

Institutional Linkages for Landscape Level Governance: The Case of Mt. Marsabit, Kenya

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Misfit, and the interest in *Landscape*

- Recognition of fragmentation, spatial misfit, and the fact ecosystems don't respect human boundaries
- Created an interest in landscape approaches and EBM
- Misfit is not only misfit of particular institutions but misfit of governance *systems*

Linkages, Governance, Landscapes

- Commons and landscapes are embedded in a multi-level world
- Multi-level biological, social, economic systems; we need multi-level governance systems to address the challenges
- In this study, we investigated the role played by institutional linkages
 - In relation to other dimensions of governance
 - In landscape governance systems

Mt. Marsabit

- A massive shield volcano in northern Kenya
- Between 2x and 5x the precipitation levels of the surrounding lowlands
- Is a “water tower”
- Contains community land, settlements, farms and pasture land, and two state-governed protected areas

An Array of Ecosystem Services

- Wildlife habitat
- Agricultural land
- Water sources on the mountain
- Water in the lowlands downstream
- Pasture
- Emergency forage in the forest



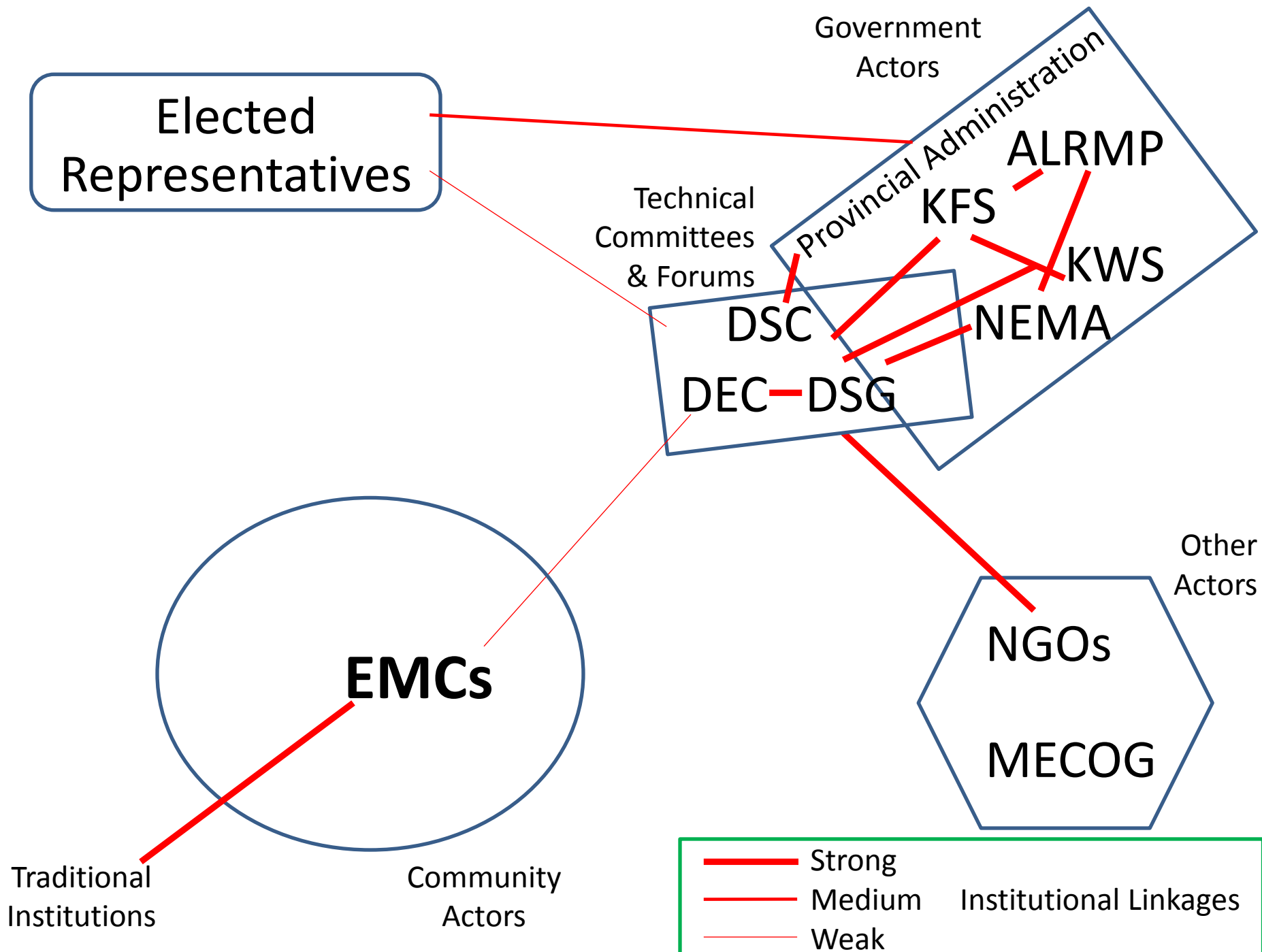
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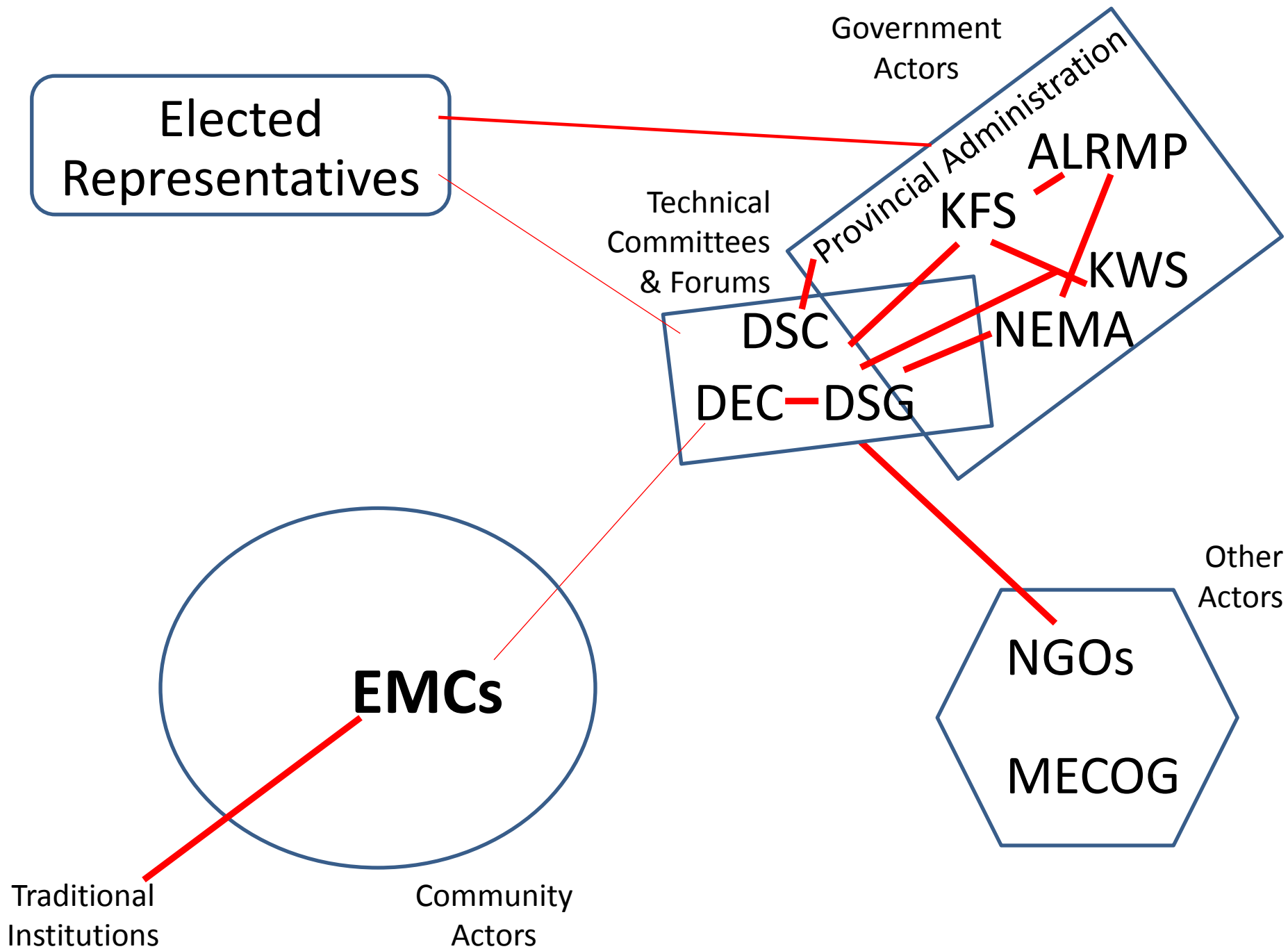
Governance Actors and Forums

Level	Actor
Marsabit District	ALRMP, NEMA, DSG, DEC, DSC, County Council
Mt. Marsabit	MECOG
Forest Reserve/ National Reserve	KFS, KWS
Location	EMCs
Community	



Role of EMCs in the Governance System

- Modern/customary hybrid
- High level of legitimacy, accountability and responsiveness
- But limited resources, limited formal legitimacy



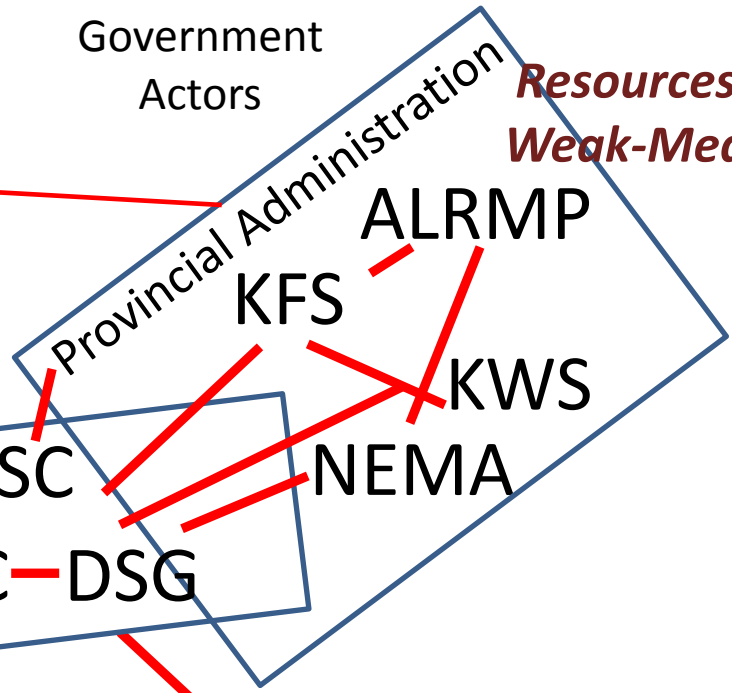
Accountability:
Med.-Strong

Elected
Representatives

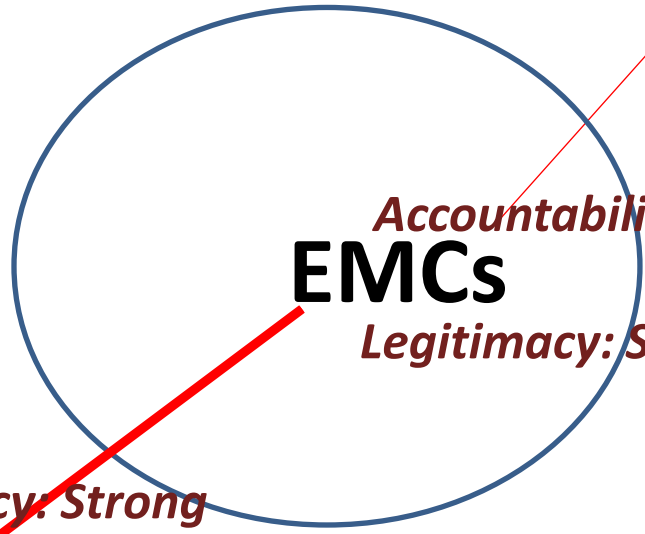
Government
Actors

Resources:
Weak-Med.

Technical
Committees
& Forums



Provincial Administration

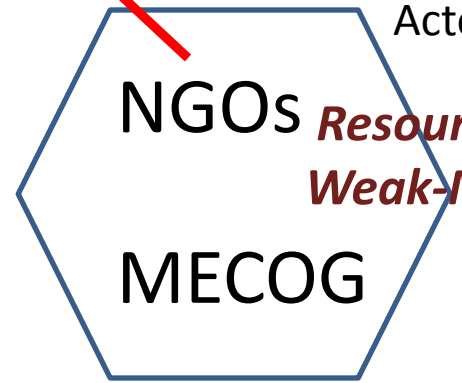


Accountability: Med.
Legitimacy: Strong

Legitimacy: Strong
Traditional
Institutions

Community
Actors

Other
Actors



Resources:
Weak-Med

Conclusions

- Where accountability and legitimacy were strongest was also where ability to generate resources was weakest
- Institutional linkages did little to rectify this

Conclusions

- Many dimensions of governance suffered
- Legitimacy of traditional institutions and EMCs were an untapped potential

Implication for Landscape Governance

In fostering effective governance systems, linkages that

- give community actors a voice in decision-making at higher levels
- connect up strengths in different aspects and dimensions of governance

may be more important than having a governance mechanism that is a perfect fit with biophysical conditions

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