

Local responses to global governance

Institutional Bricolage in Forest Governance

Jessica de Koning

Wageningen University, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR



Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions
of Global Environmental Change

Berlin 8-9 October 2010
Social dimensions of
environmental change and governance

2010

Presentation

Talk about:

1. Institutional Bricolage

- a) Local reconstruction of forest governance
- b) Local responses to forest governance

- Examples from the Amazon region of Bolivia and Ecuador

Introduction to the research

■ PhD research

- Amazon of Ecuador and Bolivia
- Case study research
 - 6 communities: small farmers
 - Ethnographic methods

■ Research Questions:

- How do **institutions** influence forest practices?
- How do local **people** reshape institutions?



ForLive



Institutional Bricolage *(Cleaver, 2001)*

Recombination of **different** institutional elements **at hand** to create new mechanisms for resource management

- Piecing together, Recombining (active/conscious)
- Reconstruction, Reshaping (inactive/unconscious)
- Intentional as well as inevitable (Freeman, 2007)

Processes of institutional bricolage



- Responding to introduced institutions
 - **Bureaucratic** institutions
 - **Socially embedded** institutions
- 3 processes identified
 - Aggregation: Recombination
 - Alteration: Reshaping, reconstruction
 - Articulation: Claiming

Forest governance and institutional bricolage

- How are global forest governance institutions reshaped at the local level?

- Forest governance institutions (bureaucratic)
 - Forest regulations
 - Global norms
 - NGO norms

- Local institutions (socially embedded)
 - Community institutions
 - Traditions

Aggregation

Alteration

Articulation

Aggregation, Alteration, Articulation

■ Aggregation

- Recombining
- *Adopting forest laws to make firmer claim on land.*
- *Adopting norms on sustainability to ensure NGO aid.*

■ Alteration

- Reconstruction. reshaping
- *Interpreting governance regulations differently than intended*
- *Gradual changing norms and traditions resulting from global governance*

■ Articulation

- Claiming traditions
- *Rejecting the forest regulations as it is in conflict with traditional identity*

Forest governance

- Forest governance “arrives” at local level as a mix of regulations and norms
- Forest governance institutions are reshaped and reshape in turn
- The emergence of forest governance at the local level is a construction

Conclusions

■ Institutional bricolage

- Reaction against new institutionalism
- Recognises local dynamics
- Reconstruction of forest governance
- Reaction against dominant thinking on forest governance
 - Processes and concepts
 - Materials, tools available, and signs
 - Focus on bricoleurs

Freeman (2007)

Whereas the thought process of the scientist and/or engineer is driven by a project, that of the *bricoleur* is led by the materials and tools available;

Whereas the engineer works with concepts, the *bricoleur* works with signs;

Whereas the scientist creates events by means of structures, the *bricoleur* creates structures by means of events;

Whereas the engineer questions the universe, the *bricoleur* questions his or her tools.

Thank you

Jessica de Koning

Wageningen University, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group
jessica.dekoning@wur.nl



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR