



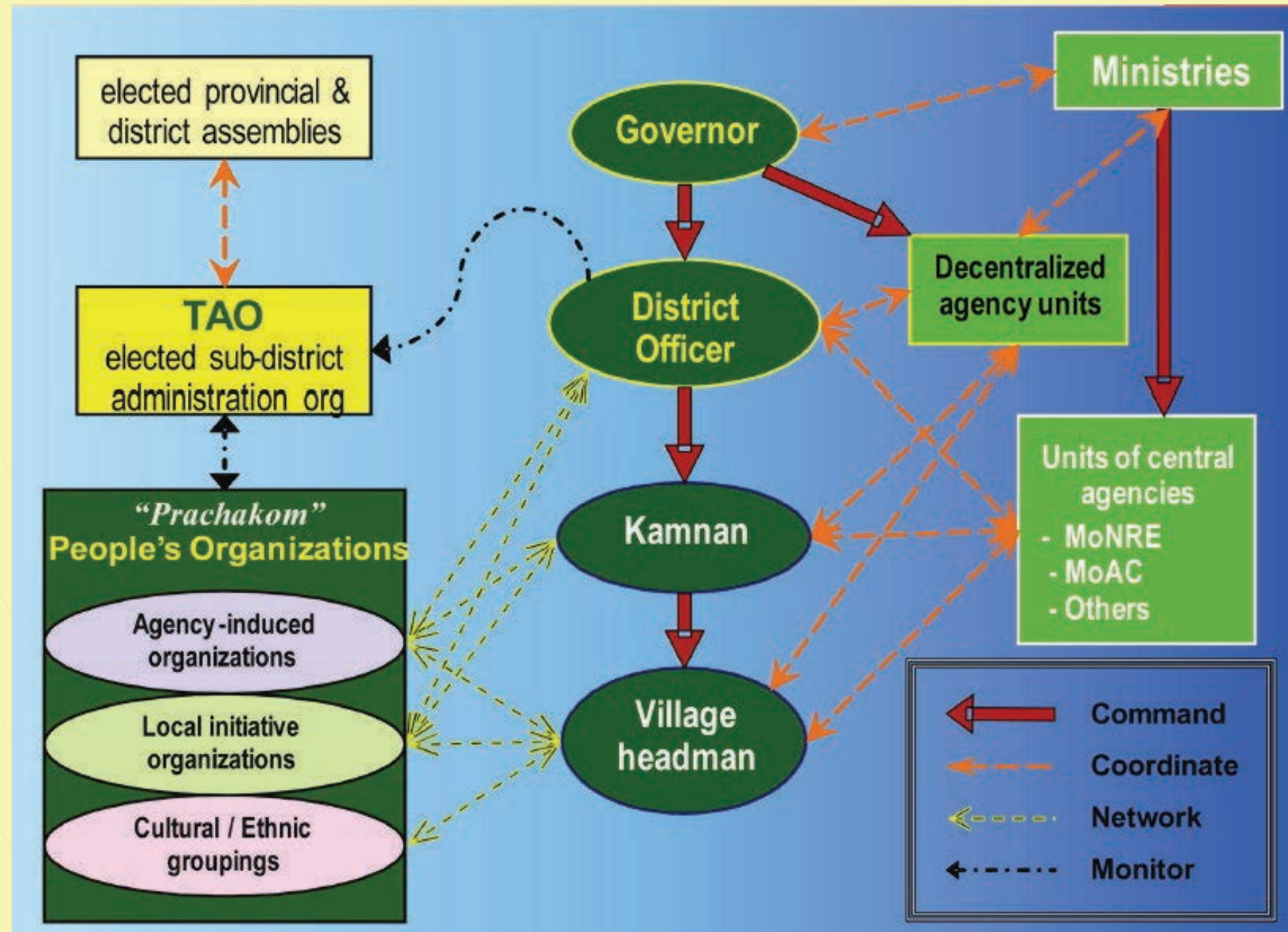
Why is land use what it is?

Northern Thailand

Mae Chaem
Chiang Mai

Mean Annual
Rainfall : 1,300 mm

Institutional Context of Resource Governance



Since the State dominates legal control over natural resources, effective resource governance requires coordination that seeks to reconcile common interests and potential conflicts with and among various lines of ministerial authority within which command relationships are dominant. The left side of the diagram includes elected local government institutions that have continued to try to increase their role in local governance since the 1997 national constitution and associated legislation. Efforts by government agencies to engage in the 'prachakom' arena through agency-induced local organizations, as well as efforts by local initiative or cultural groups to engage with agencies about local concerns, are all highly dependent on cooperation by village headmen and the district officer.

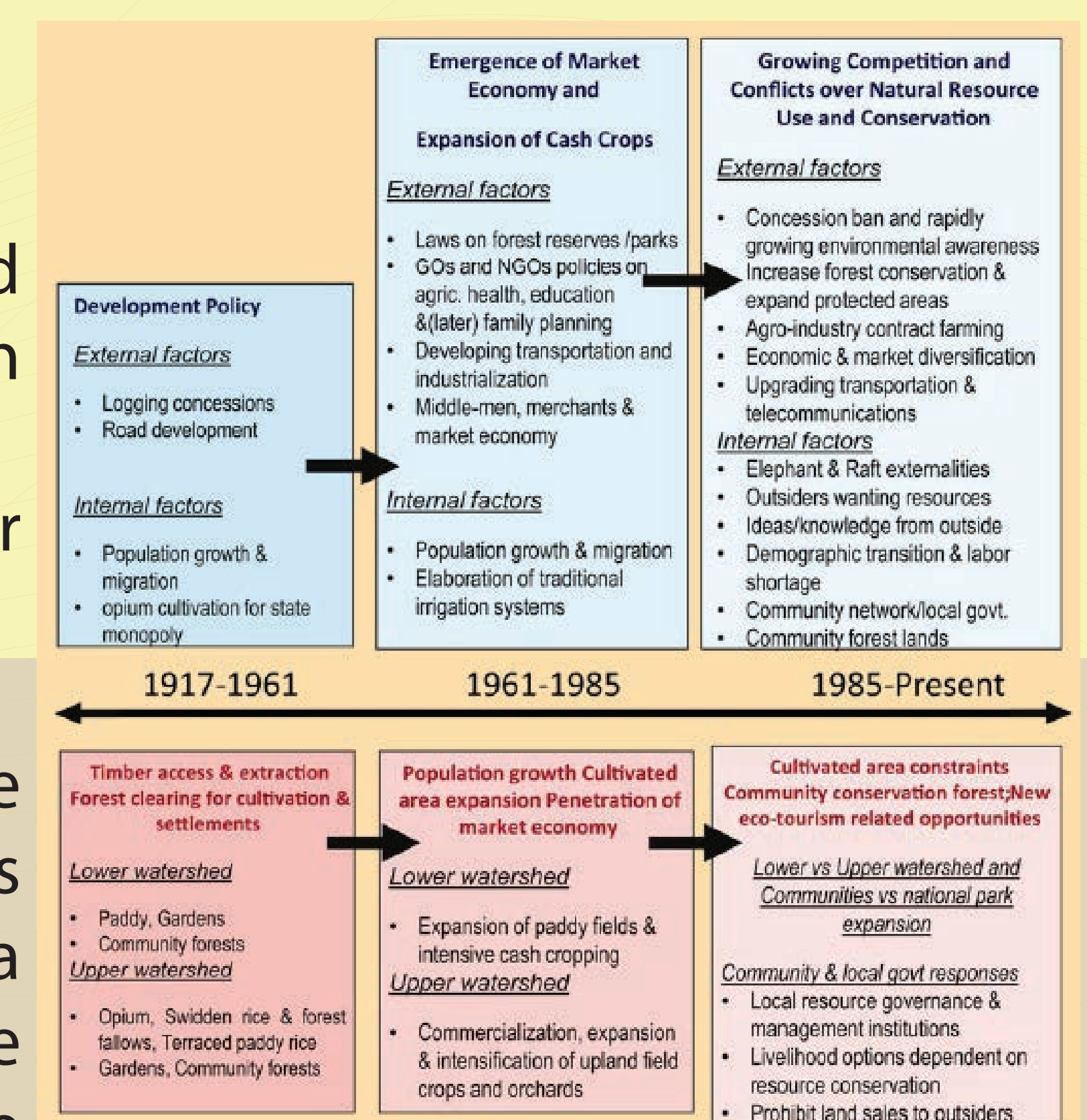
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

These 24 organizations are listed under five categories that can help us see more clearly the sources of mandates, authority and initiatives underlying the various organizations. The first column after the organization's name indicates whether or not it has a mandated role in coordinating with others. Thus, it becomes rather clear that local units of centralized government agencies appear to be still quite aloof from other institutional actors, and tend to focus on forest and land resources in relative isolation from other resource management areas. This is one major source of difficulty cited by local leaders.

ORGANIZATIONS	coord	forest		land		water				
		forest	wildlif	land	soil	fish	river	strm	irrig	
1. Local Units of Centralized Government Agencies										
<i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</i>										
Watershed Management Unit		✓	✓	✓						
Forest Protection Unit		✓	✓	✓						
Forest Fire Control Unit		✓								
Watershed Research Station (not in sites)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
National Park (not in sites)		✓	✓							
<i>Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives</i>										
Land Development Unit		✓		✓	✓					
Royal Irrigation Department Units							✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Decentralized Units of Government Agencies										
<i>Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior</i>										
District Office	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
- Sub District Office	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
- Village Office	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives</i>										
District Agricultural Extension Office				✓	✓					✓
Centre for Transfer Agricultural Technology	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
District Livestock Development Office		✓	✓	✓			✓			
3. Local Government										
Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ping Basin Management Organizations (?)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)										
Raks Thai Foundation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
5. People's Organizations (prachakhom)										
<i>Agency induced groups</i>										
Agricultural Cooperatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Forest Conservation Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
<i>Local initiative groups</i>										
Irrigation Channel Group (muang fai)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Watershed Management Networks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Hak Muang Chaem Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Cultural/ethnic groupings</i>										
Hmong Clans & Groups		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Karen Groups					✓					

DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Assessment of the major drivers of land use change in Mae Wang is based on analysis of survey, focus group and interview data, supplemented by broader data from current and historical secondary sources. Linkage of these drivers with actual patterns of land use change across our general study area was further explored through analysis of a time series of land cover based on remote sensing data at the level of the whole sub-district.



CHANGES IN LAND USE

Government policies concerned with economic development and natural resource control and management have been especially important, as well as periods of increasing population pressure. Substantial areas have been converted into agricultural land and settlements. In upland and highland areas, traditional land uses with components that include shifting cultivation practices and are primarily associated with ethnic minorities have largely been forced to change to more permanent forms of land use due to state restrictions on land use expansion and prohibitions imposed under forest laws. Agricultural practices have changed from primarily subsistence to more market-oriented and intensified forms of cropping.

District	Year				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
San Pa Tong	59,784	96,560	80,954	78,935	60,542
Mae Wang	Part of San Pa Tong		30,287	30,924	26,220
Total:	59,784	96,560	111,241	109,859	86,762

Reference : Thomas, David E., P. Preechapanya and P. Saiponthong. 2004. Landscape Agroforestry in Northern Thailand: Impacts of Changing Land Use in an Upper Tributary Watershed of Montane Mainland Southeast Asia. ASB-Thailand synthesis report 1996-2004. Chiang Mai: World Agroforestry Centre. 184p. Thomas, D.E., et.al. 2009. Trees in multi-Use Landscapes in Southeast Asia (TUL-SEA): A negotiation support toolbox for Integrated Natural Resource Management. TUL-SEA Report. ICRAF Thailand , Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Economic, Chiang Mai University. 33p.