Biodiversity, Ecosystem services, Social sustainability and Tipping points in East African drylands (BEST)

East African drylands:

- open, productive, species-rich → closed, impoverished
- What policies/incentives → socially/ environmentally sustainable land use?

Aims:

1. Baseline system description
2. Land use decision modelling (extant empirical datasets)
3. Simulation models predicting behaviour with economic/ ecological change
4. Policy scenario evaluation
5. Stakeholder engagement
6. Getting research into policy and practice
    - Climate change adaptation plans
    - Planning / budgeting cycles
    - Best practice business models

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Relevance to ESPA call

- **Excellence with development impact**
  - Partnership
  - Innovative concept/ research design
  - Drylands: poverty, biodiversity decline, climate change impacts
  - Rapidly evolving: opportunity for impact
- **Evidence challenges**
  - ES values:
    - Intangible values integrated at level of land use decisions
    - PWC thresholds tip choices
  - Drivers of adverse trends/ key factors enabling reversion
  - Outcomes of policy interventions: empirical and simulated
  - Poverty alleviation: access, mobility, distributional/governance issues
- **Themes**
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem services
    - Contribution to livelihoods
    - Potential values/benefits
  - Political economy
    - Distribution
    - Tradeoffs

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