

Session 1: Acting on the causes of biodiversity loss: indirect drivers

Governance & Institutions

Philippe Le Prestre

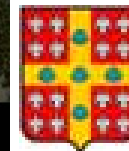


Institut

EDS

Institut Hydro-Québec en environnement,
développement et société
de l'Université Laval

Cœur de Voh en 1990, Nouvelle-Calédonie, France (20°56'N - 164°39'E)
www.yannarthusbertrand2.org




UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Outline

**Governance vs.
Institutions**

**Questioning received
wisdom**

**Some challenges to
Biodiversity Governance
and institution-building**



Ebène rose sur la montagne de Kaw, Guyane (4°30'N - 52°00'W).
www.yannarthusbertrand2.org

Governance

- **Biodiversity governance refers to all purposeful mechanisms and measures aimed at steering social systems toward preventing, mitigating or adapting to the risks to human well-being associated with biodiversity change**
- **Or: establishment, reaffirmation or change of institutions designed to resolve conflict over environmental resources (Paavlova, 2007)**
- **Or: a system of formal and informal rules designed to coordinate interdependent activities and work toward the realization of a common good.**

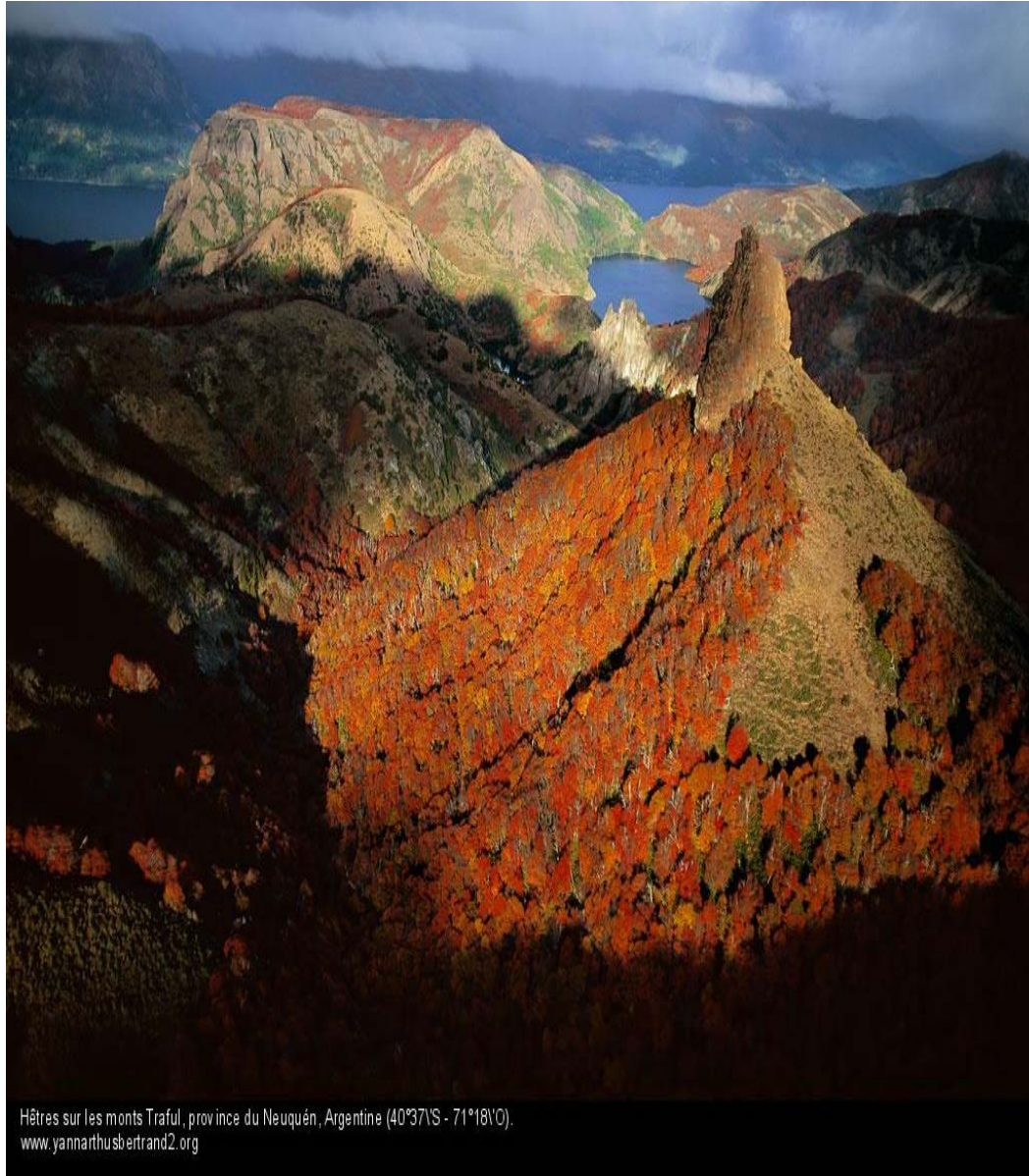
Institutions

Several strands across the social sciences:

- **In economics: governance of local commons**
- **In political science: emergence and impact of international regimes**

=> Governance implies institutions that shape behaviour





**Institutions are
«constellation of
norms, rights, rules, and
relationships that
define social practices
and guide interactions
among those who
participate in them. »**
(adapted from Young)

= social practice

Beyond received wisdom



Need to think in terms of clusters of drivers

The «tragedy of the commons» is not inevitable and the centralization of authority is not the only solution to it;

=> biodiv problems are local but the solutions are found at various levels of governance

«**Complex**» governance is common and may enhance the robustness and resilience of governance systems



Paysage de champs colorés près de Sarraud, Vaucluse, France (44°01'N - 5°24'E).
www.yannarthusbertrand2.org

Strict compliance measures are not prerequisites of institutional (regime) effectiveness;

Science can promote or impede cooperation;

Centralizing authority is not a necessary condition for international cooperation;

Participation may promote or discourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Challenges to biodiversity governance



- **Building** governance systems and institutions that are adaptive (importance of learning), robust, resilient, and fair;
- **Poor** «fit» between ecosystems and institutions => building ecosocial governance/institutions
- **Horizontal** integration
 - Nationally: articulating various regulatory regimes
 - Int'tl: articulation among env. regimes

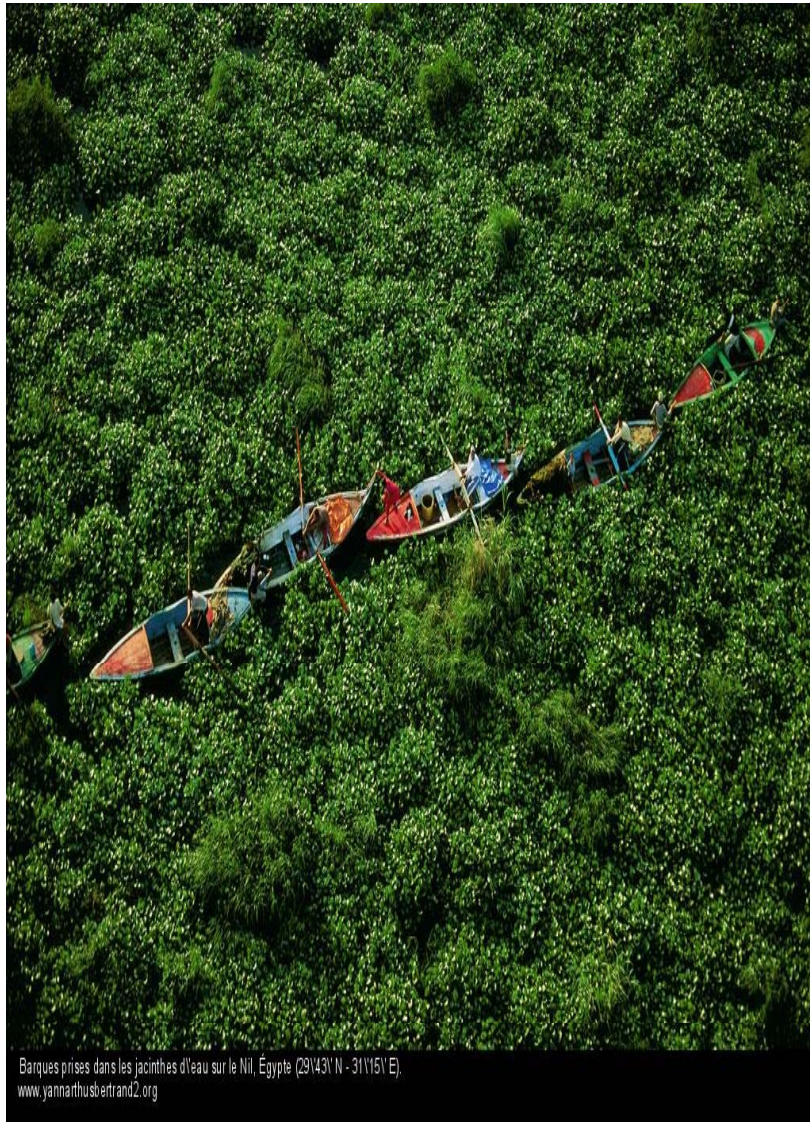
- **Vertical** integration and choice of appropriate level of intervention

- Subsidiarity in practice

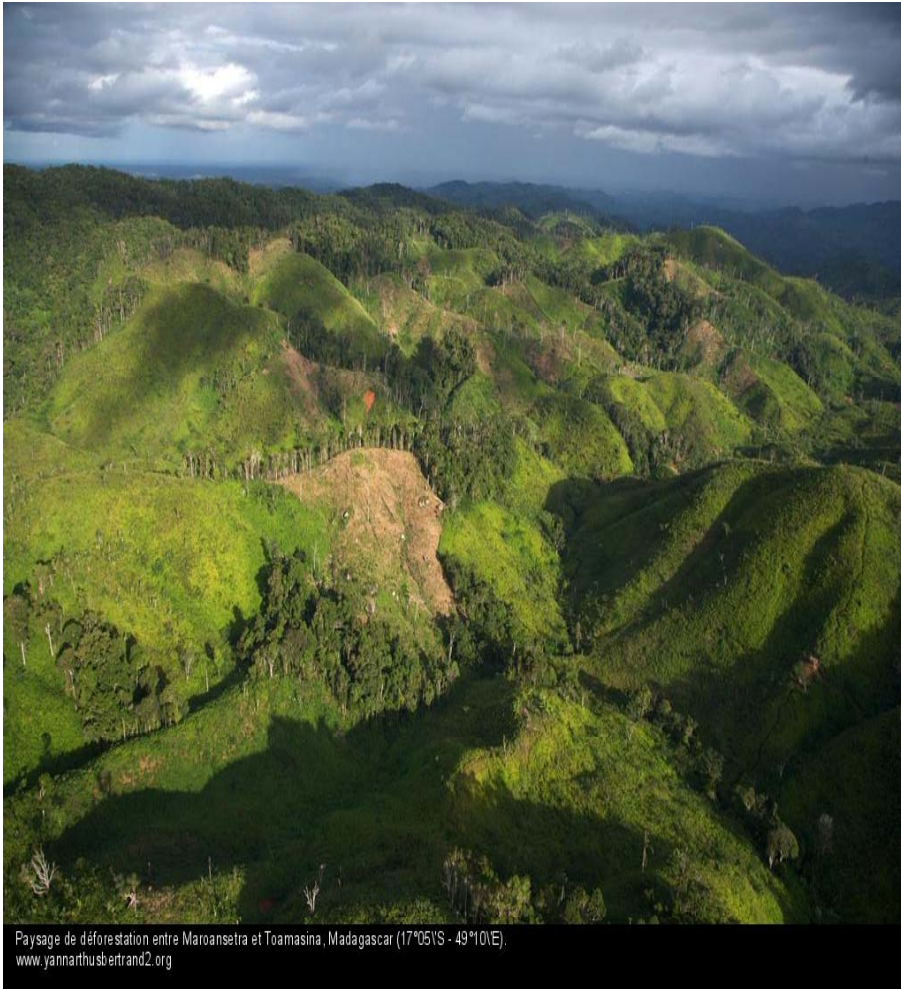
- Multiscale/multilevel governance

- Which level of governance for which problem?

- how can they be made to interact positively?



Barques prises dans les jacinthes d'eau sur le Nil, Égypte (29°43'N - 31°15'E)
www.yannarthurbertrand2.org



How to protect biodiversity without impeding change (ex. Offsets as one solution)

How to «control» private governance (i.e. certification programs), make them compatible & more democratic, or able to answer other concerns (such as social justice)

Defining the role of CBD and SCBD and strengthening them: a convention built to fail?



Paysage de bocages, Côtes d
www.yannarthusbertrand2.org

Managing contradictions & conflicts among principles and rules locally and across regimes

- **Local groups may emphasize social justice over conservation**
 - Scientists vs control of access

- **Conversely: Local management of resources may increase local inequalities**

=> how do we manage these contradictions & conflicts?

©Cartoonbank.com



"My question is: Are we making an impact?"