

# Language and Nature Natural Resource Management

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“Why should we plant, when there are so many mongongos in the world?”

/Xashe, a !Kung man from Mahopa

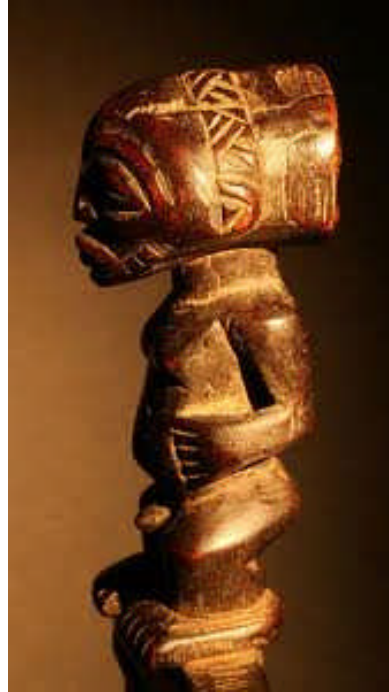
# Back to Basics: Relationships with Nature

- Hunter gatherers
- Giving spirit of nature
- Sharing
  
- Farmers
- Controlling spirits of ancestors
- Property rights
  
- Economics of reciprocity















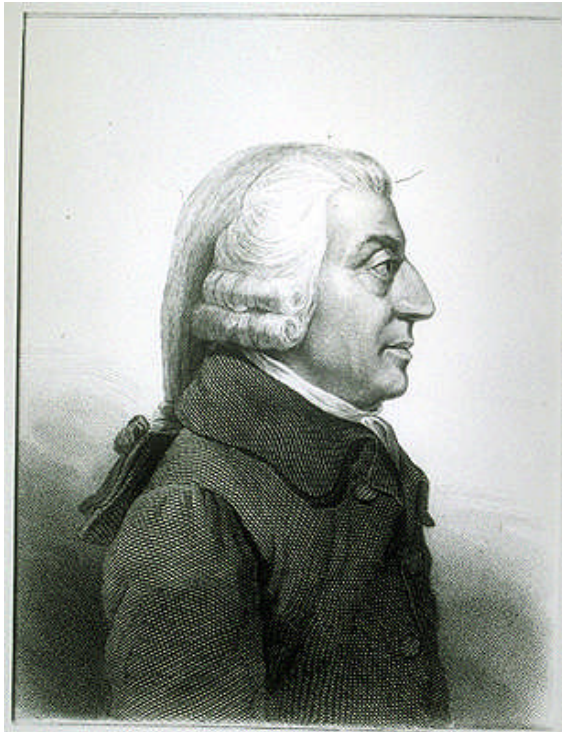
Self-interest -> Markets -> Societal well-being



*It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self-interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages.*

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776

## Utilitarian hidden hand of the market



*“[An individual is] led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. Nor is it always the worse for the society that it was not part of it. By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it.”*

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776

# Yasunari Kawabata: Nobel Prize 1968

“If you were so shocked when you first realized what kind of intentions that road had, you had better open your eyes while you can and think about the intentions that lie behind that highway.”

Short story: History



# Private Property Rights and Poverty

- Hernando de Soto 'The Mystery of Capital'
- Private property rights empower people through creation of capital and facilitating access to credit
- "The central challenge for poverty reduction is therefore to expand the rule of law to all citizens... Guaranteeing the poor the right to property is a key challenge."



# Douglas C. North

- Born 1920
- Nobel Prize in Economics 1993
- *“convinced that the tools of neo-classical economic theory were not up to the task of explaining the kind of fundamental societal change that had characterized European economies from medieval times onward”*



# Institutions

*“Institutions are the humanly devised constraints that structure human interaction. They are made up of formal constraints (rules, laws, constitutions), informal constraints (norms of behavior, conventions, and self imposed codes of conduct), and their enforcement characteristics.”* North, 1993 Nobel Lecture

- Incentive structure of a society
- Political and economic institutions - > determinant of economic performance

# Institutions and Pirates

*'The organizations that come into existence will reflect the opportunities provided by the institutional matrix. That is, if the institutional framework rewards piracy then piratical organizations will come into existence; and if the institutional framework rewards productive activities then organizations - firms - will come into existence to engage in productive activities.'*

North, 1993 Nobel Lecture



# Elinor Ostrom: Nobel Prize in Economics 2009

- ‘Common pool resources’ e.g. forests and fisheries – multiple access, resources subtractive (public goods non-rivalrous)
- Key to successful management of CPRs is establishment of appropriate property rights

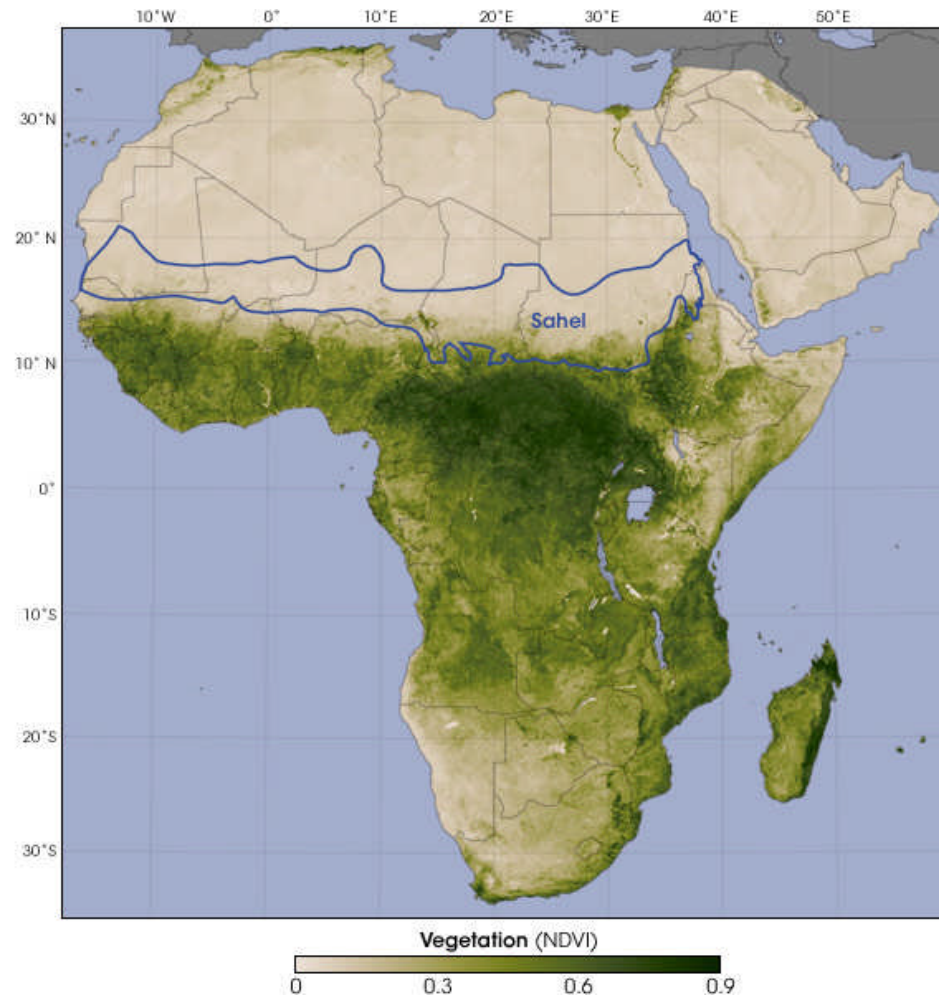


## Five Types Of Property Rights Holders

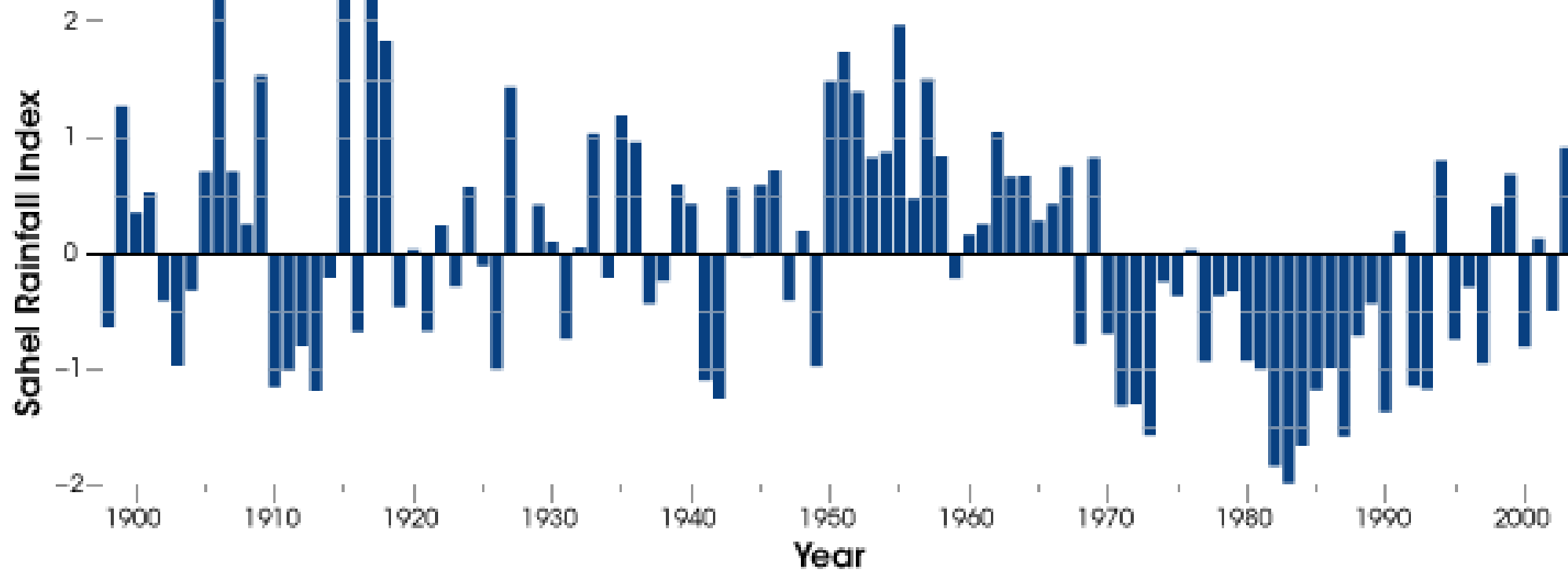
	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Proprietor</b>	<b>Claimant</b>	<b>Authorised User</b>	<b>Authorised Entrant</b>
<b>Access</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Withdrawal</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>Management</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>Exclusion</b>	X	X			
<b>Alienation</b>	X				

# Case Study: Shea parklands in the Sahel

- Problems of Private Property in Africa
- Ability of States to implement private property regimes questioned: not enough trained people to conduct cadastral surveys; difficult to reconcile customary law with codified law
- Shift to privatised agriculture requires technical inputs on new agricultural techniques and crop failure subsidies
- Traditional CPR management does in fact confer economic options
- Danger of 'elite capture'



<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/Desertification/>



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# Shea Parklands



# Local Shea Processing



16,000,000 poor rural African women collect shea nuts as a source of food and disposable income across 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa



# Shea Butter





# Shea controversy

- Shea fruits harvested and processed by women
- Women 'own' the fruits and gain the benefits.
- Land ownership complex – traditional system (usufruct) and land registry system (black letter law)
- Common property vs Private property
- Men tend to dominate mechanised cash crop agriculture
- Mechanised agriculture is replacing Shea parklands
- Ecological and social resilience declines

# Technologies for different property rights

## Private property:

- Agricultural/ livestock/ forestry intensification
- High yielding alien species
- Pesticide/ vaccination/ irrigation against crashes

## Common Property:

- Mosaic of natural resources
- Indigenous species
- Diversification

# Challenge for linguists!

- Interdisciplinary collaboration on institutional economics
- Describe the nuances of natural resource management
- If people can't talk about it, then it's lost