Climate & Resilience, applied (↔ joint) policy research:

facilitating 'win-win' (raise all of the SDGs) local choices

[& trying to insist that LEARNING is a positive thing]

Alex Pfaff   Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy

on behalf of many others (surely not all named in a 'lightning' talk)

"Climate, Resilience and Mobility Workshop"

Duke University

Durham, NC   9/20/2024

Information NE Brazil, FUNCEME, allocations of scarce rural water

Sophisticated agency forecasting to manage water,
yet with lower technical knowledge in the interior…

→ city suggests how much to release into canal
but decisions can be contested…some protested

Inequity In Information → In Allocation Too:

If Asymmetric limited responder information

→ *offering 40% of Low # keeps 80% of High #*

↔ communicating probabilities (& their best use!)
can be really hard and is a great Joint Learning area

Incentives tree planting (multiple SDG) in India, with conservation NGO, and in Malawi with Water Board & 2 Univ.

Long history of lots of planting, much less survival,
which can be a result of misunderstood incentives...

⟷ perhaps 'dumped' vs. 'chosen' explains it?
if sought & bought, alive; if 'good for you', dead

→ How much do 'choice menus' help ?
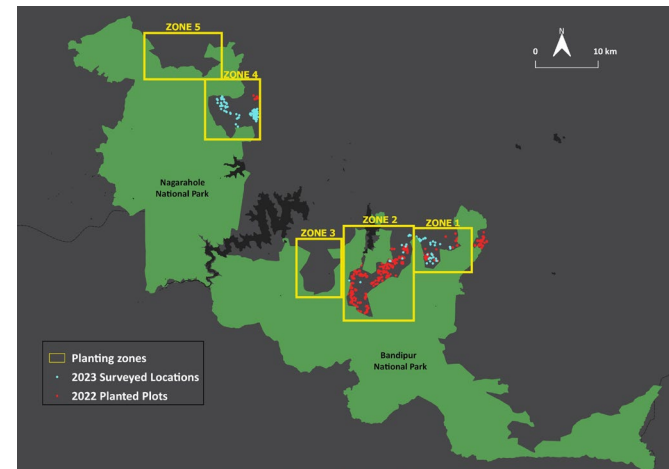people know better what choices best for them

Also a growing history of external incentives (PES)

⟷ interesting learning about group contracts:
fail by free-riding? or succeed per social capital?

Incentives with a Local Choice Focus
more ecopayments, now in Mexico
with the forest agency (CONAFOR)
& converting restrictions to rights

Surely helps if make regional/global public goods
significantly more locally incentive compatible??

⟷ can local prior choice reveal when that is ?

→ Mexico gone beyond typical 'Gov. Pay Farmer':
(at least my evaluations have questioned impacts)
with unique 'federal Ostrom subsidy': application
is by local downstream-(NGO)-upstream pairings

→ globally, consider PA types *(e.g., Gill for MPAs):*
allowing local roles can help (even for all SDGs !!)
and volunteering into PAs suggests local benefits

Infrastructure Investments (varied …)
better information (for regulation) &
promotion of options for formalization
+ offering technologies within mining

Surely hurts if NOT locally incentive compatible!

↔ Q: don't local choices reveal when that is ?

→ Para facilitated regulation through registration:
but just lowered cost of complying w/constraints
implied by successful federal collective incentive

→ ongoing significant investments for ASGM Hg:
"why don't they adopt this great new option?" …
hmm, maybe as it would lower their profitability?
(and if that's the case, credit access will not help!)

Photos: Maria Alejandra Velez, Luz Rodriguez

Informing / Improving Interventions ?

globally, design mechanisms better &

apply such learning at large scale too

→ Question: could offering carbon offsets Insurance
help to save key market which can help all the SDG?

↔ this builds on lots of impact evaluation
(yes there could be beneficial social learning here
but indeed private actors who lose are resistant!)

→ Suggestion: do debt-for-nature-swaps better by
measuring global gains (and Integrating them all),
then allowing local choice to maximize local gain

↔ this builds on lots of past non-impact
along with identifying conditions for some impact