

Protected areas, landscapes and governance

An application of the Governance Assessment Framework for Landscape Level Ecosystem-Based Management to Mt Marsabit, Kenya

Lance W. Robinson¹ and Joram Kagombe²

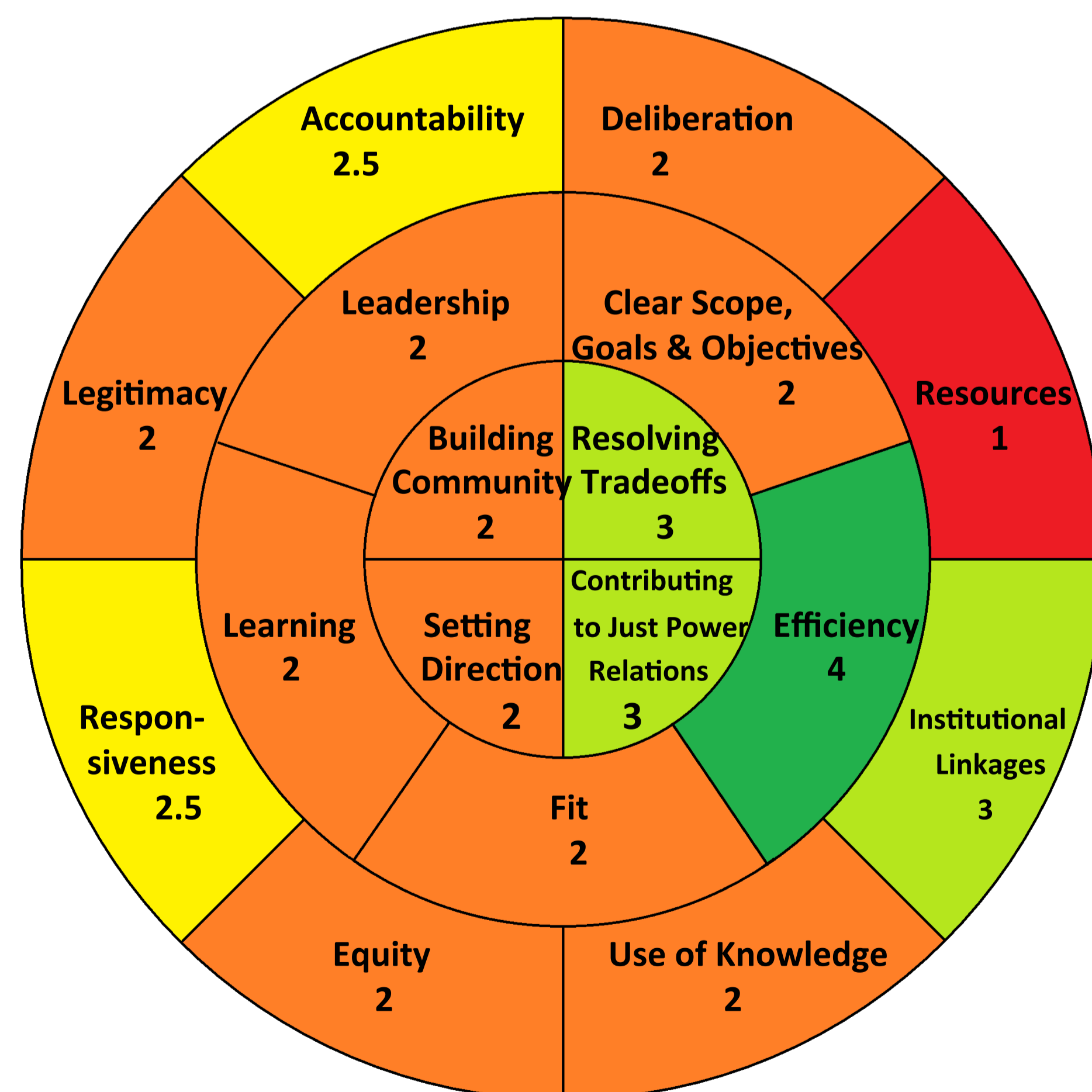
¹International Livestock Research Institute, ²Kenya Forestry Research institute

The LLEBM Governance Assessment Framework

Ecosystems, as we all know, extend beyond the boundaries of protected area to larger landscapes. Any particular landscape may have multiple, overlapping jurisdictions and a wide array of stakeholders. How can we make sense of the complex arenas where governance plays out at landscape level?

The Landscape Level Ecosystem-Based Management (LLEBM) project has developed a framework for institutional diagnosis at that level. The framework includes eight descriptive questions and seventeen evaluative indicators, representing various dimensions of governance.

Summary of Scores for Mt Marsabit Governance System



Colour coding for indicators scores



Lance W. Robinson
L.Robinson@cgiar.org • Box 30709 Nairobi Kenya • +254 20 422 3000
ilri.org

This document is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution –Non commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License November 2014

“[The governance system] is not fair for livestock owners. It is also not fair for women. If strengthened, community-based organizations would allow for more fairness and equity.”
- A workshop participant

Q: Do people feel that there is a place they can go to with their concerns and feel that they are listened to?

A: Now with the EMCs, yes. Before, nothing. If they meet a guard, they just take money. But now with the EMCs, yes.
- A community member

“You know, these communities respect the traditional leadership system. They respect that. Any idea that will be taken through their system, not another system, if the leaders are well-convicted, they are capable of convincing the people. Not the administrative leaders, but... elders.”
- An NGO staff member



The protected areas on Mt Marsabit are home to abundant wildlife

Lake Paradise, Mt Marsabit

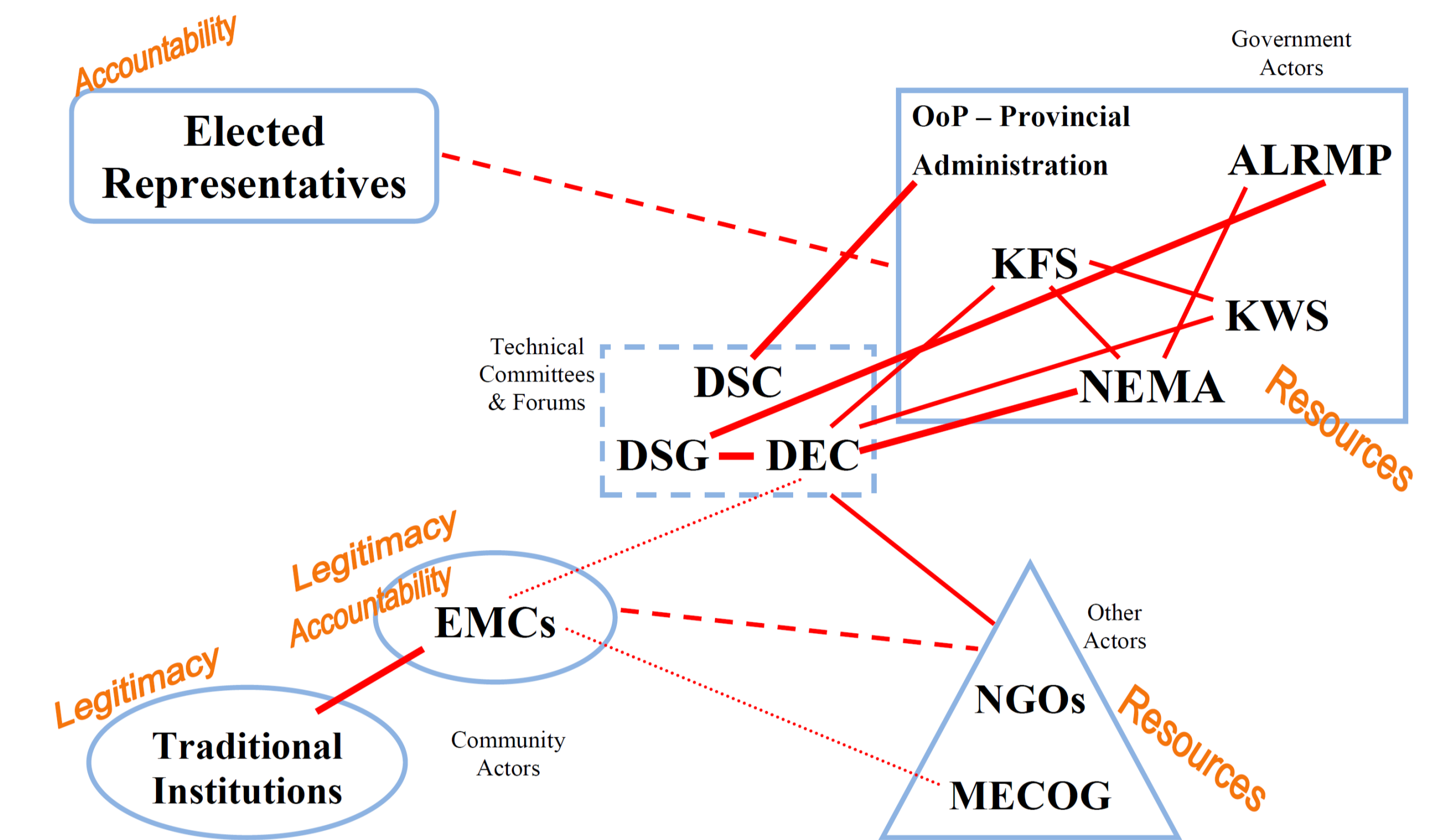
All photos © Lance Robinson

Top right: Gabra elders consult in a traditional meeting

A Technical Approach to Coordination

Prior to the current constitution, the governance system for Mt Marsabit had at its centre what could be called a “technical approach” to coordination based on District level committees such as the District Steering Group (DSG), the District Environment Committee (DEC) and District Security Committee (DSC), with a membership made up primarily of government officers from various agencies and departments.

The assessment found that this approach was quite efficient and very effective at sharing information and achieving coordination amongst government departments. However, community members, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, had little voice in these forums.



Accountability, Legitimacy and Resources—the Disconnect in the Mt Marsabit Governance System

Institutional Linkages Make a Governance System

Institutional linkages were strong amongst government departments through the district-level committees. However, those parts of the governance system for which legitimacy and accountability were strongest—community-level actors such as Environmental Management Committees (EMCs)—were only weakly connected to the key coordinating bodies and to the parts of the governance system having the strongest ability to mobilize resources.

Of the various linkages that help to make a governance system a truly functioning system, it is those which give community level actors a voice at higher levels and where key decisions are being made that are most critical for enabling effective landscape level governance.



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Dryland Systems

ILRI
—40—
YEARS