Rethinking Property Right Regimes Over Common Pool Resources: A Case Study on Pastoralists' Livelihoods in Iran

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For common pool resources, to be sustainable, property right regimes are known as the most important driver to explain how such resources are exploited by the resource users to govern a better livelihood. Using the bundle of rights defined by Ostrom, common property regimes can be shaped differently. This fact is more obvious when it comes to real situations which might be rare to find common pool systems where all people in a group hold similar rights. It can be seen in terms of quality (the type of rights) and quantity (the number of rights). This qualitative study aimed at identifying different property regimes holding different combinations of property rights among various groups of pastoralists in Semnan province, Iran. The study was conducted in the two counties of this province; namely Damghan and Semnan. Some representatives of the pastoralists' groups were interviewed by an open-ended questionnaire. The results made it clear that there exist four main sub-groups under the common property regime (CPR); i.e., "mini CPR within CPR", "CPR with rotational rule", "limited open access" and "CPR with a unique decision". 