NETWORKED DISINFORMATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AGAINST DISINFORMATION:
Understanding the Ecosystem of Disinformation,
Misinformation and Hate Speech

First, the **COUNTER-DISINFORMATION CHECKLIST**
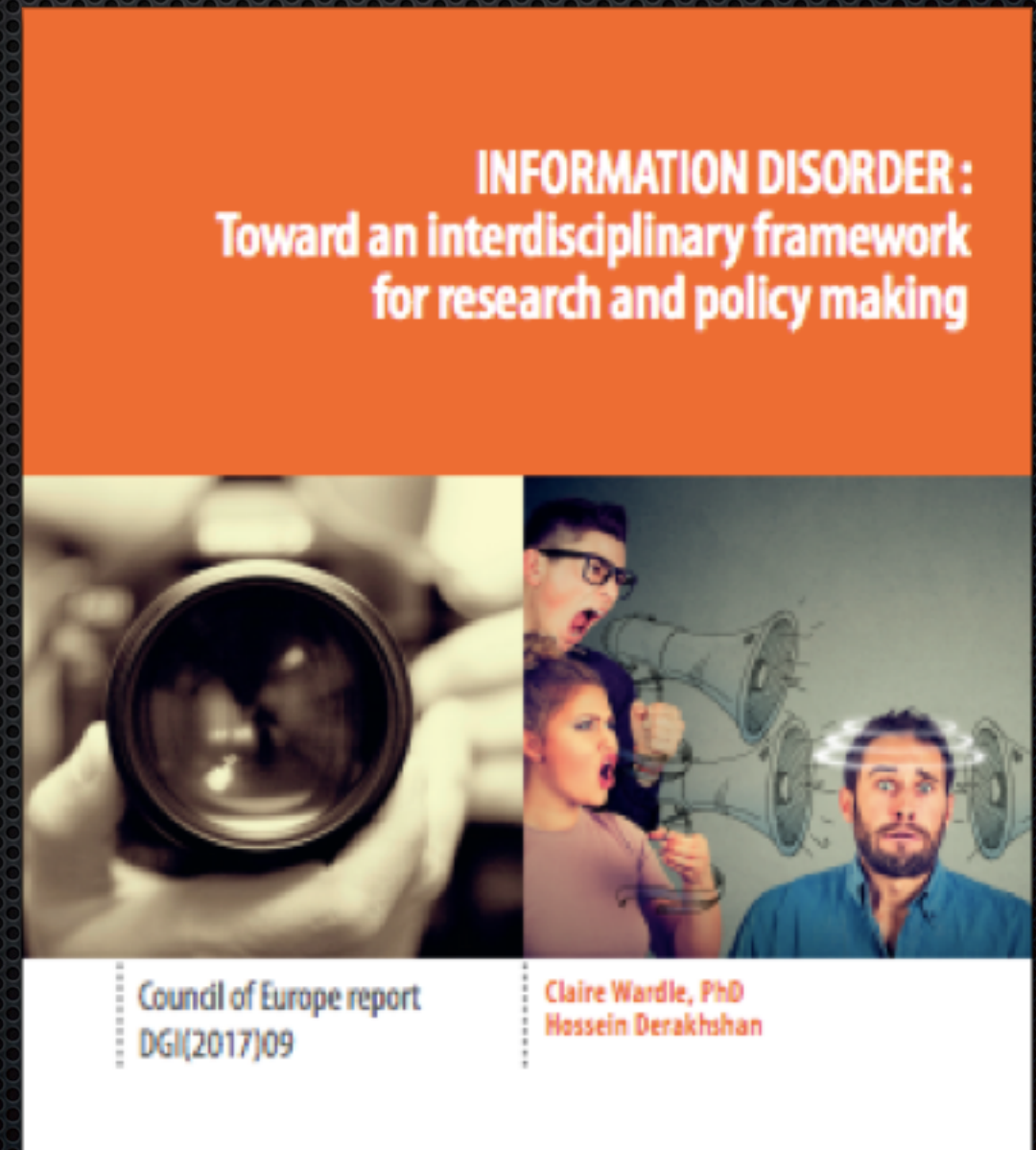
☑Clarify the stakes

- **The Origins of Totalitarianism,** esp. "Totalitarian propaganda" | Arendt

- **How to Save a Constitutional Democracy** | Ginsburg & Huq

> "The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the dedicated communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false, no longer exists."
>
> **HANNAH ARENDT**
> The Origins of Totalitarianism

☑️ Define disinformation

- **Information Disorder** Toward an Interdisciplinary Framework for Research and Policy Making | Wardle & Derakhshan

- **Journalism, 'Fake News' & Disinformation** Handbook for Journalism Education and Training | Ireton & Posetti
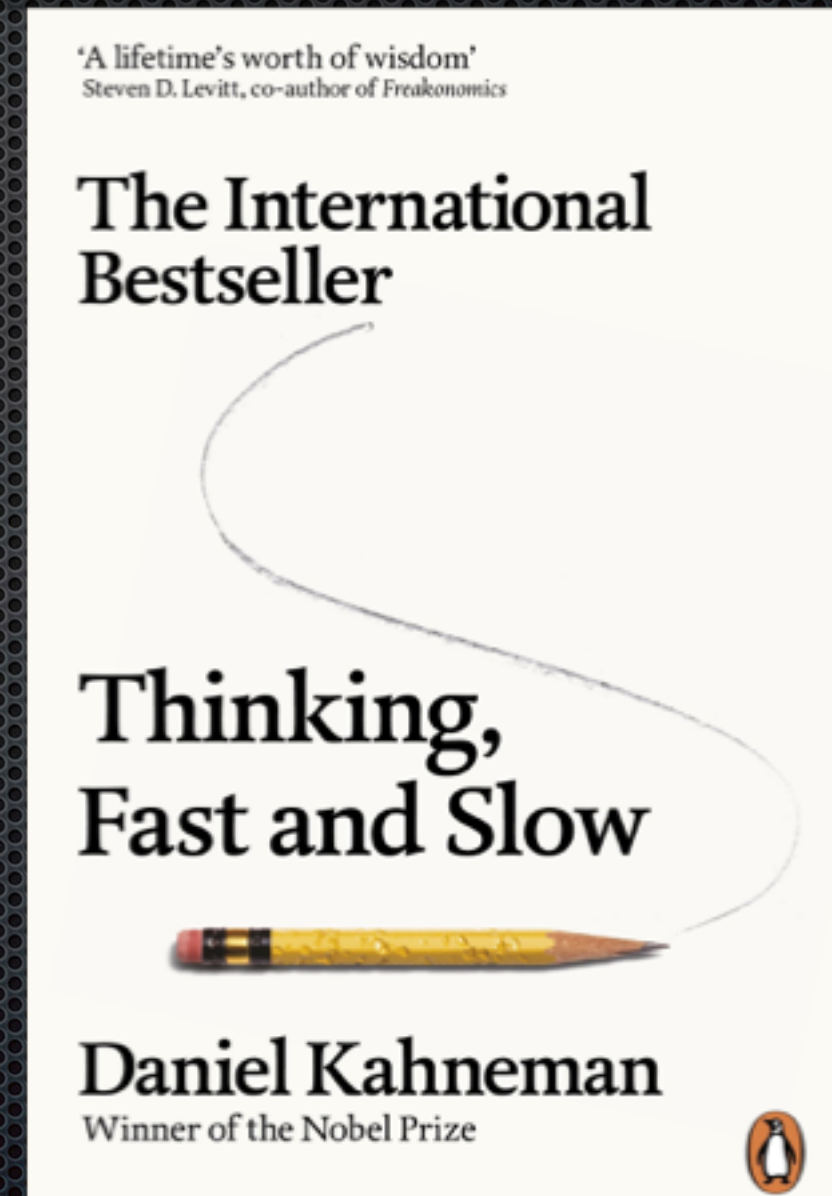
✓ Include Asian perspectives

- **Information Disorder in Asia & the Pacific** | Kajimoto & Stanley

- **Media and Power in Southeast Asia** | George & Venkiteswaran

- **Democratic Decay and Disinformation in the Digital Age** | Nery

Asian Perspectives

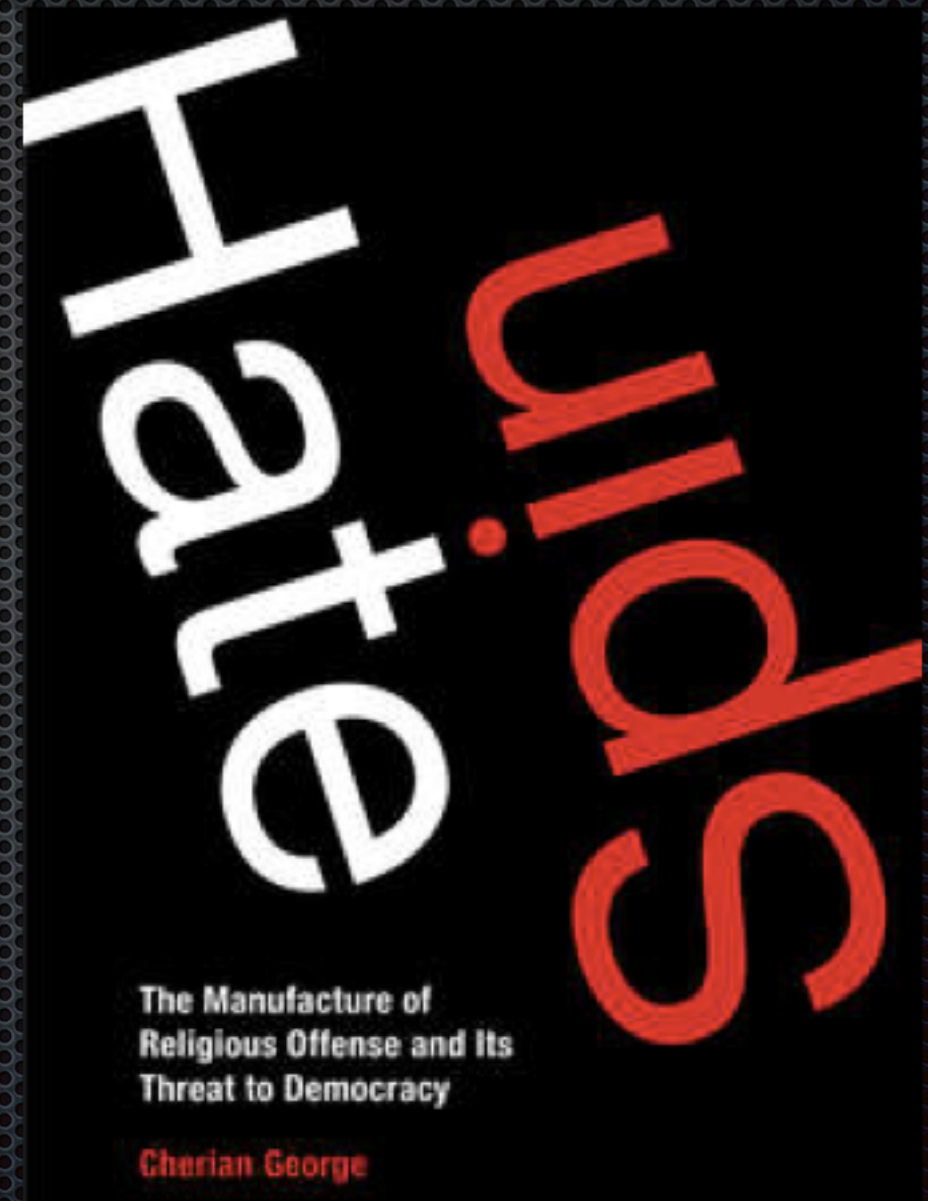Democratic Decay and Disinformation in the Digital Age

By John Nery

☑ Integrate the science

- **The Authoritarians** | Altemeyer

- **Thinking, Fast and Slow** | Kahneman

- **Contagious** | Berger

'A lifetime's worth of wisdom'
Steven D. Levitt, co-author of Freakonomics

The International Bestseller

Thinking, Fast and Slow

Daniel Kahneman
Winner of the Nobel Prize

☑ Follow the experts

- Cherian George

- Masato Kajimoto

- Ullrich Ecker

- Julie Posetti

- Jonathan Ong,
  Jason Cabanes

Hate Spin

The Manufacture of
Religious Offense and Its
Threat to Democracy

Cherian George

Second, the Philippine experience of
NETWORKED DISINFORMATION

'Behind the madness is an invisible machine: industrial in its scope and organization, strategic in its outlook and expertise, and exploitative in its morality and ethics'
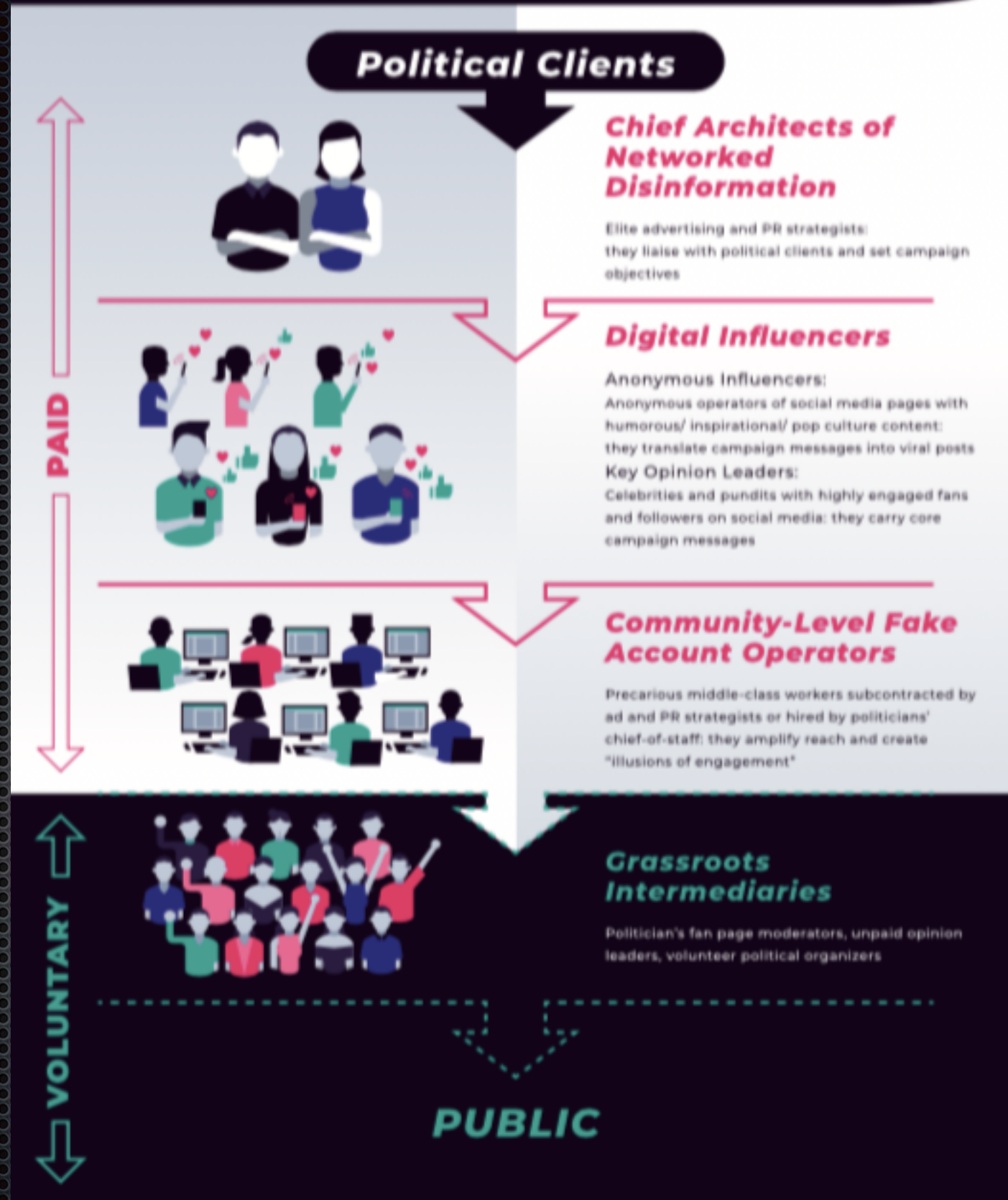
Architects of Networked Disinformation

Behind the Scenes of Troll Accounts and Fake News Production in the Philippines

By Jonathan Corpus Ong & Jason Vincent A. Cabañes

6 Networked disinformation campaigns operate with two opposing dynamics in play On the one hand, **controlled interactivity aims for collective participation and cooperation among disinformation workers who are informed by a common script; on the other, volatile virality relies on these workers' individual insight and creativity in translating a script into social media posts that achieve maximum, if uncontrolled, spreadability** across decentralized networks of communicative exchange. Emotionally charged campaigns tapping into populist sentiments of anger and resentment may thus achieve their strategic goals,but inadvertently unleash uncivil expressions of misogyny, anti-intellectualism, and other forms of offensive speech into the public discourse.
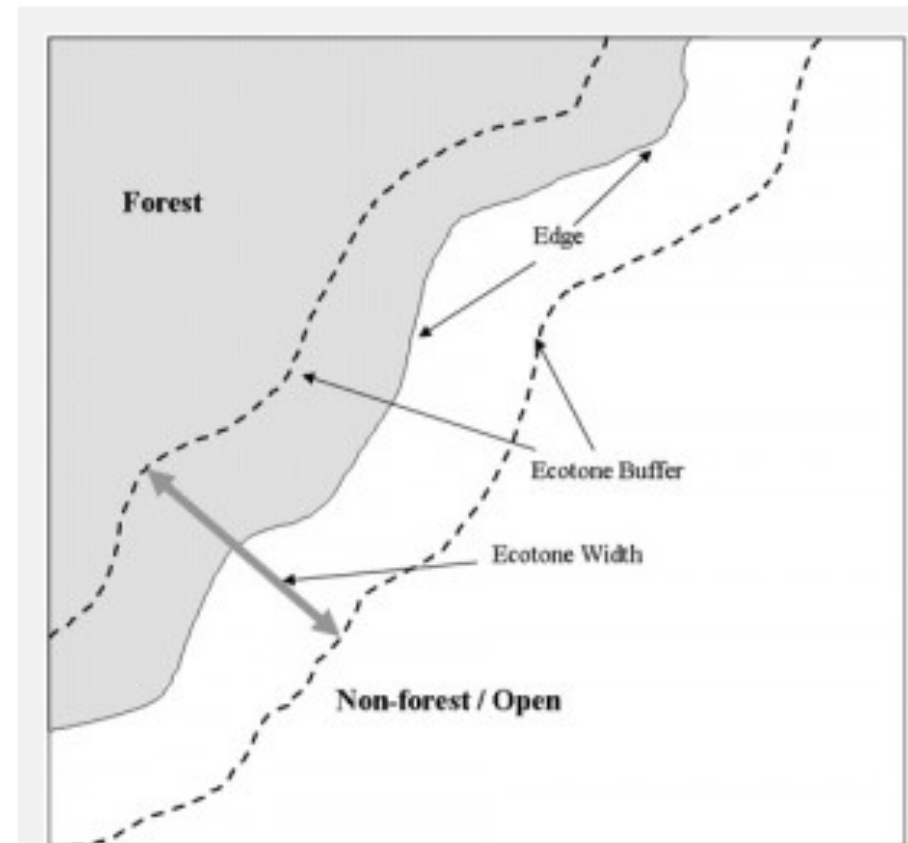
THE ARCHITECTURE OF NETWORKED DISINFORMATION

Political Clients

PAID

Chief Architects of Networked Disinformation

Elite advertising and PR strategists: they liaise with political clients and set campaign objectives

Digital Influencers

Anonymous Influencers:
Anonymous operators of social media pages with humorous/ inspirational/ pop culture content: they translate campaign messages into viral posts

Key Opinion Leaders:
Celebrities and pundits with highly engaged fans and followers on social media: they carry core campaign messages

Community-Level Fake Account Operators

Precarious middle-class workers subcontracted by ad and PR strategists or hired by politicians' chief-of-staff: they amplify reach and create "illusions of engagement"

VOLUNTARY

Grassroots Intermediaries

Politician's fan page moderators, unpaid opinion leaders, volunteer political organizers

PUBLIC

A NEW METAPHOR

AN ECOTONE, NOT AN ECOSYSTEM?

An **Ecotone** describes an area that acts as a transition or boundary **between two ecosystems**. This could be, for example, an area of marshland between a river and the riverbank, a clearing within a forest or a much larger area such as the transition between Arctic Tundra and Forest biomes in Northern Siberia. As this area is inevitably Influenced by the two bordering ecosystems, it is therefore a consequence of this that a higher density of organisms and variety of species can be found within an Ecotone. This increase in biodiversity is referred to as the "**edge effect**".

Forest

Edge

Ecotone Buffer

Ecotone Width

Non-forest / Open

Source
http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/Vertebrate.html

https://www.eoi.es/blogs/davidthorpe/2014/01/16/the-importance-of-ecotones/