

Innovations in Evaluation

Strand Concept

African Evaluation Association Conference 2017

Final - Abridged

25 April 2017



The
ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION

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Rationale and context

Context and rationale

- The challenges of the developing world have been exacerbated by multiple crises: the global recession, the food and fuel crises, and natural disasters. In response, the nature of development interventions targeted at African populations has changed.
- Interventions now often involve multiple components, multiple levels of implementation, multiple implementing agencies with multiple agendas, and long causal chains with many intermediate outcomes - all of this **reflecting the complexities of world in which we live.**
- Additionally, details of the intervention often unfold and change over time in ways that cannot be completely controlled or predicted in advance.

New forces in development

- The emergence of innovative finance seeks to combine modern finance with social goals – in ways that are entirely compatible and complementary. Impact investing, hybrid funds, co-mingling funds, social impact bonds and the like seek to bridge this divide by intentionally enabling the emergence of an eco-system of dual-mandate, impact and return financing instruments.
- Therefore, over the last decade, **the role of the private sector, the importance of systemic impact and the potential of innovative financing have deepened in importance.** While these developments are by no means new, there is a growing recognition that despite the importance of measurement and evaluation within these kinds of interventions, conventional evaluation approaches are slow to respond.

New frontiers for evaluation methodology

- These changes present new challenges and opportunities for evaluation. **There is a need for measurement and evaluation methods and approaches that take into account the multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder operating environment faced by development interventions.**
- Evaluations need to be more responsive and nimble, more frequent and lean, sensitive to cultural dynamics and prioritizing of participation. It is increasingly insufficient to assume away complexity and dynamism, and there is a growing need for accessible, intuitive and compelling evaluation results and recommendations.

Innovations in Evaluation Strand

Innovations in Evaluation *Strand Objectives*

- The 8th AfrEA International Conference includes the Innovations in Evaluation Strand, which will be sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and managed by Genesis Analytics
- The strand will include pioneering and creative development practitioners, evaluators, policy-makers and funders (across the risk-return spectrum) who are meaningfully contributing to innovation in evaluation.
- It seeks to bring together cutting-edge ideas from across the globe to allow for collaborative learning opportunities.

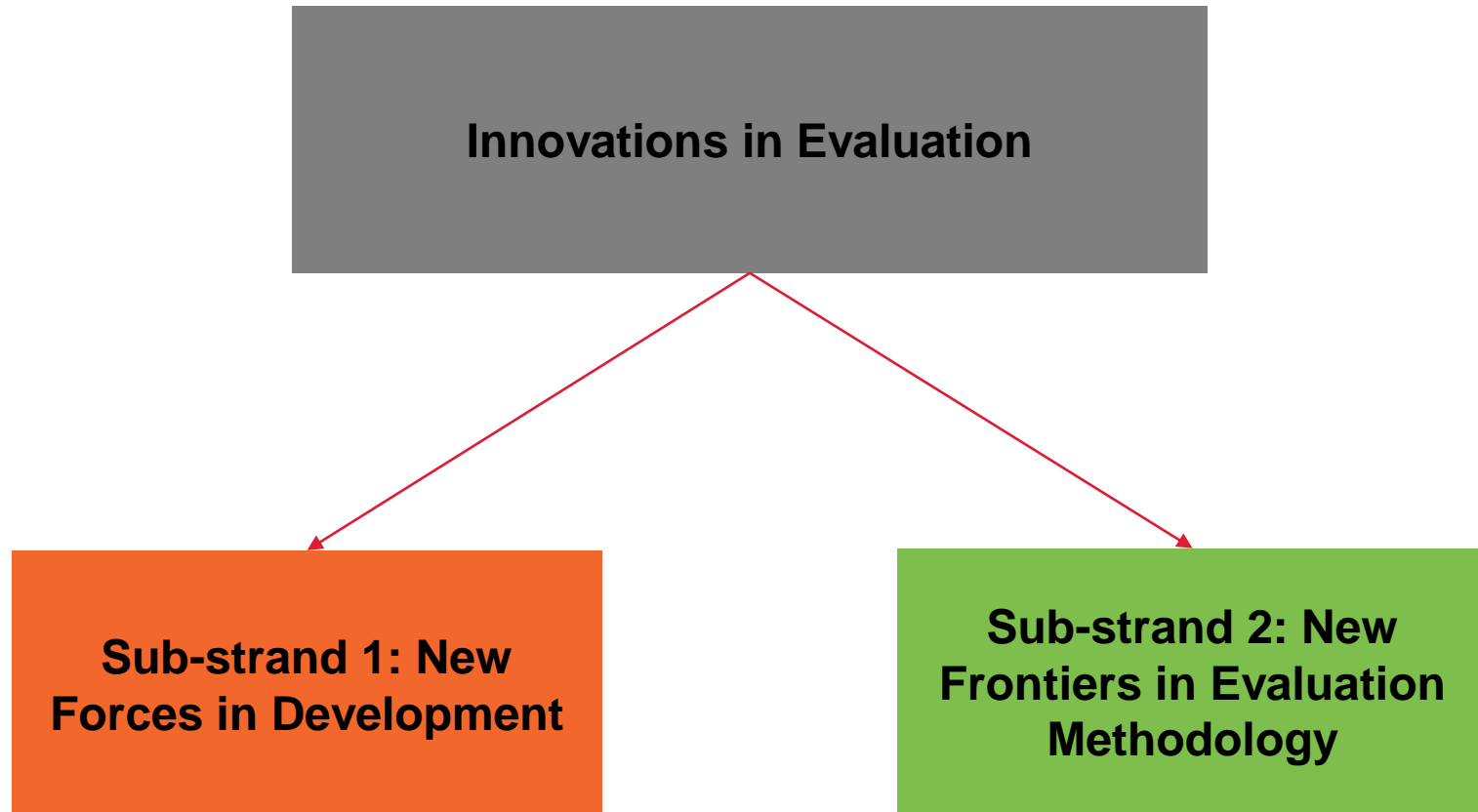
Innovations in Evaluation strand objectives:

Explore the **new forces in development** and implications for evaluations and evaluators.

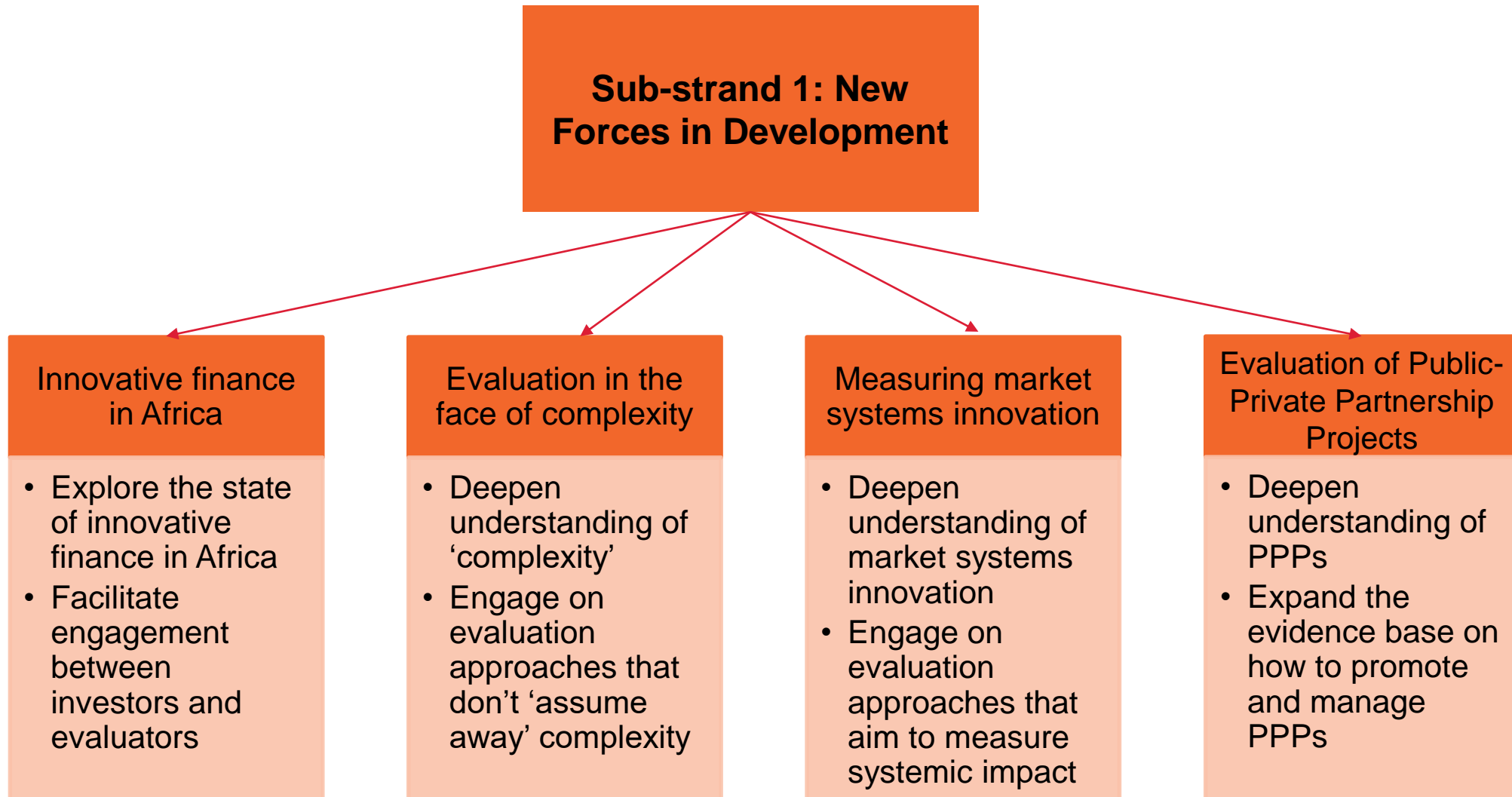
Facilitate dialogue between investors and evaluators.

Take stock of the opportunities available to embark on **new frontiers in evaluation methodology**.

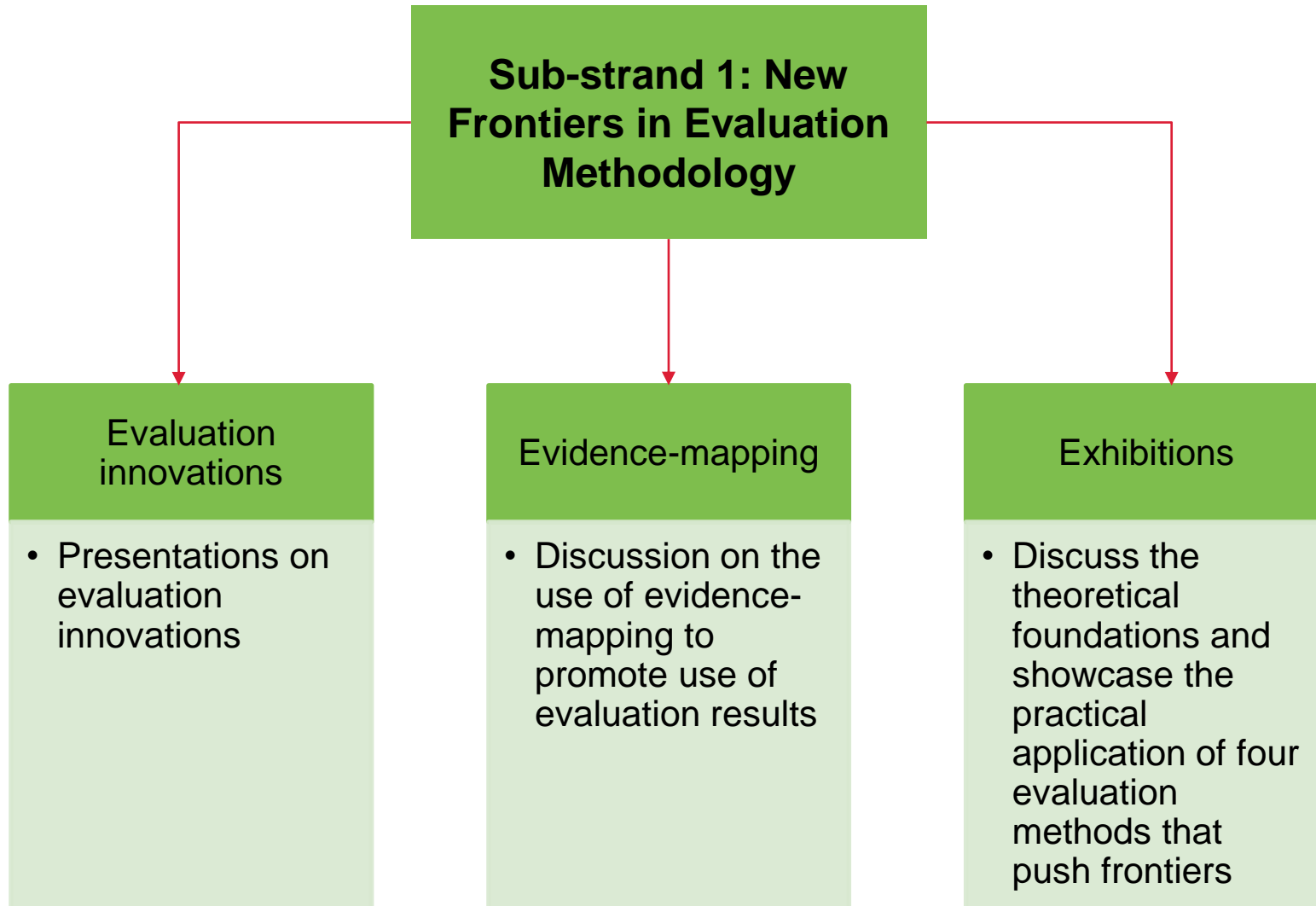
Confront the challenges facing investors and evaluators.



Sub-strand 1: New Forces in Development



Sub-strand 2: New Frontiers in Evaluation Methodology



Resources

Read more about this strand and related topics at the links

We co-authored this [AEA365 Blog Post \(1 April 2017\)](#) alongside the Rockefeller Foundation, which provides a synopsis of the Innovations in Evaluation strand.

This [Evaluating Impact Investing reading list](#) contains many useful links to publications on social impact measurement.

If there's one thing you read, take a look at the [Bertha Centre's Review of Innovative Finance in Africa](#)

Finally, here are links to the pioneering work being pursued by two strand presenters:

- [Acumen's Lean Data](#) and [Lean Data Field Guide](#)
- [B-Labs](#) and the [B Impact Assessment methodology](#)