

# Survival of Forest Commons in Europe?

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# Survival of forest commons in Europe: comparative analyses

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**Facesmap**

-drawing reports from 27 countries involved in FACESMAP Cost Action

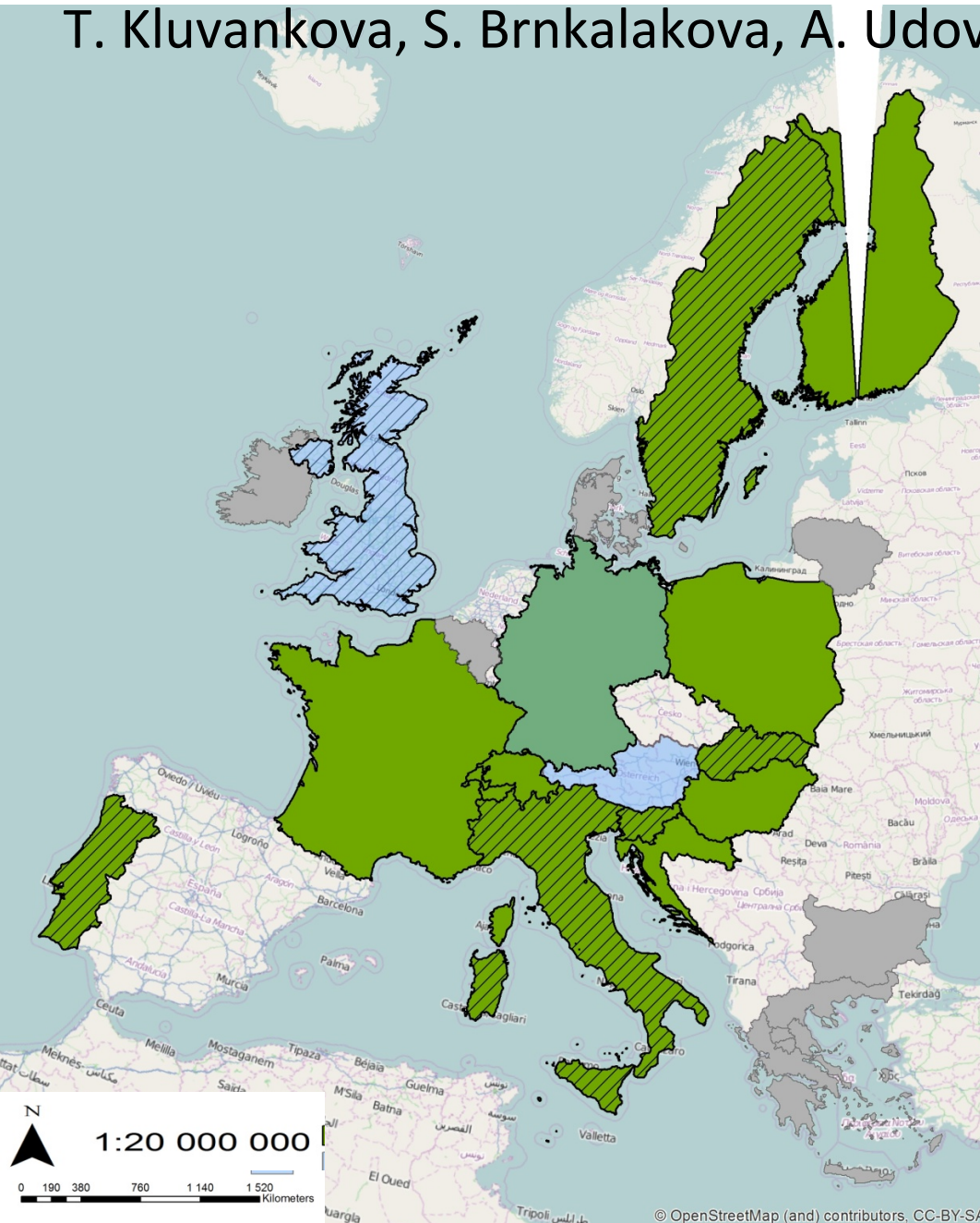
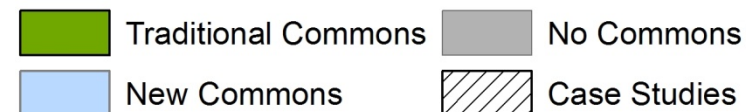
**From generation to generation – The use of commons in a changing society:** special issue Journal of Forest Economics 24 (2016):

Kluvankova, Gezik, 2016,  
S. Sandström et al. 2016

Bassi 2012, Gatto et al. 2012, 2015  
Lawrence et al. 2011, 2013

**Traditional commons**

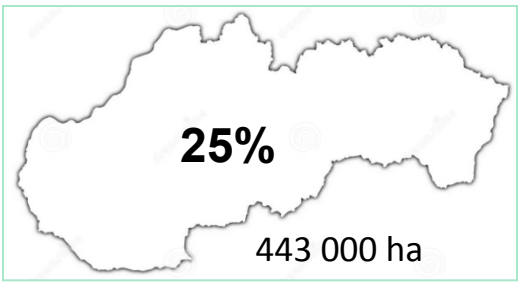
**New commons**



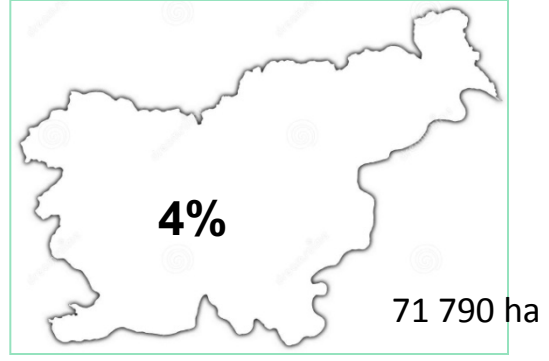
# Survival of forest commons in Europe:

## Robustness (Ostrom 1990, 2008, digital library of the commons - forest),

Slovak republic



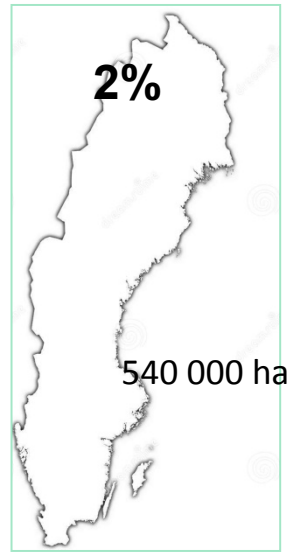
Slovenia



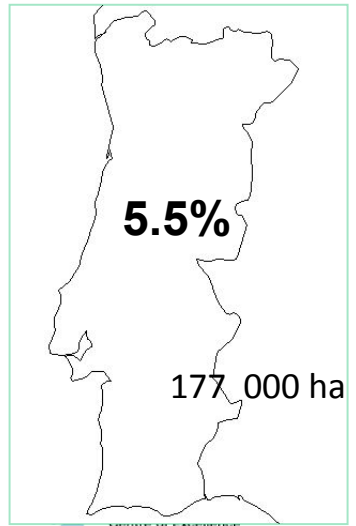
Italy



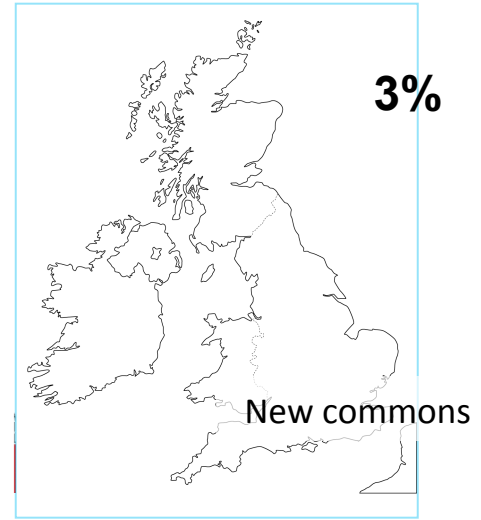
Sweden



Portugal



UK



# Design conditions of commons robust regime (Ostrom 1990, 2008)



1. **Group boundaries** are clearly defined.
2. Rules governing the use of collective goods are well matched to **local needs and conditions**.
3. The rights of community members to devise their own rules is **respected by external authorities**.
4. Most individuals affected by these rules can **participate** in modifying the rules.
5. A system for **monitoring member's behavior** exists; the community members themselves undertake this monitoring.
6. A **graduated system of sanctions** is used.
7. Community members have access to **low-cost conflict resolution mechanisms**.
8. CPRs are parts of larger systems:management and governance activities are organized in **multiple layers of nested enterprises**.



# Design conditions of commons robust regime (Ostrom 1990, 2008)

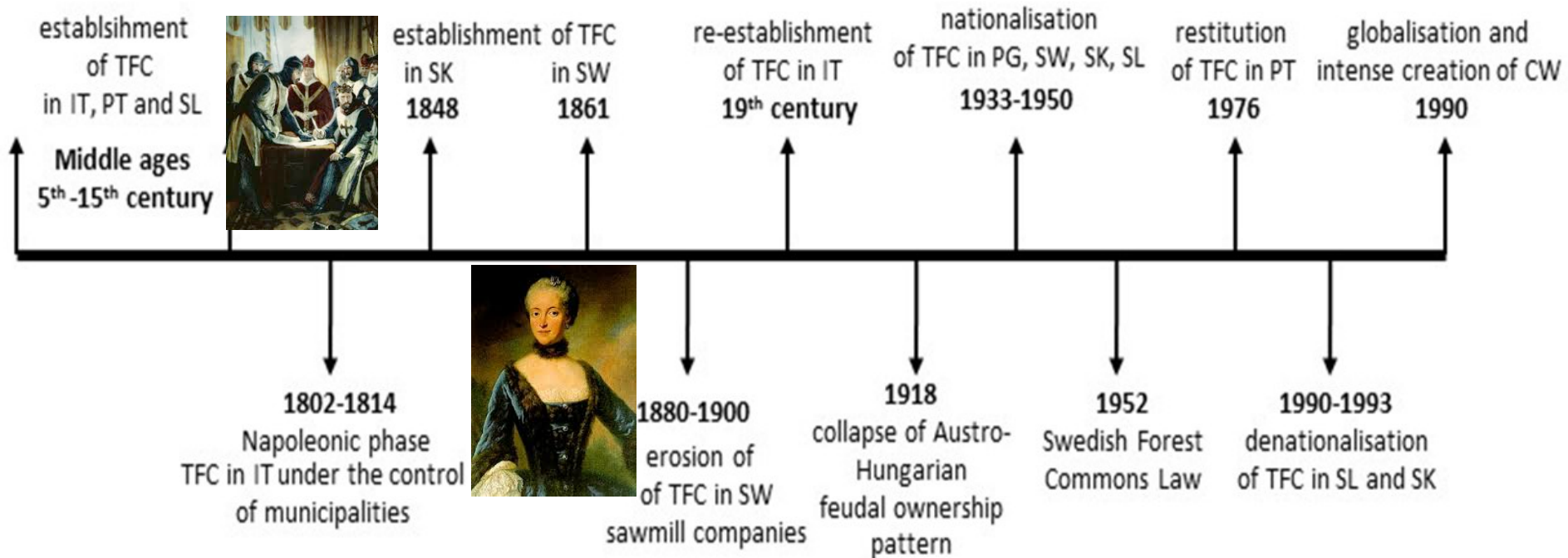


**Resource and management regimes characterized by high organizational culture (Ostrom, 1990, 2005, 2008, 2010) and adaptive to natural and social disturbance (Berkes, Folke, 1998).**



# Forest commons in Europe

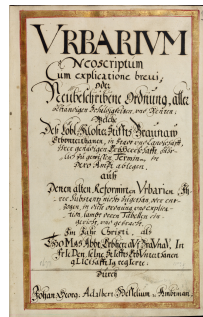
## Institutional changes in selected European Forest Commons



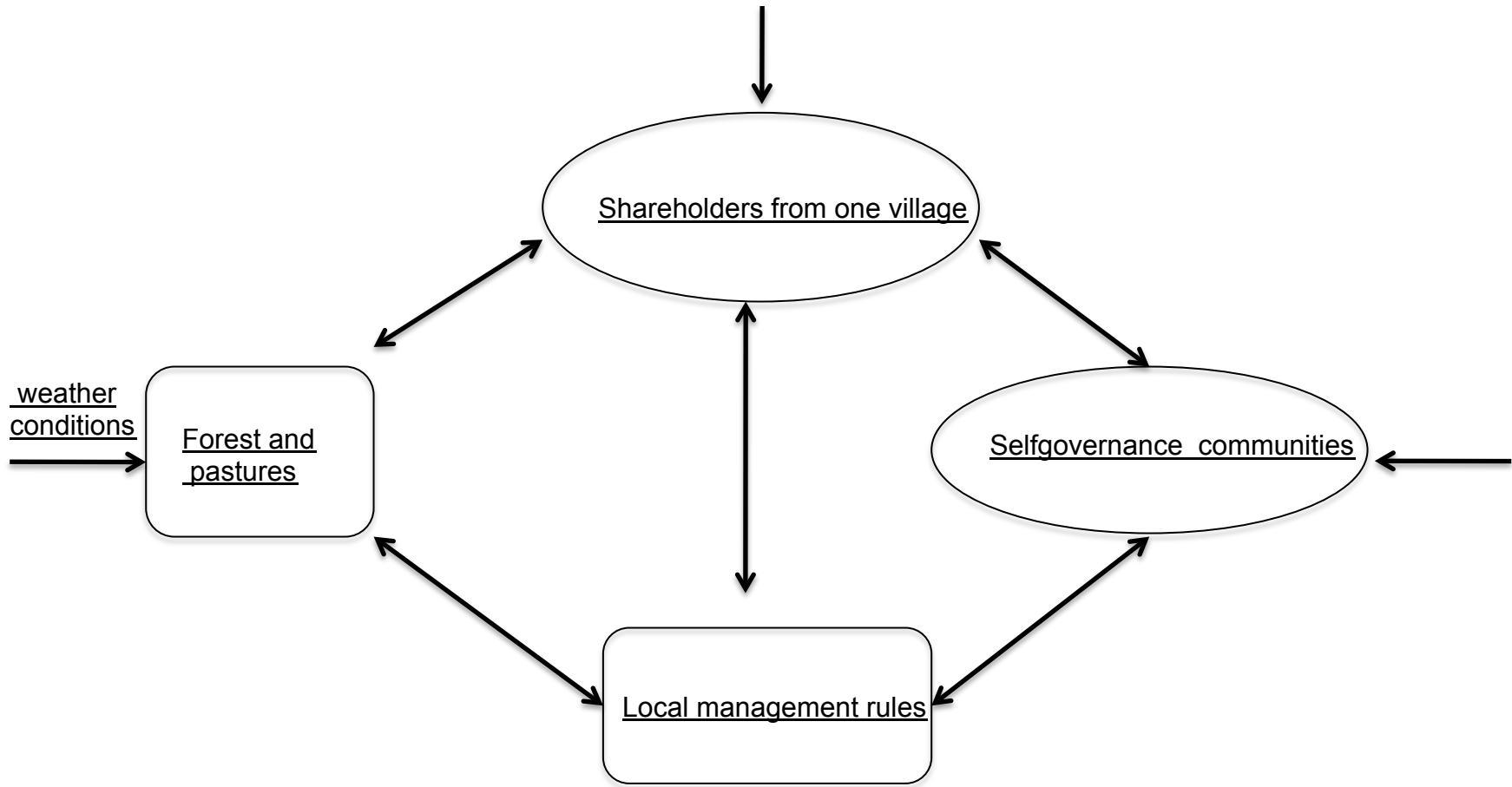
# Traditional forest commons



- **Evolved historically during medieval Europe and land use reforms:**
  - **Collective ownership** - inherited -transfer over generations based on % shares to reflect equity and construct community identity, cost benefit sharing, self-financing
  - **Management rules** derived on traditional practice and operated on self-management and collective actions
  - **Self monitoring** and gradual **sanctioning** as a measure of robustness
  - Ideal property shares stimulate **collective action** and cooperation
  - Social aspects: solidarity, equality, social programmes
  - **Nested** in national legal systems



# Traditional forest CPR regime

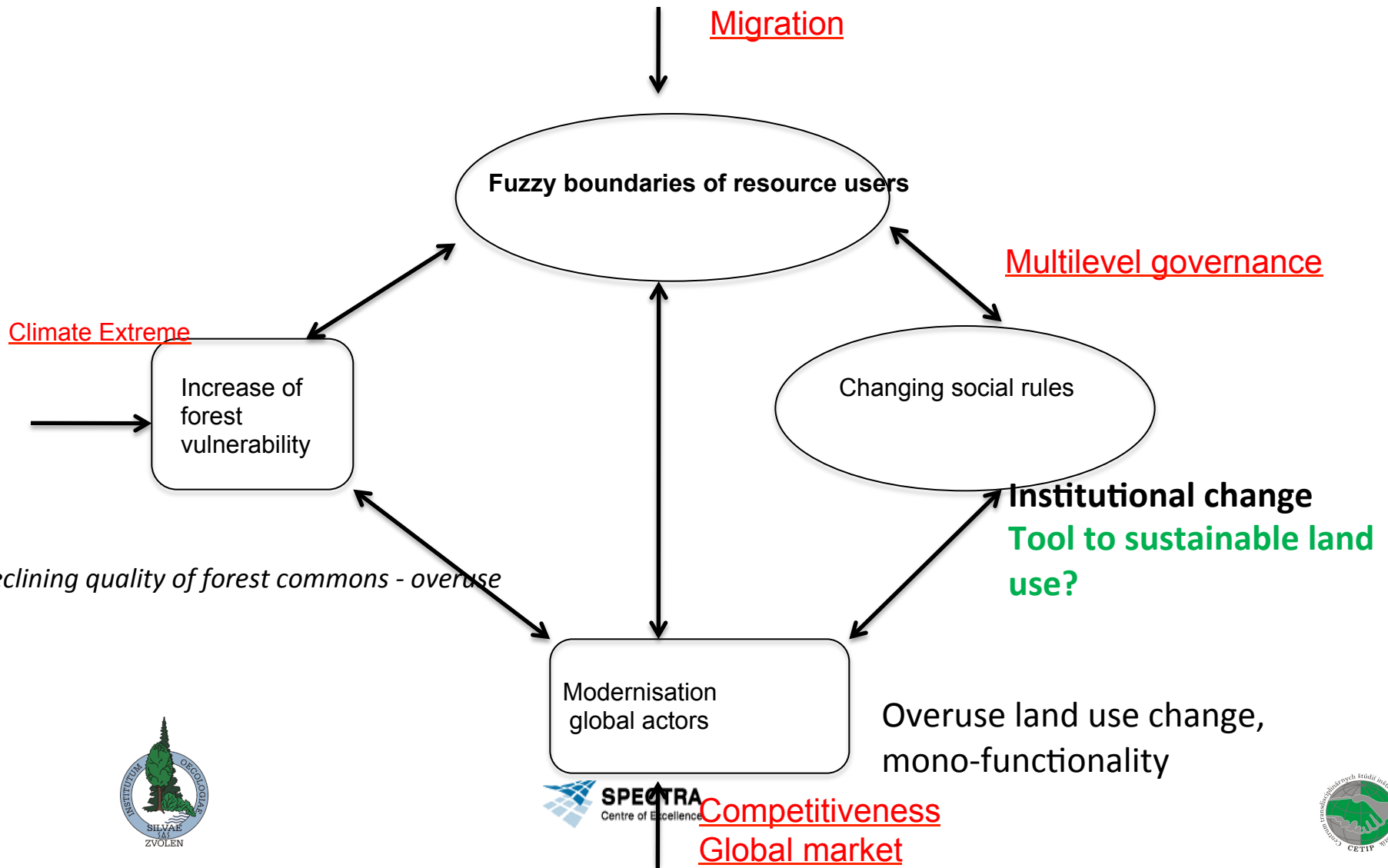


Anderies, Janssen, 2004, Kluvankova, Gezik, 2016





# Vulnerability of forest CPRs under the global change



# Changes/global drivers of vulnerability

## 1. Migration

- Fuzzy resource boundaries: urban shareholders, unknown shares, global members?
- Erosion of local knowledge and trust and reduction of community interests

## 2. Climate change

*extreme weather courses , ecosystem vulnerability, biodiversity decline*

## 3. Emergence of multilevel governance

- *institutional change, Land reforms*
- *Scale conflicts but opportunity for*
- *institutional consolidation and sectoral integration*

## 4. Global market

Mono-functionality and profit generation

- Large scale investor and modernisation
- Conflicting legal and economic interest



# NEW COMMONS

bottom up process, collective action

- **Established in present times**, not necessary by collective ownership but variety of forms that has evolved into the collective action
- Embedness in larger governance systems **problematic**
- Right to access, withdraw, manage and long lasting institutions are essential (not ownership) for **long term sustainability** and resilience
- **Multi-purpose forests** (not necessarily managed for wood production, perhaps more often for conservation, recreation and education)
- **Community learning** - through networking and training groups - increasing community resilience and sustainability
- **Policy support** – seen as a way to deliver a wide **spectrum of** social, economic and environmental **benefits** (also improve health, increase woodland biodiversity, community cohesion)



## Traditional Forest Commons

## New Community Woodlands



top-down mechanism

**ESTABLISHMENT**

bottom-up mechanism

### **RESOURCE**

<u>mature forests</u>	<b>location</b>	young woodlands
<u>rural mountain</u> <u>remoted areas</u>	<b>use</b>	<u>urban fringes</u> , brownfields
productive forests (decreasing value)	<b>relation</b>	<u>multipurpose</u> (increasing value)
inherited		<u>leased/bought</u>
community with <u>identity and past</u>		<u>common motivation and interest</u>

### **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

access, withdrawal, management, exclusion, alienation	<b>rights</b>	<u>access, withdrawal, management</u>
customary law	<b>management rules</b>	work and management <u>plan</u>
less freedom	<b>decision making</b>	<u>more freedom</u>
close	<b>membership</b>	more-less open

### **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS**

disappearing among members/government	<u>trust</u>	among members/owners/government
low information flow, passive members	<b>communication</b>	<u>high information flow</u> , <u>active</u> members
<u>support local economy</u> , public goods	<b>benefits</b>	public goods
<u>profitable</u> , self-financed	<b>economic profit</b>	dependance on external resources
<u>market intergation</u>		

# Survival of forest commons under the global change

- Access, withdrawal, management rights essential to survive CPR regimes (not ownership)- **Migration**: managing property rights
- **Multi-level governance**: opportunity for behavioral change to sustainable land-use management- CPR as polycentric mechanism to coordinate power and interests under the multilevel systems (to embed local regimes to larger systems )
- **Multipurpose forestry**: Ecosystem dynamics (forest renewal) important in management strategy for as **competitive advantage under the global economy**
- Solidarity economy – **maintainance of identity and poverty reduction** in marginalized regions
- Carbon forestry CPR regime (Socio-technological innovations) **for well being of mountain regions and climate change** mitigation



**SOCIAL INNOVATION**





Complexity is not the same as chaos”  
Elinor Ostrom (2009)

# COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR THE SURVIVAL OF FOREST COMMONS



IASC Regional European Conference Bern 10-13 May 2016 PANEL: B 23

Laura Secco, Paola Gatto and Nathan Deutsch, University of Padova, Italy: The role of forest commons as drivers of social innovation (in Italy): new wine in old barrels?

T. Czerny, A. Udovc: Local-distant owners relationships in governing the common pool resource: Agrarian commons in Slovenia

Miguel Sottomayor: Commons sustainability and survival in Portugal: the great challenge posed by commoners' demographic decline and aging

Leticia Merino: Between public interest and community resources. Synergies and contradictions of community forest governance in Mexico.

S. Brnkalakova, M.V. Marek T. Kluvankova, : Enhancing the well-being of EU regions by innovative governance models: Carbon forestry CPR regime in Slovakia

