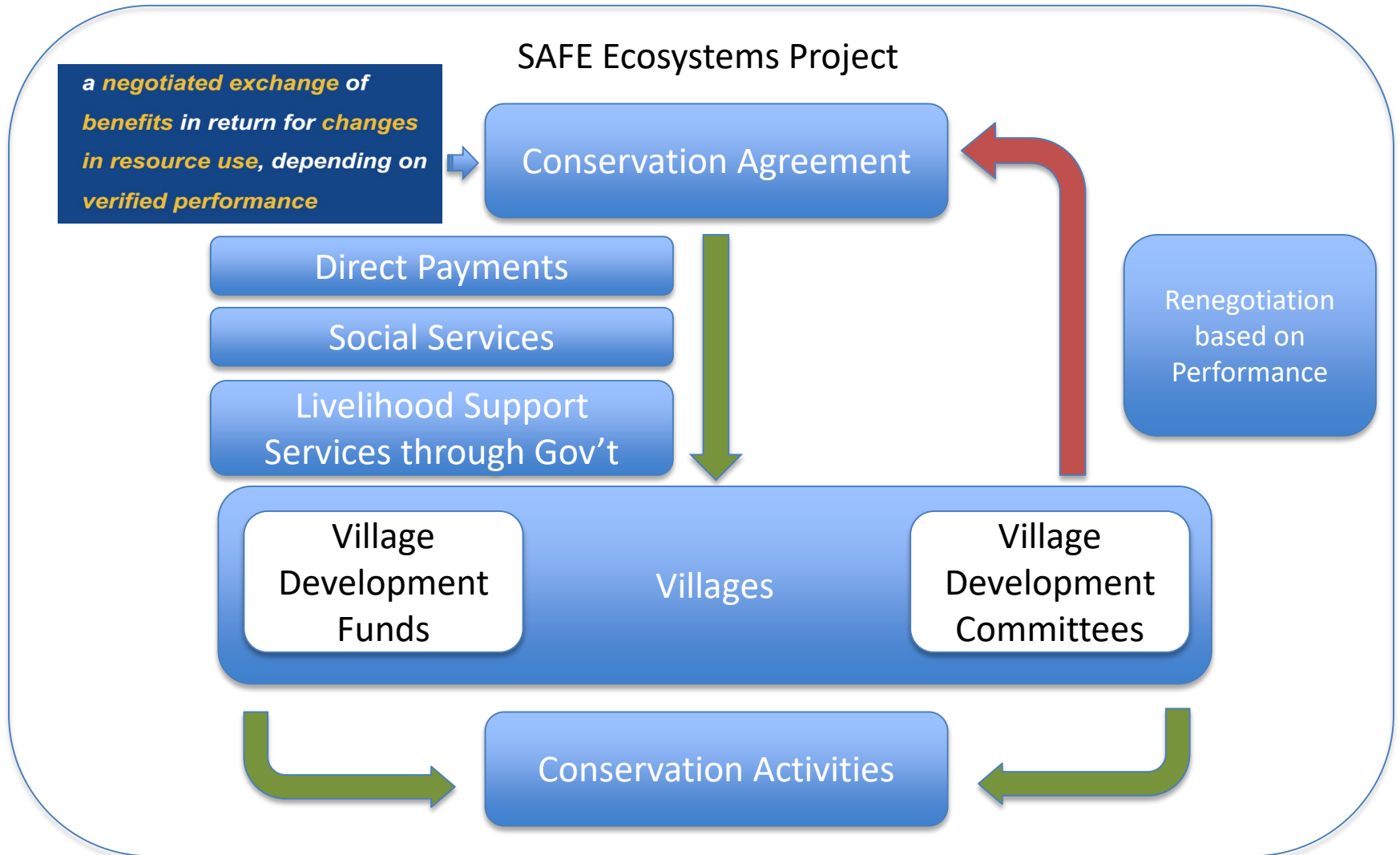


- **Output 3.4** – Community Conservation Agreements are generating sustainable livelihoods opportunities linked to conservation outcomes



Conditions for Success

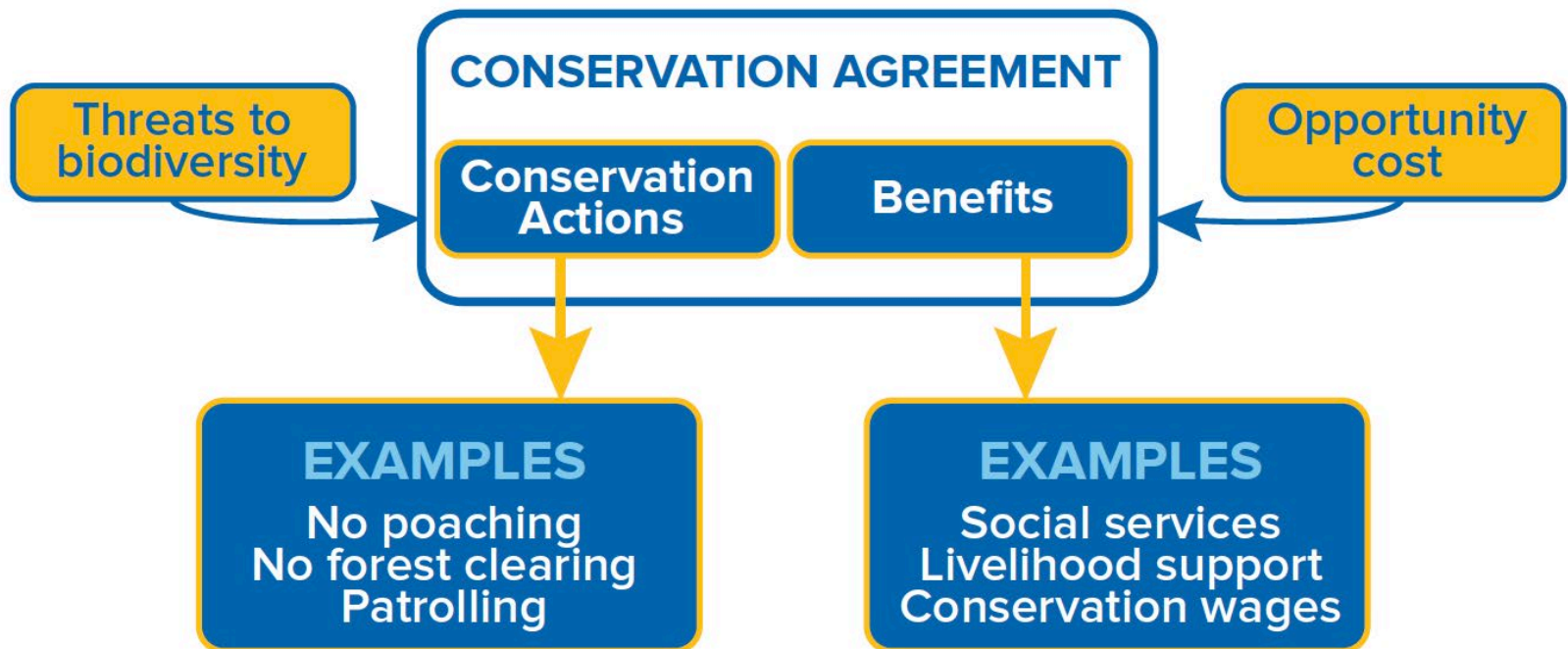
- Villages/Communities and Government Authorities must agree to Conservation Agreements (CA) as a mechanism of implementation.
- CAs must then be used as the framework for all development activities within the project.
- CA agreements need to be integrated with all land-use planning being developed.

- Benefits to be channelled through **Village Development Funds**, and the project will support **Village Development Committees** in managing the funds by building village level capacity to manage funds and decision-making processes
- Ensure that appropriate access and benefit sharing provisions are included in all CAs.

Benefit Packages May Include:

1. Wages (training & equipment) for conservation jobs (patrolling, monitoring, reforestation).
2. Investment in social services and infrastructure.
3. Investment in livelihood activities.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENT MODEL



General CA Arrangement

- CAs will be signed initially for a one-year period.
- If a CA works well will then be renegotiated for another year.
- After a period of three to five years, if the agreement continues to be effective and enjoy community support, the project will seek to link successful CAs with financial sustainability mechanisms such as trust funds based on PES schemes

Alternative Livelihoods

- Investments in alternative livelihoods through this project could be positioned explicitly as an incentive, conditional on conservation performance, so that it is clear that the funding for the investment itself is a benefit.
- By channelling livelihoods investments through Village Development Funds (VDFs) and basing them on Conservation Agreements, the contribution to the VDF is the explicit incentive.
- The size of the contribution can be varied as a function of performance.

Conservation Employment

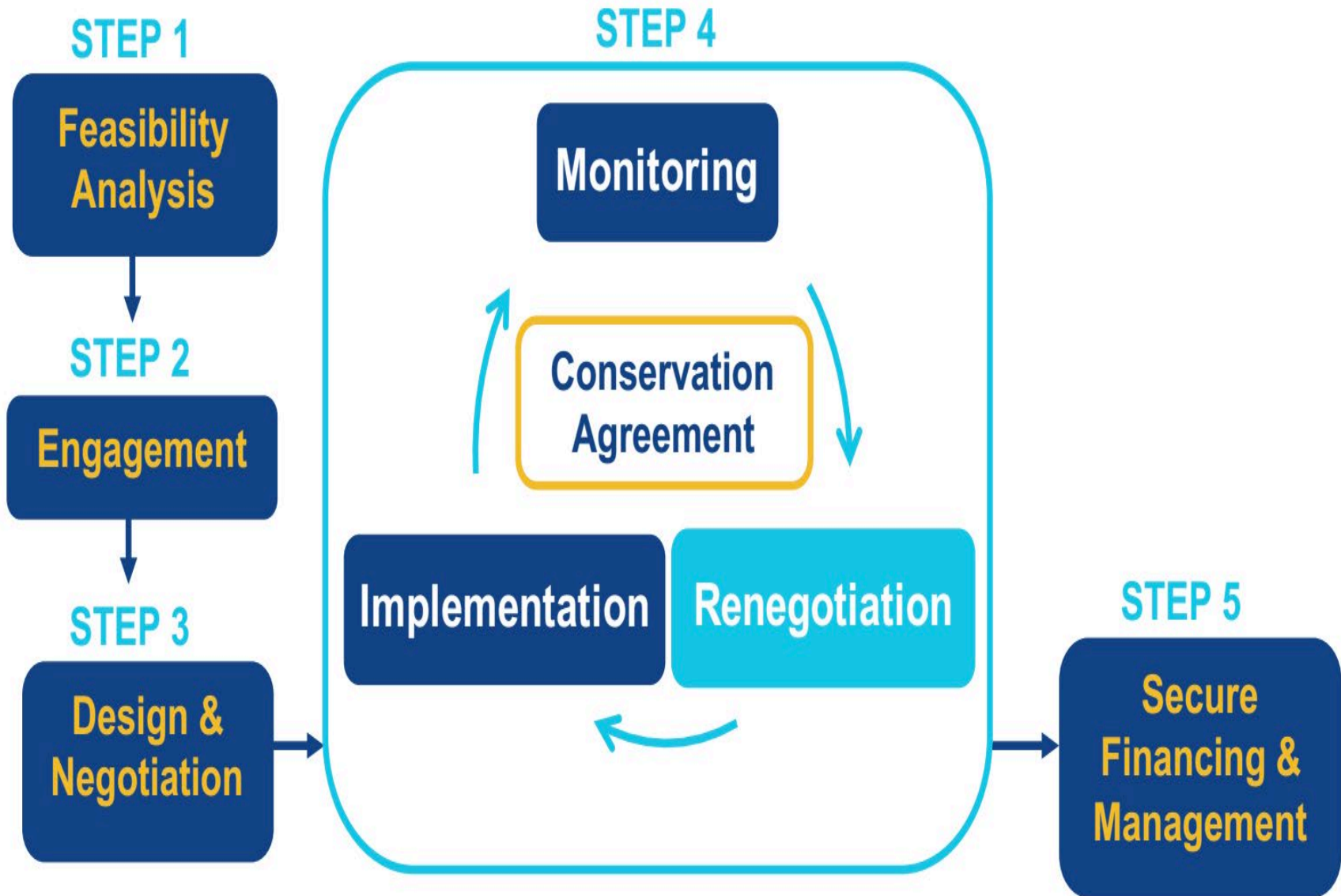
- A number of potential livelihoods related activities may be appropriate for the selected villages.
- In some villages, conservation-related employment, for example boundary demarcation, patrolling, monitoring, and forest restoration may provide both casual labour opportunities as well as on-going participation in patrolling and monitoring programs.

Agriculture and Livestock

- Productive agriculture practices may be one of the key solutions to reducing further land conversion due to agriculture expansion and land degradation (from overgrazing in natural forest areas).
- Livestock investments offer room for creativity in structuring collective benefits to reinforce incentives for conservation.
- The project may find an opportunity in increasing fodder production, water availability and animal health in exchange for agreements by local residents not to allow their livestock to forage in natural forest areas.

Community Enterprises

- The project will conduct value chain analysis to assess market potential and identify feasible investments to enhance market participation.
- At the same time, the project will assess sustainability and impacts on ecological functions, as well as potential social impacts.
- For those value chains selected for investment, the project will support the development of business plans for livelihood investment; such plans will require clear benefit sharing mechanisms.



Phase 1: Feasibility Analysis

- **1.1 Rapid Initial Assessment**
- **1.2 Feasibility Analysis**
 - 1.2.1 Conservation Priority
 - 1.2.2 Threats to biodiversity or ecosystem services
 - 1.2.3 Resource users as an effective conservation partner
 - 1.2.4 Resource rights
 - 1.2.5 Legal context
 - 1.2.6 Policy context
 - 1.2.7 Implementation capacity
 - 1.2.8 Stakeholder and conflict analysis
- **1.3 Feasibility Assessment Report**
 - 1.3.1 Project Costs
 - 1.3.2 Financing Options
 - 1.3.3 Management sustainability
 - 1.3.4 Exit Strategy

Phase 2: Engagement

- 2.1 Select the engagement team
- 2.2 Develop an engagement plan
- 2.3 Transparent exchange of ideas with potential stewards
- 2.4 Verified shared understanding of agreement concept
- 2.5 Decision by both parties to continue; follow-up plan
- 2.6 Possible study tours

Phase 3: Building the Agreement

- **3.1 Components of the agreement**
 - 3.1.1 Conservation commitments
 - 3.1.2 Benefits provided by the resource user
 - 3.1.3 Compliance monitoring
 - 3.1.4 Penalties for unsatisfactory performance
- **3.2 Processes of participation, consultation and negotiation**
 - 3.2.1 Representative community bodies
 - 3.2.2 Community consultation & participation
 - 3.2.3 Negotiation: achieving consent or consensus
 - 3.2.4 Consulting others beyond the community
- **3.3 Additional assessments to be done by the implementer**
 - 3.3.1 Capacity Building
 - 3.3.2 Monitoring baselines
 - 3.3.3 Revising estimate of total project costs
- **3.4 Signing the Agreement**

Phase 4: Implementation

- 4.1 Initial implementation activities

Planning and organization

Before initiating implementation, develop a document defining procedures (how activities are going to be implemented), schedules (when activities are going to be implemented), and roles—who will be responsible for:

- Implementing conservation activities
- Implementing other activities needed to facilitate agreement compliance
- Benefit delivery and distribution
- Monitoring biological and socio-economic impacts
- Monitoring agreement compliance

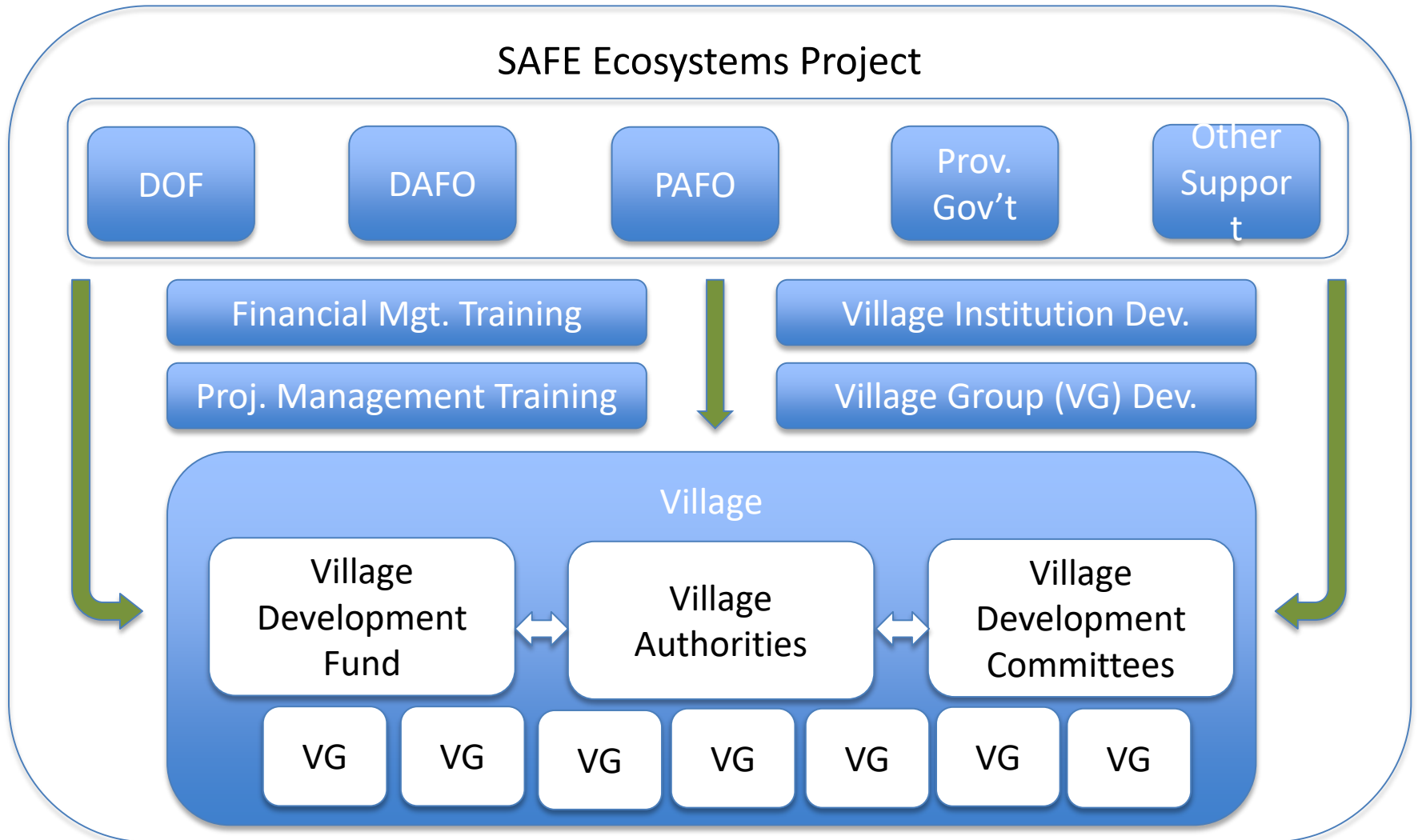
Phase 5: Monitoring

- 5.1 Measuring progress in achieving conservation outcomes
- 5.2 Measuring outcomes in socio-economic conditions
- 5.3 Assessing compliance with agreement commitments

Phase 6: Moving towards sustainability

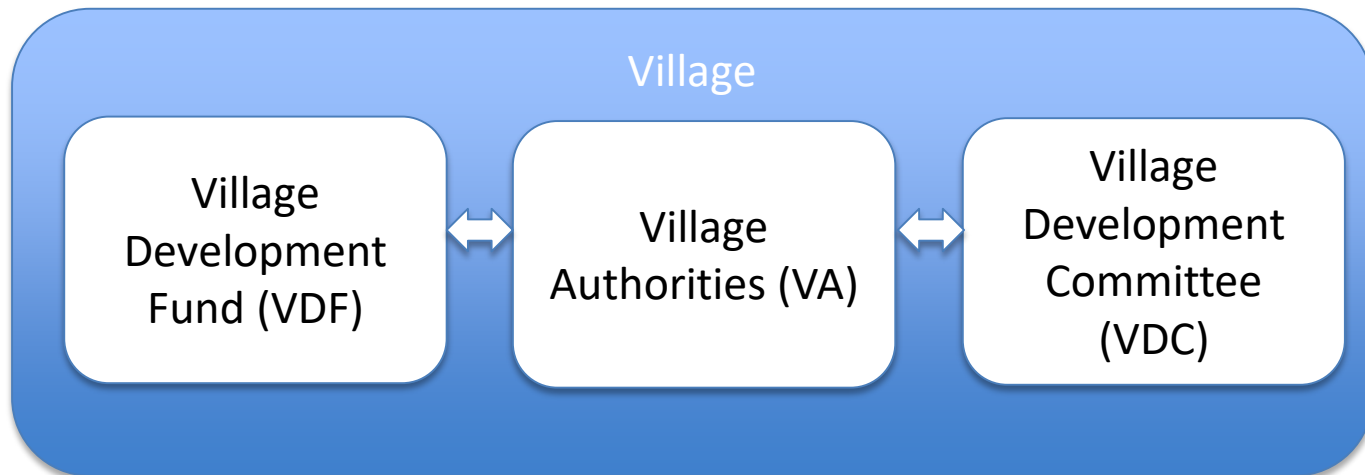
- 6.1 Negotiation and design of a long-term agreement
- 6.2 Sustainable funding
- 6.3 Management sustainability
- 6.4 Additional ways to re-enforce agreements for long-term sustainability

Required Structure for SAFE Conservation Agreements



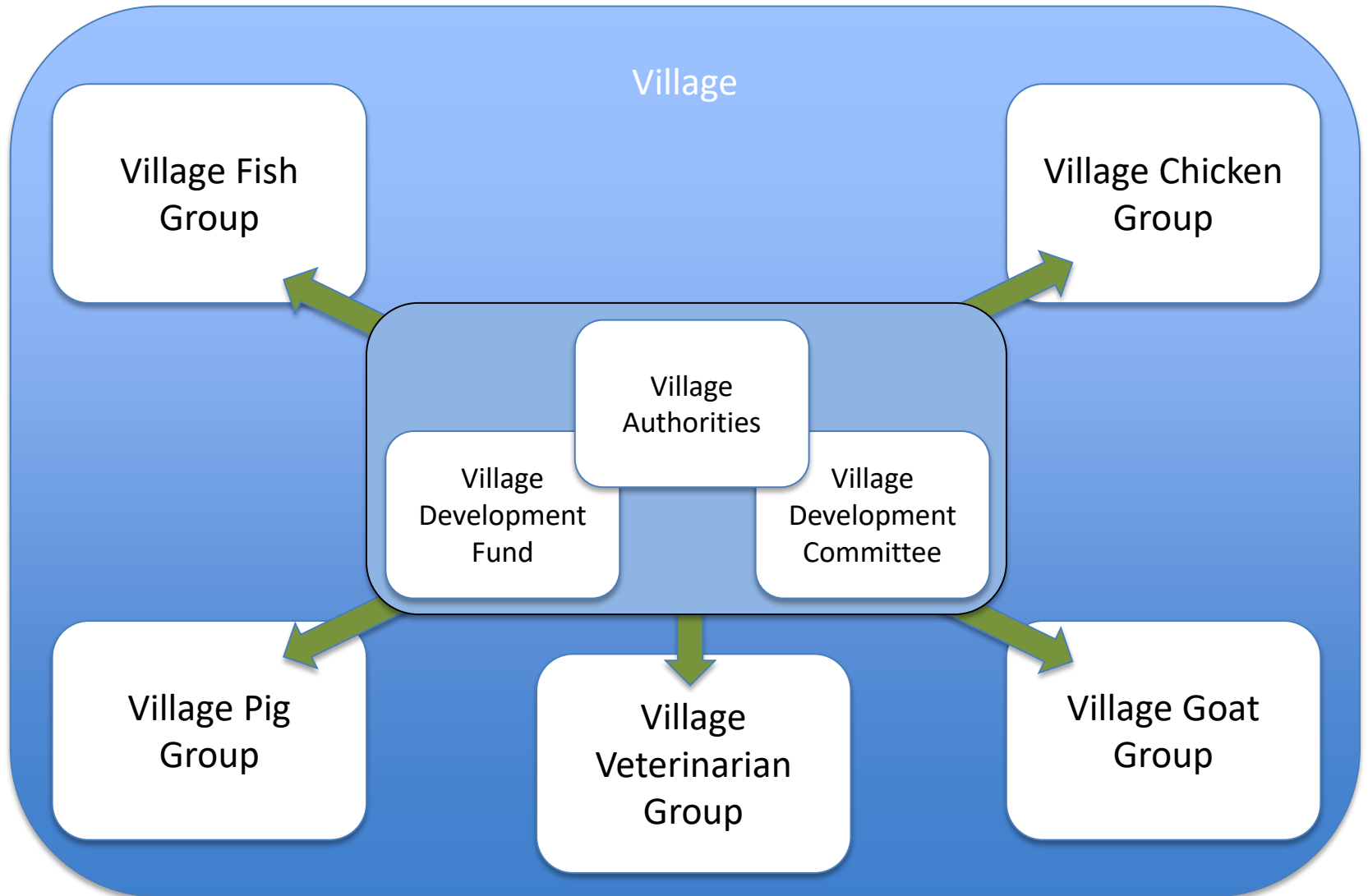
Village Institution Development

SAFE Ecosystems Project

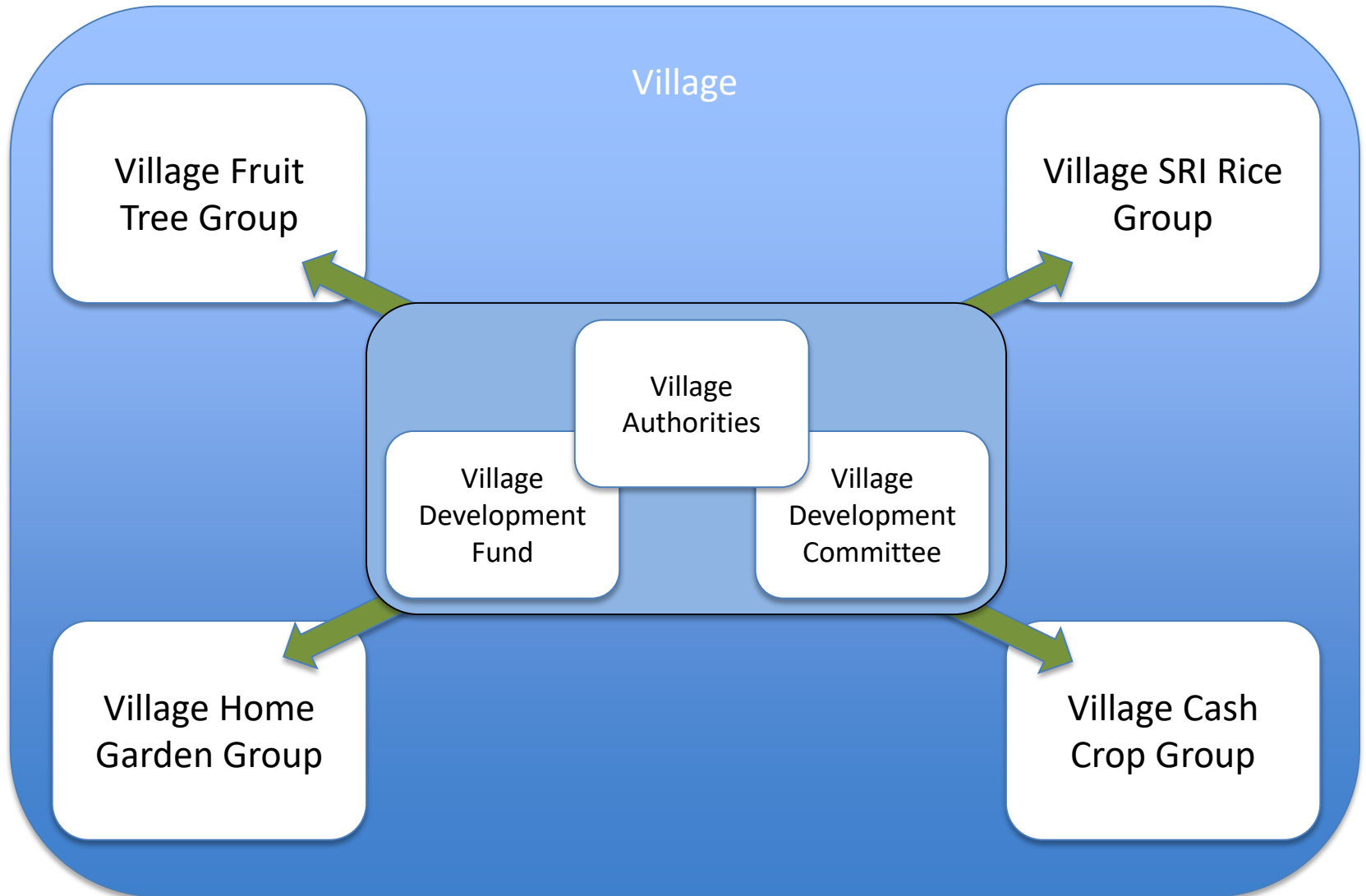


- Creation of **Village Development Fund** to receive direct payments from the project.
- Creation of **Village Development Committee** to coordinate activities at the village level.
- Capacity Building: (i) Financial Management, (ii) Project Management

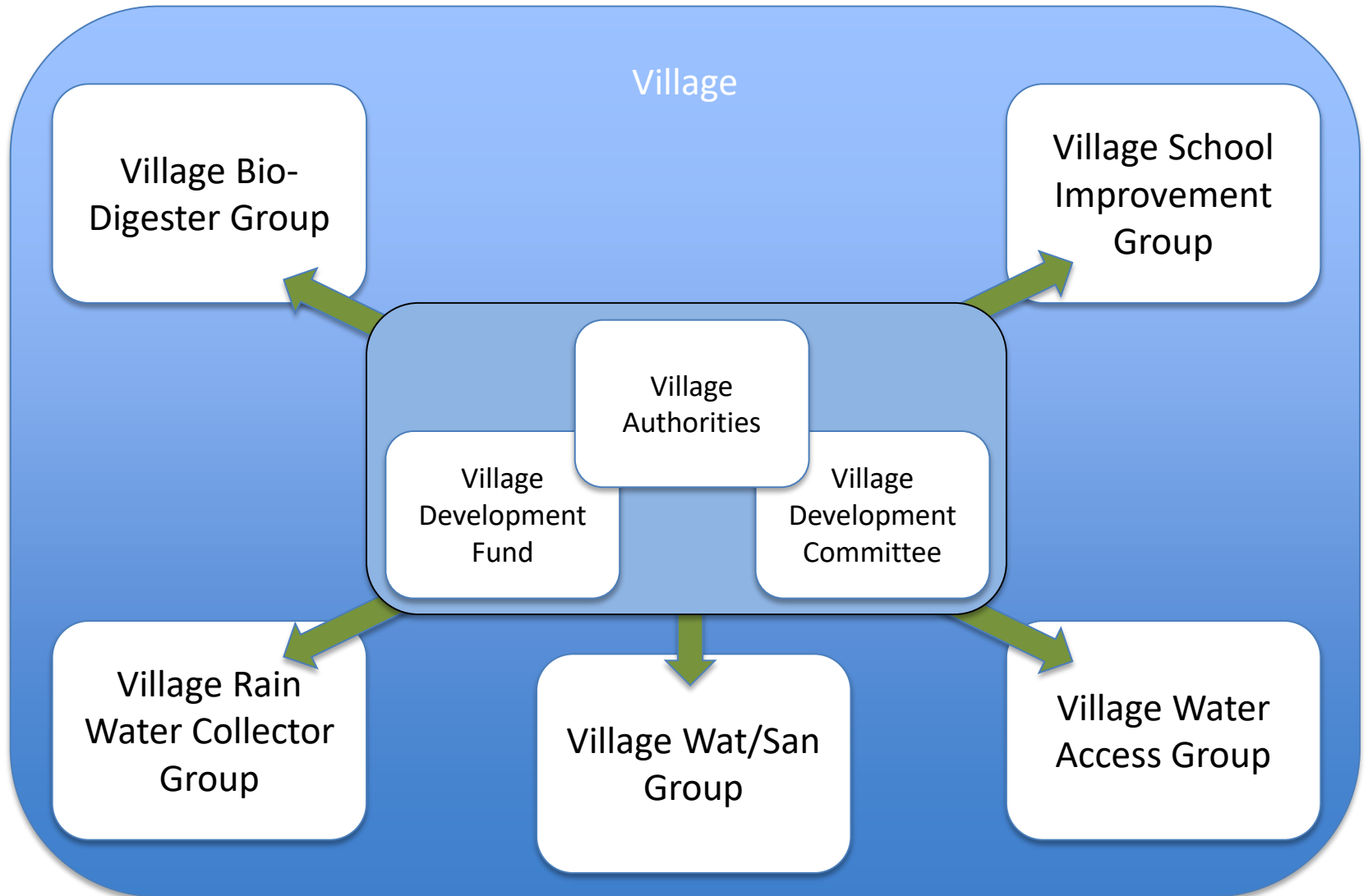
Creation of Village Livestock Groups



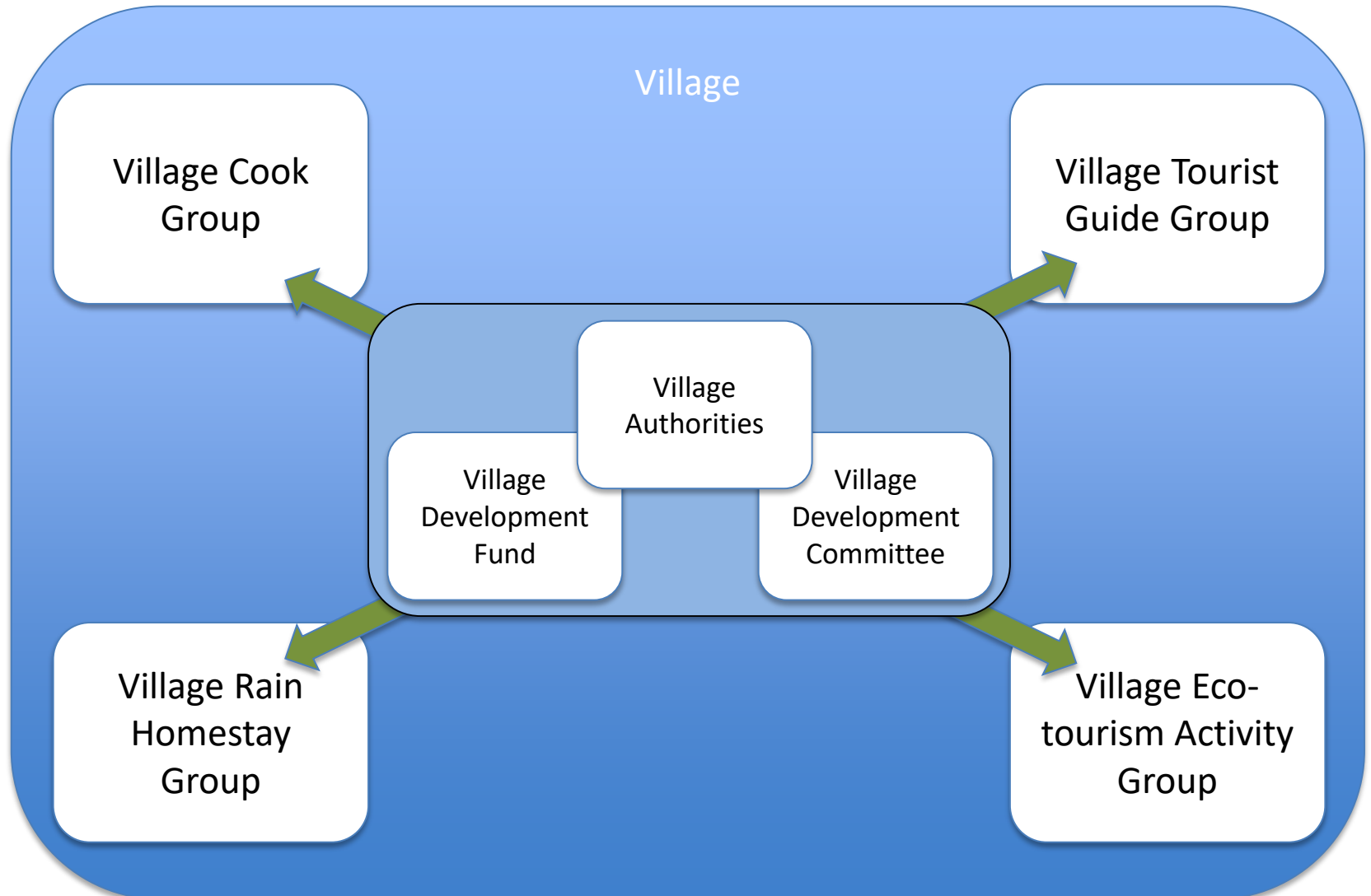
Creation of Village Agriculture Groups



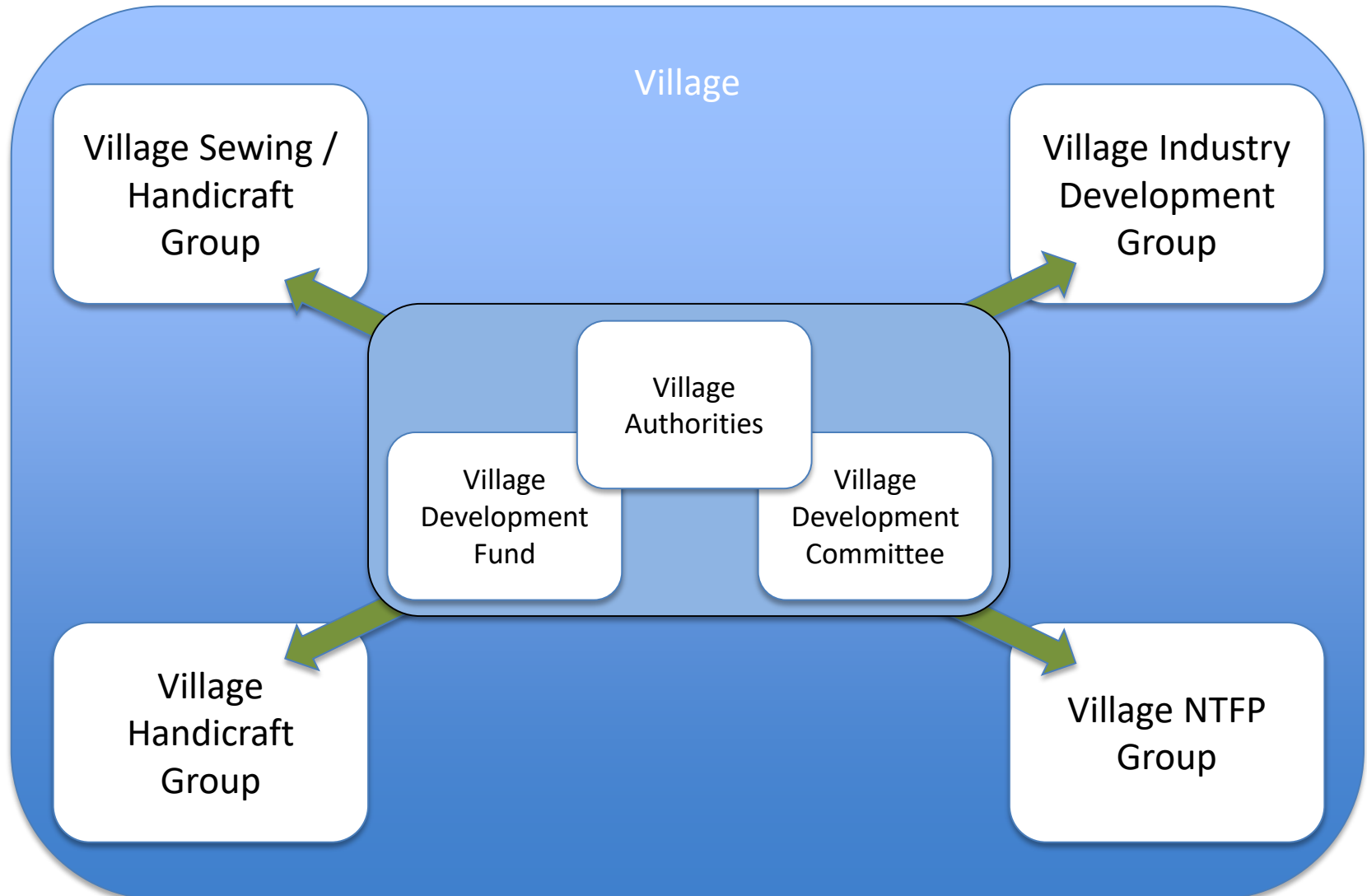
Creation of Village Social Services / Infrastructure Groups



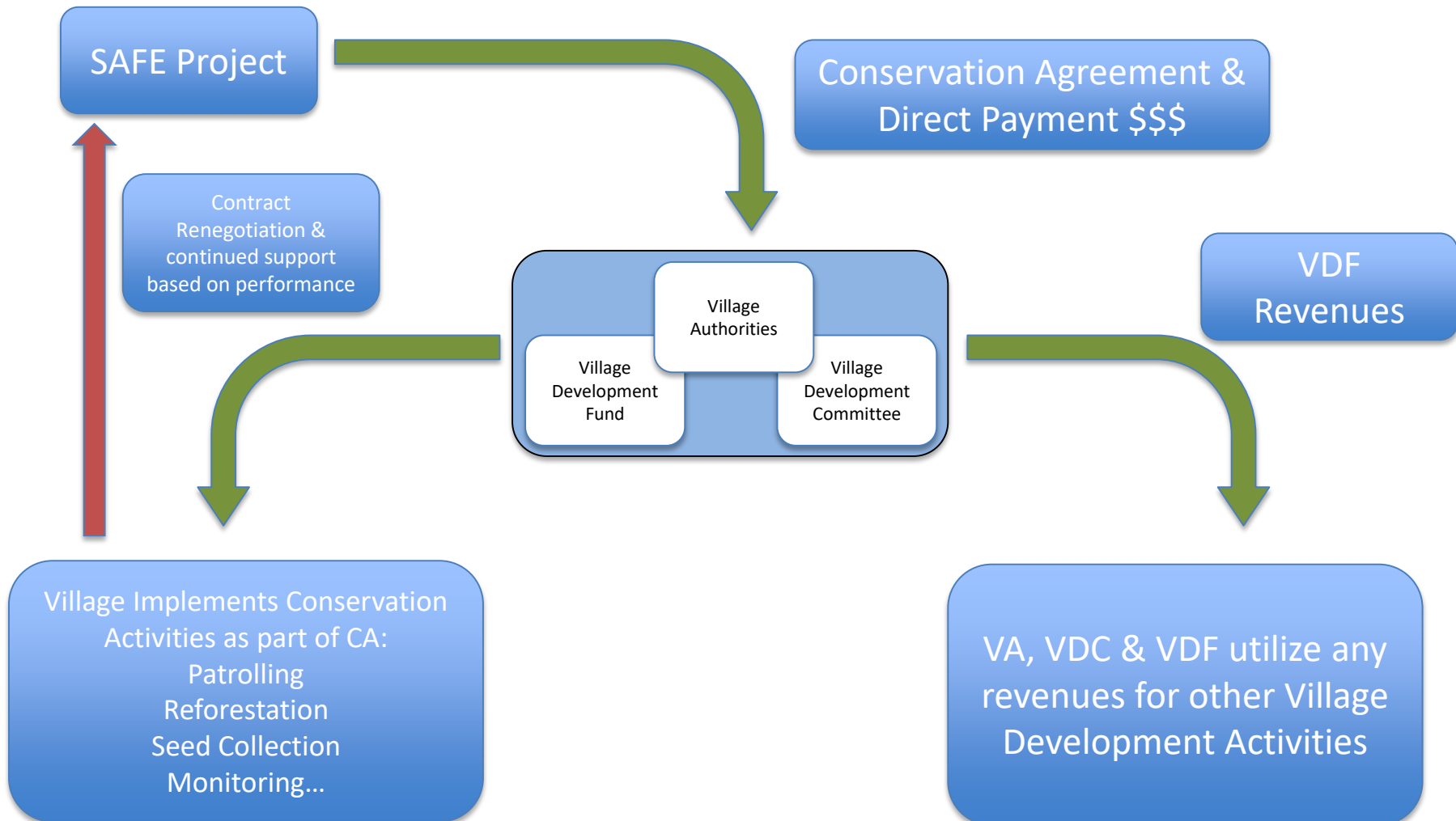
Creation of Eco-tourism Groups



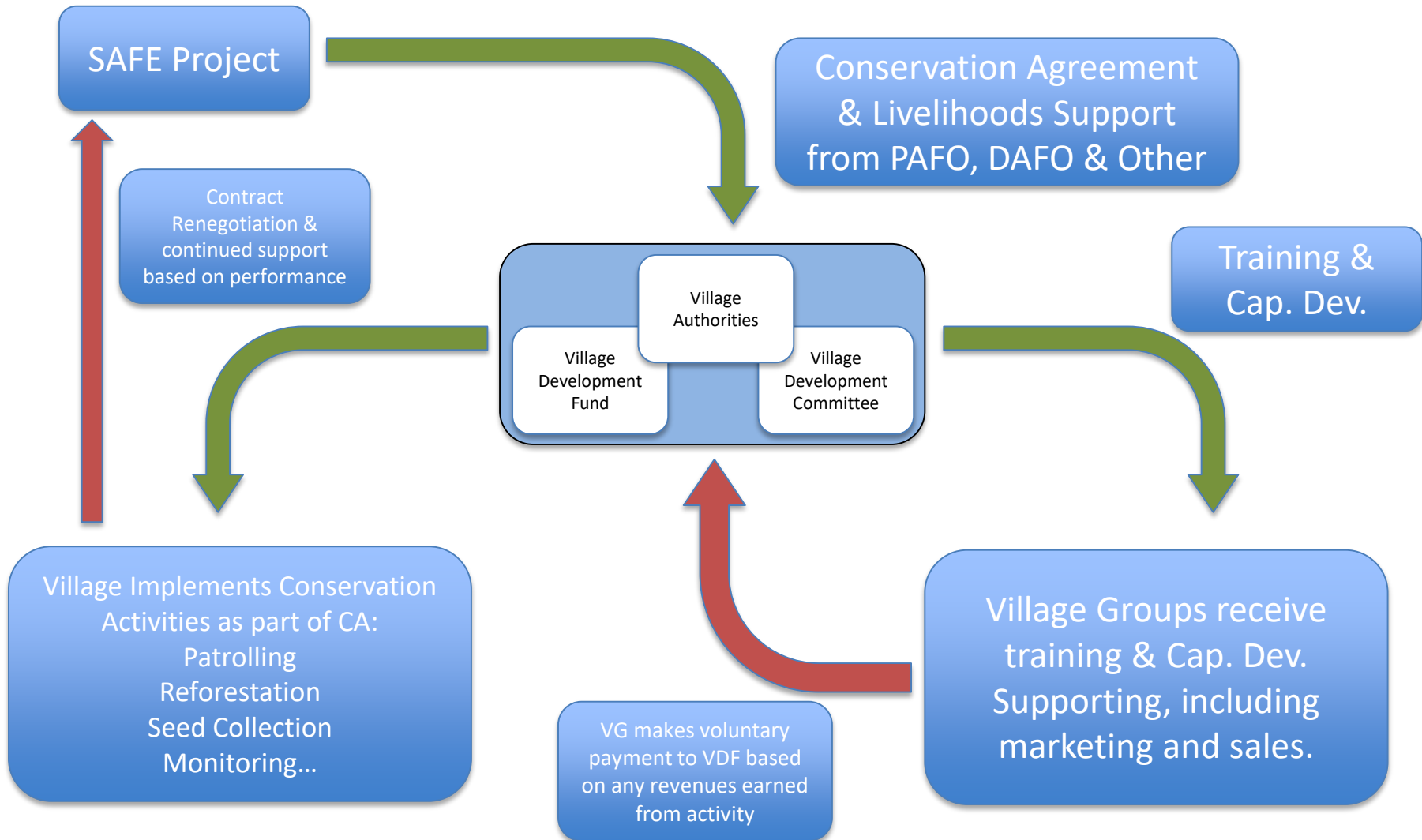
Creation of Village Alternative Livelihood Groups



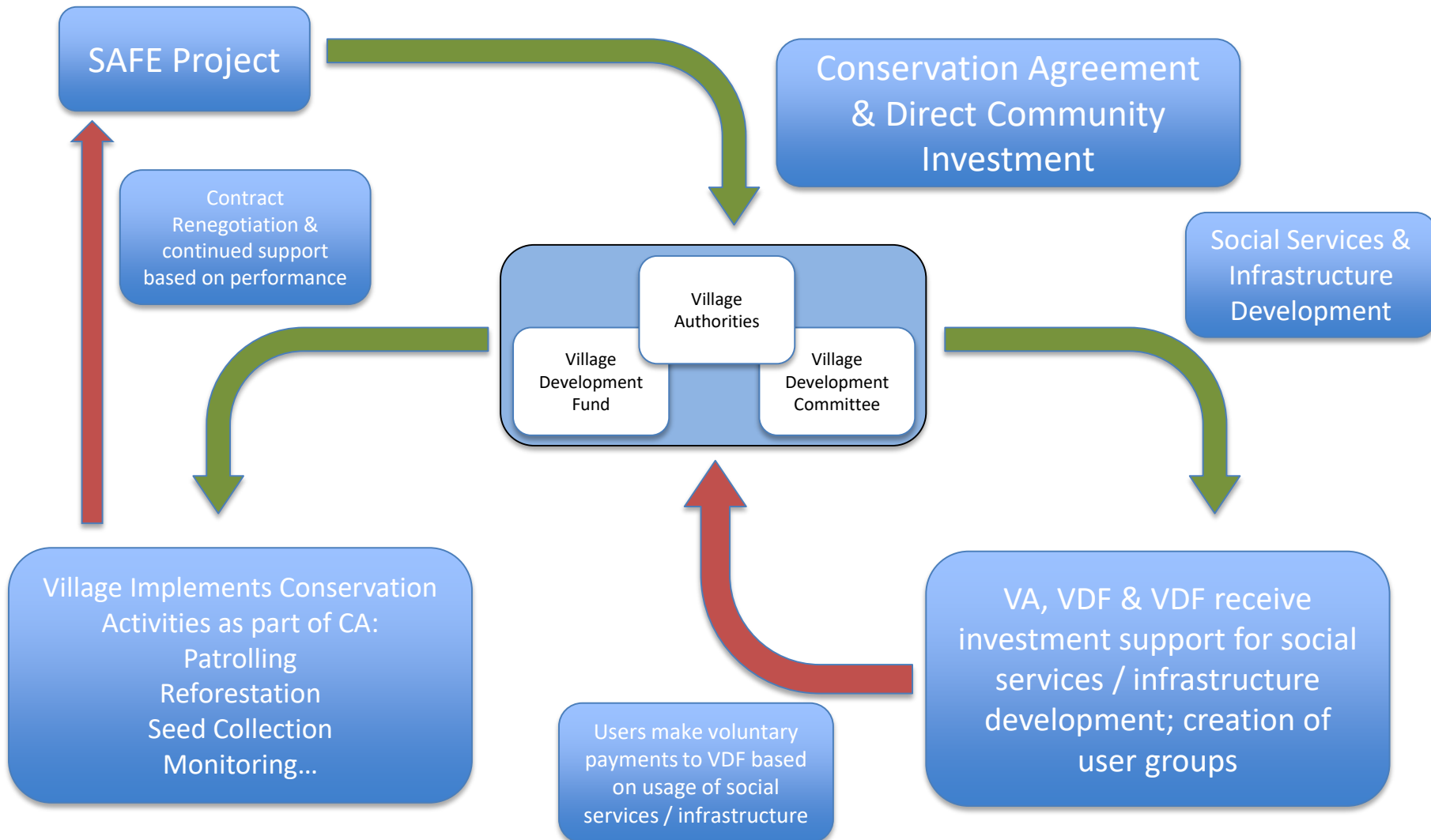
Possible Flow of Direct Payments from SAFE Project to Communities



Possible Flow of Livelihoods Support, Training & Capacity Building from SAFE Project to Communities



Possible Flow of Direct Investment into Villages from SAFE Project to Communities



Current Status

Activities towards Ecotourism & CAs

- Eco-tourism potential assessment in 14 villages completed.
- Site surveys in Dongpouvieng, Phouxanhay, as well as Eld's Deer Sanctuary completed
 - 3 village Phin with high potential
 - 3 villages in Xonnabouly with high potential
 - 1 village in Songkong with high potential
- Potential Eco-tourism trek in Dongphouvieng NPA (Phin)
- Eld's Deer Nature Trek in Ong Meng (Xonnabouly)
- Elephant & waterfall trek in Phouxanghay (Phin)
- Lake and crocodile viewing (?) (Xonnabouly / Songkong)
- Marketing Survey completed for Eco-tourism
- Bike survey completed in Ong Meng Area
- Site survey in Dong Muot, Tong Wai Kho, Tong Wai Nam (Xonnabouly)
- Guide training for 15 people from Eco-guide Unit from SVK
- Testing of ecotourism site Dongvouvieng

Current Status

Activities towards Livelihoods & CAs

- Village assessments conducted in 2017
 - baseline surveys, village data, understanding village priorities...
 - All 16 villages covered
- Workshop with counterparts with planning in 2017
 - Preparation of village plans based on rural develop plans.
- Technical needs assessment performed in 2018
 - livestock, agriculture, rural development, LWU
 - Selection of people involved with activities
 - All 16 villages
- Meetings have been held in each of the 16 villages to nominate and establish the VDCs.
 - Village chief, treasurer, accountant, head of committee, assistants (committee members)
- Prepared activities for veterinary care, LWU and agriculture
- During April, some discussions were held with all 16 villages regarding CAs, but no official decisions were made.
- Discussion of priority activities for the villages.

Required 'Next Steps' 2018 Activities for CAs & Ecotourism

- Organize provincial consultation meeting for ecotourism development.
- Set up eco-tourism activity in Dongpouvieng NPA.
 - CAs required for implementation of activities.
 - Awareness raising for 3 villages
 - Establishing VDF & VDC (capacity building finance mgt. & project mgt.)
 - Village Group Development for Ecotourism Activities
 - Capacity building & training for ecotourism activities
 - Designing, construction and installation of infrastructure
 - Tourism operators testing; promotion & website

Required 'Next Steps' 2018 Activities for CAs & Livelihoods

- Activities for Veterinary Work, Agriculture, and LWU have been prepared.
 - Implementation to initiate in May 2018
- These activities need to continue as planned
 - Message to villages is that these activities provided initial incentive and to move forward need to engage with CA development
- CA overview needs to be provided.
 - Completion of Phase 2 engagement and Phase 3 CA Building.
 - Aim for completing all 16 villages by end of Q3
 - Initiate the following:
 - Creation of **Village Development Fund** to receive direct payments from the project.
 - Creation of **Village Development Committee** to coordinate activities at the village level.
 - Capacity Building: (i) Financial Management, (ii) Project Management
 - Creation of Village Groups

2019 CA & Ecotourism Activities

- Establish ecotourism activities in Xonnabouly and Songkong
 - Testing with tourists
 - Awareness raising for villages
 - Establish CAs for participating villages
 - Establishing VDF & VDC (capacity building finance mgt. & project mgt.)
 - Village Group Development for Ecotourism Activities
 - Capacity building & training for ecotourism activities
 - Designing, construction and installation of infrastructure
 - Tourism operators testing; promotion & website
- Develop tour packages with tour operators
- Renegotiation of CAs with the 3 villages in Dongvouvieng

2019 CA & Livelihood Activities

- Direct payments, direct investments and Livelihoods support for 16 villages based on CAs.
- Villages perform conservation activities.
- Project team monitors and assesses the compliance and performance of the villages with the CAs
- CAs to be renegotiated within 1 year.
 - Poor performance will penalized.
 - Good performance will be rewarded.

2020 CA & Ecotourism Activities

- Renegotiation of CAs with the 3 villages in Dongvouvieng
- Renegotiation of CAs with villages in Xonnabouly and Sengkong
- Establish ecotourism activities in Phouxanghay (Phin)
 - Testing with tourists
 - Awareness raising for villages
 - Establish CAs for participating villages
 - Establishing VDF & VDC (capacity building finance mgt. & project mgt.)
 - Village Group Development for Ecotourism Activities
 - Capacity building & training for ecotourism activities
 - Designing, construction and installation of infrastructure
 - Tourism operators testing; promotion & website

2020 CA & Livelihood Activities

- Direct payments, direct investments and Livelihoods support for 16 villages based on CAs.
- Villages perform conservation activities.
- Project team monitors and assesses the compliance and performance of the villages with the CAs
- CAs to be renegotiated within 1 year.
 - Poor performance will penalized.
 - Good performance will be rewarded.

2021 CA & Ecotourism Activities

- Renegotiation of CAs with the 3 villages in Dongvouvieng NPA
- Renegotiation of CAs with villages in Xonnabouly and Sengkong
- Renegotiation of CAs with villages in Phouxanghay NPA

2021 CA & Livelihood Activities

- Direct payments, direct investments and Livelihoods support for 16 villages based on CAs.
- Villages perform conservation activities.
- Project team monitors and assesses the compliance and performance of the villages with the CAs
- CAs to be renegotiated within 1 year.
 - Poor performance will penalized.
 - Good performance will be rewarded.