11,12,62}.

349 We acknowledge the limitations, assumptions and biases associated with meta-analyses
350 and systematic reviews, including i) biases linked to the use of secondary data that are subject to
351 individual authors' research interests and interpretations, include data from various study
352 designs, and may not account for concurrent national trends in development and rights, ii) the

353 simplification of information presented in articles to be able to standardize data recording across
354 studies, and iii) the large amounts of missing data and the need for data imputation. However,
355 given the importance of this topic to both conservation and development agendas globally, being
356 able to draw information from existing literature and synthesize lessons learned is critical, and
357 we encourage further studies that make use of existing literature for evidence-based synthesis
358 and action.

359 Our global study demonstrates the need to understand the conditions under which CFM
360 can accomplish concurrent “wins” across multiple dimensions. The loss of rights, even under
361 well-intentioned policies, has already been documented in a number of case studies. This meta-
362 analysis amplifies those findings for CFM, highlighting that rights are often either traded-off for
363 environmental improvements, or that distributional asymmetries within communities may result
364 in income gains for some but rights losses for others. Policy-makers and development agents
365 may want to consider the best path to achieving positive outcomes for rights, environment, and
366 livelihoods by clarifying their theories of change: should rights be delivered first with the
367 expectation of ensuing income and conservation gains; should interventions focus on
368 conservation priorities and alternative livelihoods with the expectation that community
369 empowerment through devolution of forest rights occur separately; or should all three objectives
370 be included at the policy or project design stage? These decisions would also benefit from a
371 better understanding of how CFM performs in relation to other policy instruments such as
372 protected areas or industrial logging concessions. Specific contexts need to be considered in
373 designing community forestry interventions, but our results indicate that decision-makers should
374 consider biophysical conditions, community institutional arrangements, and user group
375 characteristics either as predictors of the ability of CFM to deliver on multiple objectives when
376 prioritizing site selections for new CFM interventions, or as indicators of those communities that
377 may require more assistance to overcome unfavorable starting conditions.

378

379 **Methods**

380 Our analysis uses data on 643 cases of community forests from 51 countries in Latin America,
381 Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions - where most community forests are located⁵. These data stem
382 from 267 peer-reviewed articles studying social and/or environmental outcomes of community
383 forests, that we selected by systematic review from an initial pool of 15,874 articles.

384

385 **Case study selection.** Supplementary Figure 1 illustrates the various stages of selection that we
386 used to narrow down the pool of papers to fit our selection criteria (additionally, see ¹⁸ for a
387 published protocol of this review –including criteria used for inclusion of articles– and ¹⁹ for a
388 descriptive overview of the data). We defined community forestry as forest use and governance
389 arrangements under which the rights, responsibilities, and authority for forest management rest,
390 at least in part, with local communities. Due to their diverse cultural and institutional contexts,
391 and the differing perspectives of the many development organization that have supported their
392 emergence, what we refer to today as CFM includes many different types of institutions in which
393 forest users have been acknowledged to have some role in determining how local forests are to
394 be managed. We only included peer-reviewed papers published in English. We also only
395 included cases from Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions, where most community
396 forests are located⁵. To be included in our sample, papers had to describe at least one case of a
397 community forest –which we defined as a forest shared by at least three households⁶⁹, and had to
398 report environmental or livelihood indicators of community forests as well as at least one of 50
399 key contextual variables. Cases may or may not have had some form of endogenous collective
400 management of forests prior to a CFM intervention (32% of reporting cases did). Environmental
401 indicators included measures of environmental change linked to forest cover, forest condition,
402 and biodiversity, while livelihood indicators included measures of access to forest resources for
403 commercial or subsistence use, and employment, household and community income.
404 Collectively, these indicators represent key aims of community forest management
405 interventions^{7,70}. We excluded cases of afforestation (except enrichment planting) and exotic
406 species plantations to ensure that environmental outcomes were comparable across natural
407 forests. The 50 contextual variables represented key potential sources of variation associated
408 with community forest outcomes. We identified these through a preliminary review of 35 highly
409 cited articles on community forests and forest-cover change¹⁹. Our goal was to be comprehensive
410 in our use of theories (and related variables) from multiple bodies of literature, to avoid too
411 narrow a focus on institutions (a historical focus of community forestry literature¹⁹) that
412 discounts additional contextual factors, such as biophysical factors, that may play a role in land-
413 use change⁷¹. The 50 contextual variables included user-group socioeconomic and demographic
414 characteristics, forest- and agriculture-related market factors, institutional factors related to forest

415 management, biophysical factors, and factors related to policy changes or specific interventions
416 implemented to support CFM (Supplementary Table 1). Papers could describe multiple
417 community forests, which we treated as separate individual cases. To be included, studies had to
418 have some kind of “comparator” in their research design, whether spatial (control-impact or
419 comparative case studies) and/or temporal (before-after). We sought to broaden the case number
420 beyond the “gold standard” impact assessment designs (which represented 8% of our cases) to
421 draw from different disciplinary backgrounds that would otherwise be overlooked but that
422 nevertheless document relevant data, and to increase the geographical representation of the
423 conclusions drawn.

424 The 267 papers that met our selection criteria provided data on an initial set of 697 cases
425 of community forests. Following removal of cases with contradictory outcome variables (see
426 outcome variables below), this number was reduced to a final set of 643 cases from 51 countries
427 that we used for our analyses.

428
429 **Variable construction and coding.** A team of seven researchers performed all data extraction
430 and developed a simple categorical data extraction protocol to maximize standardization across
431 studies. The team went through six data extraction rounds on a subset of randomly selected
432 studies until an acceptable level of intra-team congruence ($\kappa > 0.6$) was reached. With the
433 exception of variables linked to property rights, right bundles (both *de jure* and *de facto* rights),
434 input costs, and forest type, all variables were categorized into binary or three-level categorical
435 variables (Supplementary Table 1). In several instances (e.g., slope, elevation, and precipitation),
436 studies reported data as numerical values. In such instances, data were recorded as numerical
437 values and later transformed into categorical values by using tercile values to generate three-
438 level categorical variables that could be combined with data recorded in categorical formats.
439 Forest classification considered both elevation (e.g. montane forest), latitude (temperate or
440 tropical), and precipitation (dry or humid). We relied on authors’ descriptions and use of terms to
441 classify variables. For example, for the variable “type of CFM policy,” we classified cases as
442 JFM, PFM, or co-management depending on the language used by the author(s). While JFM and
443 PFM are types of co-management, we use “co-management” to denote a more equitable sharing
444 of power and responsibility between governments and local user groups³⁶. If the author(s) did not
445 mention any of these terms, the case was categorized as “other.”

446

447 **Outcome variables.** We generated three separate outcome variables combining information on
448 environmental indicators (forest cover, forest condition, and biodiversity), income indicators
449 (community and household income), and resource access rights indicators (commercial access
450 and subsistence access). In all instances, data on individual indicators were extracted as three-
451 level ordinal variables (decrease, no change, increase) and subsequently combined into single
452 environmental, income, and resource rights outcome variables (Supplementary Figure 2a).
453 Conflicting cases in which indicators within outcomes variables showed opposing trends (e.g.,
454 increases in forest condition and decreases in biodiversity) were excluded from the analysis (n =
455 54, Supplementary Figure 2a) but discussed in the main paper to bring attention to the nuances of
456 trade-offs within outcome categories. Instances in which variables combined no change with
457 increases or decreases were classed as either increases or decreases respectively. Our final
458 dataset included 223 cases of joint environmental and income outcomes; 186 cases of joint
459 environmental and access right outcomes; 169 cases of income and access rights outcomes; and
460 122 cases of triple environmental, income and access rights outcomes (with some articles
461 reporting multiple joint outcomes). For our statistical analysis we generated four separate
462 datasets with no missing data on our outcomes of interest. Joint outcomes were coded as:
463 increases in two dimensions; increase in one dimension and no change in the other; no change in
464 either dimension; decrease in one dimension and no change in the other; increase in one
465 dimension and decrease in the other dimension (“trade-off”); and decreases in both dimensions
466 (Supplementary Figure 2b). We use the term outcome “trade-off” broadly and in the same vein
467 as used elsewhere in the community forestry literature (see ^{2,11,14,72}) where two potentially linked
468 outcomes have an inverse relationship; we posit theoretical, deterministic relationships between
469 some of these joint trade-off outcomes where relevant.

470

471 **Statistical analysis.** In contrast to meta-analyses of clinical experiments, where study designs
472 among studies are often more comparable, the analysis of systematic review data poses inherent
473 challenges due to difference in study designs, and the structure of the extracted dataset. This
474 includes (i) missing data (in our case 53-54% depending on which outcome variable is
475 considered, Supplementary Figure 3) as well as (ii) a large number of variables (columns)
476 relative to the number of cases (rows) because not all studies collected data for all variables of

477 interest, and (iii) a large number of categorical variables because information is mainly extracted
478 as nominal or ordinal data.

479 One approach to deal with these issues would be to conduct multiple bi-variate analyses.
480 However, conducting multiple tests sequentially can lead to type I and II statistical errors (false
481 positives and false negatives, respectively), a serious concern for our analysis given the large
482 number of associations. Another approach to deal with missing data is to remove cases with
483 missing data. However, removing cases with missing data would remove considerable amounts
484 of useful information. Conducting either bi-variate analyses or removing a large number of cases
485 with missing data would also make our analyses susceptible to Simpson's paradox, where
486 associations between variables in different subsets of the data change once subsets are combined.
487 Potential biases could arise either because bi-variate analyses would assess associations among
488 variables with different patterns of missingness (different data subsets), or by affecting factor
489 level combinations among variables if substantial amounts of information are removed.

490 To address the three issues mentioned above, we expand the methods developed by
491 Oldekop et al.²⁶ and develop an analytical algorithm. Our algorithm combines multiple
492 imputations ($N = 100$) – to generate data subsets with no missing values, with variable selection–
493 to model our joint and triple outcome variables as a function of key subsets of our 50 contextual
494 variables. The variables selected by our algorithm vary in missingness and includes both
495 variables with no missing data, and variables with large amounts of missingness. The patterns of
496 missingness in our data likely reflect the historical focus of interest of CFM studies. To ensure
497 that our approach is not unduly influenced by this pattern we conduct a set of robustness checks
498 on a series of simulated datasets that specifically aim to emulate the patterns of missingness in
499 our dataset (see below). Although our algorithm performs well with up to 90% missingness in
500 the predictor with the strongest association to the outcome variable, we chose a conservative cut-
501 off for variable inclusion of lower than 85% in our main analysis.

502 We generated all computer code and conducted all statistical analyses in *R*. Our algorithm
503 first generates a randomly selected sub-sample of our dataset (with replacement); imputes
504 missing data; then selects variables for model inclusion; and subsequently runs a multiple ordinal
505 regression for each sub-sample. In each iteration, we calculated the relative contribution of
506 selected variables to model fit as partial pseudo R^2 values, as well as individual regression
507 coefficients. We subsequently averaged partial pseudo R^2 values and regression coefficients for

508 the five variables that were most frequently selected in the variable selection step, and calculate
509 standard errors for all regression coefficients. We weighted partial pseudo R^2 using the
510 proportion of times that individual variables were included in our regression models. We impute
511 data using the *rflImpute* and select variables using *randomForest* functions of the randomForest
512 package⁷³. These are the values presented in our main analysis. This approach combines the
513 strengths of multiple imputation approaches (e.g., Multiple Imputation by Chained Equations²⁷),
514 and machine learning algorithms⁷⁴, which perform particularly well for variable selection in
515 instances where datasets contain numerous correlated and interacting predictor variables⁷⁵ (see
516 Supplementary Figure 4 for associations between variables in our dataset). We visually test the
517 proportional odds assumption by adapting Harrell’s visual method⁷⁶. An inspection of the
518 generated graphs (Supplementary Figure 9) shows that while a small number of outcome levels
519 overlap for individual variables, for the most part the levels in the outcome are stratified and
520 display similar distances between levels within predictor levels. We interpret this to signify that
521 the proportional odds assumption is largely met in our analysis.

522

523 **Robustness checks.** Part of our analysis relies on data imputation. We therefore test the
524 performance of our imputation and analysis algorithm using 16 simulated datasets. These
525 datasets differ in the number of predictor variables (11 and 21 variables), and have varying
526 degrees of missingness (no missing data, 10%, 25% and 50% missingness), as well as varying
527 degrees of missingness in the predictor variable (Predictor 1) with the strongest statistical
528 association to the dependent variable (50% overall missingness and 25% missingness in
529 Predictor 1; 50% overall missingness and 50% missingness in Predictor 1; and 50% overall
530 missingness and 90% missingness in Predictor 1). The missing data maps are shown in
531 Supplementary Figures 5 and 6. These datasets contain 500 rows of data, and like our systematic
532 review datasets, contain three-level categorical variables with varying statistical associations to a
533 three-level ordinal response variable (Supplementary Tables 2 and 3). Because cases from
534 individual studies in our systematic review data have missing data for the same variables, our
535 simulated datasets also include a ten-level blocking variable, which we use to simulate cases and
536 group data rows. To generate 10%, 25% and 50% missingness levels, we first calculate the
537 number of data cells to be removed relative to of all data cells within our simulated datasets, and
538 then randomly select variables and levels within our blocking variable for removal

539 (Supplementary Figure 5).

540 We then use our algorithm to calculate key statistics relevant to our main analysis
541 (averaged regression coefficients, and inclusion weights - the proportion of times that individual
542 variables are selected and included in the ordinal logistic regression models). Results from our
543 robustness checks suggest that our algorithm and analysis are moderately to strongly robust. As
544 expected, we find that bootstrapped regression coefficients from a run with no missing data are
545 almost identical to those generated by a simple ordinal logistic regression (Supplementary Tables
546 2 and 3). Critically, we find that averaged coefficients for the top five selected variables for runs
547 with 10%, 25% and 50% missing data tend to follow the same direction (correspondence in the
548 direction of coefficient $\kappa= 0.88$ to 1, Supplementary Tables 2 and 3, Supplementary Figure 7a,c)
549 and have similar relative magnitudes. This same pattern is reflected in analyses run using
550 datasets with 50% overall missingness and varying levels of missingness (up to 90%) in the
551 predictor showing the strongest statistical association with the outcome variable (correspondence
552 in the direction of coefficient $\kappa= 0.53$ to 1, Supplementary Tables 2 and 3, Supplementary
553 Figure 8a, c).

554 We also find that variable inclusion weights between runs with no missing data, and
555 missing data are highly correlated ($r = 0.82$ to 0.97 , Supplementary Figure 6b,d), suggesting a
556 high degree of overlap in the selection of variables that are included in our models.

557

558 **Data availability**

559 The data used for this analysis is available at: <http://www.forestlivelihoods.org/resources/>. All
560 computer code used in this analysis is available from the authors upon reasonable request.

561

562

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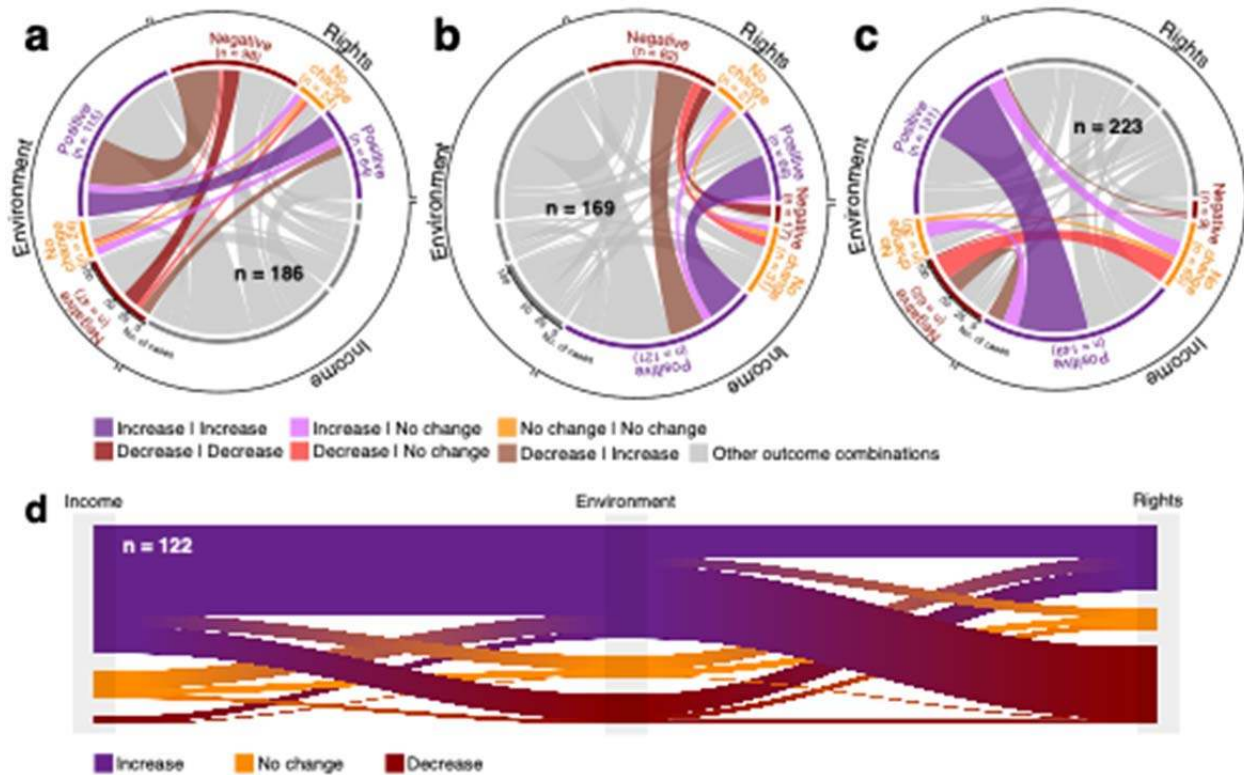
761 **Author contributions**

762 R.H., J.A.O., P.N., A.J.R. and W.Z. conceived and designed the systematic review. R.H., J.A.O.,
763 and W.Z. conducted the review and data extraction. R.H. and J.A.O. conducted the analysis and
764 drafted the manuscript. R.H., J.A.O., P.C., P.N., A.J.R. and W.Z. contributed to results
765 interpretation and finalizing of the paper.

766 **Competing interests**

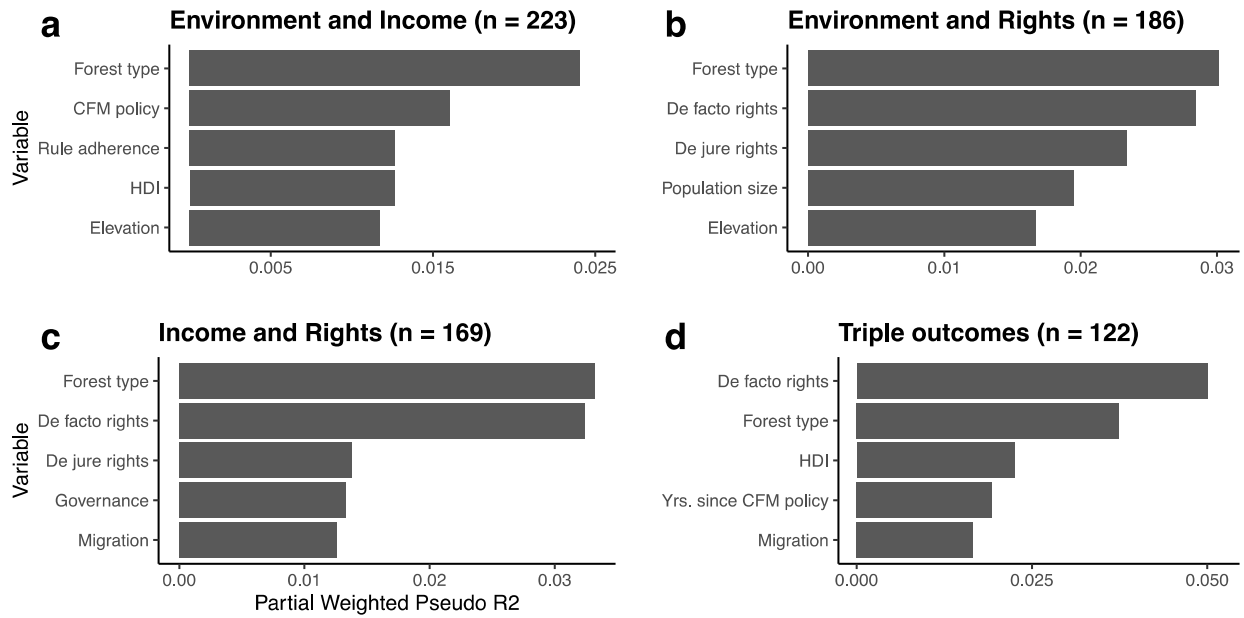
767 The authors declare no competing interests.

768



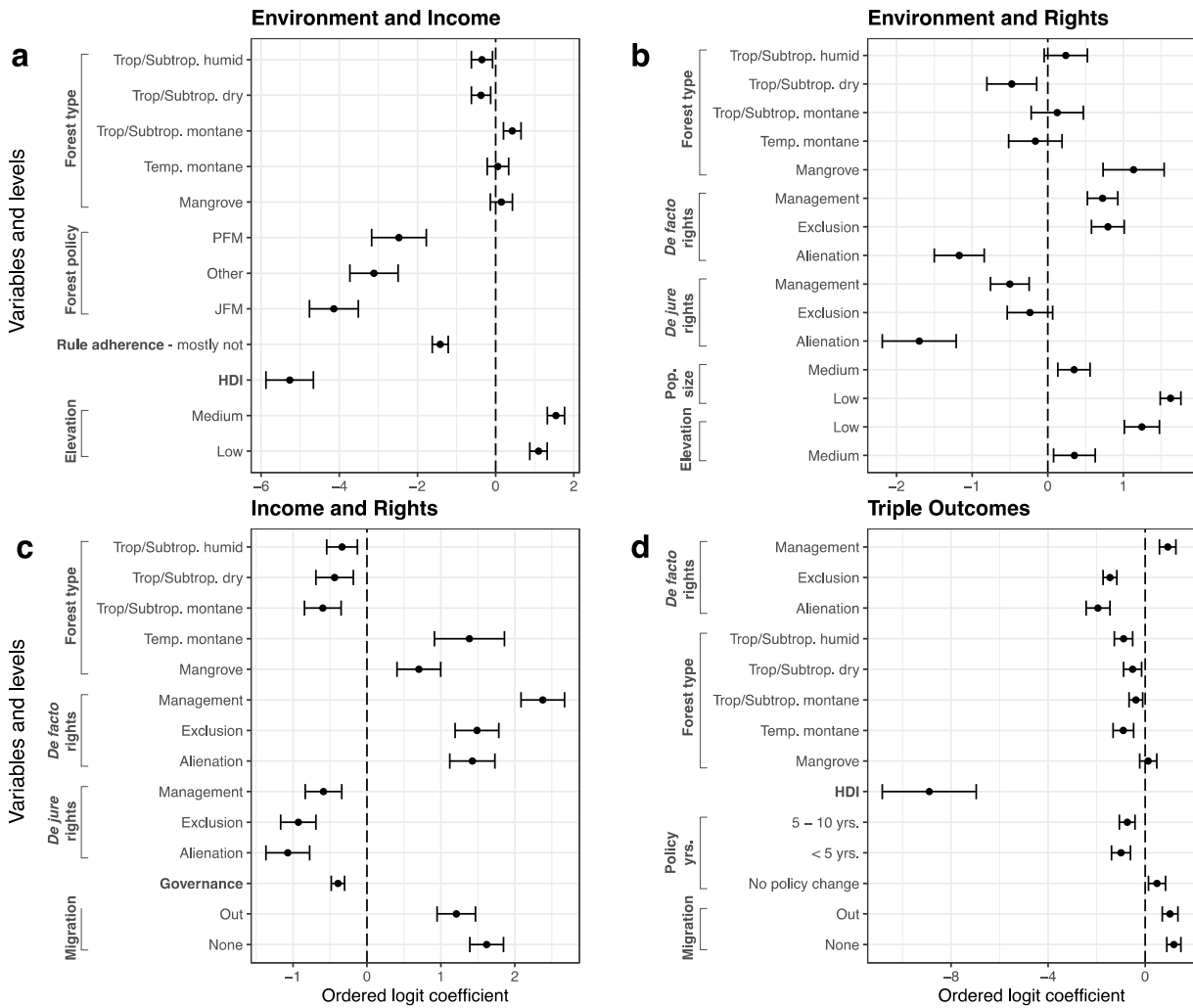
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770 **Figure 1.** Double and triple outcomes of social and environmental outcomes: (a) Environment
 771 and rights; (b) income and rights; (c) environment and income; and (d) income, environment, and
 772 rights. Studies examining resource rights and forest environmental condition outcomes reported
 773 joint positive outcomes in 45% of cases (dark purple) and studies examining income and access
 774 rights reported joint positive outcomes in 34% of cases. Studies examining income and forest
 775 environmental conditions reported joint positive outcomes in 46% of cases while studies
 776 examining all three outcomes reported positive outcomes across all three dimensions in 18% of
 777 cases.
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Figure 2. Mean partial weighted pseudo R2 values for the five most frequently selected variables predicting positive social and environmental outcomes of community forestry across multiple dimensions. Most of the variation explaining social and environmental outcomes in our models was explained by a mixture of forest biophysical characteristics and socio-economic factors.



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Figure 3. Mean regression coefficients of the five most frequently selected variables explaining social and environmental outcomes of community forestry in our models. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean coefficient value. The reference levels are: for forest type, “Temperate dry;” for forest policy, “Co-management;” for rule adherence, “Mostly follow;” for elevation, “High;” for *de facto* and *de jure* rights, “Access and withdrawal;” for population size, “High;” for migration, “In-migration;” for policy years “>10yrs.” Governance and HDI are continuous measures and thus do not have reference levels.

Supplementary Information for

A global analysis of the social and environmental outcomes of community forests

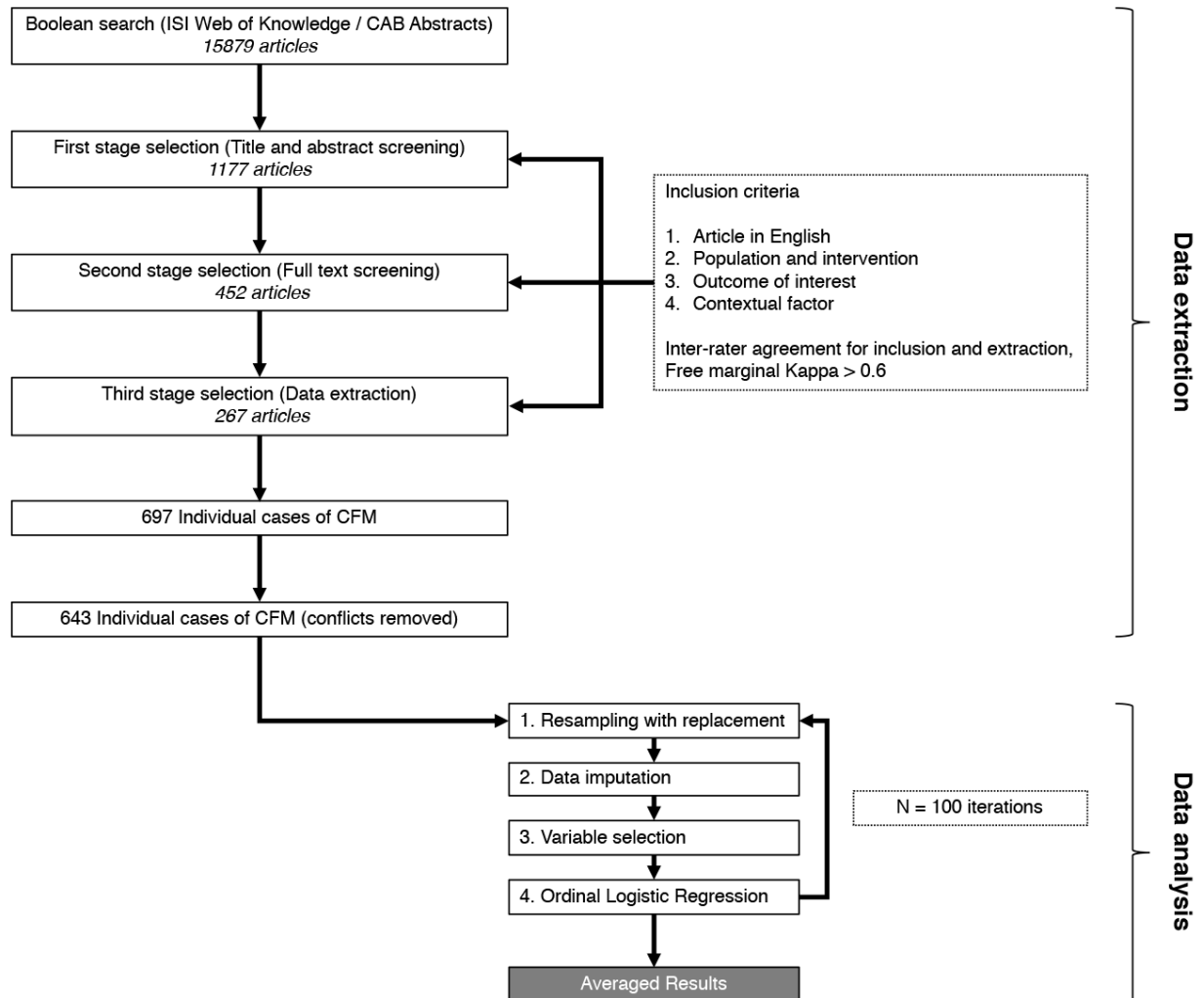
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This PDF file includes:

Supplementary Figures 1 to 9
Supplementary Tables 1 to 3

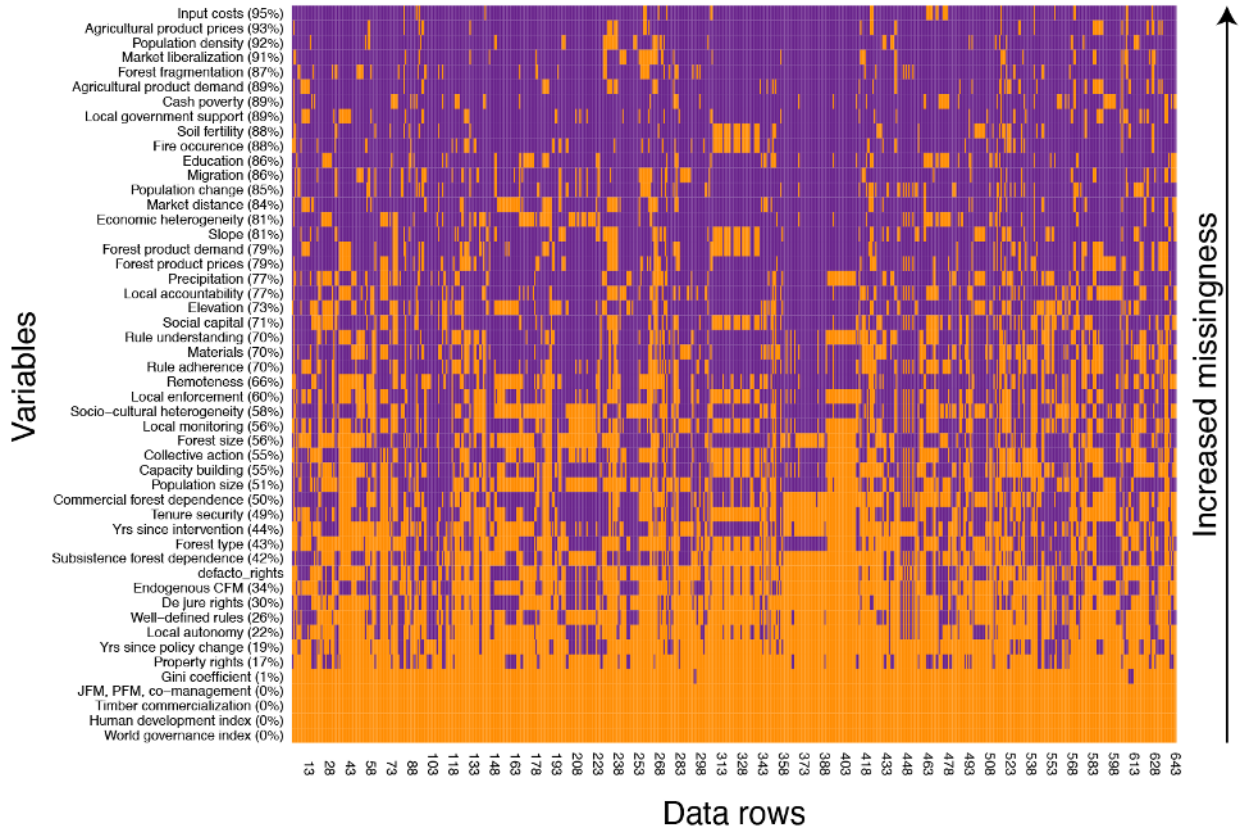


Supplementary Figure 1: Selection stages of the systematic review and analysis steps.

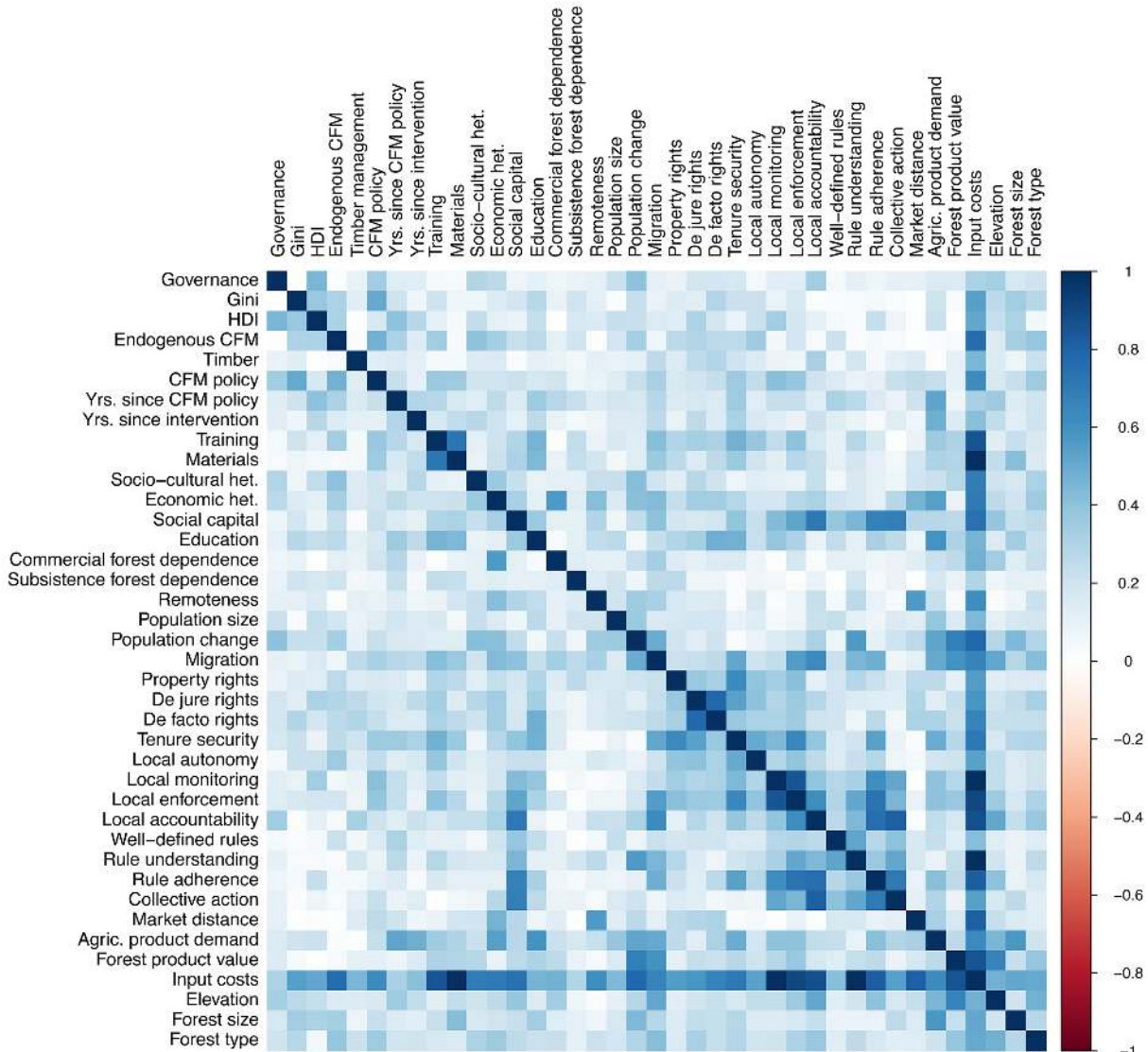
a	Dimension	Indicator	Exclusions
Environment		Forest cover	n = 32
		Forest condition	
		Biodiversity	
Income		Community income	n = 16
		Household income	
		Employment	
Access rights		Commercial purposes	n = 6
		Subsistence purposes	

b	Joint outcomes	Triple outcomes
	Positive Positive	Positive Positive Positive
	>	>
	Positive No Change	Positive Positive No Change
	>	>
	Positive No Change	Positive No Change No Change
	>	>
	No Change No Change	No Change No Change No Change
	>	>
	Positive Negative	Positive Positive Negative
	>	>
	Positive Negative	Positive No Change Negative
	>	>
	Negative No Change	Positive Negative Negative
	>	>
	Negative No Change	Negative Negative No Change
	>	>
	Negative Negative	Negative Negative No Change
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	Negative Negative	Negative Negative Negative
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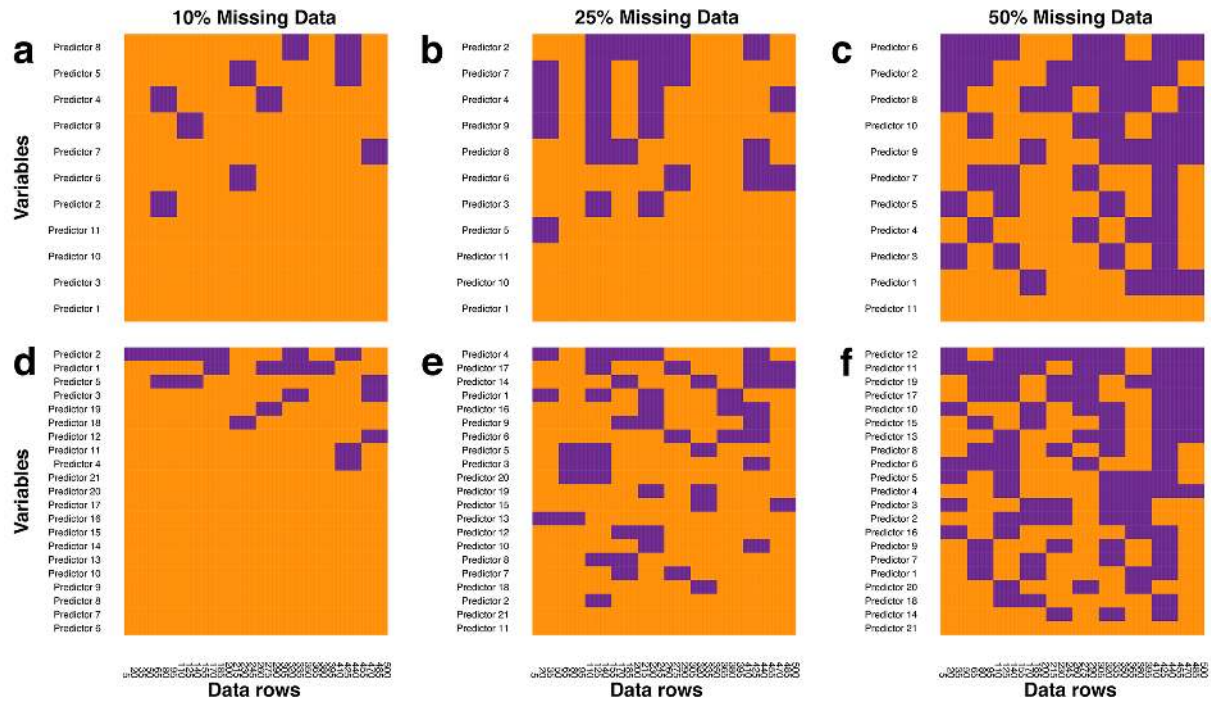
Supplementary Figure 2. Environmental and social indicators and dimensions of community forest management and the number of excluded data points due to conflicting outcomes (a). Conflicting cases were defined as those in which indicators within outcomes variables showed opposing trends (e.g., increases in forest condition and decreases in biodiversity). Ranked outcome variable levels (b). Levels in bold are outcome combinations included in our dataset.



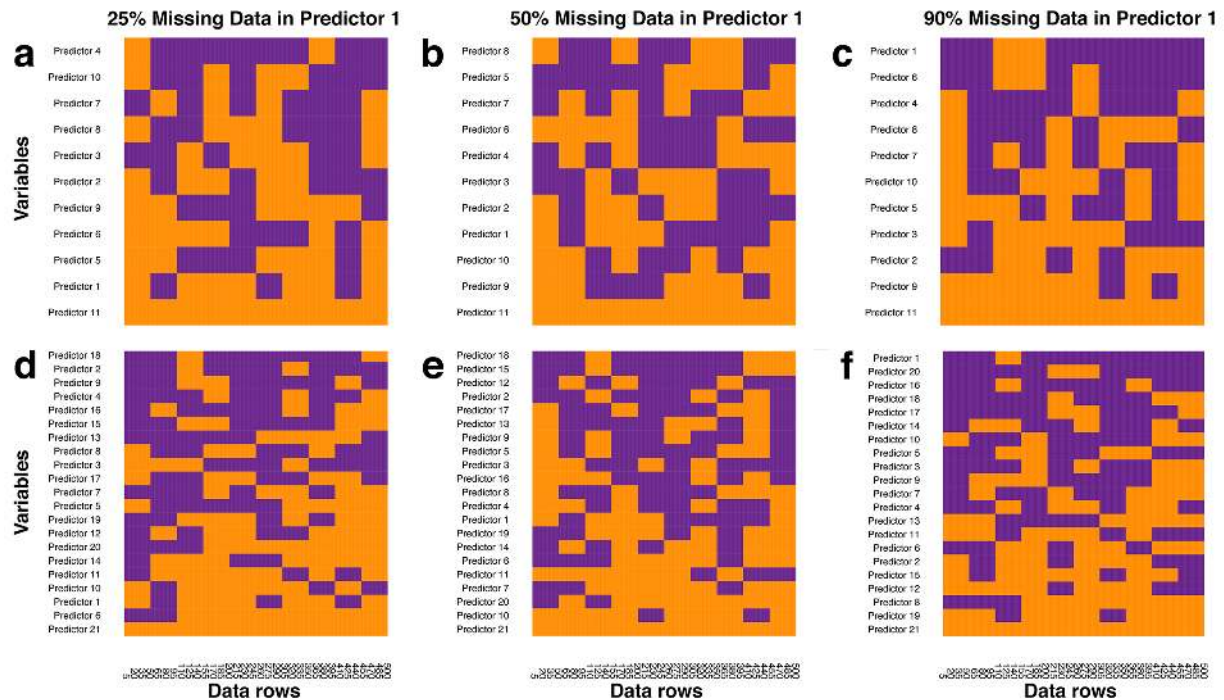
Supplementary Figure 3. Missing data map. The four datasets focusing on multiple outcomes used in our analysis range from 53% to 54% missingness, with great variation in the amount of missing data in different variables (purple = missing, orange = non-missing).



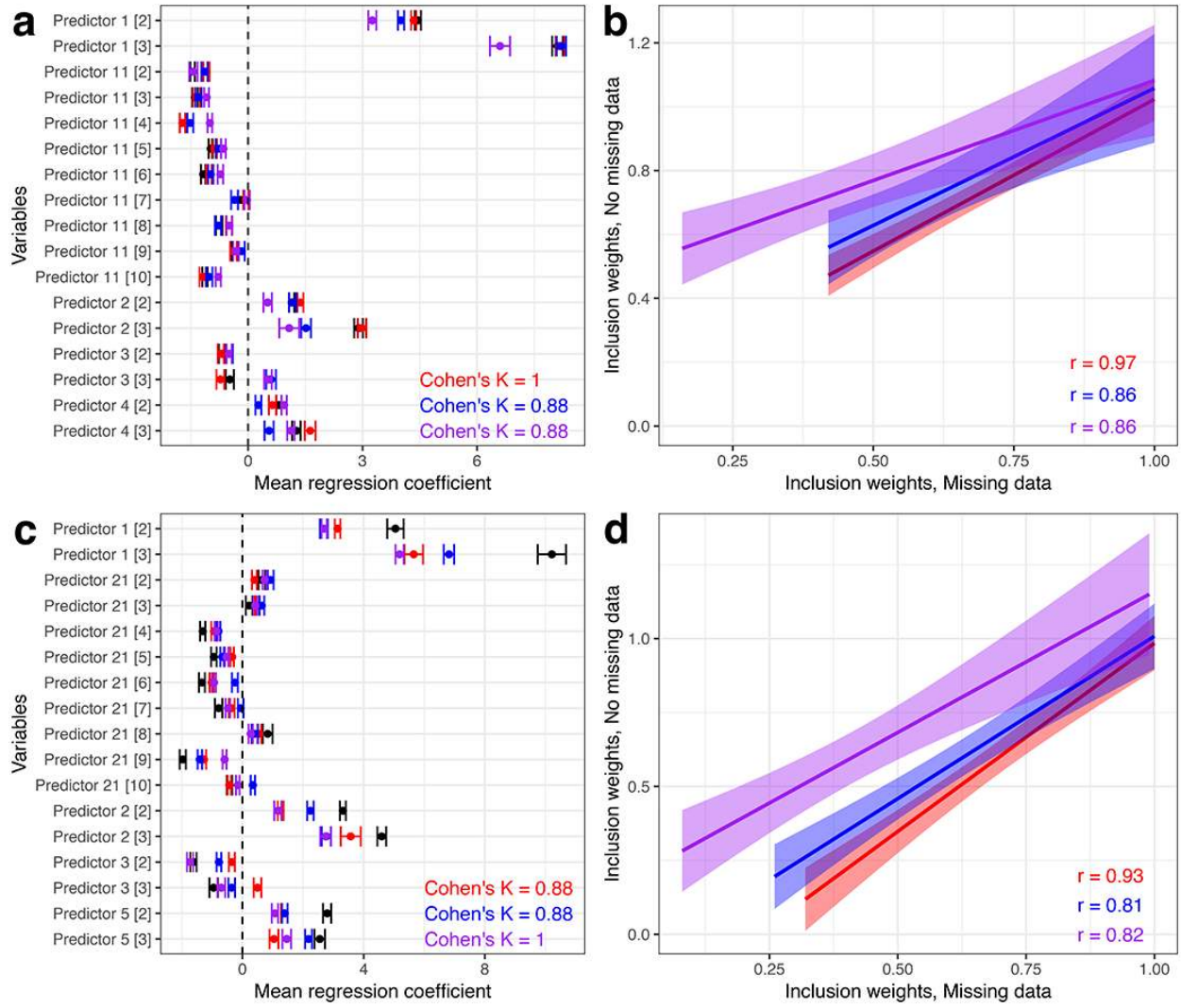
Supplementary Figure 4. Association matrix for predictor variables included in the principal analysis. Because predictor variables are both continuous and categorical, the matrix calculates association measures for three possible data combinations (13) (continuous - continuous: Pearson’s correlation, with values between -1 to 1; continuous - categorical: R^2 values based on a linear regression, with values between 0 and 1; and categorical - categorical: Cramer’s V with values between 0 and 1. It was not possible to compute associations for eleven variables (cash poverty, population density, weak state, market liberalization, forest product demand, agricultural product value, soil fertility, slope, precipitation, fire frequency, and forest fragmentation) because combinations between these and other categorical variables were based on less than two levels within categories.



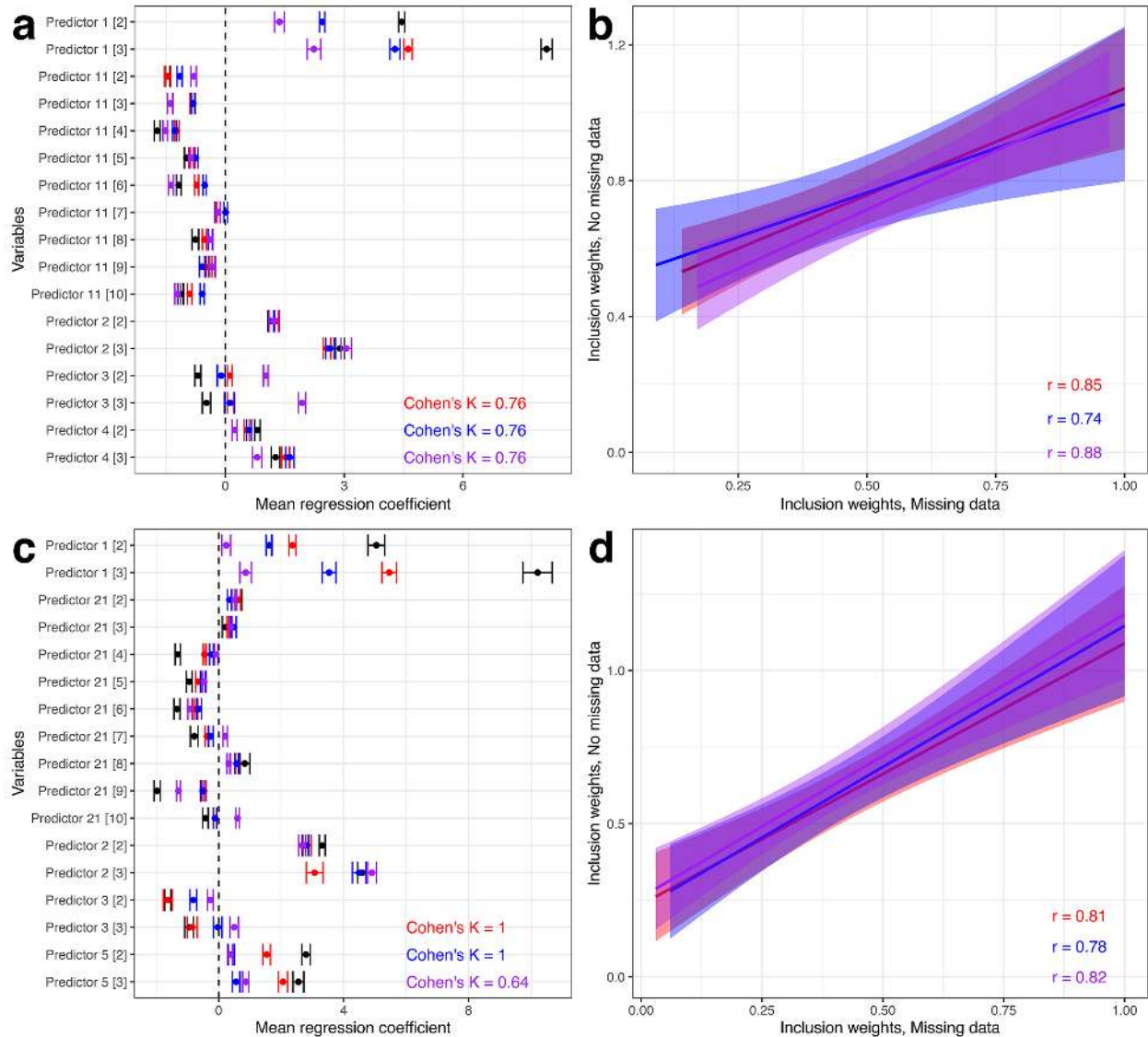
Supplementary Figure 5. Missing data map for simulated datasets with 11 (a-c) and 21 (d-f) predictor variables with 10%, 25% and 50% missing data (purple = missing, orange = non-missing).



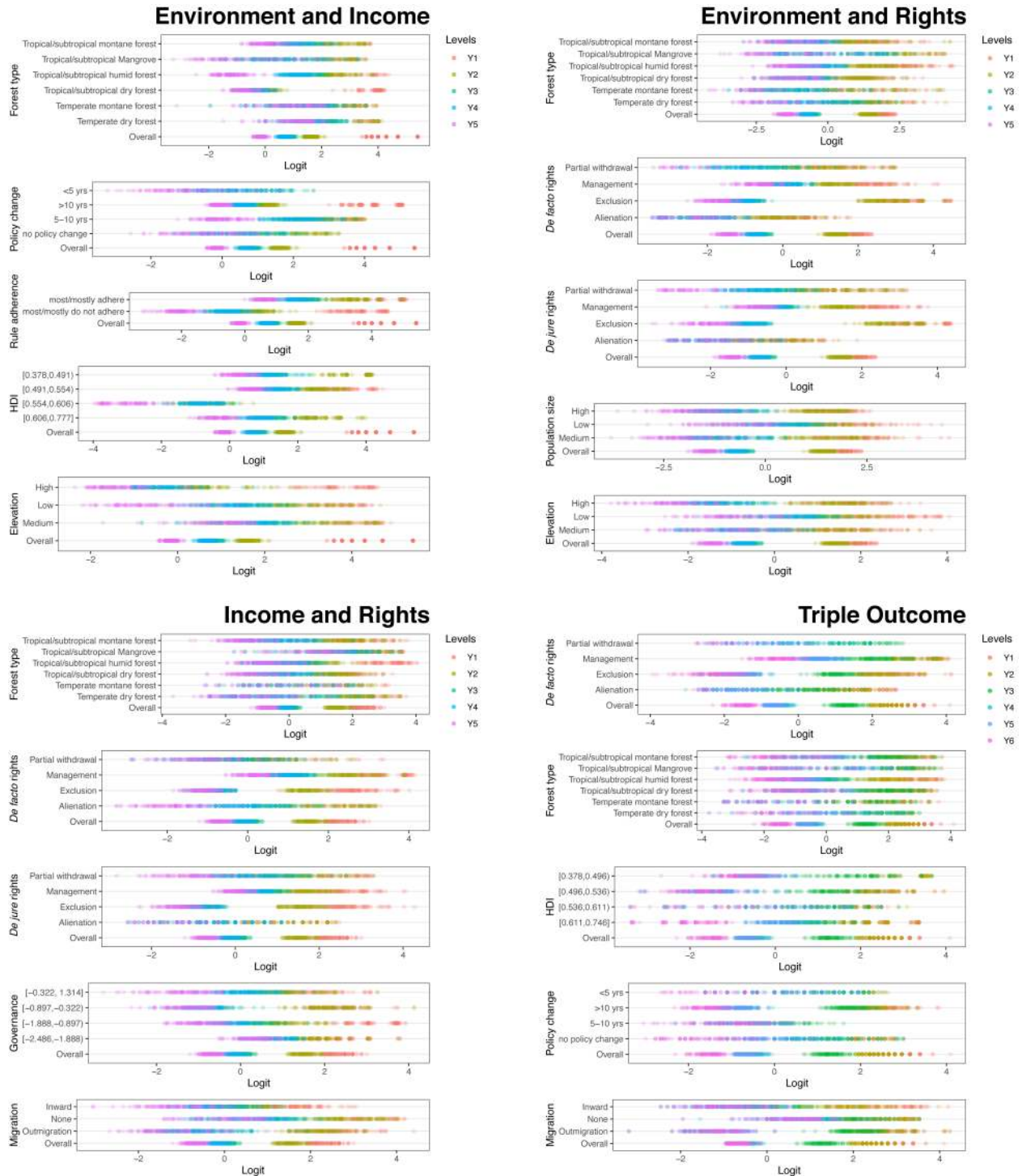
Supplementary Figure 6. Missing data map for simulated datasets with 11 (a-c) and 21 (d-f) predictor variables with 50% overall missingness, and 25%, 50% and 90% missingness in the predictor variable (Predictor 1) with largest statistical association with the outcome variable (purple = missing, orange = non-missing).



Supplementary Figure 7. Analysis results for simulated datasets with 11 (a-b) and 21 (c-d) predictor variables, demonstrating the mean regression coefficients for the five most frequently selected predictor variables in the run with no missing data (a, c), and correlation of inclusion weights (b, d) between datasets with no missing data, and datasets with various degrees of missingness (black = no missing data, red = 10% missingness, blue = 25% missingness, purple = 50% missingness).



Supplementary Figure 8. Analysis results for simulated datasets with 11 (a-b) and 21 (c-d) predictor variables, demonstrating the mean regression coefficients for the five most frequently selected variables in the run with no missing data (a, c), and correlation of inclusion weights (b, d) between datasets with no missing data, and datasets with 50% overall missingness and various degrees of missingness in the predictor variable (Predictor 1) with the strongest statistical relationship with the outcome variable (black = no missing data, red = 25% missingness in Predictor 1, blue = 50% missingness in Predictor 1, purple = 90% missingness in Predictor 1).



Supplementary Figure 9. Proportional odds comparisons among individual levels within the five most common selected predictor variables for each level, for the four outcome variables. Visual inspection of these suggest that while a small number of outcome variable levels overlap for individual variables, for the most part the levels in the outcome are stratified and display similar distances between levels within predictor variable levels. We interpret this to signify that the proportional odds assumption is largely met in our analysis.

Supplementary Table 1: List of contextual (predictor) variables, their definitions and levels.

Category	Variable	Description	Levels
User group	1. Socio-cultural heterogeneity	What is the socio-cultural heterogeneity of the community?	high mixed low
	2. Economic heterogeneity	What is the economic or wealth disparity of the community?	high mixed low
	3. Social capital	What is the level of social capital in the community?	high medium low
	4. Education	What is the level of education of the majority of the community?	< than 5 yrs > than 5 yrs
	5. Commercial forest dependence	What is the group's commercial forest dependence?	high low
	6. Subsistence forest dependence	What is the group's subsistence forest dependence?	high low
	7. Remoteness	How accessible is the community?	accessible inaccessible
	8. Cash poverty	How cash-poor is the majority of the community?	above below poverty line
	9. Population size	What is the community's population size	high medium low
	10. Population density	What is the community's population density?	high medium low
	11. Population change	How has the local population changed?	increase stable decrease
	12. Migration	What kind of migration has there been in the community?	inward none outward
Institutional / economic factors	13. World governance index*	Aggregate index of six governance dimensions	<i>Continuous variable</i>
	14. Human development index*	Composite index of income, education and health dimensions	<i>Continuous variable</i>
	15. Gini coefficient*	Measure of economic inequality at the national level	<i>Continuous variable</i>
	16. Local government support	Are higher levels of governance able to provide support to local communities (e.g., through enforcement of regulations)?	strong weak
	17. Property rights	What is type of formal property rights held by the community?	communally owned customary rights open access private state owned
	18. De jure rights	What is the bundle of de jure rights held by the community?	access withdrawal management exclusion alienation
	19. De facto rights	What is the bundle of de facto rights held by the community?	access withdrawal management exclusion alienation
	20. Tenure security	How secure are the tenure rights held by the community?	secure insecure
	21. Local autonomy	To what degree can communities make their own decisions about resource use?	mostly local formal mostly local informal mostly non-local
	22. Local monitoring	Does the community actively monitor its resources?	yes no
	23. Local enforcement	Does the community actively enforce transgressions or incursions?	yes no
	24. Local accountability	What is the level of accountability of local community leaders to the community?	high low
	25. Well-defined rules	How well defined are formal or informal local-rules on resource use?	defined undefined
	26. Rule understanding	Does the majority of the community understand (or is aware) of local rules?	most understand/are aware

			most do not understand/are not aware
	27. Rule adherence	Does the majority of the community generally adhere to local rules?	most adhere most do not adhere
	28. Collective action	What is the level of collective action at the local level?	high low
Market factors	29. Market liberalization	Does the author provide evidence that the country or region has undergone any liberalization policies?	present absent
	30. Market distance	How far away is the nearest admin/market centre using the community's main mean of transport?	equal less than a days travel more than a days travel
	31. Forest product demand	What is the level of market demand for the main forest product?	high low
	32. Agricultural product demand	What is the level of market demand for the main agricultural product?	high low
	33. Forest product prices	What is the commercial value of the principal forest product?	high low
	34. Agricultural product prices	What is the commercial value of the principal agricultural product?	high low
	35. Input costs	What is the level of input costs for the main forest or agricultural product?	high forest cost low forest cost high agricultural cost low agricultural cost high forest & high agricultural cost low forest & low agricultural cost high forest & low agricultural cost low forest & high agricultural cost
	Biophysical factors	36. Soil fertility	What is the level of soil fertility in the community?
37. Slope		How steep is the area of the community?	steep not steep
38. Elevation		What is the elevation of the community?	high medium low
39. Precipitation		How much rainfall does the community experience?	high medium low
40. Fire		What is the level of fire frequency in the community?	high low
41. Forest fragmentation		What is the level of forest fragmentation in the community?	high low
42. Forest size		What is the size of the forest?	large medium small
43. Forest type		What is the local forest type?	temperate dry forest temperate humid forest temperate montane forest tropical/sub-tropical humid dry forest tropical/subtropical humid forest tropical/subtropical montane forest mangrove
Intervention factors	44. Endogenous CFM	Do the authors mention or provide evidence of community forestry existence prior to the intervention or policy change?	yes no
	45. JFM, PFM, co-management	Does the study specifically mention PFM, JFM, or co-management?	JFM PFM co-management other

46. Years since policy change	What is the time since the latest major policy change at the national or regional level?	no policy change > 10 years 5-10 years < 5 years
47. Years since intervention	What is the time since the latest localized intervention or localized implementation of policy?	no intervention > 10 years 5-10 years < 5 years
48. Timber commercialization	Was timber commercialization part of intervention?	yes no
49. Training	Did the community receive training as part of the intervention	yes no
50. Materials	Did the community receive any materials or technologies as part of the intervention?	yes no

*indicates country-level data obtained from the World Bank's Development indicators, recorded for the year the study indicated data collection occurred.

Supplementary Table 2: Regression results from the 11 predictor variable simulated dataset for the five most frequently selected predictor variables in runs with no missing data, including standard ordinal logistic regression results for no missing data, and bootstrapped results selected variables for no missing data, and 10%, 25% and 50% missing data.

Predictor Variable	OLR		Bootstrap					
			Overall Missingness			Missingness in Predictor 1		
	0%	0%	10%	25%	50%	25%	50%	90%
	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)
Predictor 1 [2]	4.06 (0.53)***	4.45 (0.08)	4.34 (0.07)	4.01 (0.08)	3.26 (0.10)	2.45(0.07)	2.44(0.07)	1.36(0.13)
Predictor 1 [3]	7.44 (0.85)***	8.11 (0.14)	8.18 (0.12)	8.21 (0.12)	6.60 (0.26)	4.61(0.11)	4.28(0.13)	2.23(0.17)
Predictor 2 [2]	1.16 (0.61)	1.14 (0.07)	1.37 (0.08)	1.17 (0.09)	0.51 (0.11)	1.30(0.07)	1.17(0.07)	1.22(0.11)
Predictor 2 [3]	2.81 (0.90)**	2.89 (0.11)	2.99 (0.11)	1.52 (0.13)	1.08 (0.26)	2.56(0.10)	2.64(0.11)	3.05(0.13)
Predictor 3 [2]	-0.47 (0.68)	-0.69 (0.07)	-0.71 (0.08)	-0.49 (0.08)	-0.50 (0.08)	0.11(0.06)	-0.11(0.10)	1.16(0.06)
Predictor 3 [3]	-0.49 (0.95)	-0.48 (0.11)	-0.73 (0.10)	0.60 (0.13)	0.52 (0.10)	0.14(0.08)	0.10(0.12)	1.94(0.09)
Predictor 4 [2]	0.72 (0.64)	0.81 (0.07)	0.64 (0.09)	0.27 (0.08)	0.94 (0.07)	0.54(0.07)	0.60(0.06)	0.23(0.07)
Predictor 4 [3]	1.36 (0.96)	1.27 (0.11)	1.63 (0.14)	0.55 (0.12)	1.12 (0.10)	1.52(0.10)	1.63(0.11)	0.80(0.12)
Predictor 11 [2]	-1.46 (0.65)*	-1.46 (0.06)	-1.09 (0.08)	-1.14 (0.08)	-1.44 (0.11)	-1.46(0.08)	-0.59(0.05)	-0.80(0.07)
Predictor 11 [3]	-1.38 (0.68)*	-1.40 (0.07)	-1.36 (0.09)	-1.30 (0.08)	-1.09 (0.06)	-0.83(0.06)	-1.16(0.06)	-1.40(0.07)
Predictor 11 [4]	-1.75 (0.66)**	-1.72 (0.07)	-1.72 (0.07)	-1.52 (0.08)	-1.00 (0.06)	-1.22(0.05)	-0.81(0.05)	-1.52(0.06)
Predictor 11 [5]	-0.93 (0.67)	-0.98 (0.05)	-0.89 (0.07)	-0.78 (0.07)	-0.65 (0.06)	-0.83(0.06)	-1.28(0.05)	-0.87(0.06)
Predictor 11 [6]	-1.17 (0.64)	-1.18 (0.06)	-1.03 (0.07)	-0.98 (0.07)	-0.73 (0.07)	-0.73(0.05)	-0.75(0.06)	-1.37(0.06)
Predictor 11 [7]	-0.23 (0.62)	-0.20 (0.07)	-0.06 (0.06)	-0.36 (0.09)	-0.03 (0.07)	-0.18(0.05)	-0.52(0.04)	-0.19(0.07)
Predictor 11 [8]	-0.73 (0.67)	-0.76 (0.08)	-0.50 (0.08)	-0.79 (0.08)	-0.49 (0.08)	-0.53(0.05)	0.01(0.05)	-0.38(0.06)
Predictor 11 [9]	-0.33 (0.70)	-0.34 (0.08)	-0.39 (0.08)	-0.17 (0.08)	-0.32 (0.07)	-0.42(0.08)	-0.38(0.05)	-0.33(0.08)
Predictor 11 [10]	-1.13 (0.66)	-1.13 (0.07)	-1.19 (0.08)	-1.02 (0.08)	-0.78 (0.07)	-0.90(0.06)	-0.59(0.07)	-1.21(0.07)

Note: *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01, *P < 0.05. Standard errors for bootstrapped coefficients are based on the mean coefficient from N = 100 iterations.

Supplementary Table 3: Regression results from the 21 predictor variable simulated dataset for the five most frequently selected predictor variables in runs with no missing data, including standard ordinal logistic regression results for no missing data, and bootstrapped results selected variables for no missing data, and 10%, 25% and 50% missing data.

Predictor Variable	OLR		Bootstrap					
			Overall Missingness			Missingness in Predictor 1		
	0%	0%	10%	25%	50%	25%	50%	90%
	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)	Coef (SE)
Predictor 1 [2]	4.39 (0.89)***	5.05 (0.27)	3.14 (0.09)	2.69 (0.13)	2.70 (0.09)	2.36(0.11)	1.61(0.09)	0.24(0.14)
Predictor 1 [3]	8.52 (1.31)***	10.21 (0.47)	5.65 (0.30)	6.82 (0.17)	5.18 (0.14)	5.46(0.23)	3.53(0.22)	0.86(0.19)
Predictor 2 [2]	2.99 (0.63)***	3.31 (0.14)	1.26 (0.09)	2.24 (0.11)	1.17 (0.12)	2.82(0.13)	2.77(0.10)	2.67(0.11)
Predictor 2 [3]	4.34 (1.16)***	4.59 (0.14)	3.57 (0.33)	2.76 (0.15)	2.74 (0.17)	3.07(0.27)	4.49(0.22)	4.91(0.14)
Predictor 3 [2]	-1.75 (0.80)*	-1.62 (0.11)	-0.35 (0.10)	-0.77 (0.10)	-1.73 (0.10)	-1.63(0.14)	-0.81(0.11)	-0.27(0.09)
Predictor 3 [3]	-1.30 (1.11)	-0.95 (0.14)	0.50 (0.13)	-0.36 (0.11)	-0.70 (0.13)	-0.85(0.16)	-0.03(0.14)	0.50(0.14)
Predictor 5 [2]	3.39 (0.90)***	2.79 (0.13)	1.38 (0.11)	1.40 (0.09)	1.07 (0.11)	1.53(0.12)	0.40(0.10)	0.38(0.07)
Predictor 5 [3]	2.89 (1.18)*	2.55 (0.17)	1.04 (0.15)	2.18 (0.11)	1.46 (0.15)	2.05(0.15)	0.56(0.12)	0.86(0.10)
Predictor 21 [2]	0.75 (0.87)	0.64 (0.11)	0.39 (0.08)	0.93 (0.10)	0.74 (0.07)	-0.12(0.05)	0.34(0.07)	0.50(0.06)
Predictor 21 [3]	0.50 (0.88)	0.22 (0.11)	0.5 (0.08)	0.64 (0.08)	0.42 (0.06)	0.62(0.07)	0.49(0.08)	0.38(0.06)
Predictor 21 [4]	-0.77 (0.81)	-1.31 (0.09)	-0.94 (0.09)	-0.79 (0.06)	-0.86 (0.06)	0.32(0.06)	-0.24(0.06)	-0.08(0.04)
Predictor 21 [5]	-0.63 (0.84)	-0.94 (0.09)	-0.34 (0.06)	-0.67 (0.06)	-0.52 (0.05)	-0.45(0.04)	-0.50(0.07)	-0.46(0.06)
Predictor 21 [6]	-0.56 (0.81)	-1.34 (0.10)	-1.02 (0.07)	-0.25 (0.09)	-0.94 (0.06)	-0.67(0.08)	-0.63(0.08)	-0.92(0.07)
Predictor 21 [7]	-0.46 (0.84)	-0.78 (0.12)	-0.35 (0.09)	-0.06 (0.09)	-0.48 (0.08)	-0.74(0.06)	-0.26(0.08)	0.21(0.07)
Predictor 21 [8]	0.80 (0.85)	0.83 (0.16)	0.56 (0.06)	0.41 (0.10)	0.27 (0.07)	-0.38(0.06)	0.57(0.06)	0.32(0.05)
Predictor 21 [9]	-1.52 (0.80)	-1.97 (0.10)	-1.27 (0.07)	-1.41 (0.10)	-0.59 (0.06)	0.58(0.05)	-0.52(0.06)	-1.29(0.07)
Predictor 21 [10]	-0.04 (0.86)	-0.43 (0.09)	-0.43 (0.06)	0.34 (0.07)	-0.15 (0.06)	-0.46(0.07)	-0.12(0.06)	0.60(0.06)

Note: *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01, *P < 0.05. Standard errors for bootstrapped coefficients are based on the mean coefficient from N = 100 iterations.