Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

TREES

Institutional governance in Forest Landscape Restoration: Assessing decision-making process in Irodo watershed (Madagascar)

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Figure 1: Study area. Source: Raharinaivo, 2023

Introduction

- The implementation of FLR in large scale is hindered by a lack of an appropriate local governance framework (Mansourian 2017; Reinecke and Blum 2018).
- FLR good governance is characterized at the different level by: a participatory and inclusive approach, effective decentralization, consideration of equal rights (Stanturf et al. 2017).
- In many countries, as in Madagascar, there is incoherence or lack of coordination or conflict between sectors in FLR context which handicap FLR implementation (Sapkota et al., 2020).

Aims

- Identify prevailing decision-making processes and FLR governance mechanism in Irodo whatershed.
- Identify short-coming in FLR governance as well as possible drivers that can help improve governance mechanisms for better implementation.

Theoretical framework

- The Governance Analytical Framework (GAF) developed by Hufty (Hufty, 2007) was used for this research.
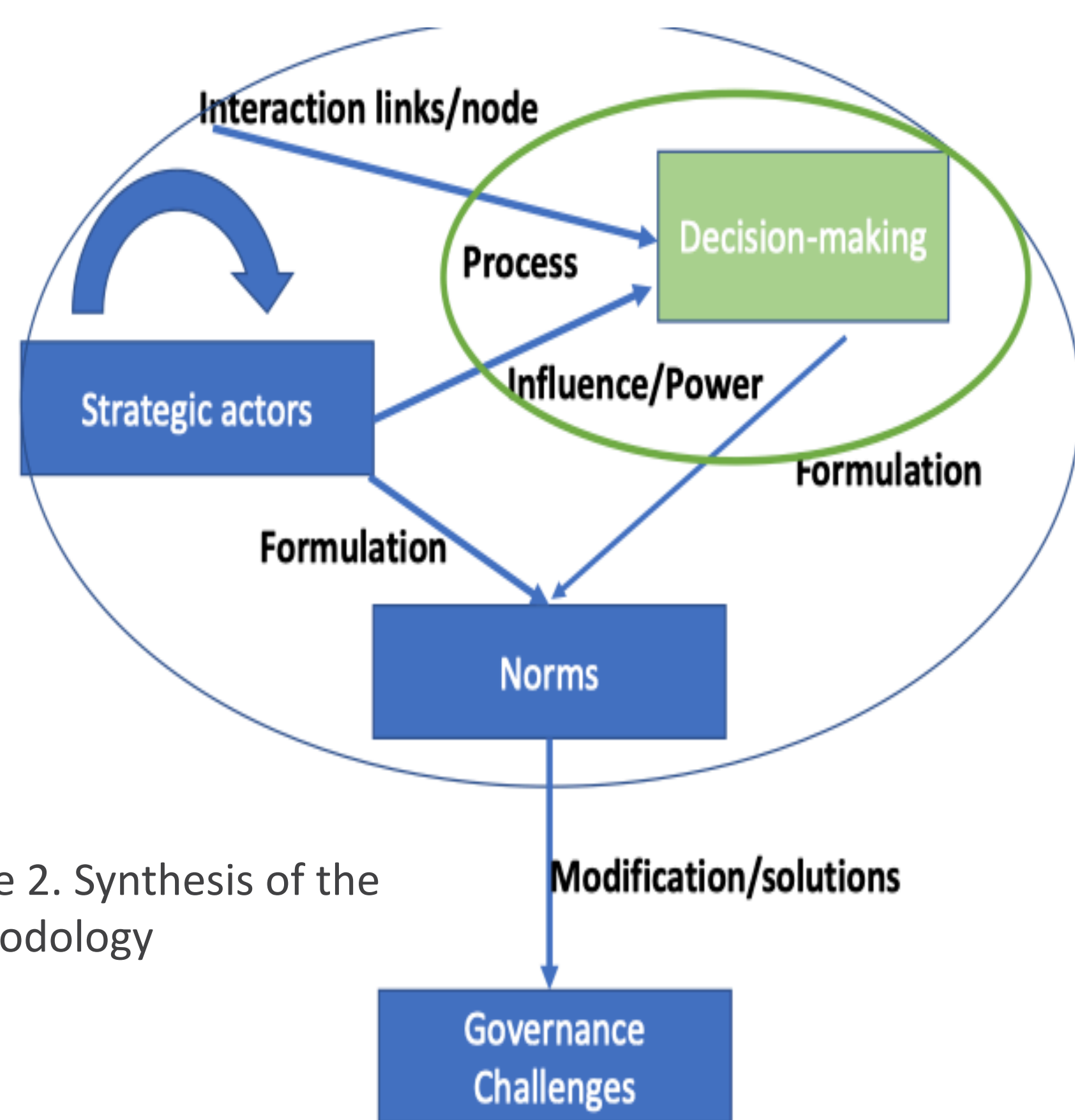

Figure 2. Synthesis of the methodology

- 5 villages: Ankorangana, Ambolobozobe, Irodo, Sadjoavato, Anketrakabe
- 15 individuals interviews (projects, public institutions, NGOs) and 24 Focus Group (groups of population) = 114 participants
- The analysis of qualitative data was made by using MAXQDA software and using SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS
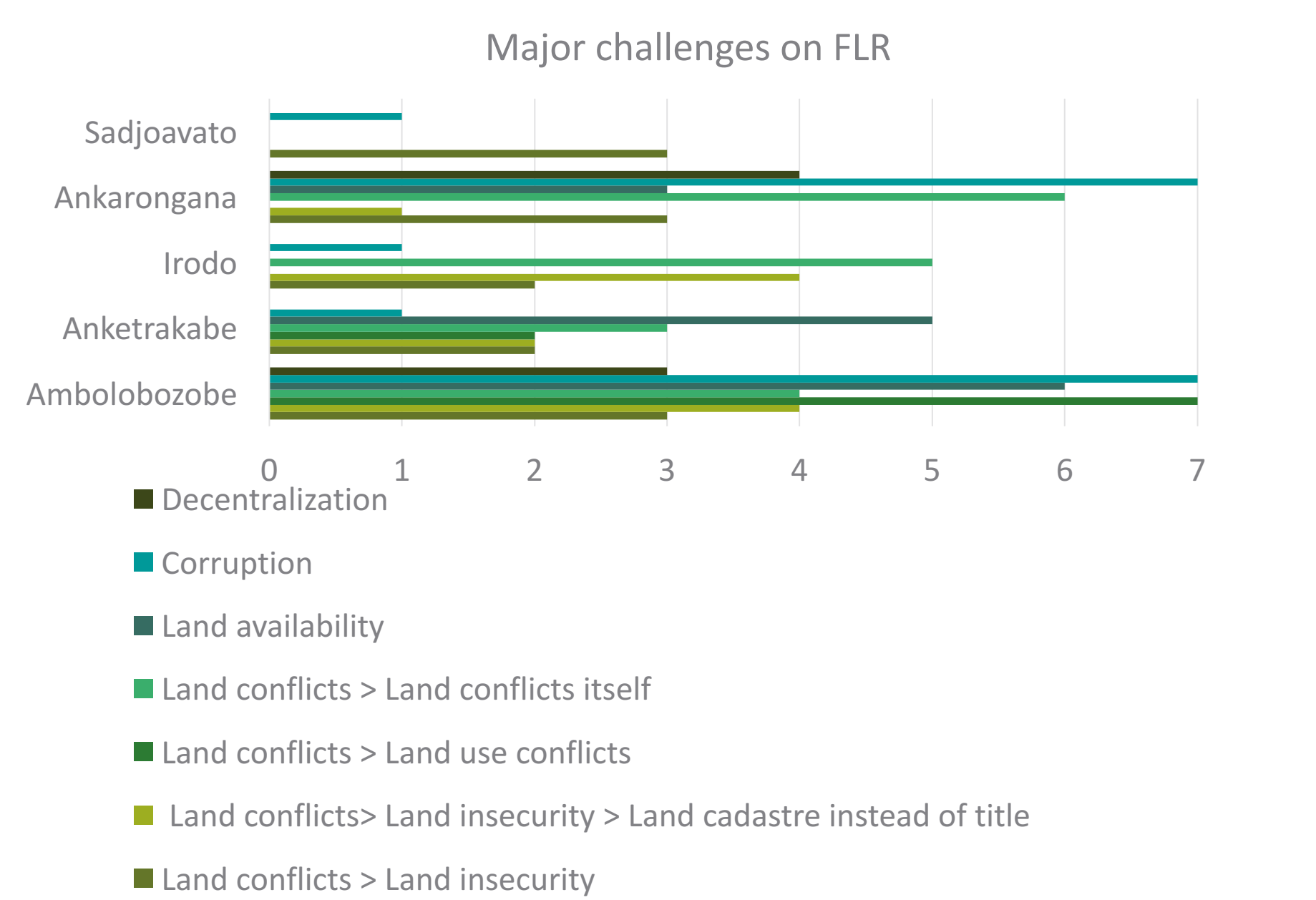
Results

CHALLENGES

Figure 3. Perception of different challenges

ACTORS

- Strategic actors are the core members of the regional platform of FLR named GTRPF (Technical group FLR): regional directorate of environment's ministry (DREDD), land tenure (DRATSF) , agriculture and farming (DRAE).
- Actors between the strategic and relevant classes: Region, communes and the projects/NGOs.
- These last groups of actors, lack the political resources needed to bring about change at the institutional level.

NODES

Table 1. Extract from the results of the SNA (1-20)

Id	Label	Scale	Category	Indegree	Outdegree	Degree	Betweenness centrality (norm.)	RageRank
34	Union Matanjaka	Regional	NGO	26	18	44	0,4	0,0775
16	Municipalities	Local	state	69	47	116	1	0,0765
37	F4F	National	project	28	40	68	0,6	0,071
6	DREDD	Regional	state	39	42	81	0,52	0,0574
7	DRAE	Regional	state	21	16	37	0,25	0,0526
0	Region	Regional	state	23	42	65	0,58	0,0426
33	Graine de vie	National	NGO	17	16	33	0,07	0,0374
18	Population locale	Local	population	16	7	23	0,02	0,0353
30	CI	National	NGO	16	20	36	0,12	0,0335
17	Fokontany	Local	population	23	19	42	0,08	0,0301
22	VOI	Local	population	33	25	58	0,1	0,027
36	Reseau SOA	National	NGO	4	5	9	0,01	0,0189
27	Kobaby	Regional	project	14	22	36	0,2	0,0175
15	DRATSF	Regional	state	9	9	18	0,23	0,0153
31	C3	Regional	NGO	10	17	27	0,03	0,0147
2	MATSF	National	state	6	6	12	0,22	0,0142
1	District	Regional	state	5	6	11	0,02	0,0139

- Network: 81 nodes and 509 links; density = 0,083.
- Betweeness Centrality (shows the actors who can influence; from high to low): Communes, F4F project, Region, DREDD, CI, and Local community based (VOI).
- PageRank (indicates the actors who get the power; from high to low): Union Matanjaka, Communes, DREDD, DRAE

NORMS

Table 2. synthesis of the social norms in reponse to the challenges

Challenges	Social norms
Decentralization	Social: Population most often turns to Fokontany (population local authority) for advice on conflicts and other issues. Fokontany acts as a relay between population and the commune. Administrative: communes are dependent on their Fokontany for managing and sharing or reporting information. Communes turn to act as a relay between population and the decentralized territorial services.
Corruption	When infractions or other illegal activities in protected natural areas are detected, local communities or VOIs pass on the information directly to the communes, which are responsible for requisitioning the products.
Land availability	First standard for identification the availability of land is to consult the Fokontany and traditional leaders. Pre-identified land parcel is checked after by the commune and land services.
Land conflicts	To avoid land grabbing, the population cultivates or plants wood on their land. In the conflict's case, traditional leaders and communes, help to find a solution or bring the problem to the land services.

PROCESS

Each strategic actor currently makes its own decisions independently of the other core members of the GTRPF to resolve the issue that concerns it directly

- DREDD: taking stock of the situation, analyzing problems, dentifying solutions and identifying stakeholders. Then, collaboration with stakeholders and implementation strategies in the field.
- DRAE: Communes warn. Then, the units dealing with specific issues contribute their technical expertise directly (water and irrigation by the rural engineering department; agriculture by agriculture; and honey by the livestock department).
- DRATSF: Land conflicts are resolved first by checking with the topographical services, followed by a field visit to investigate at local level with the commune.

Conclusion

- Convergence of core members of GTRPF regarding to their process of decision-making on FLR is not still effective despite the established theory (Charpin et al,2018).