



Community-based Forestry (CBF): the potential of Social Innovation Lab to trigger Transformative Governance in fire-prone Mediterranean Forests

TERRITORIAL PLANNING ENGINEERING (DET)

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Research Objectives

Investigate and explore how Social Innovation Lab (SILab), a participatory and collaborative approach, can trigger Transformative Governance (TG) in Community-based forestry (CBF) regimes in European Mediterranean Forests.

In this context the research objectives (RO) to be accomplish are:

- ✓ **RO1:** Contribute to broader and in-depth understanding of the concepts: CBF, TG and SILab, exploring these concepts and their linkages in literature and scientific knowledge.
- ✓ **RO2:** Explore potential of SILab approach to strengthen local governance and enhance transformative capacity in CBF regimes in fire-prone forests.
- ✓ **RO3:** Develop a framework based on SILab approach that may contribute to trigger TG in fire-prone CBF regimes in European Mediterranean Forests.

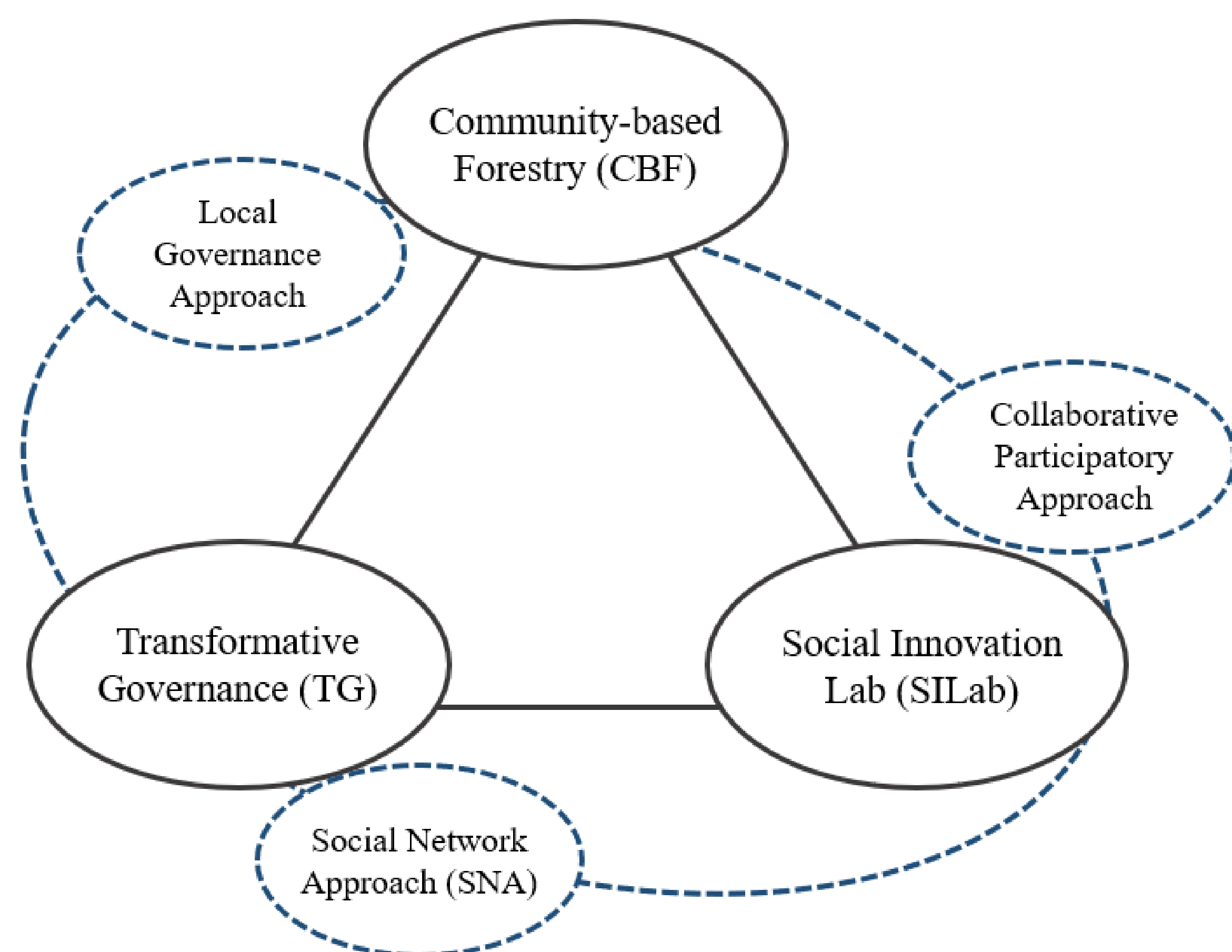


Figure 1. Conceptual research model (Saad, 2024)

Community-based Forestry (CBF): 'initiatives, sciences, policies, institutions and processes aiming to increase the role of local communities in governance forest resources' (FAO, 2016).

Social Innovation Lab (SILab): spaces and processes intended to support multi-stakeholder groups in addressing complex social problems and rely on tools from 'whole systems' processes and 'design thinking' (WISIR, 2014)

Transformative Governance (TG): approach to environmental governance (actors, networks, and institutions) aiming to create capacity to respond to, manage, and trigger nonlinear change in socio-ecological systems at multiple scales (Chaffin et al, 2016).

Research Methodology

Research adopted an **Interpretive-constructivist** paradigm which considers that the social world and its meanings are continuously constructed by social actors (individuals and institutions). With an **Inductive** approach (i.e., building a theory based on the analysis of interactions and patterns of data collected) and a methodology focused on **Multi-method qualitative** (in-depth interviews, field observations and documentary analysis).

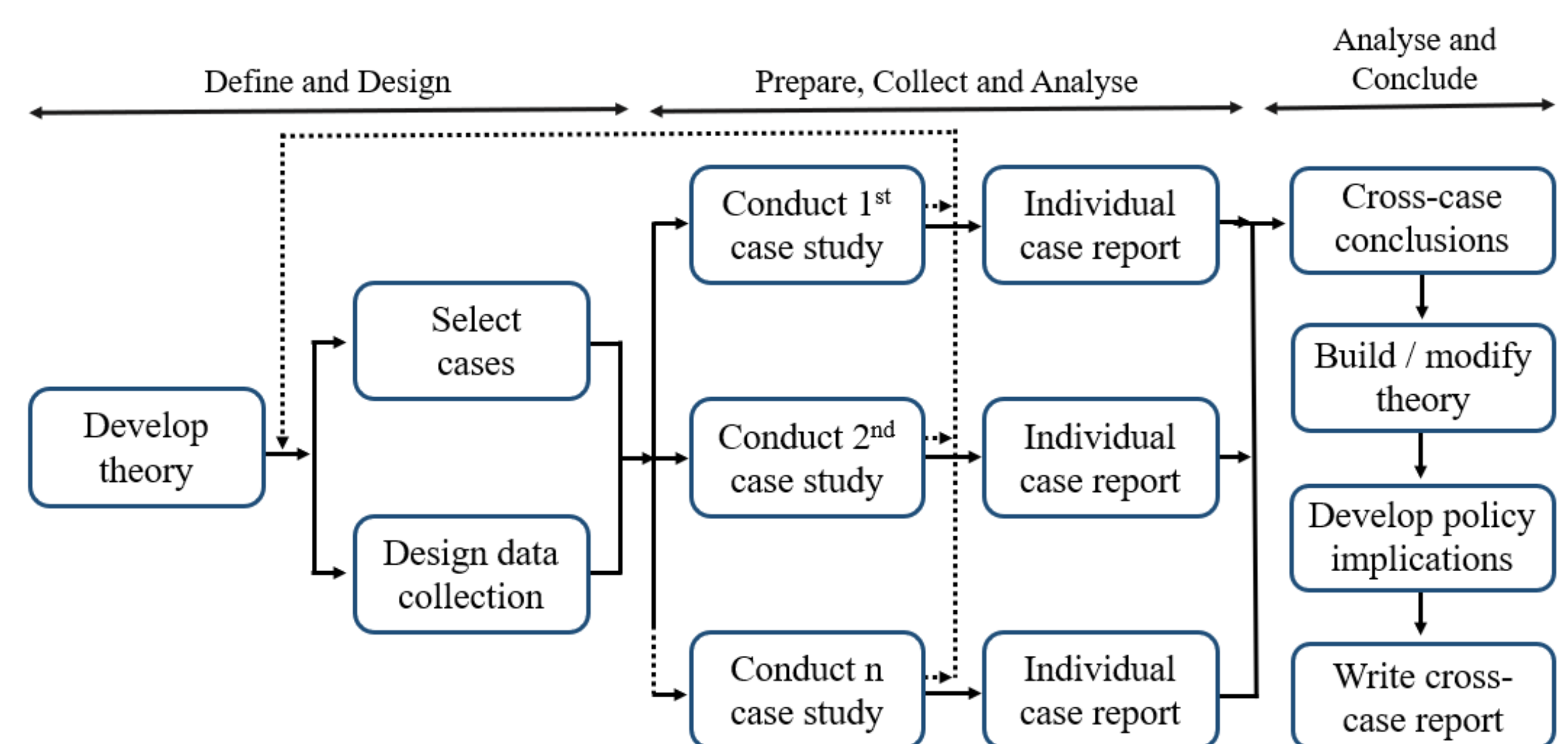


Figure 2. Multiple-case study design (based on Yin, 2018: 95)

Case study research will be carried out, an in-depth exploration from multiple perspectives of a social phenomenon within its real-life setting, with a multiple-case study design (Figure 2), considering cases within similar context (literal replication) and cases with different contexts (theoretical replication) to support the development of framework and theories. The research adopted 5 criteria to define the case studies:

- 1) Forest territories in Europe Mediterranean Basin;
- 2) Forest fire-prone areas;
- 3) CBF initiatives under development / developed;
- 4) Cases in both similar and different contexts;
- 5) Opportunity for financial support to enable fieldwork costs.

Based on these criteria, the research defined four case studies (Figure 3):

- CS01 – Serra de Monchique, Algarve (Portugal)
 - CS02 – Serra do Caldeirão, Algarve (Portugal)
 - CS03 – Chamusca, Alentejo (Portugal)
 - CS04 – Kythira, Ionian Islands (Greece)
- } Similar context
} Different contexts



Figure 3. Map of case studies selected in the research (Saad, 2024)

The next step in the research will be the development and application of the set of techniques and tools for collecting and analysing data from the selected case studies (Phase 3)