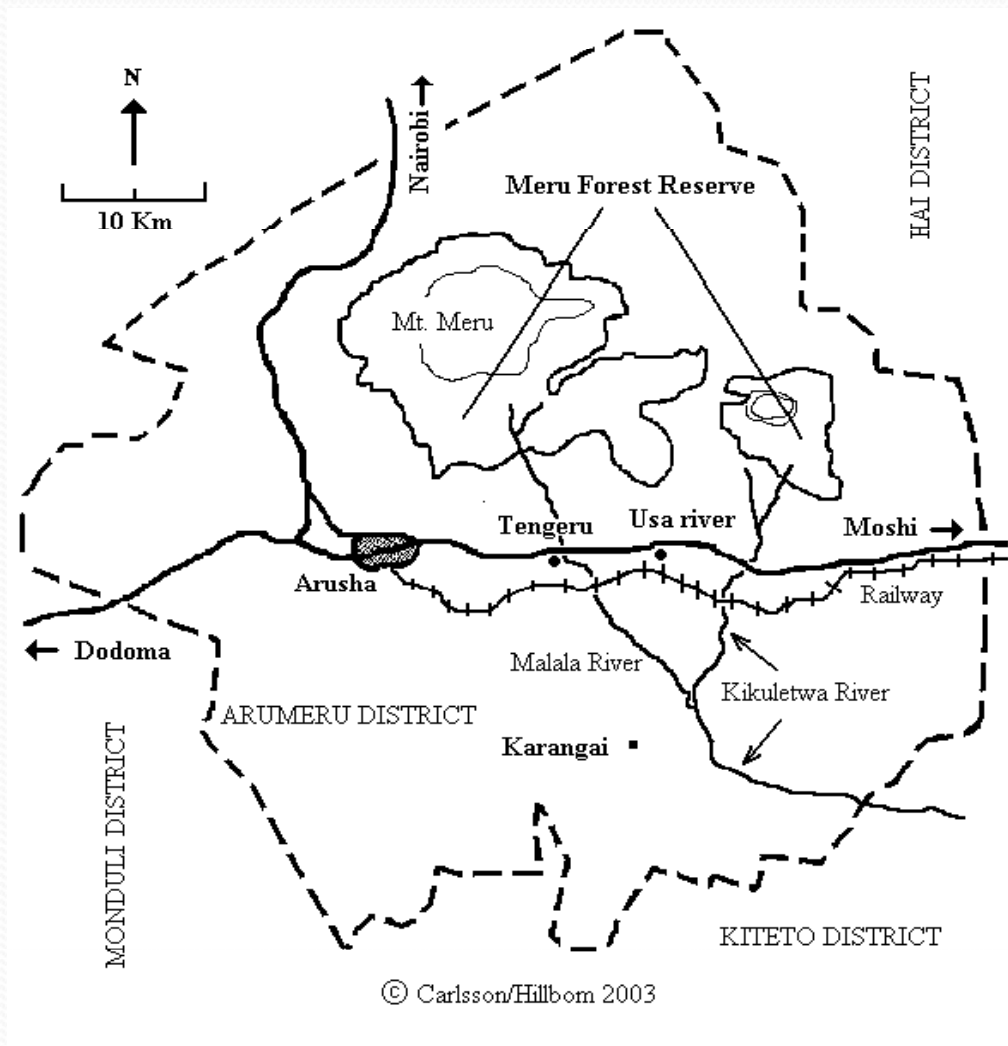


Formation of property rights governing irrigation furrows in Meru, Tanzania; 1890-2011

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Characteristics of study area

Limitations to geographic expansion

Construction of smallholder and estate furrows

Dual judicial systems

Population increase = land scarcity

Intensification of farming methods

Formalisation of customary rights



Research aim

Map changes in property rights regimes, formal and informal, governing water for irrigation purposes in Meru; 1890-2011.

Which are the main drivers of property rights formation, of continuity and change?



Conclusions 1

Local systems of production in Meru 1890-2011 have experienced radical political events, induced technological and institutional innovation and significant changes in land/labour ratios.

Still, there has been overall continuity in communal property rights regimes governing irrigation water.



Conclusion 2

Continuity can be explained by;

- the natural characteristics of water as a live supporting natural resource
- pragmatic challenges of managing a common-pool resource
- the embeddedness of property rights regimes in socio-economic relationships in the local community