



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock

More meat, milk and eggs by and for the poor

Land and resource governance in pastoralist systems: It's not all about boundaries and property rights

Lance W. Robinson

World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty
March 19 to 23, 2018, Washington, DC

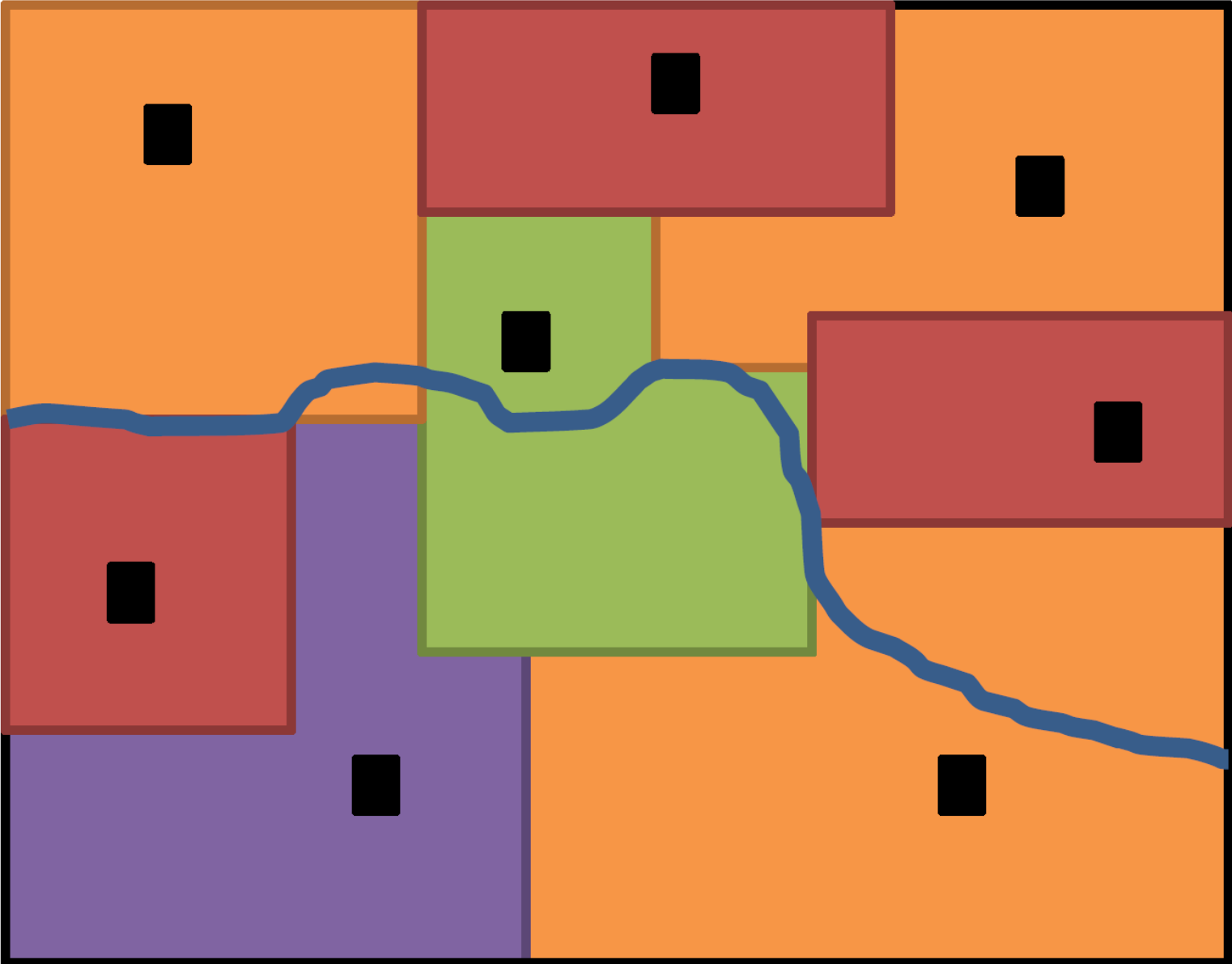


Land and natural resource governance interventions for pastoralists

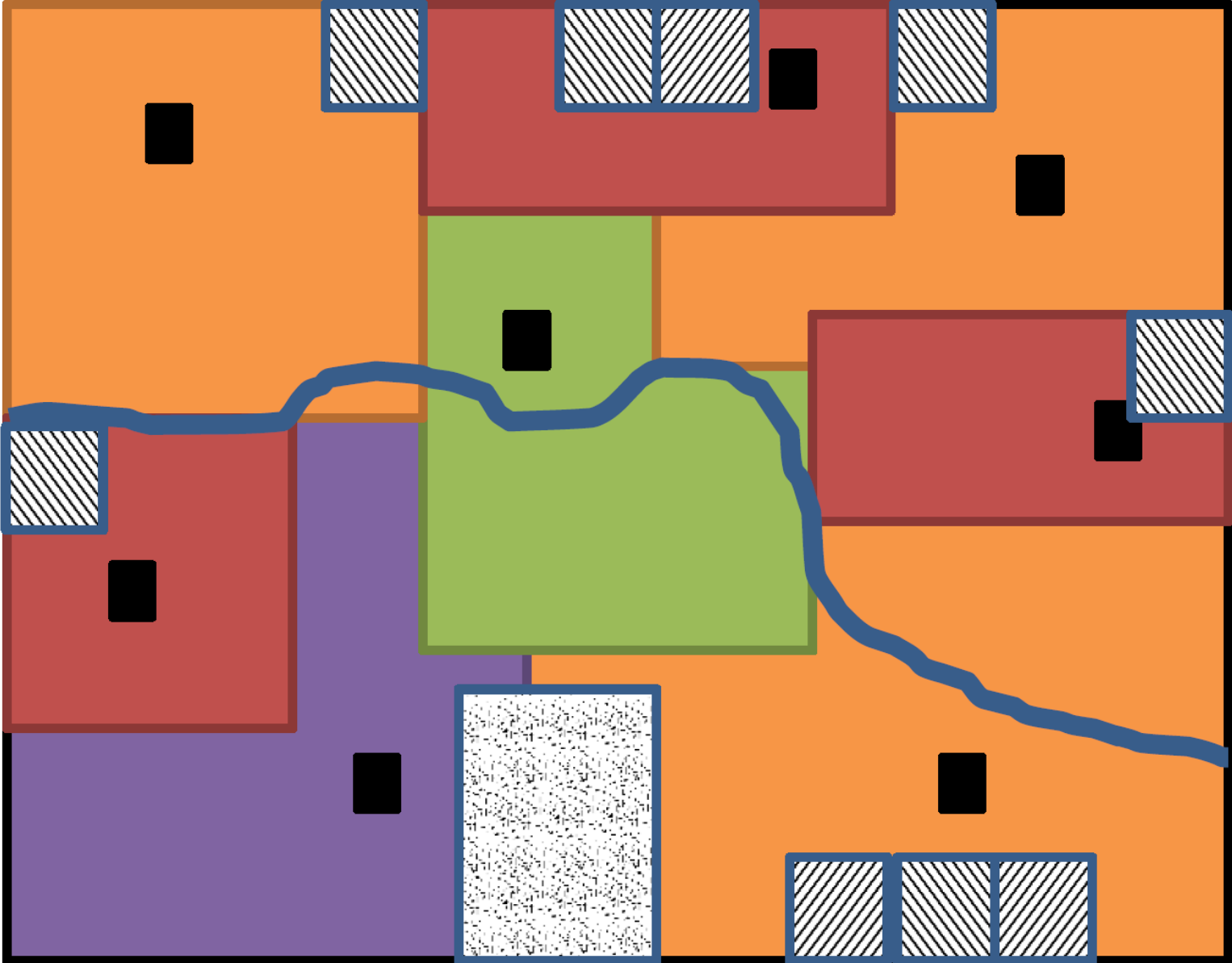
Influenced by mainstream thinking on property rights, CBNRM, and commons:

- Ostrom design principle no. 1: clearly defined resource and social group boundaries
- Open access is to be avoided

Simple commons mosaic landscape



Simple multi-tenure mosaic landscape



But many traditional pastoralist systems don't conform to mainstream thinking

- Spatio-temporal variability in rainfall and forage compels mobility
- Traditional pastoralist governance systems characterized by:
 - fuzzy and flexible group and territorial boundaries
 - emphasis on access rather than exclusion
 - in some pastoralist systems open access is not lack of rules, open access is the rule (Moritz, 2016)

The paradox of pastoral tenure:

- Interventions to secure tenure tend to reduce the social and spatial flexibility that are inherent characteristics of pastoralist systems

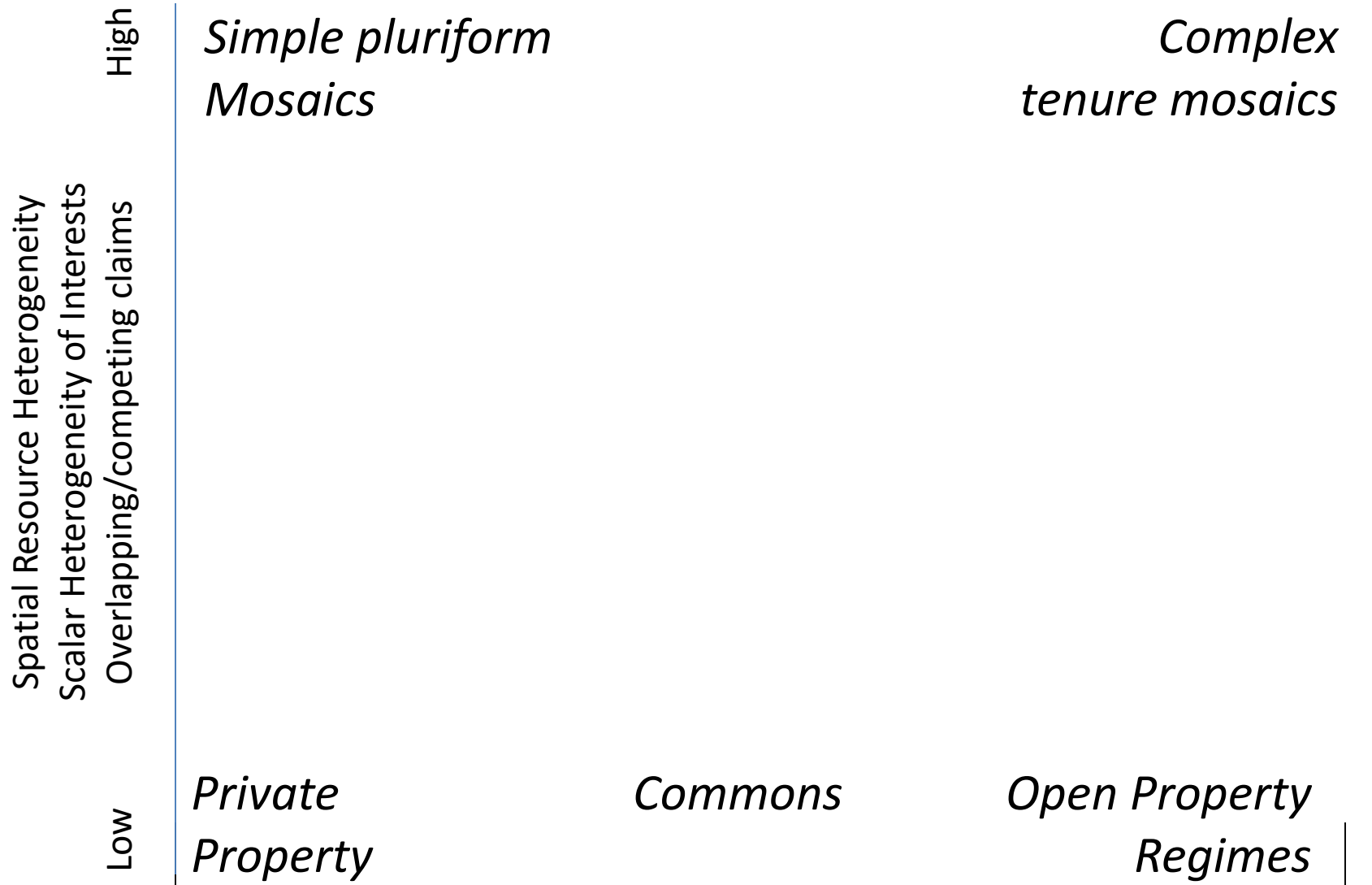
- Fernández-Giménez (2002)

Comparison of four cases in Ethiopia and Kenya

	Dirre	Garba Tula	Gomole	Il'Ngwesi
Area	728,762 ha	981,900 ha	695,300 ha	9,296 ha
Security of tenure	Weak	Weak	Weak	Secure
Governance type	Collaborative	Community	Community	Community
Multi-level planning approach	Planning done primarily at rangeland unit level; then further planning and monitoring at lower levels	Planning done at landscape level and lower levels is integrated in an ad hoc way	Planning mostly done above and below Rangeland unit level	Planning done primarily at rangeland unit level; then further planning and monitoring at lower levels

All four communities faced similar challenges

- Not from internal governance but challenges horizontally from other communities and vertically from relationships with decision-making at other levels
- Exclusion (“you have nice grass”)
- Competing and contested claims
- Bottom-up impetus for flexibility



High	Resource Density	Low
Low	Spatio-temporal variability	High
Low	Enforcement transaction costs	High

Characteristics of complex pastoralist tenure mosaics

- Rights unbundled by timing and mode of use, and allocated to different governance mechanisms
- Overlapping rights
- Rights well-defined for some resources, hardly at all for others
- Complex tenure mosaics do not function only through tenure: reliance on governance mechanisms other than tenure

Resolving the Paradox of Pastoral Tenure

A governance system which:

- Unbundles property rights for allocation to different governance mechanisms operating at different scales and levels
- Relies on governance mechanisms other than tenure: negotiation and deliberation, procedural approaches such as land use planning, flexible allocation of access.

References

THE PARADOX: Fernández-Giménez, M. E. (2002). Spatial and Social Boundaries and the Paradox of Pastoral Land Tenure: A Case Study From Postsocialist Mongolia. *Human Ecology*, 30(1), 49–78.

OPEN ACCESS REGIMES: Moritz, M. (2016). Open property regimes. *International Journal of the Commons*, 10(2), 688–708. <https://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.719>

OPEN ACCESS REGIMES: Moritz, M., Scholte, P., Hamilton, I., & Kari, S. (2013). Open Access, Open Systems: Pastoral Management of Common-Pool Resources in the Chad Basin. *Human Ecology*, 41(3), 351–365. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10745-012-9550-z>

UNBUNDLED RIGHTS: Schlager, E., and E. Ostrom. 1992. Property-rights regimes and natural resources: a conceptual analysis. *Land economics* 68(3):249–262.

Acknowledgement

This work benefitted from funding from the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock led by the International Livestock Research Institute, and from the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the European Commission through the “Taking Successes in Land Restoration to Scale” project.



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock



CGIAR Research Program on Livestock

livestock.cgiar.org



The program thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR system](#)

The **CGIAR Research Program on Livestock** aims to increase the productivity and profitability of livestock agri-food systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and eggs more available and affordable across the developing world.



This presentation is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.