




Customary Institutions

Environmental Management Groups

OASIS Training-of-Trainers Online-Course,
12 September 2024, Michael Hauser

 Building Resilient Communities in Somalia

   Funded by the European Union

1



The effectiveness of village bylaws in sustainable management of community-managed exclosures in Northern Ethiopia

Mastewal Yami, Wolde Mekuria & Michael Hauser

Proposed Commercial Management of Non-timber Forest Products in Nepal's Community Forest User Groups: Factors for Success

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

2


1

What is an institution?

3

Defining Institutions

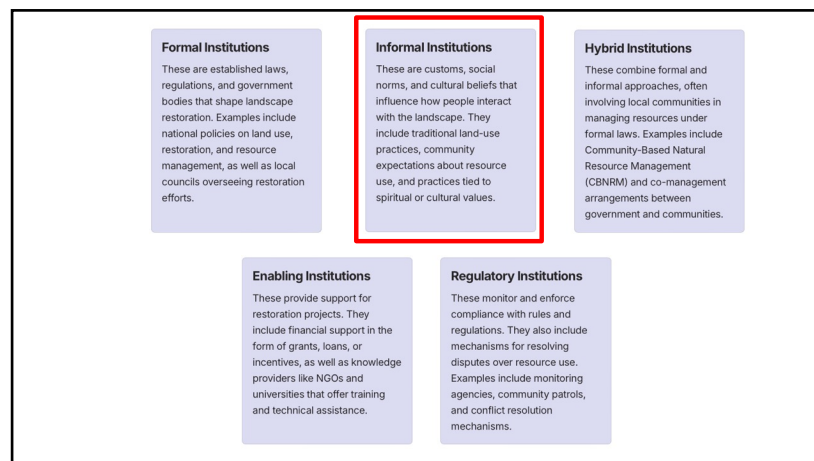
Formal and informal rules, norms, and procedures that govern behaviour within a group, organization, or society.



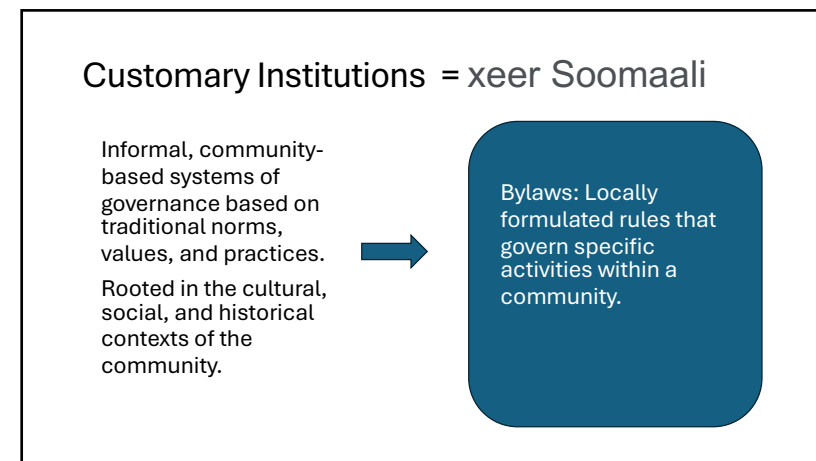
In ecosystem rehabilitation

Rules and mechanisms that local communities design to regulate activities and manage resources for ecosystem rehabilitation.

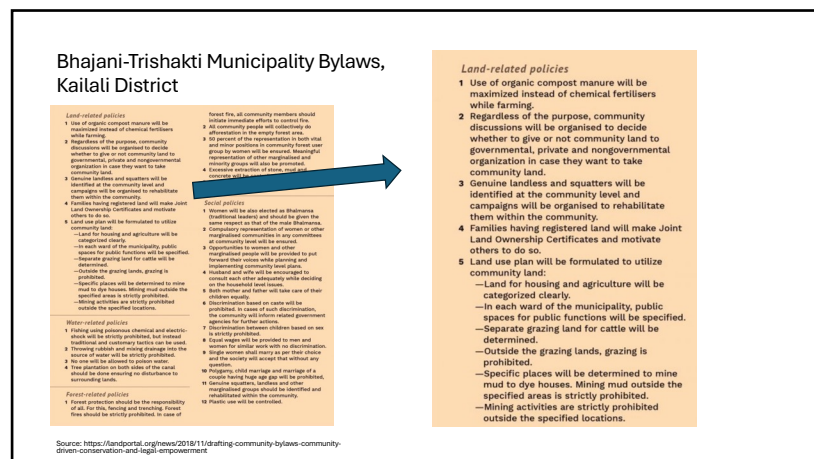
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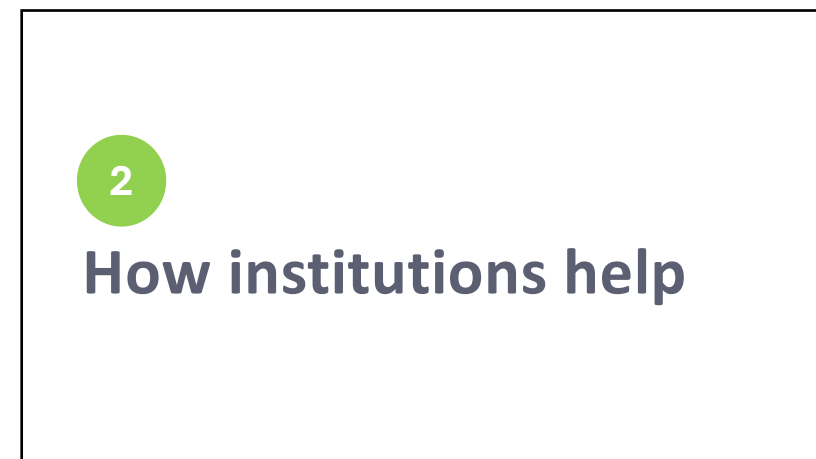
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6



7



8

Bylaws: Five functions for EMGs

- Community engagement
- Consensus Building
- Promoting Stewardship
- Social enforcement
- Conflict resolution

9

Soil erosion control

Implementing measures like terracing, check dams, and planting vegetation to prevent soil erosion.

Bylaws needed for:

- Mandating terracing or other soil conservation techniques on sloped farmland to prevent degradation.
- Establishing guidelines on sustainable agricultural practices that reduce soil erosion, such as cover cropping and reduced tilling.
- Penalizing practices that increase erosion, such as clearing vegetation on hillsides or inappropriate land use.



Mastewal Yami 28/04/2009

10

Water Source Protection

Protecting and restoring watersheds, springs, rivers, and lakes to prevent water pollution and maintain water flow.

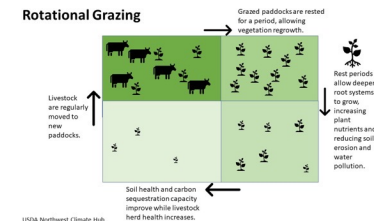
Bylaws needed for:

- Restricting agricultural activities, grazing, or construction near water bodies to reduce pollution and siltation.
- Designating protected zones around water sources and preventing deforestation along riverbanks.
- Monitoring and reporting illegal water extraction or pollution activities.

11

Rotational grazing

Rotational Grazing



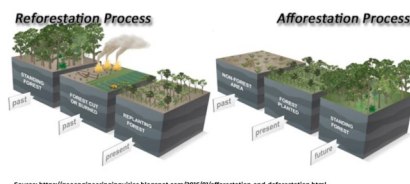
Managing livestock grazing by rotating animals between different pasture areas to prevent overgrazing and allow vegetation recovery.

Bylaws needed for:

- Designating specific grazing areas and regulating when livestock can be moved between them.
- Setting timeframes for resting and grazing each area to promote land regeneration.
- Penalizing unauthorized grazing in restricted areas.

12

Reforestation and afforestation



Source: <https://geoengineeringinquiries.blogspot.com/2016/01/afforestation-and-deforestation.html>

Planting trees in deforested areas (reforestation) or creating new forests in areas that were not previously forested (afforestation).

Bylaws needed for:

- Restricting tree cutting and ensuring community protection of newly planted areas.
- Regulating tree species to be planted to encourage biodiversity and sustainability.
- Establishing community obligations to participate in tree planting activities or monitor the growth of planted trees.

13

Loita Forest

Traditionally managed by the Maasai community in Kenya. Significant degradation due to overgrazing, deforestation, and land clearing for agriculture.

The Maasai community, with the support of local NGOs, developed customary bylaws to protect the forest and its resources.

Community-led Monitoring: The Maasai elders formed a council that oversaw the forest's management. They created small monitoring groups responsible for patrolling the forest to prevent illegal logging and overgrazing.

Reporting violations: Community members could report any violations, such as illegal tree cutting or overgrazing, to the council. The council had clear procedures to investigate and resolve these issues.

Review and adaptation: Every two years, the council held community meetings to review the effectiveness of the bylaws and adjust them based on current challenges, such as changing climate conditions and population pressures.

Significant recovery, with increased forest cover, more biodiversity, and better water retention. legal recognition from the local government. The community's involvement in monitoring and decision-making has increased local ownership.

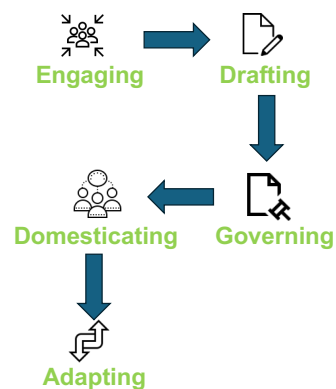
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Where to start

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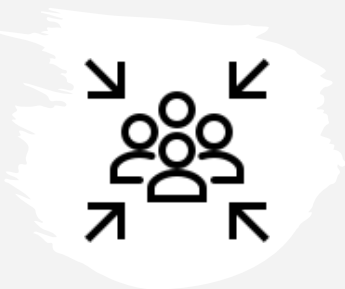
Start here



16

Step 1: Engagement

1. Engage community members, local leaders, elders to agree on restoration goals (based on scenario planning)
2. Identify and document current customary laws, resource management practices, and informal regulations already in place, responsibilities and ownership
3. Identify local knowledge: Gather indigenous and traditional ecological knowledge that can be integrated into the bylaws.



17

Step 2: Drafting

1. **Drafting committee:** Select representatives from the community, including traditional leaders, women, youth, and other relevant groups, to draft the bylaws.
2. Develop clear and concise bylaws that address resource management, land use, and environmental protection. Examples:
 1. **Resource use restrictions:** Define limits on grazing, logging, and water extraction.
 2. **Seasonal use:** Establish seasons for tree harvesting or fishing to prevent overexploitation.
3. **Feedback from communities:** Present the draft bylaws to the community in open forums to gather feedback, questions, and suggestions (Ownership!)



18

Step 3: Governance

1. **Establish an oversight committee:** Set up a local committee to monitor compliance with the bylaws and handle any disputes or violations.
2. **Form monitoring committees:** Small, community-based groups made up of respected community members, elders, youth, and women.
3. **Create enforcement mechanisms:** Define clear penalties for breaking the bylaws (e.g., fines, community service, or resource restrictions) and ensure consistent enforcement.



19

Step 4: Domesticate

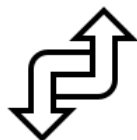
1. **Community Awareness:** Raise awareness about the new bylaws through community meetings, posters, and local media, making sure everyone understands the rules and their importance.
2. Ensure that the bylaws do not conflict with broader legal frameworks at the national or regional level.
3. **Seek endorsement of traditional leaders:** Ensure the approval and endorsement of traditional leaders, as their support will help in enforcement.
4. **Final community approval:** Hold a final community meeting or vote to officially adopt the bylaws.



20

Step 5: Adapt

1. **Create a reporting structure:** Establish a process where community members can report violations. The process should be simple, accessible, and confidential if necessary.
2. **Monitor and document:** Regularly assess the impact of the bylaws on the ecosystem restoration goals, track progress, and adjust the bylaws if necessary.



21

Remember

22

- Adapt to circumstances
- Train the EMGs to do the job (do not do it for them)
- Build ownership

23

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24