

IFEM: Environmental policy in times of climate change

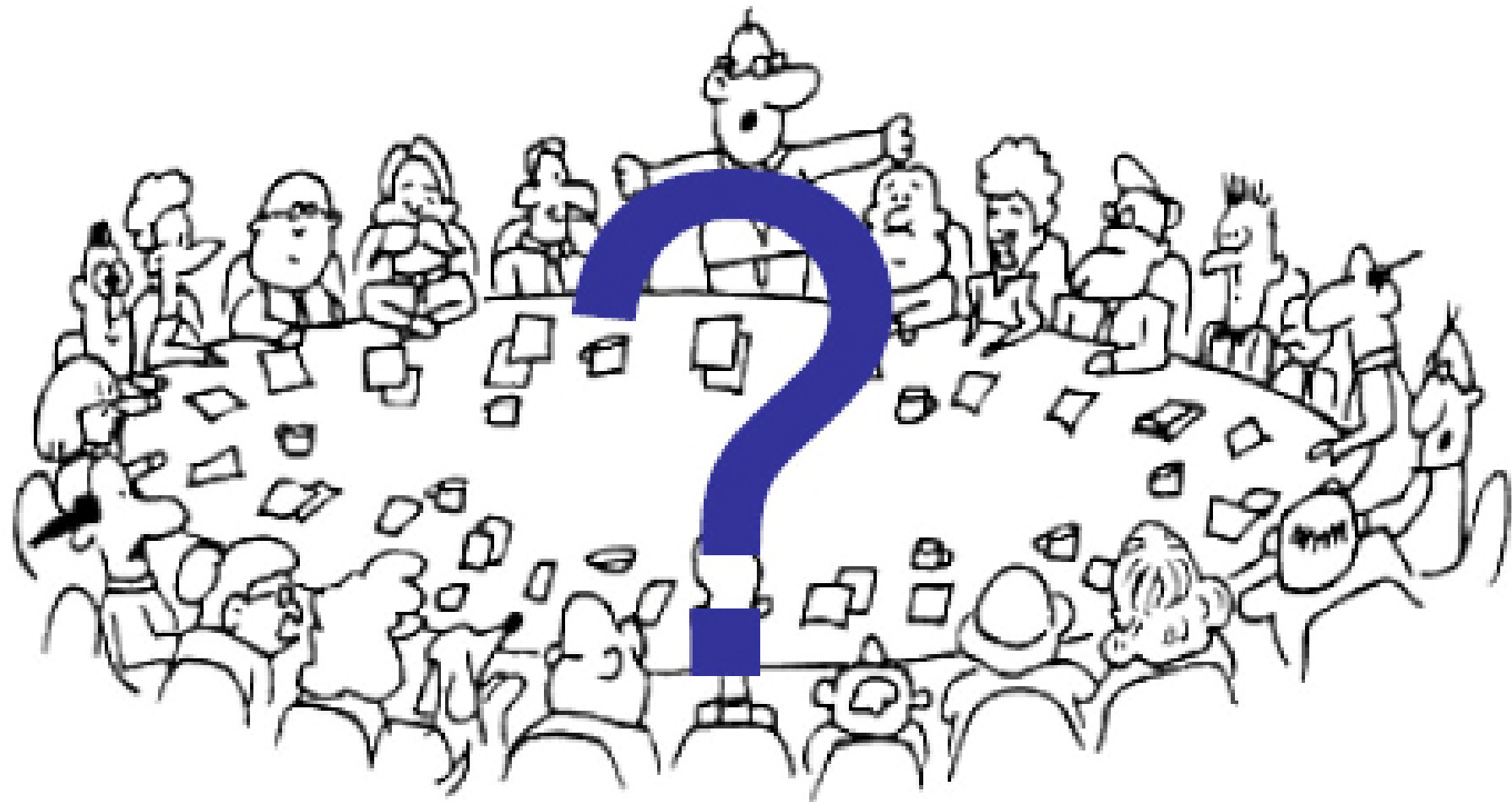
Environmental and Climate Governance

Prof. Dr. Heike Walk et al. & Prof. Carsten Mann



Summer Term 2025, 24.-28.03.2025

What are we doing here...

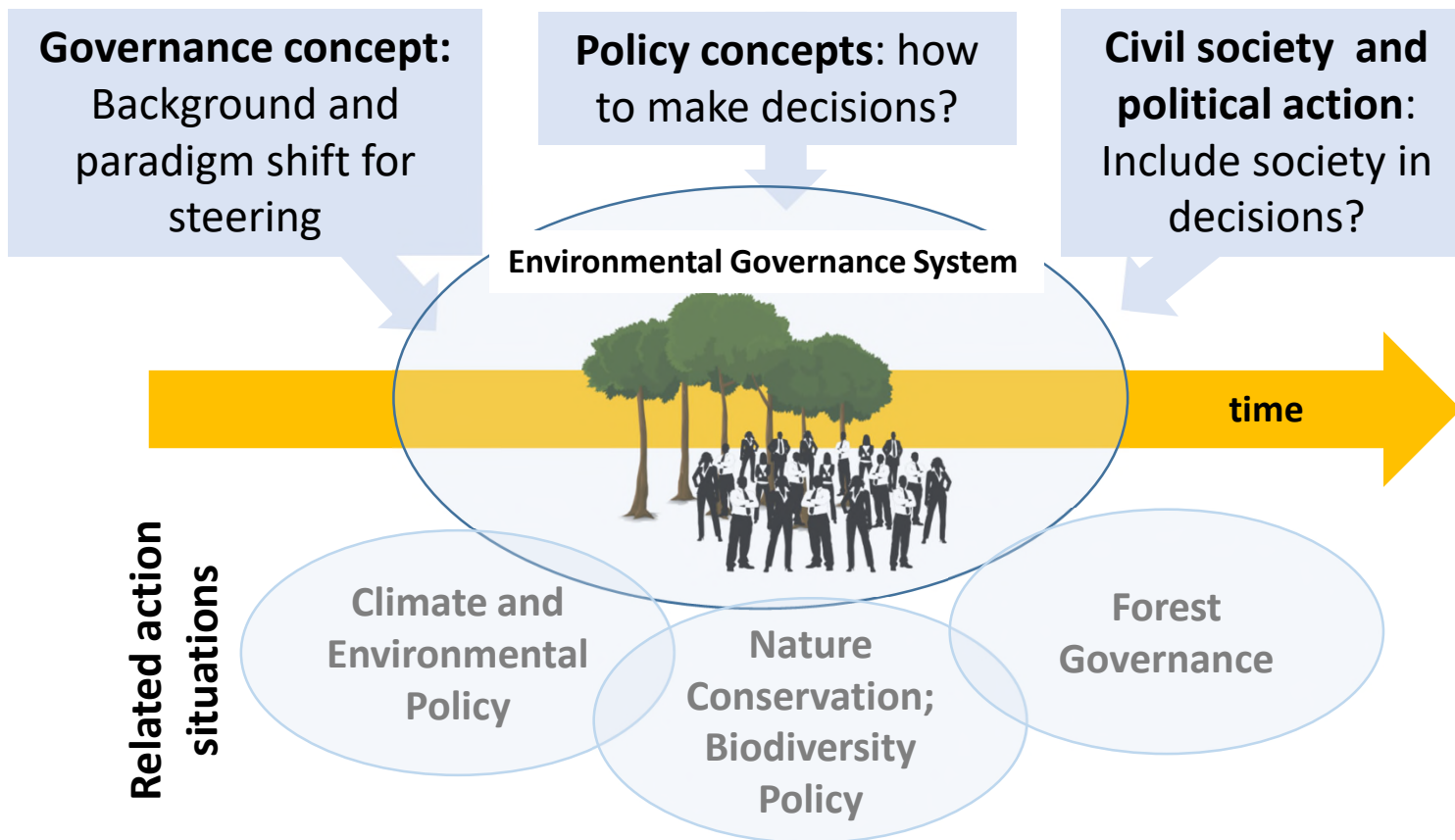


Objectives of the Sub-module:

- You understand and can explain **environmental and climate governance systems**
- You become familiar with **governance concepts**: What does governance mean and what **environmental and climate governance** concepts exist?
- You gain a deepened understanding of the **different interests of state and non-state actors**

Schedule for this week

Day	Time	Content	source
Mon, 24.3	09:00 – 09:30	Introduction to the course	CM
	09:30 – 11:30	The conceptual foundations of Environmental policy and governance systems	CM
		Key Milestones and governance structure of the Climate Change Regime	all
Tue, 25.3	09:00 – 11:00	Presentation of key policy concepts	CM;
	11:00 – 11:30	The influence of political lobby groups	Steven Kunert
Wed, 26.3	09:00 – 10:00	Introduction to participatory governance and participation research	HW
	10:00 – 11:30	Theoretical concepts and practical approaches	HW
Thu, 27.3	09:00 – 11:30	Excursion to the conference ENGAGED FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION - Climate protection as a civil society task, organized by the Federal Network for Civic Engagement (BBE)	HW
	11:30 – 16:30	Venue: Refugio Berlin, Lenaustr. 3-4, 12047 Berlin Working Groups of the conference	
Fri, 28.3	10:00 – 10:45	Excursion to the “Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte”	HW
	10:45 – 11:30	Presentation of the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU) Presentation of the „Deutsche Umwelthilfe“ (Environmental Action Germany) Venue: Greifswalder Straße 4, 10405 Berlin	



Exam requirements: Report

- a written elaboration of the PP-slide "Objectives of the Submodule"
- describe the different inputs of the lectures with regard to the objectives of the submodule
- summarize your understanding and learning from the submodule
- no more than 2-3 pages

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Questions that can help you with the elaboration:

- What are the characteristics of an environmental governance system (or regime)?
- How can you describe the structures, institutions and actors?
- Which different levels play a role in environmental policy and how can they be influenced?
- Can you briefly describe the policy concepts you learned about in the module and you find most convincing?
- Which role do protest and social movements play in societies?
- What role does climate philanthropy play in influencing international climate policies and climate social movements and protests?

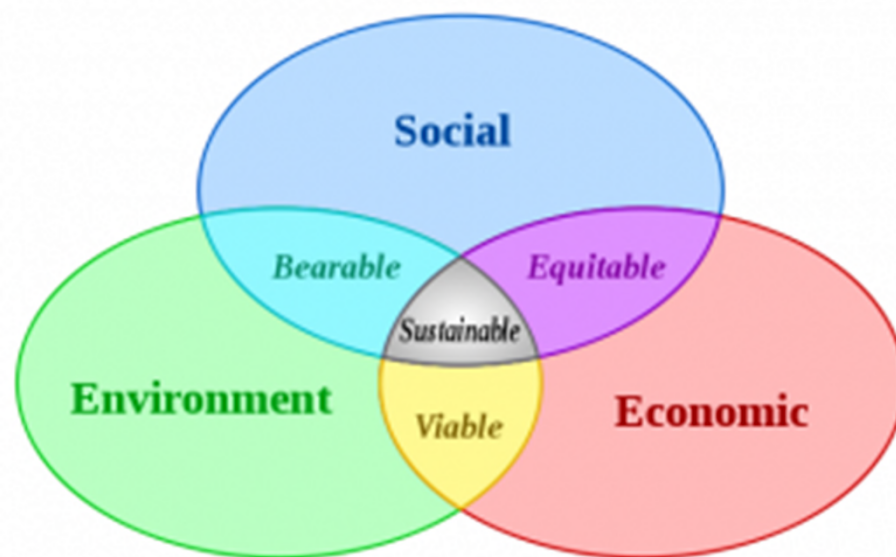
Part I:

Sustainable Development as point of departure

Sustainable Development as orientation

Brundtland report “Our Common Future” (WCED 1987):

Sustainable development = Redirection of social development in ways that combine **economic wealth**, **environmental protection** and **social cohesion**



With complex
connections +
interactions;
between the local
to the global

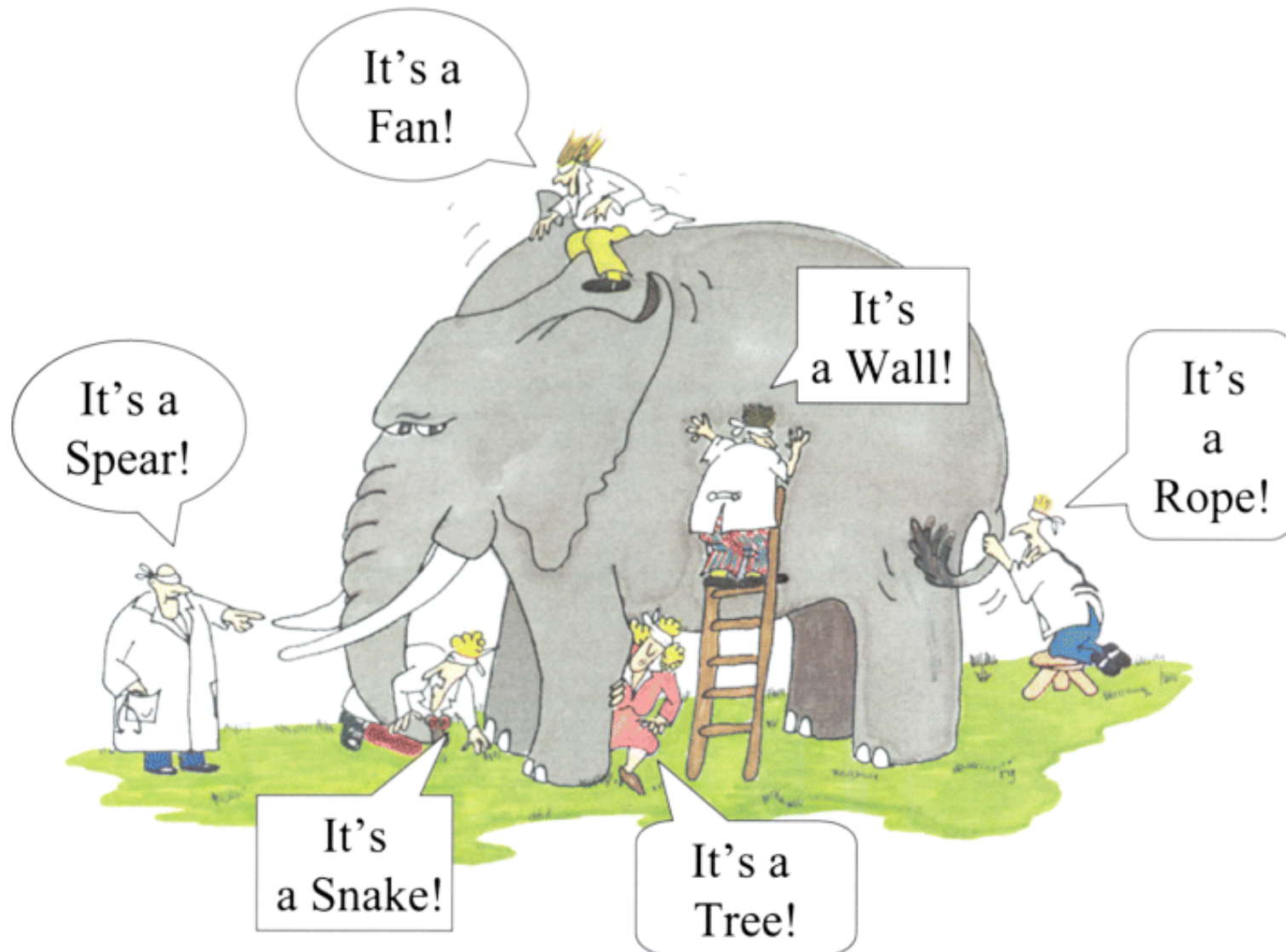
SD serves as a political and social orientation:

Development that meets the needs of *current generations* without compromising the needs of *future generations*.

- *Normative*: same or better possibilities?
- *Subjective*: who needs what?
- *Ambiguous*: needs differ among contexts!

- ➔ No blueprint/one-fits-all solutions for sustainable development
- ➔ But: SD needs to become part of a societal process in contexts!

Sustainable Development - Challenges

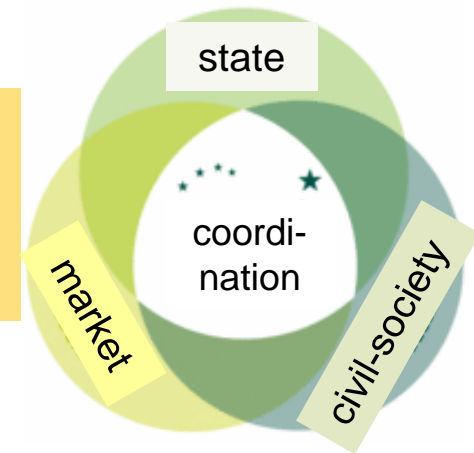


Sustainable Development - Challenges

- **Different contexts:** ecological, institutional, political, cultural
- **Different actors:** ideas, values, norms, power
- **Complex systems:** social-ecological; direct/indirect linkages
- **Long time scales:** unknown, open-ended future!
- **Global dimension:** environmental problems, North-South linkages, ...

➔ **Live with these challenges & work with them**

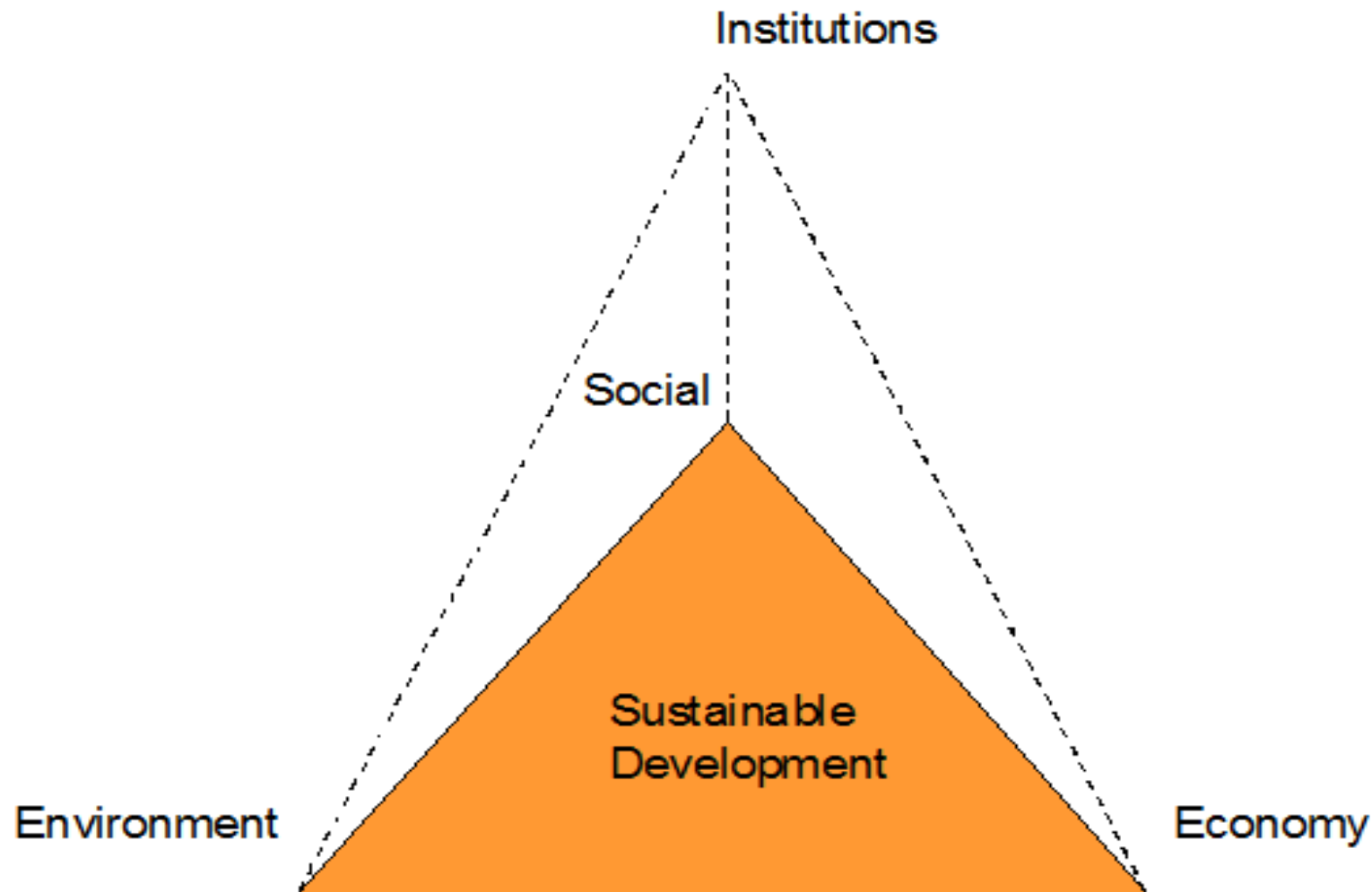
➔ **Paradigm shift: government => governance**



Sustainable development demands for governance innovations!

- **Approaches must recognize and deal with these challenges**
 - Context sensitive: particular balance values/interests/issues
 - Long term-oriented: anticipatory and dynamic
 - Societally embedded: accepted, carried!
- **Sustainable governance is about participation & inclusion**
- **Process: joint discussion, negotiation, and reflexive learning!**

Sustainable Development - operationalisation



Key features and components (e.g. Kemp, Parto and Gibson 2005):

- **Develop common visions, objectives and paths towards it**
 - ❖ For particular localities; in a participatory & transparent way
- **Work towards policy integration & political responsibility**
 - ❖ Vertical + horizontal coordination of policies and actors; policy mixes
- **Guidance by Information**
 - ❖ Integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge; monitoring
- **Fostered by innovations**
 - ❖ Spaces for experiments; reflections & learning
 - ❖ Protection of amenities + creation of new/better services

Part II:

Introduction to environmental governance

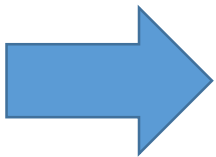
What is governance?



www.alamy.com - BCFN0J

- the manner in which power is exercised (by governments, institutions, etc.)
- a shift of power upwards (EU, global), downwards (regional, local) and sideways (business, NGOs, civil society)

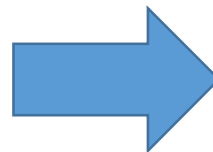
What is governance?



the interaction between governments, business stakeholders and non-profit organizations by which policy decisions and implementations are undertaken

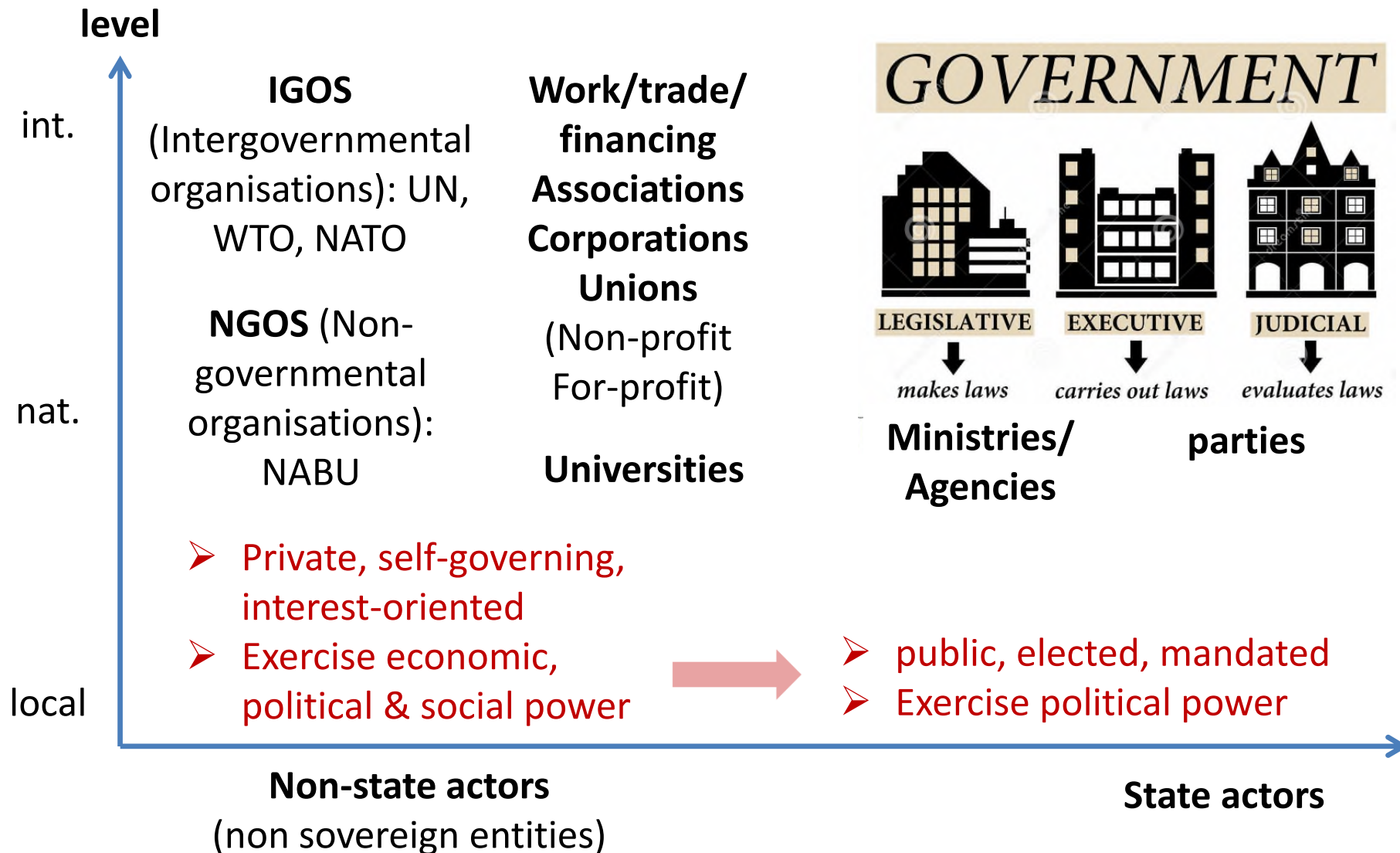
The government...

- shares the decision and implementation processes with other actors
- transfers steering competencies to supra-national authorities, such as the United Nations or the European Union.
- recognizes sub-national (local and regional) governments

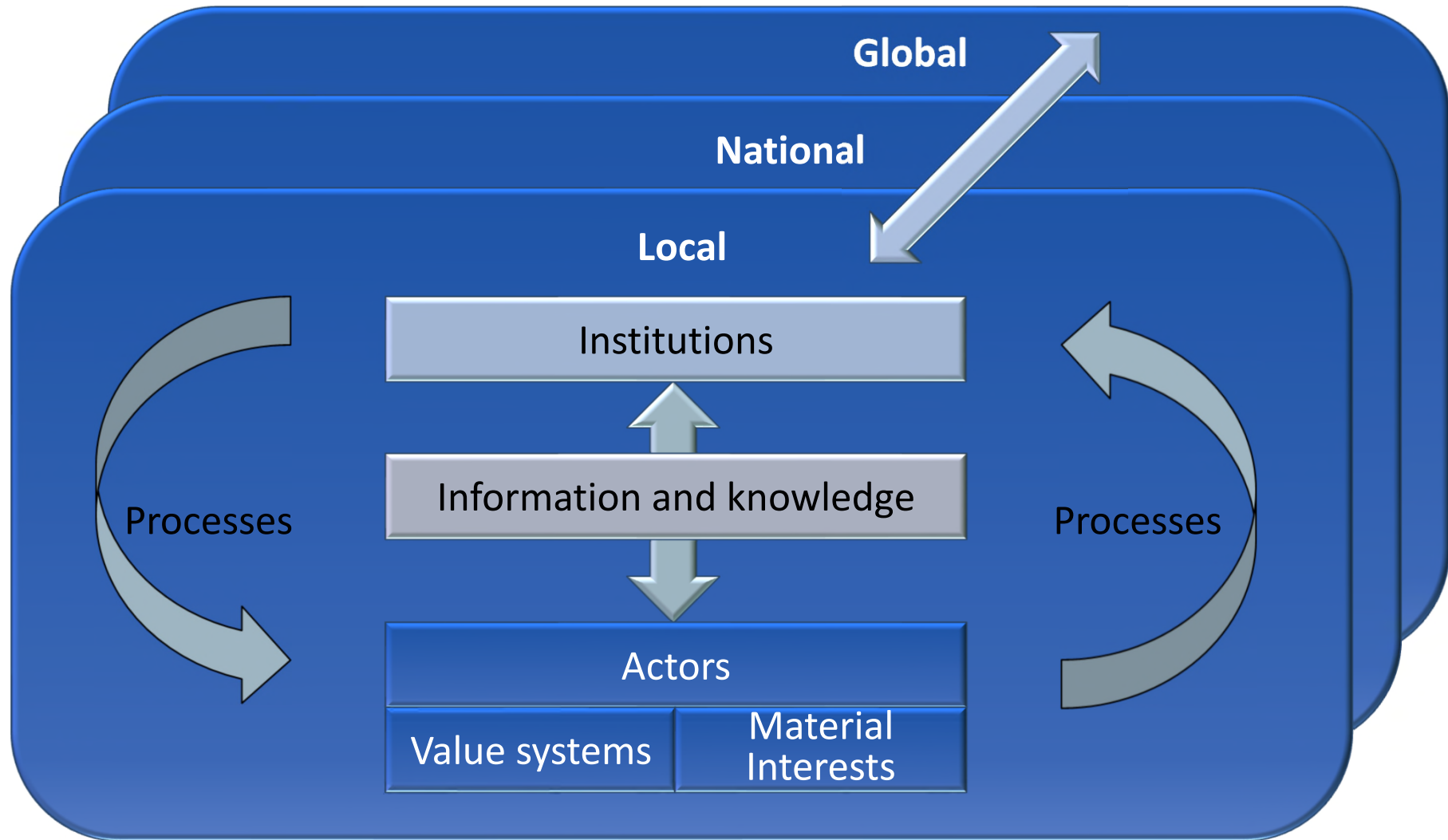


shift of power upwards,
downwards and sideways

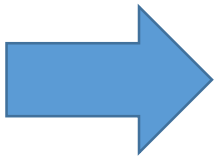
Introduction to governance



Introduction to governance



Environmental governance



refers to a fundamental change in policy making in the 1990ies

The concept's origins...

UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

- hope for a new global world order that is no longer characterized by armament but by peace processes.
- 172 nations met in Rio de Janeiro at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
- seek solutions to issues such as poverty and growing environmental problems

Results of the UNCED

Not binding

- **Agenda 21**
- **Rio Declaration**
- **Statement of Forest Principles**

Legally binding conventions

- **Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- **Convention on Biological Diversity**

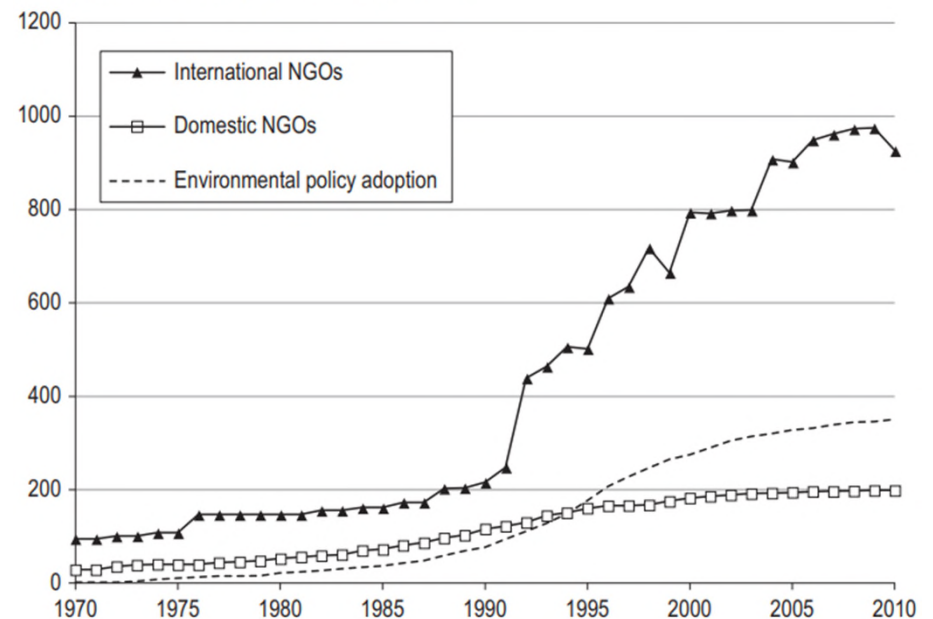
Various focal points in governance research



This change is characterized by...

- 1) a broadening of the spectrum of actors
- 2) an increasing importance of the levels
- 3) a broadening of steering modes.

Figure 3. Trends of international environmental NGOs, domestic environmental NGOs, and policy reform in developing countries, 1970–2010



Source:

Introduction to governance

	Governance structures*		
	Hierarchy/ Bureaucracy	Market	Self-organised network
Coordination mechanisms* (institutions)	Hierarchical (order / instruction)	Non-hierarchical (price)	Non-hierarchical (trust)
Actors / organisations (orientation)	Public (common/welfare orientation)	Private (individual interests)	Intra-/trans- governmental; Private-Private; Public-Private

- ➔ **Concept:** discuss role of government & others coping with public issues
- ➔ **Promises:** flexible, productive (knowledge, support), trade-offs, strategic
- ➔ **Shift:** centralized => distributed/shared responsibility (State remains!)

Finding a definition

SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

A Blog by the Research group Governance, Participation & Sustainability at Leuphana University

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What is 'environmental governance'? A working definition

14. JUNE 2019 ~ JENS NEWIG

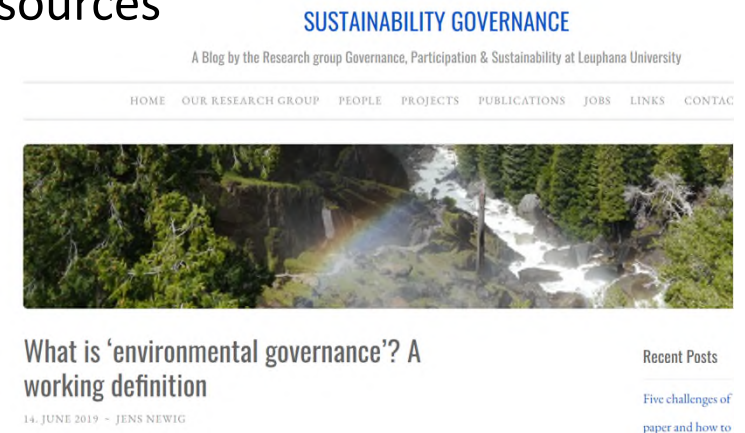
Recent Posts

[Five challenges
paper and how](#)

....the totality of interactions among societal actors aimed at coordinating, steering and regulating human access to, use of, and impacts on the environment, through collectively binding decisions. Environmental governance arrangements may be directed towards a range of causes – including conservation and environmental protection, spatial and land use planning, (sustainable) management of natural resources, and the protection of human health – and operate across scales to address local and global environmental problems.

Identifying important elements of the definition of environmental governance

- interactions among societal actors – not only the state but different actors such as communities, NGOs, business
- coordinating, steering and regulating
- human access to, use of, and impacts on the environment
- conservation and environmental protection
- planning and management of natural resources
- operation across scales (levels)



Part III:

Exercise - Milestones of the global climate governance system

Milestones of the global climate governance system



photo: IPCC

IPCC

Climate
Action
Network
(CAN)

1989

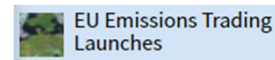


UNFCCC
was
signed

1992

**UN Climate
Change
secretariat**
located
in Bonn

1996



**Kyoto-
Protocol**
enters into
force

2005

**Clean
Develop-
ment
Mechanism**
opens

2006



**Fridays
For
Future**

2018

1990

First **IPCC-
Report**



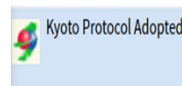
1995

COP 1
in Berlin

WBCD

1997

COP 3
in Kyoto



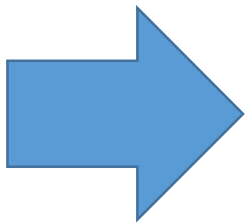
COP4, COP 5, 6,7

2015

COP 21
in Paris



Work task



- choose an event of the timeline
- do a little research
- you have 30 minutes

Reading

- Lemos, M.C. & Agrawal, A. (2006). Environmental Governance. *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.*, 11, 297-325.

Literature:

Bache, I. & Flinders, M., Eds., (2004). Multi-Level Governance, Oxford: Oxford University Press,

Gupta, J. (2015): The history of global climate governance, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Pattberg, P. & Widerberg, O. (2017): The Climate Change Regime, in Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science, Oxford: Oxford University, DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228620.013.46
Rosenau, J. N. & Czempiel, E.O., Eds. (1992). Governance without Government: Order and Change in World Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Longhofer, W. , Schofer, E., Miric, N., Frank, D. J. (2010). NGOs, INGOs, and Environmental Policy Reform, 1970–2010, Social Forces, Volume 94, Issue 4, June 2016, Pages 1743–1768, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/sow031>

Walk, H. (2008). Partizipative Governance. Beteiligungsformen und Beteiligungsrechte im Mehrebenenensystem der Klimapolitik, Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien