



# Local communities and institutions: a social movements perspective

Research project: Collective action around Disaster Risk Management in  
Central America

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is academie / wageningen university

# Agenda

- Presentation
  - Questions
- Group Discussion
  - “World Cafe”*

# Introduction

- Introduction to theme
  - Research project
  - The Risk Management Networks:  
collective action
- Networked Social Mobilization: partial  
conclusions
- Dilemmas

Presentation based on study:

## Collective action around disaster risk management in Central America!

*“No prevention  
Without  
organization”*



*“Collective action  
Is the heart of Disaster  
Risk Management”*

# Hurricane Mitch 1998



Catalyst of social mobilization:  
emergence of wide platforms of civil society organizations



Emergence of collective action around Disaster Risk Management



Risk Management Networks



CRGR

# Risk Management Networks

Carlos Morales (Wageningen University), "Local communities and institutions: a social movements perspective", Break-out session presentation at IS Academy final conference "Facing Fragilities: people, aid and institutions in socio-economic recovery"



# Central America in the XXI Century

Collective action emerging around multiple other issues



Collective action emerging around multiple other issues

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# Research project

Period of implementation: 2010 - 2013

Location: Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras

## Interactive research

Collective reconstruction and analysis of the processes of collective action around Disaster Risk Management together with local actors, interviews, internet forum, observation, documents and literature

### Focus

- Emergence, development and dynamics of collective action involving The Risk Management Networks
- Relation collective action and Disaster Risk Management
- Social Movement Theory perspective

With the support of CRGR, ICCO en Kerk in Actie



# The Risk Management Networks

## Collective action in pictures

## Community organization working on prevention



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# Implementing Community Risk Mapping



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# Prevention and preparedness in own hands



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# Educating



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# Communicating



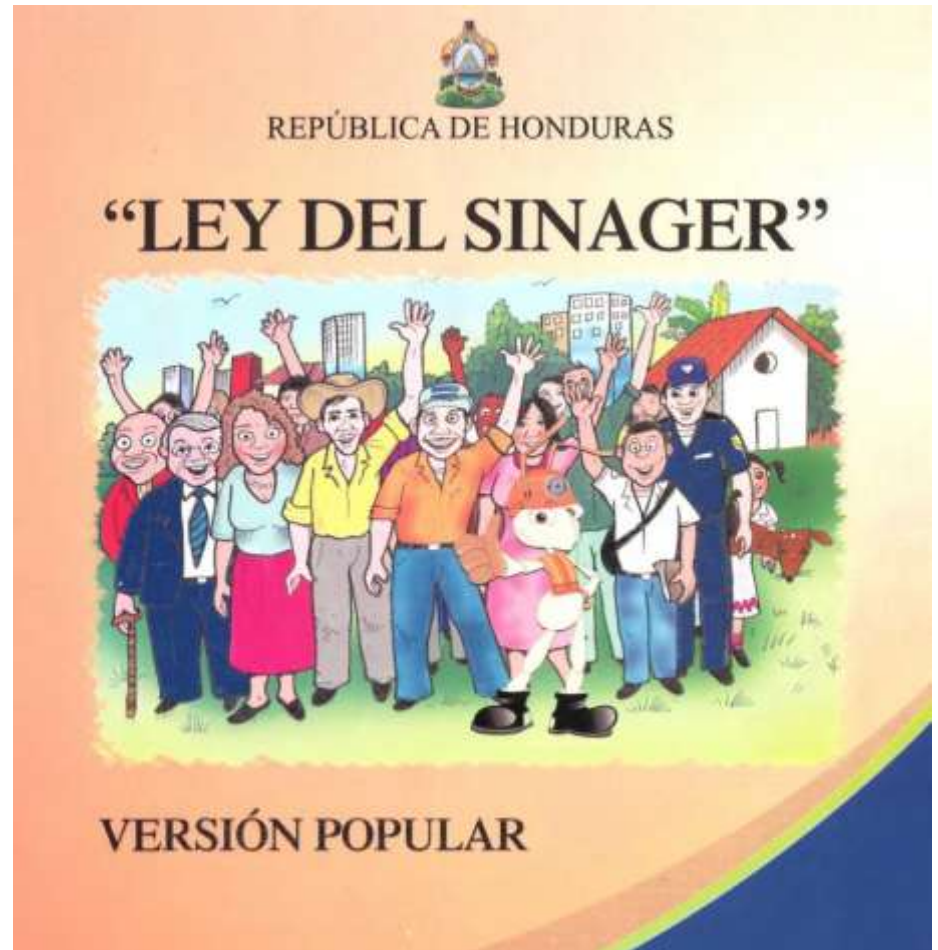
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# Lobbying



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In de redaction of the  
Law  
National Risk Management  
System  
And  
Its divulgation  
Honduras





## Demonstrating in the streets, joining other movements



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# Confrontation / Repression



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# Joining International Networks and Campaigns



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- # 1
- The Risk Management Networks are the continuity of previous processes of social mobilization
- Mitch as a catalyst of social mobilization
  - Axis of social mobilization from the 90's to these days:
    - the development model (social and environmental sustainability)
    - the political system (legitimacy)
  - Collective action is a permanent factor



Disaster Risk Management is one way  
civil society organizations  
define and approach problems related to  
the development model

# 2

## Disaster Risk Management: Collective Action Frame

- Disaster Risk Management: social claim



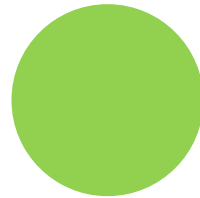
## Other frames for disaster risk



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# 3

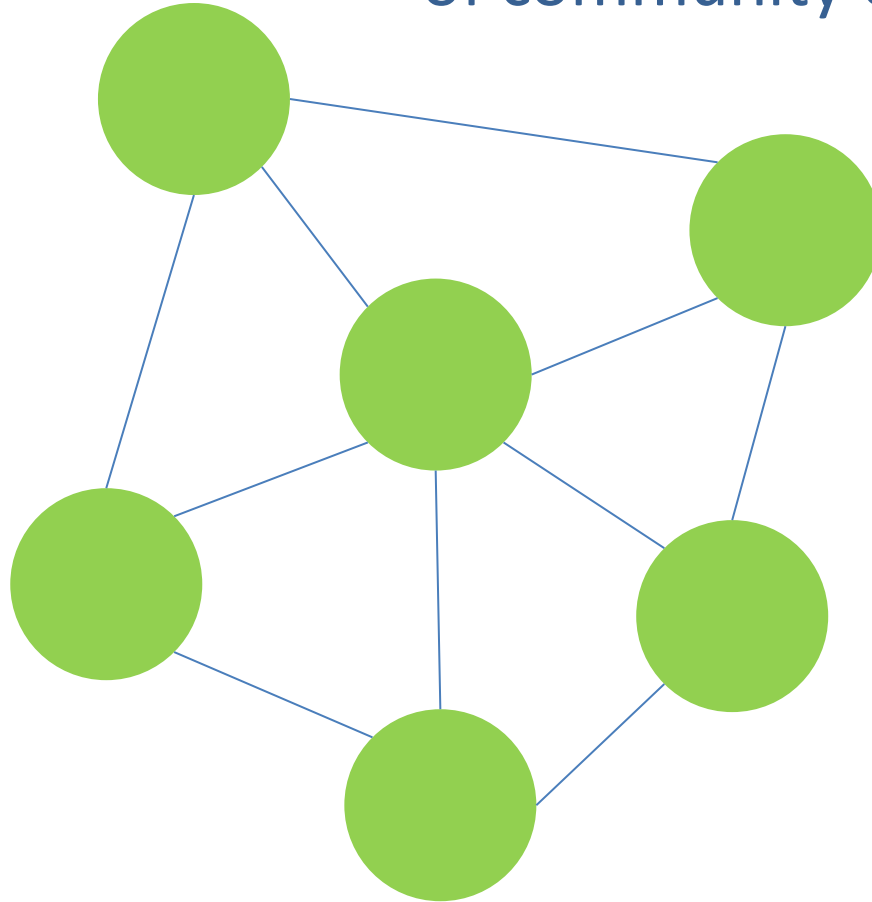
Analysis of the Risk Management Networks reveals:  
“networked” social movements/ social mobilization



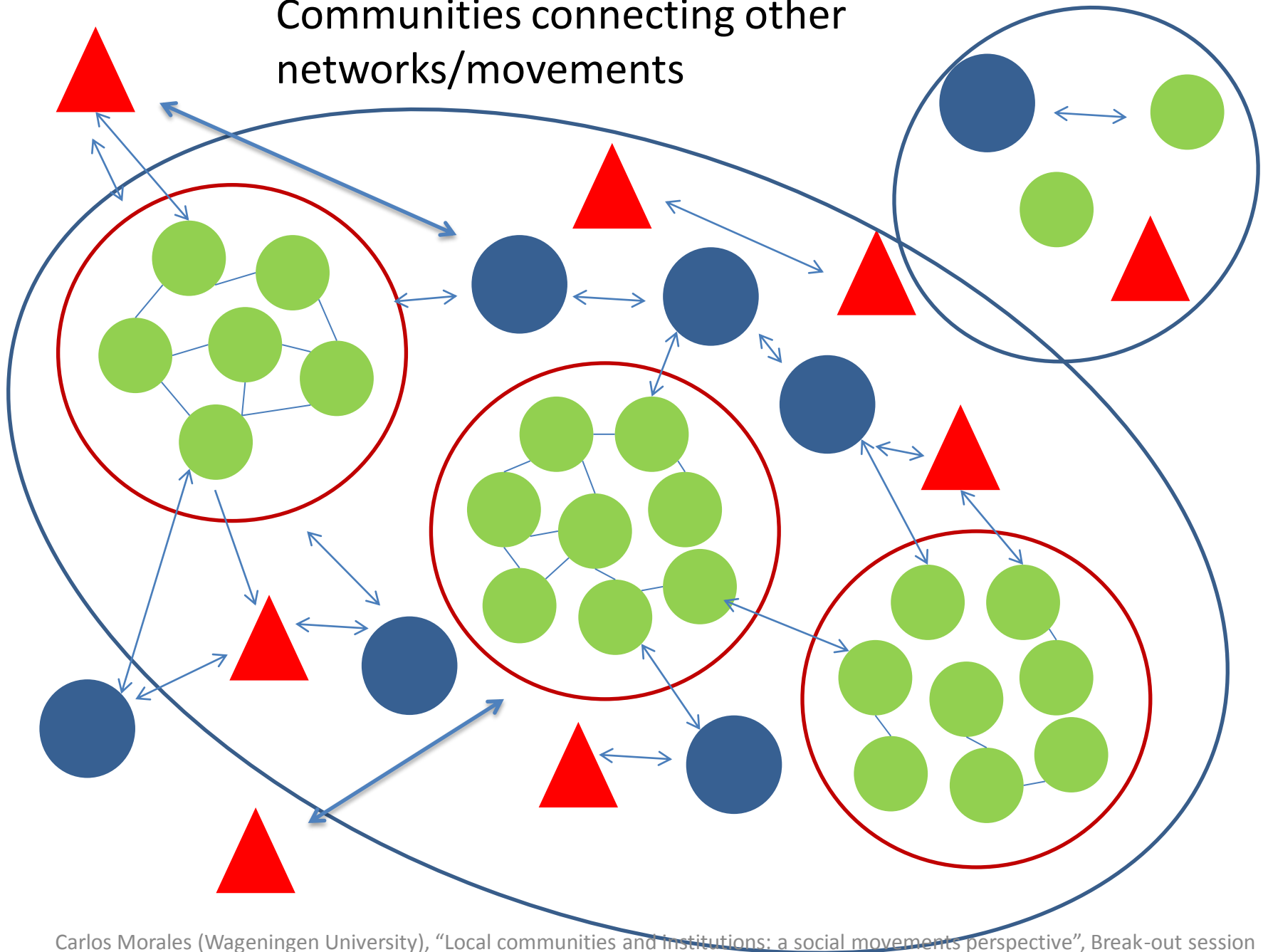
Community  
organization



# Networks of community organizations

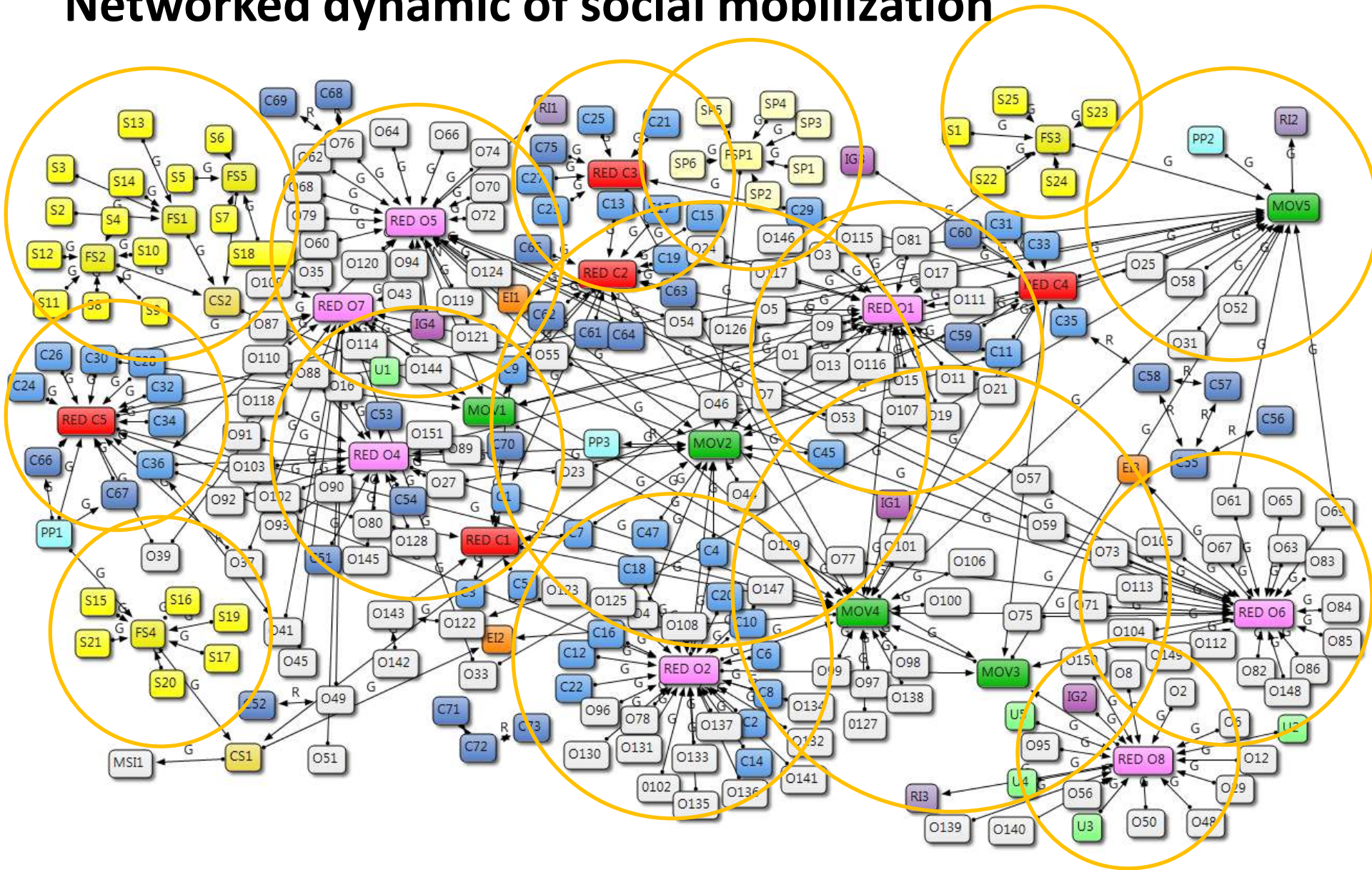


# Communities connecting other networks/movements



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# Networked dynamic of social mobilization

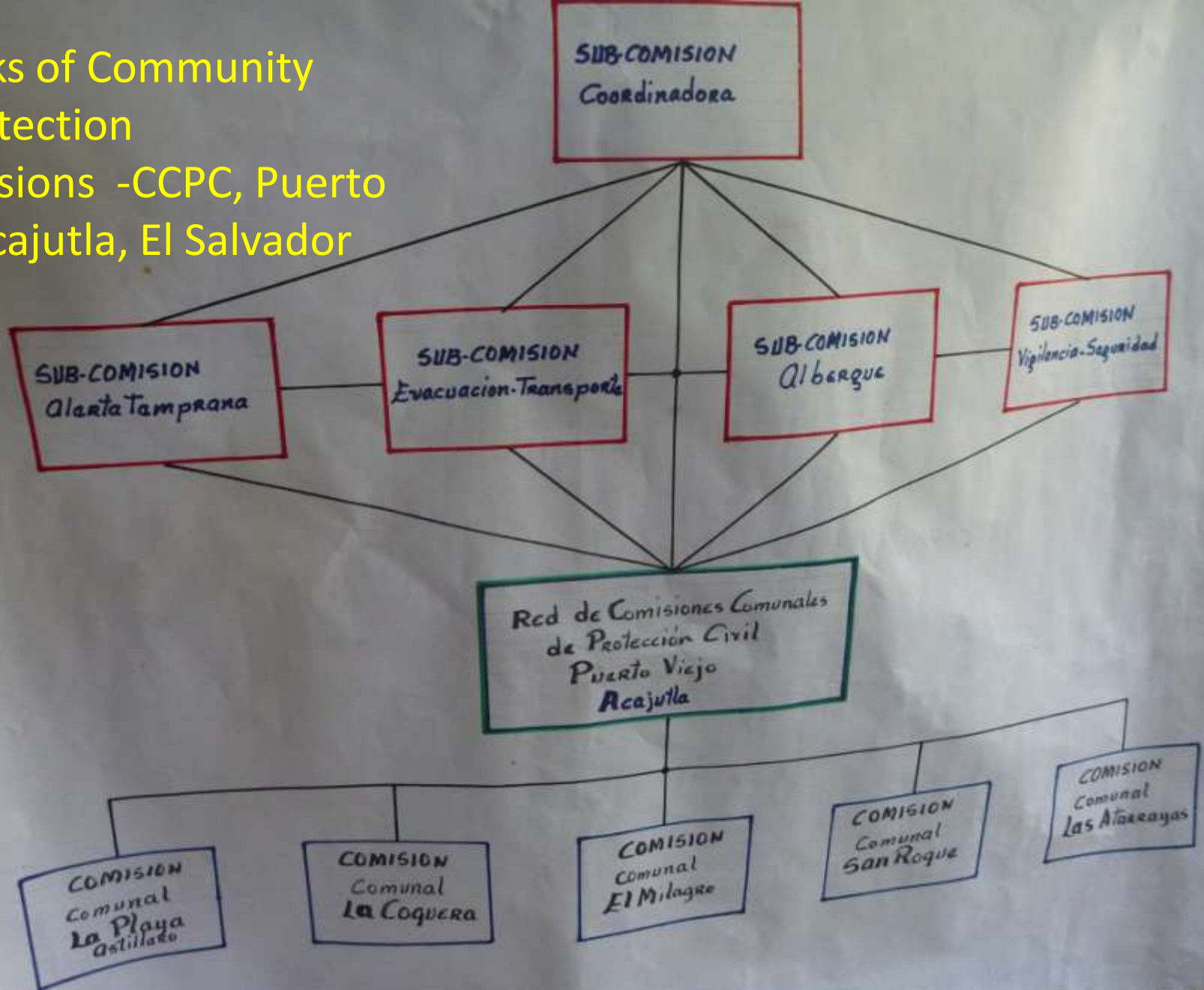


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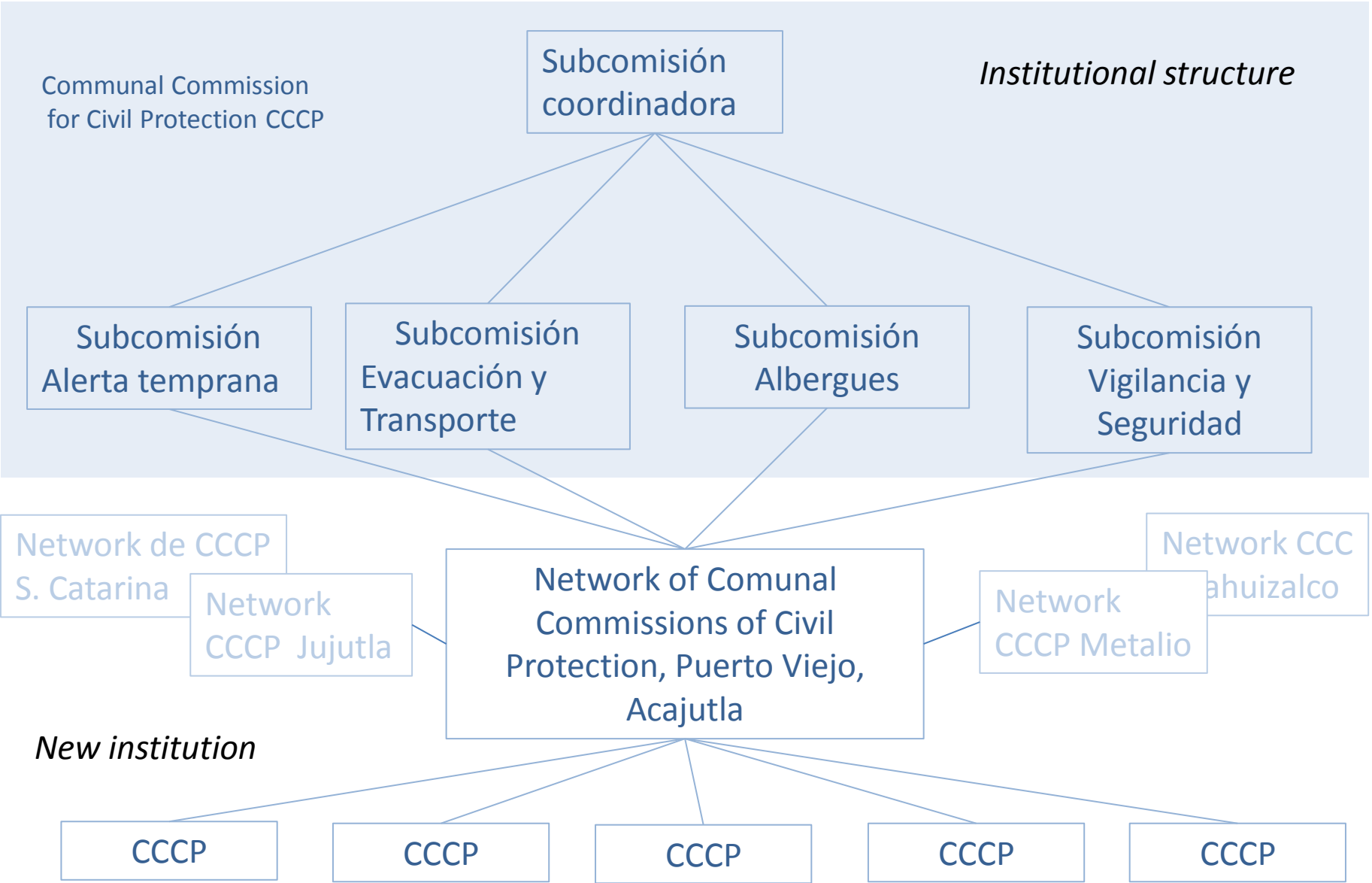
# Networks of Community Civil Protection Commissions -CCPC, Puerto Viejo, Acajutla, El Salvador



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# CCPCs Puerto Viejo, Acajutla, El Salvador



# Acajutla: Local Civil Protection Commissions CCPC



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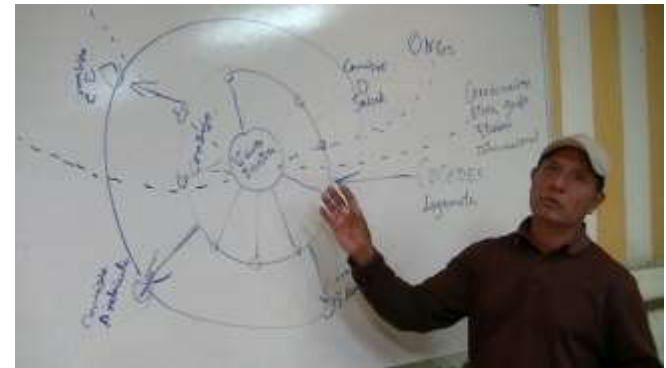
# Regional Network of Local Civil Protection Commissions CCPCs



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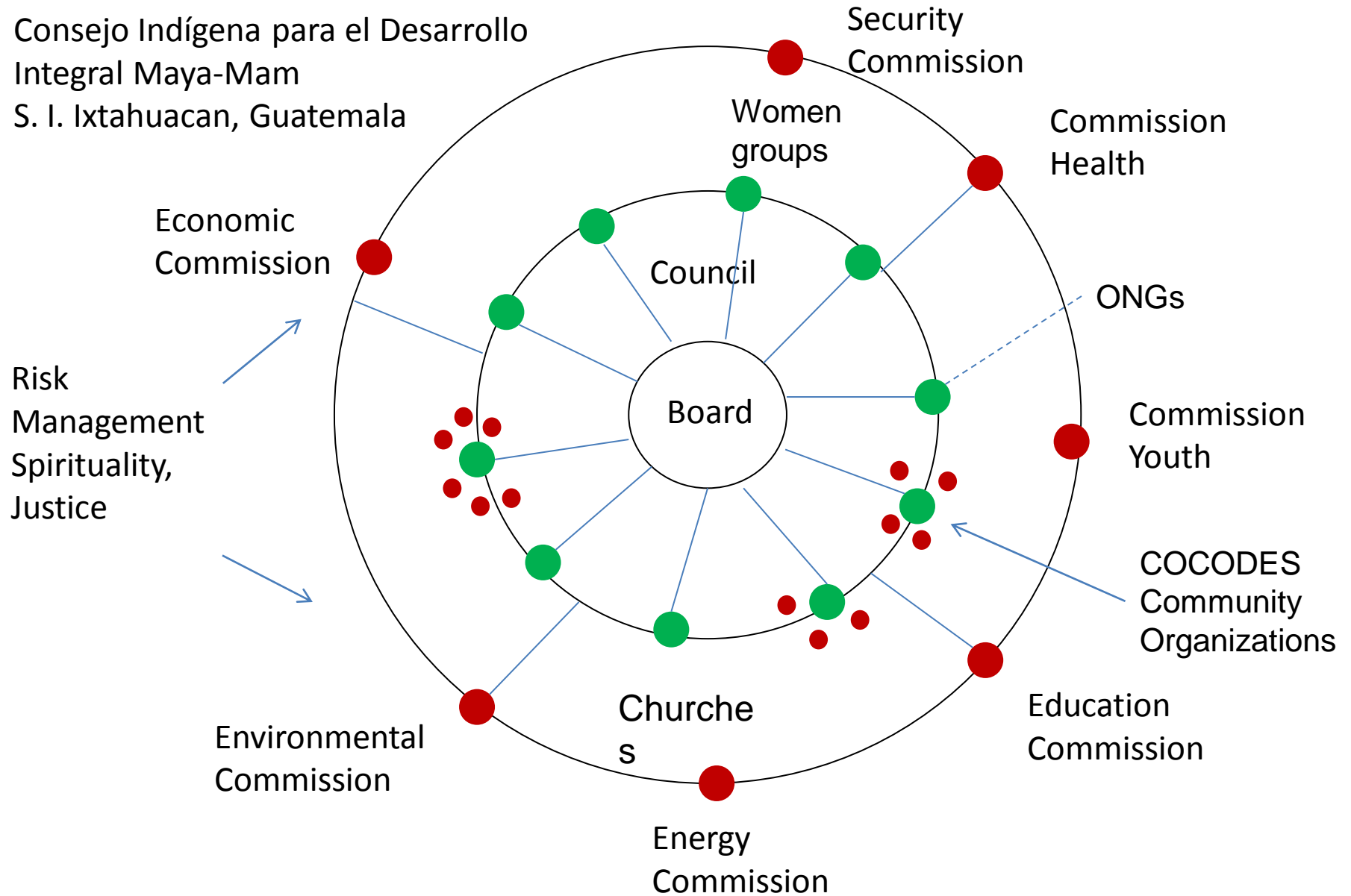
# Marcos explains the concept of risk management of the Indigenous Council San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan, Guatemala



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# Integral DRM

Consejo Indígena para el Desarrollo  
Integral Maya-Mam  
S. I. Ixtahuacan, Guatemala



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# Asamblea Departamental por la Defensa del Territorio



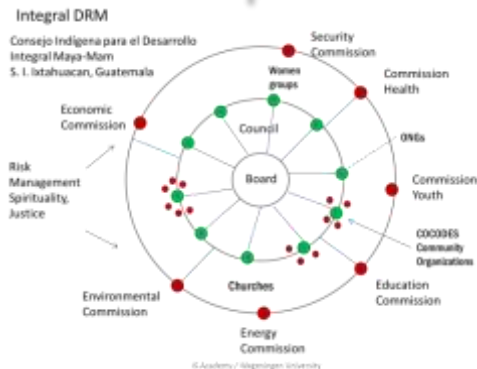
Provincial Assembly for the Defense of the Territory -ADH



Western People's Council - CPO  
For the defense of the territory and **Buen Vivir**



The right to popular consultation and peace (in relation to the construction of Hydroelectric Dam San Cruz Barrillas, Huehuetenango



Indigenous Council

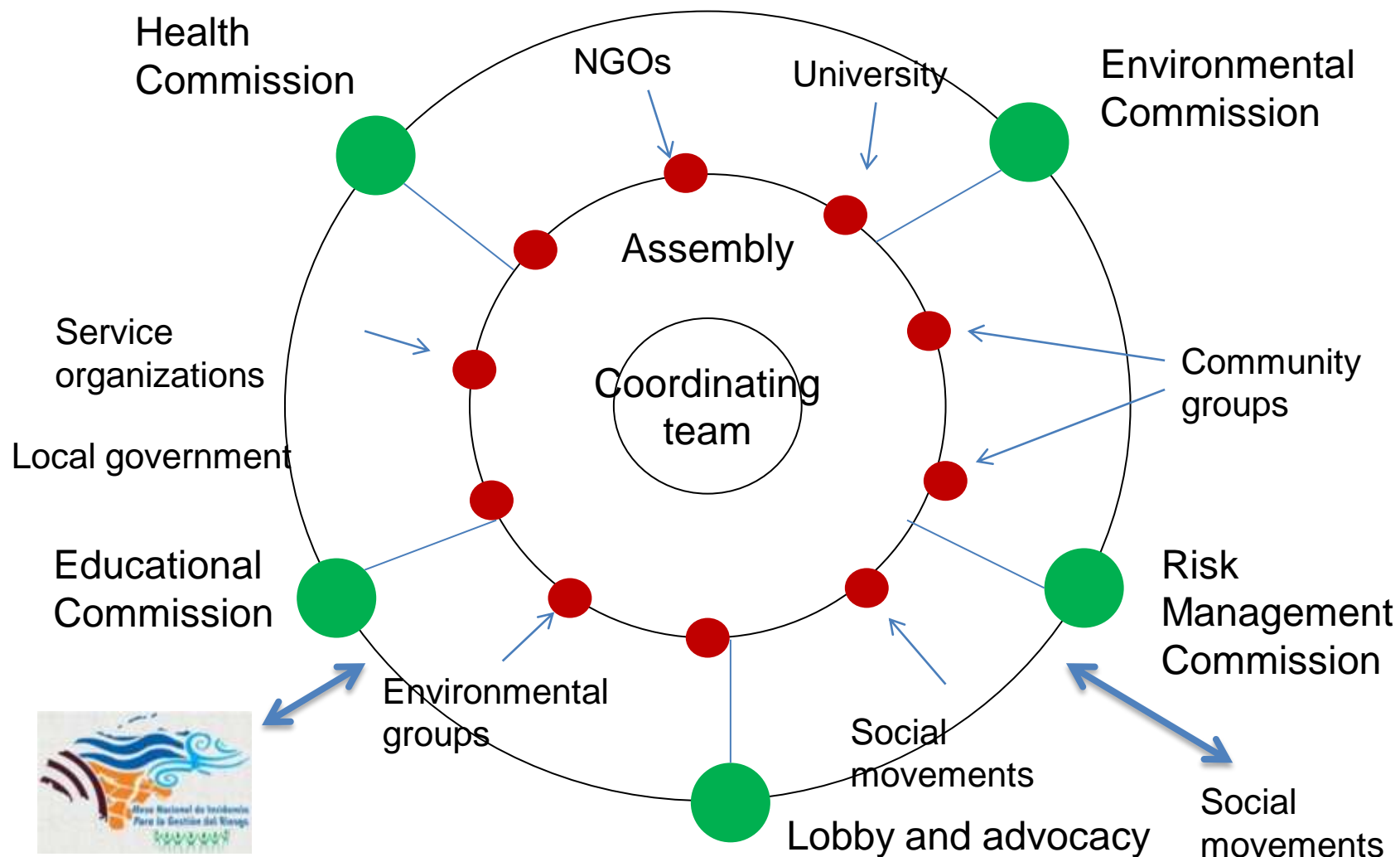
Carlos Morales (University of Würzburg), "Local communities and institutions: a social movements perspective", Break-out session presentation at IS Academy final conference "Facing Fragilities: people, aid and institutions in socio-economic recovery"

## **Gloria and Carla explain their idea of risk management and collective action, El Aguan, Honduras**



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# Mesa de Gestión de Riesgo, Bajo Aguan, Honduras



MNIGR

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# Comunidad Ignacio Ellacuria, El Salvador

- Reinserted FMLN combatants
- Civil war relations dominating post-war relations
  - Political Conflict through war time divides
  - Personal and family conflicts
  - Political-economic and social development marked by positioning during civil war
  - Social movements dispute

Ralph Sprenkels (2014), Revolution & Accommodation. Post-Insurgency in El Salvador/  
IS Academy



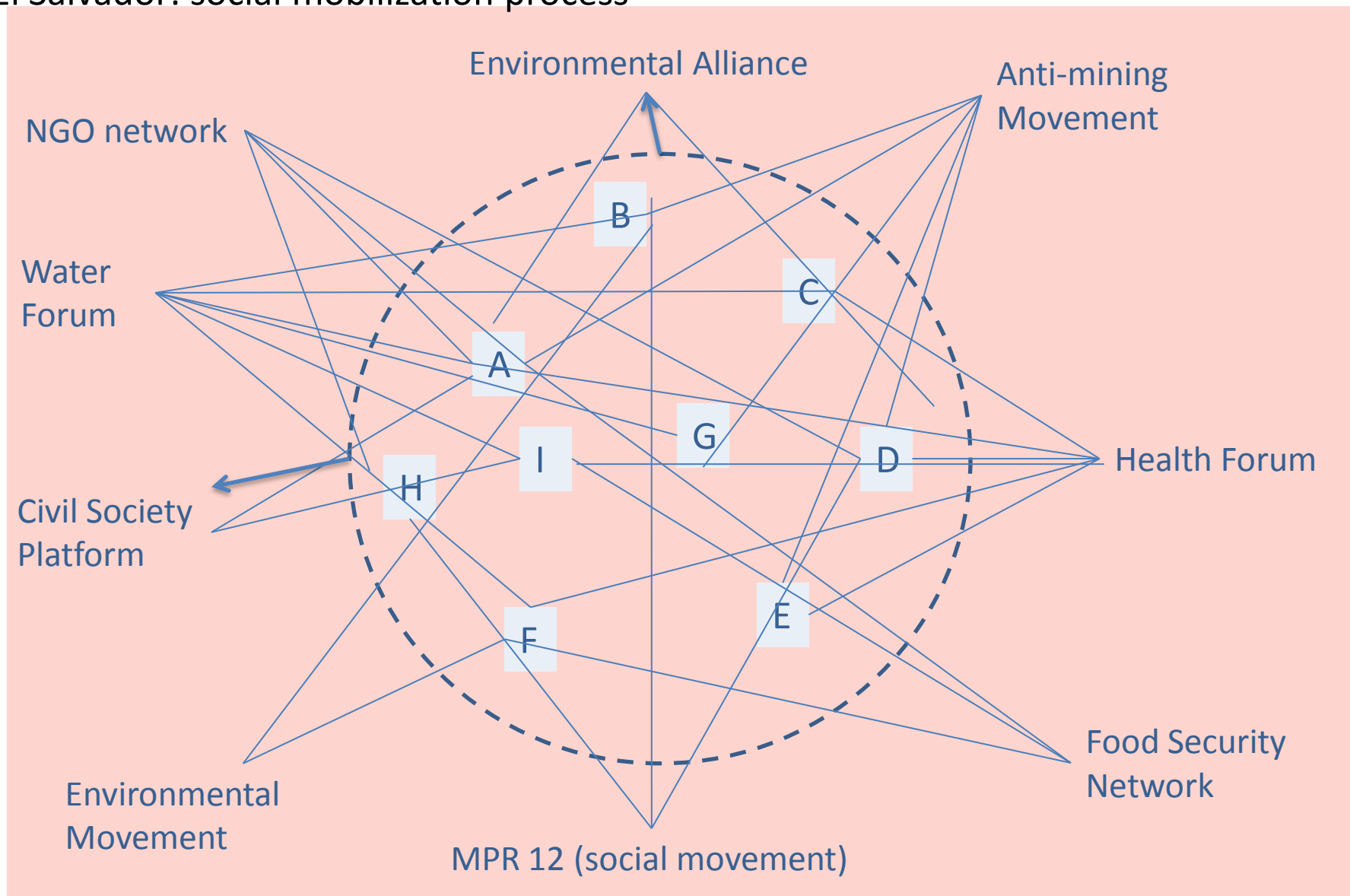


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# Risk Management Networks

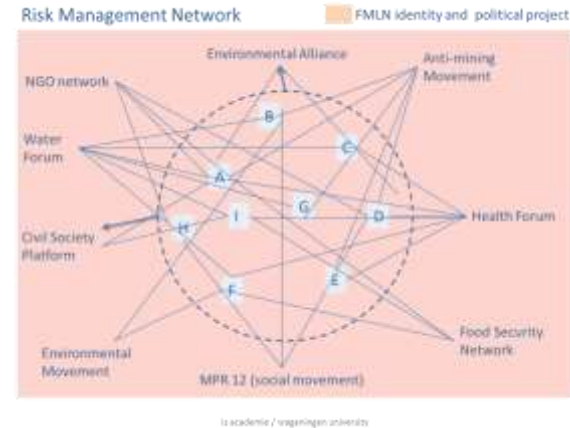
## El Salvador: social mobilization process

 FMLN identity and political project

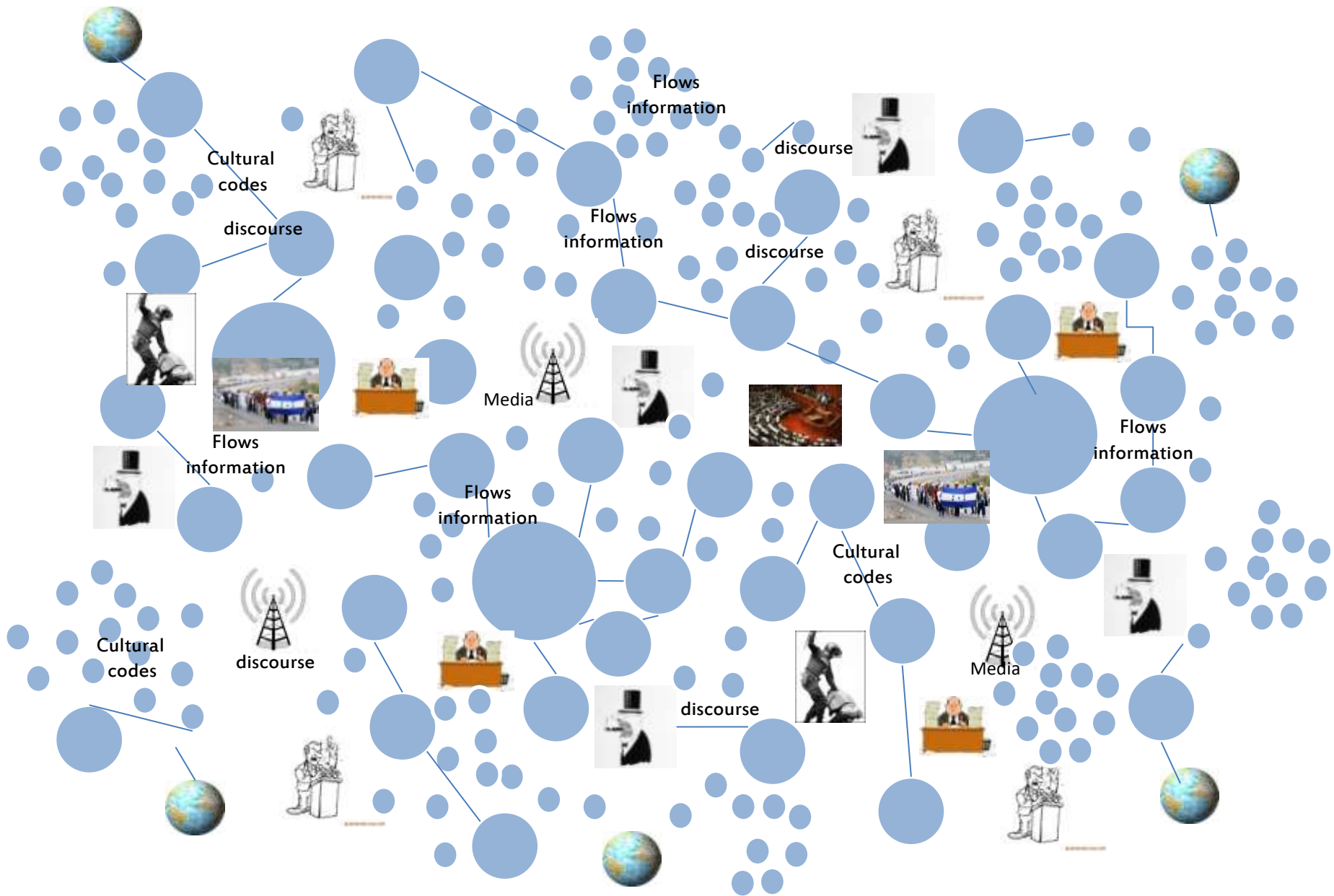


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# Political Arenas



- Negotiation
- Conflict
- Consensus – dissent as mechanism for negotiation
- Multiple levels
- Plural (diverse pluralities)
- Horizontal, permanent, latent collective action



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# 4

## Networked social movements

- Political influence
  - Power: mobilization
  - Access to the state
- Cultural change: Movement is the message
- Change process in itself: consciousness, behavior, alternative institutions, etc.



Collective Action :

Cooperation, Institutional lobby ↔ Contentious action

# 5 Some dilemmas

## Processes of social mobilization

Political :

- Challenging the polity and cultural codes
- Mobilization and counter-mobilization

Governability? Adaptation?...

Contingent:

- Processes of interaction
- Processes not only outcomes
- Structural factors

PME? Institutional DRM policies?

Participation – Domestication?



# Thanks!!!

## Questions for discussion

To what extent are international policy interventions (e.g. humanitarian aid, disaster risk management, or development policies in general) aware of the existence and development of social movements in local settings?

What are the possible consequences of social movement dynamics for international intervention strategies?

How do social movement processes connect to political objectives (such as democratization and state building) that the international community embraces in fragile settings?  
How to make international interventions more sensitive to the socio-political dynamics of local community organizing?