Mapping Fragmentation across Governance Architectures

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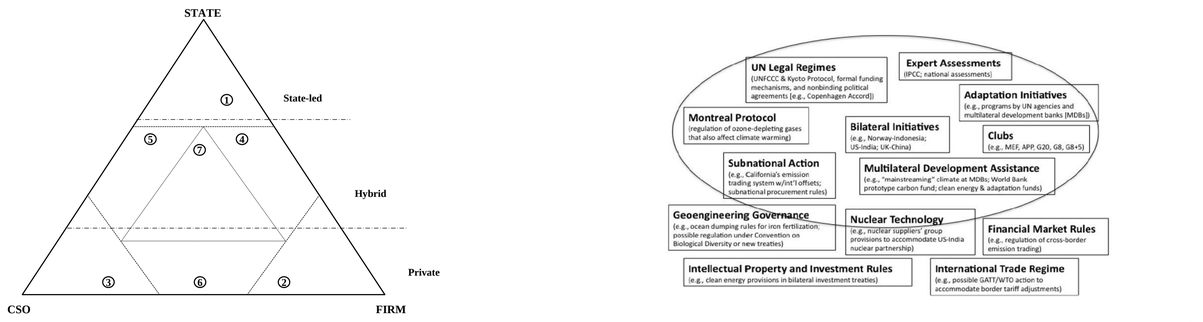
Brief Introduction

Over the past 20 years, World Politics has become increasingly complex due to a proliferation of **institutions**, **actors**, **norms**, and **discourses** in global affairs. Governance architectures have turned into a patchwork of **institutions** and **regimes** resulting in overlaps and gaps, contestation and synergy, integration and fragmentation. We currently lack a detailed understanding of the **degree of fragmentation** across different policy domains, especially related to the environment. Therefore, improved mappings of governance structures and appropriate indicators and metrics for measuring degrees of fragmentation are urgently needed.

Mapping a Governance Architecture: Criteria

- **International** or **transnational** institution
- **Intentionality** to steer the behavior of members
- **Explicitly** mentions **governance goal** (according to *issue area*) and **governance function**(s) (color-coding)

Institutions + Regimes



Standards & Commitments (Mandatory **compliance**; Standards for measurement and **disclosure** of activities; Standards for the **quality** of projects; Voluntary **commitments**)

Operational (Technology **research** and development; **Pilot** projects; **Demonstration** and deployment activities; **Skills** enhancement; **Best practice** dissemination)

Financing (funding)

Information & Networking (Technical **consulting**; **Training** and **building capacity**; Share **knowledge** and informe; **Support** local governments)

Figure 1 *Transnational Governance Triangle (Abbott, 2011)*

Figure 2 *International Regime Complex (Keohane and Victor, 2011)*

Selecting Policy Domains

The focus is on **Global Environmental Governance** architectures, therefore the general *governance goal* is to promote **conservation** of the environment, including biological resources, habitats, ecosystems, ecosystem services and commodities, in the face of growing threats of degradation and extinction.

- We chose 3 **broad** and **inclusive** domains that gravitate around international political agreements (i.e. International regimes) – **Biodiversity** (CBD), **Oceans** (UNCLOS) and **Climate Change** (UNFCCC).

- Additionally, 3 economic sectors that currently lack a political center were also mapped as **narrow** and **exclusive** policy domains – **Fisheries**, **Forestry** and **Energy**.

In order for arrangements to fall within a specific architecture or policy domain, they must share an identifiable governance goal - e.g. mitigating climate change, halting biodiversity loss, halting forest degradation and deforestation. Therefore, issue-specific criteria were defined and are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 *Issue-specific criteria for mapping each governance architecture*

BIODIVERSITY	Exclude health, agriculture (animal production for farming purposes), food, fertilizers, international transport of animals, minerals
	Include forest management, fisheries, aquaculture, species, trade, ecosystem, habitat, cultural heritage, desertification
OCEANS	Exclude freshwater agreements
	Include deep sea bed and mining area, shipping, pollution, land-based pollution affecting the ocean, species, aquaculture
CLIMATE CHANGE	Include Vienna Convention, Montreal protocol, LRTAP, REDD+
FISHERIES	Exclude aquaculture
	Include freshwater fisheries and whaling
ENERGY	Exclude disaster/catastrophe reduction, energy (nuclear) waste
	Include nuclear issues and hydropower
FORESTS	Include climate change (e.g. REDD+)

Illustrations

BIODIVERSITY

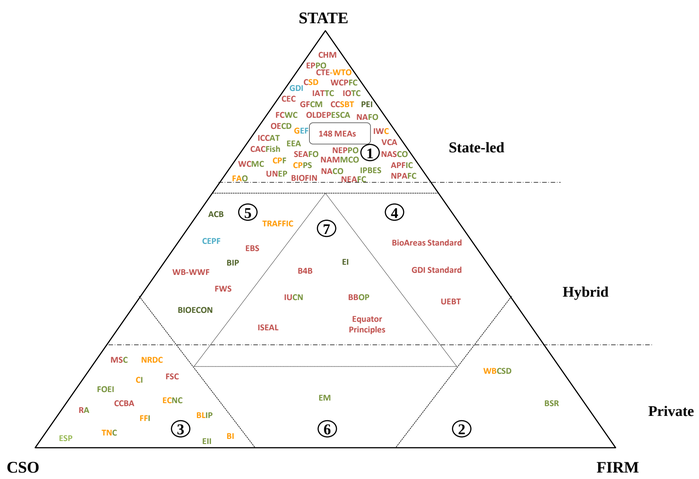


Figure 3 *Biodiversity Governance Triangle*

FORESTS

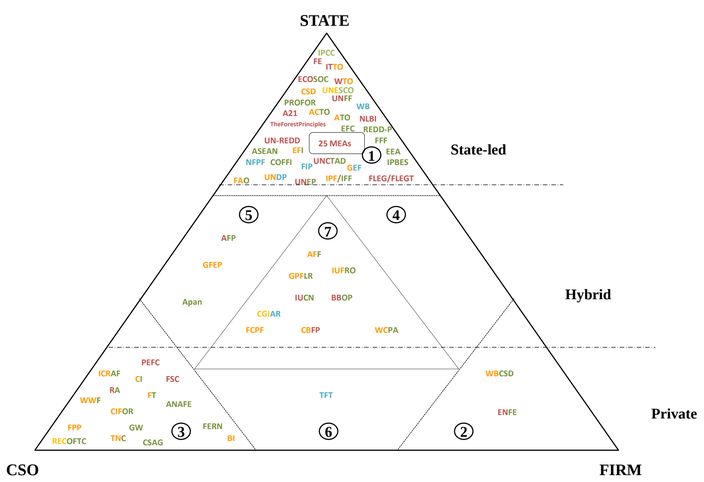


Figure 4 *Forestry Governance Triangle*

FISHERIES

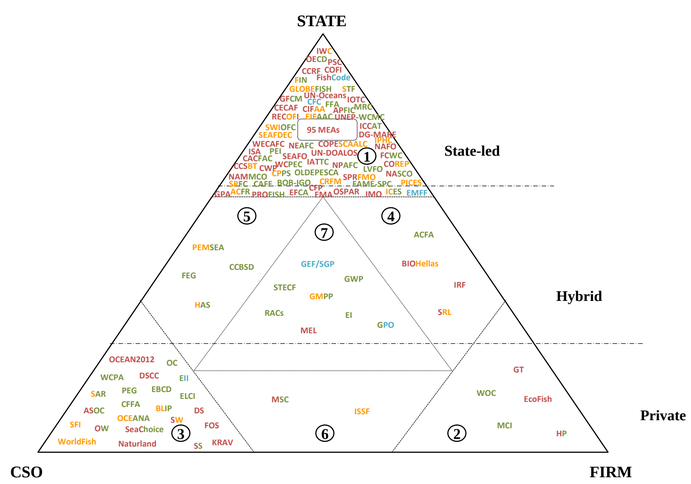


Figure 5 *Fisheries Governance Triangle*

Measuring the Degree of Fragmentation

Four indicators are considered for measuring fragmentation across governance architectures**: institutional constellations, norm constellations, actor constellations** and **discourse constellations**. We conceive them to be **alternative** and **partially overlapping** diagnostic approaches that in sum provide a general direction (fragmented/integrated) rather than a single number. Next steps will include **operationalizing** these methods and **improve the robustness** of our diagnosis.

Recommended Literature

- Isailovic, M., O. Widerberg and P. Pattberg (2013), 'Fragmentation of Global Environmental Governance Architectures: A Literature Review', Institute for Environmental Studies, Report W-13/09.
- Pattberg, P., M. Isailovic, O. Widerberg and F. Guerra (2014), 'A framework for mapping and measuring fragmentation in global governance architectures', *forthcoming.*

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