



How do sustainability policies emerge in the Colombian political system? Analysis of the Policy for Sustainable Cattle 2022-2050

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Introduction

- ▶ After the commitments made in 2015 in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, Colombia finally consolidate the Policy for Sustainable Cattle Ranching 2022-2050.
- ▶ Although this project has precedents in previous legislation and local programs, it is more ambitiously planned and has a national scope and long-term goals.
- ▶ The policy aims to transform cattle ranching through social, economic, and environmental development, contributing to carbon neutrality, reducing deforestation, and protecting biodiversity.

Objective

To identify, through the application of the Kaleidoscope Model for Policy Change (KM), the social, political, and economic conditions that allowed the change from a traditional to a sustainable approach to cattle production in Colombia.

Methodology

- ▶ A semi-structured interview was applied to 13 stakeholders deeply involved in the policy-making process. A convenience sampling technique was used. The study also benefited from a literature review based on:

- official documents
- publications of non-governmental organizations
- scientific literature

- ▶ The KM includes five stages and 16 variables (Figure 1). Only the first three stages were analyzed since the policy addressed is not yet implemented, and challenges were raised regarding the implementation phase which is about to start.

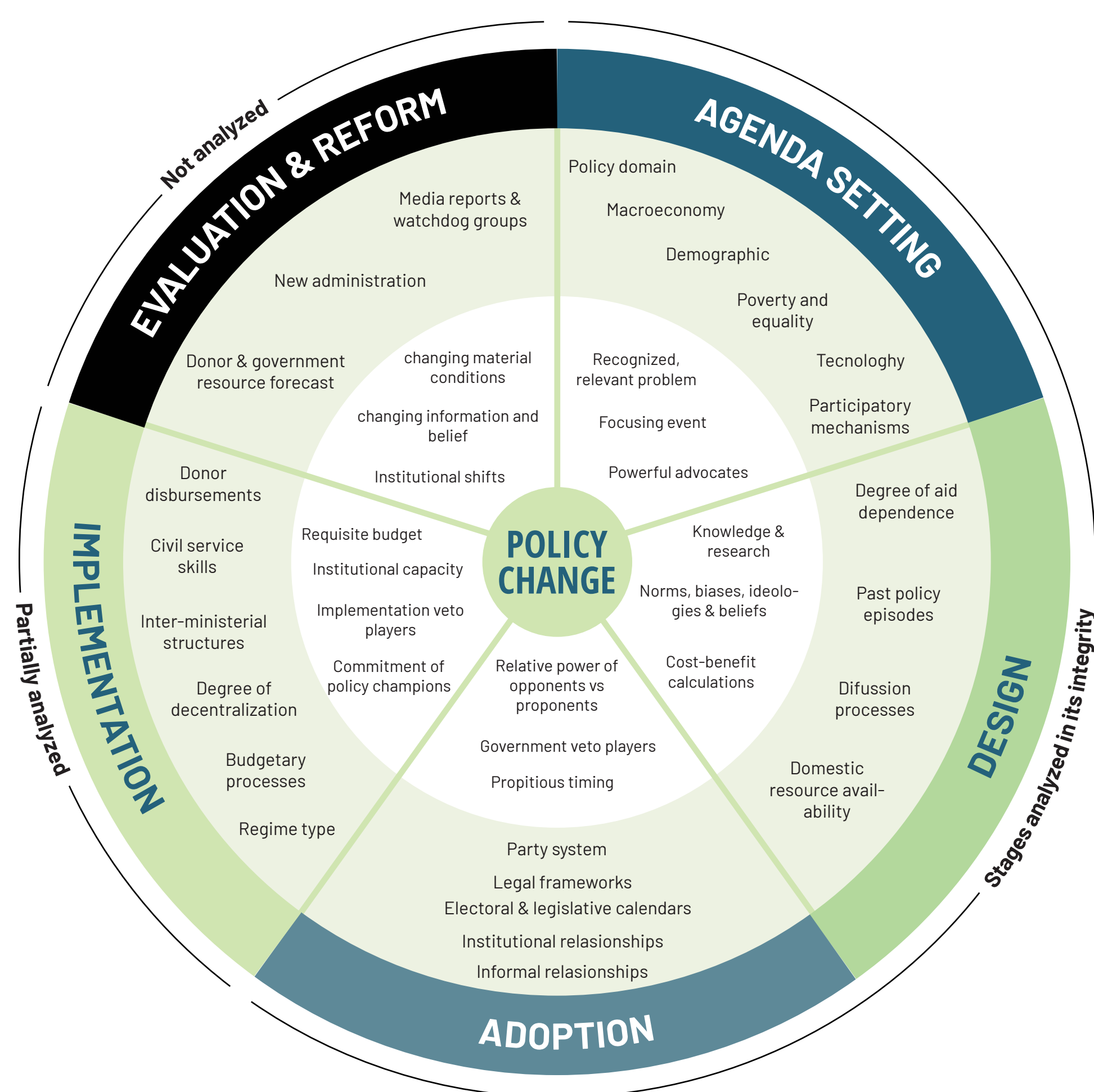


Figure 1. Kaleidoscope Model of Policy Change

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Results

- ▶ As a recognized, relevant problem, the policy is thought to be the outcome of discovered dynamics, which show that cattle ranching on extensive grasslands has negative impacts on the preservation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources, including soil and water. This has contributed for example to the loss of 5,270 km³ of forest between 2018 and 2020.
- ▶ Consumer preferences and international agreements are putting pressure on developing nations to produce beef in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. Lack of implementation of environmental standards can also impact Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives, impacting job creation and poverty reduction (Figure 2).
- ▶ The policy can be understood a consequence of the accumulated knowledge of previous policies and legislative advances (Figure 3).

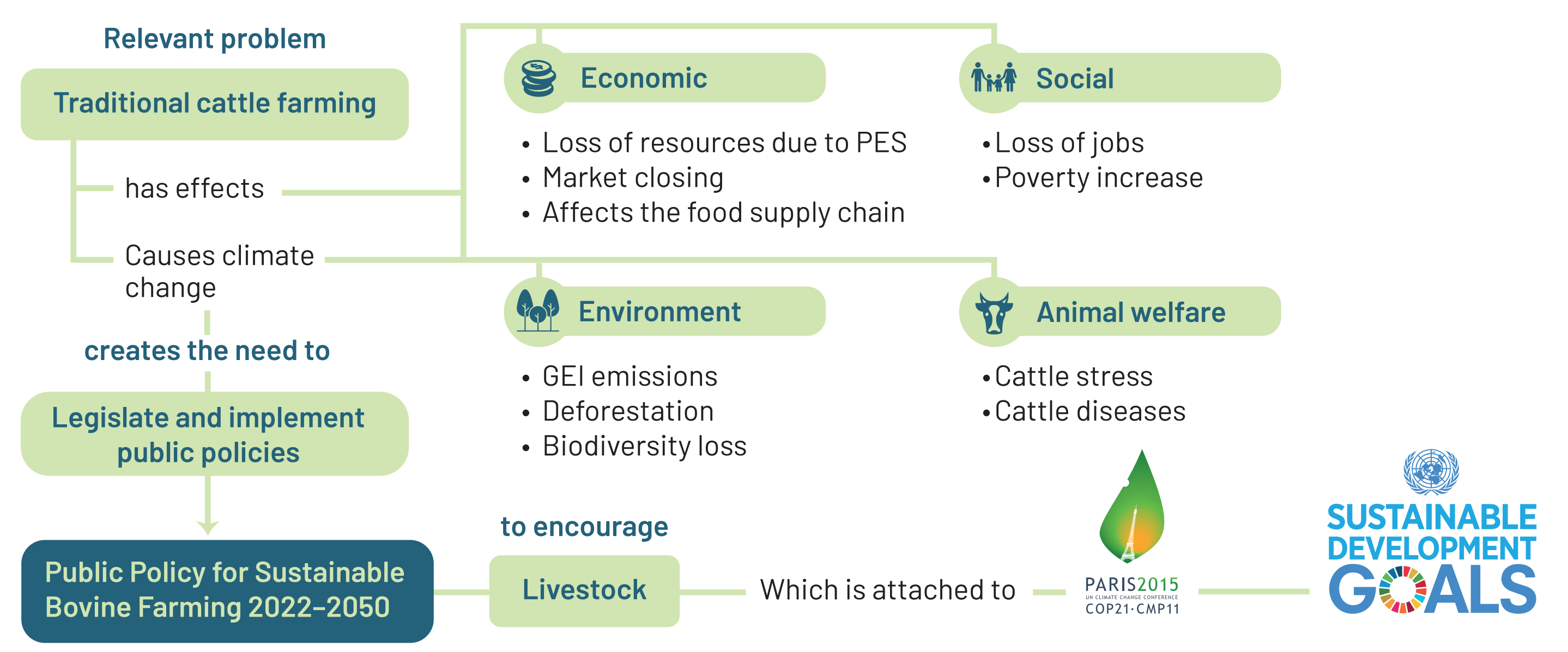


Figure 2. Relevant problem

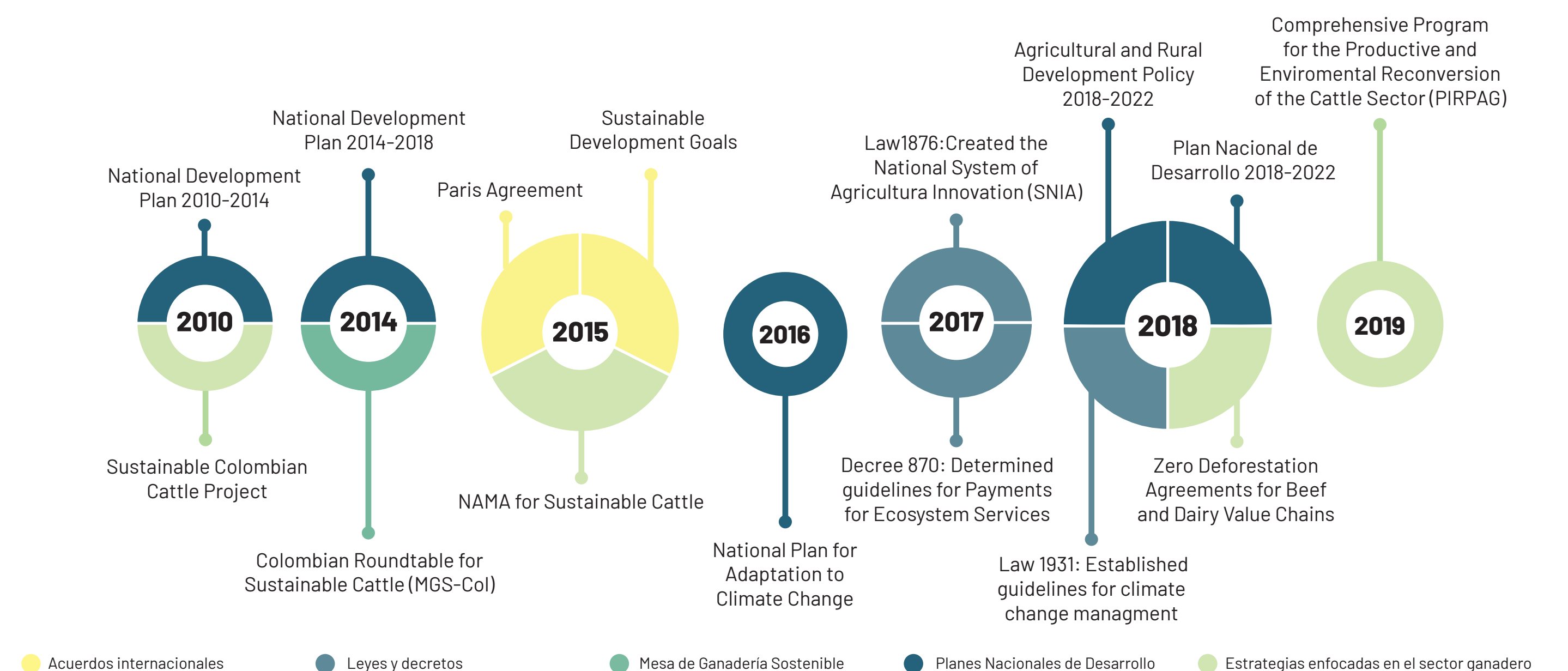


Figure 3. Background of public policy

- ▶ The initiative also seeks to enhance the institutional supply of financing for sustainable initiatives through strategies such as property tax exemptions and payment for results.

Conclusions

- ▶ Due to the recent installation of the current National Government (2022-2026), it is not yet possible to identify progress or shortcomings in terms of institutional capacity or budget establishment.
- ▶ The policy highlights the importance of silvo-pastoral systems to strengthen productive performance while reducing GHG emissions and deforestation but forgets to propose guidelines for many territories and ecosystems (e.g., savannas, wetlands, and moorlands) where cattle ranching has been problematically established.
- ▶ It emphasizes the importance of an observatory that monitors environmental, social, and economic indicators and enables evaluation.

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