

# Methods For Assessing Progress in The Governance Coastal Ecosystems

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# The Objectives of this Research

1. To test and refine a new framework for the planning, implementation and evaluation of coastal governance initiatives.
2. To identify the major characteristics of past and current coastal governance in Latin America.
3. To assess current capacity to respond to climate change.

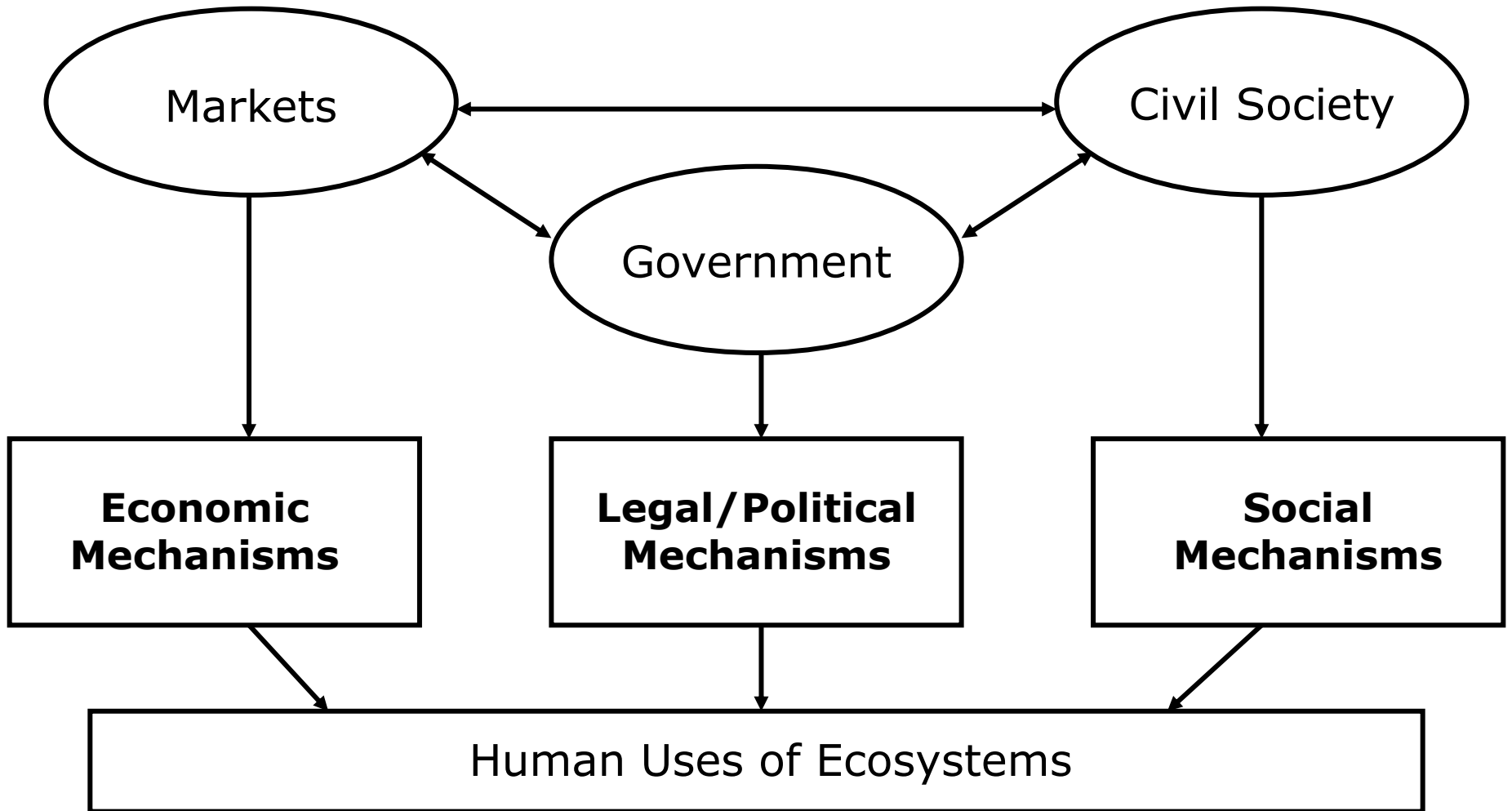
# Governance

The formal and informal arrangements, institutions, and mores that structure and influence:

- How resources or an environment are utilized
- How problems, opportunities are evaluated, analyzed
- What behavior is acceptable or forbidden
- What rules & sanctions are applied to affect how natural resources are distributed and used

Juda and Hennessey, 2001

# Sources and Mechanisms of Governance



Source: A Handbook on Governance and Socioeconomics of Large Marine Ecosystems

(Olsen et al, 2006)

# Capacity To Practice Coastal Ecosystem Governance

Combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes on:

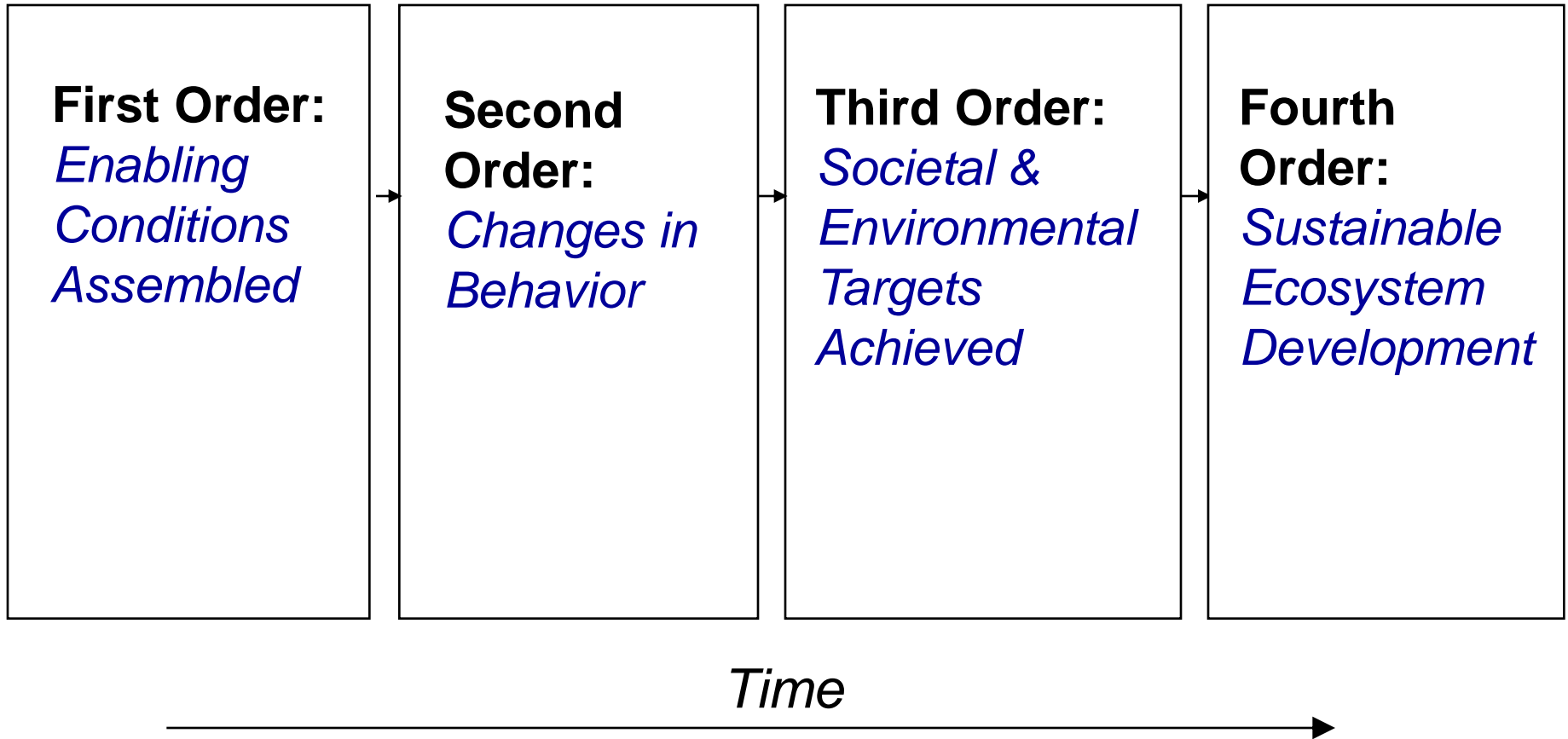
- How ecosystems function and change
- How governance processes can influence trajectories of ecosystem change
- How strategies can be tailored to history and culture of the place
- How to assemble and manage interdisciplinary teams

National Academy of Sciences, 2008

# Ecosystem Governance Requires

- Changing human behavior at societal scale
- Adopting a long-term view to:
  - Understand how we got to where we are
  - Visualize a future in which societal behavior significantly differs from today's
- Sustained learning and adaptation
- Integration across academic disciplines and economic sectors
- Nested systems of governance

# Orders of Outcomes Framework



# Fourth Order

## Sustainable Socio-ecological Systems

- Replacement of quantitative expansion (growth) with qualitative improvement (development) is path of future (Daly, 1996)
- Dynamic balance, not a steady state

# Third Order

## Societal & Environmental Targets Achieved

- Estuary water quality and fisheries restored to conditions documented in 1965
- Potable freshwater available to all residents in water basin
- Target Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) fish stocks exploited at or below sustainable levels

# Second Order

*Changes in the behavior of resource users*



# Second Order

*Changes in the behavior of institutions of government and civil society*



# Second Order

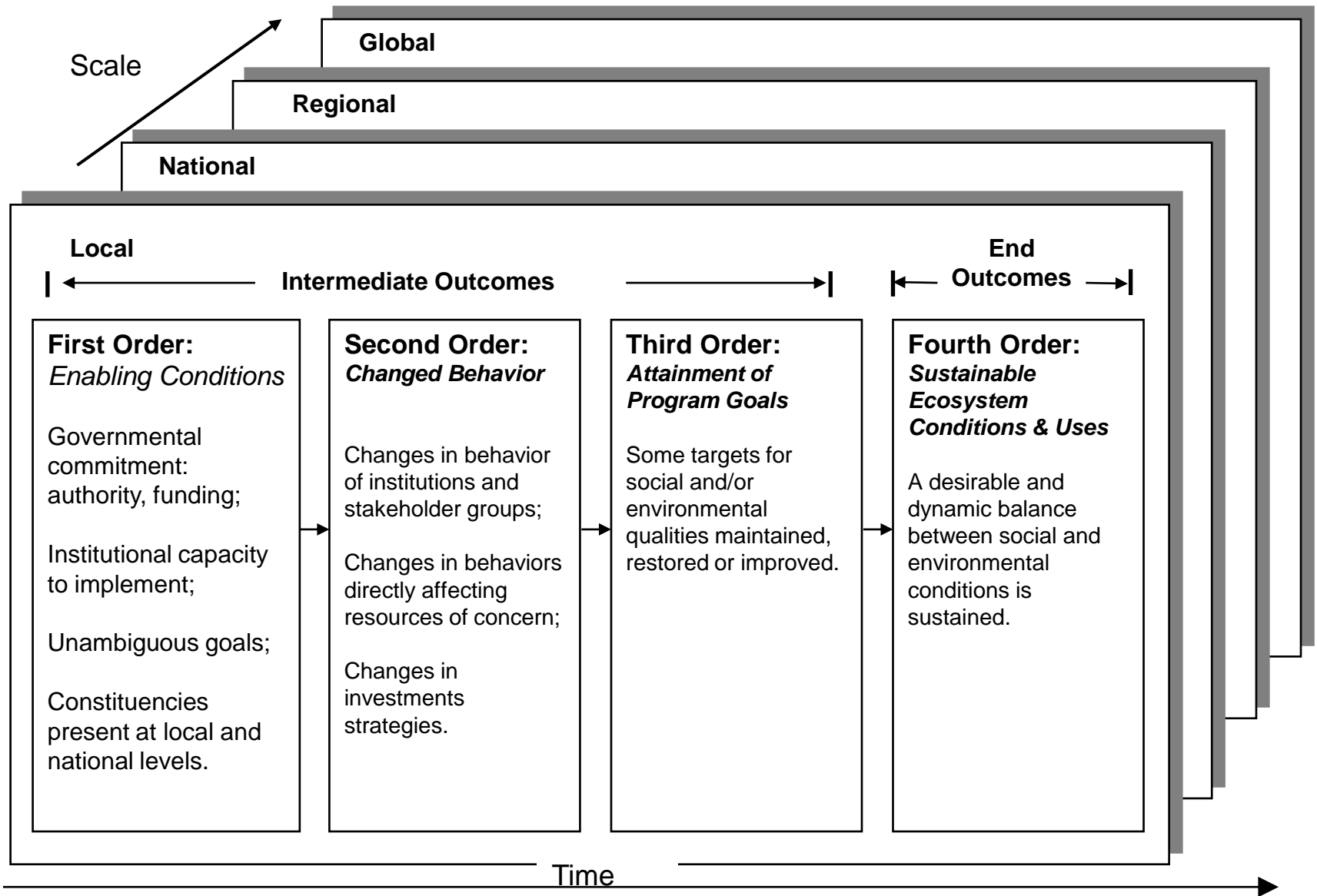
Changes in investments and economic policy



# First Order

## Enabling Conditions Assembled

- Capacity to practice adaptive, ecosystem based management
- Constituencies understand and actively support Program goals
- Government commitment; necessary authority, resources and long-term funding
- Goals: specific, time-bound, inspire people of the place



The Four Orders of Outcomes In Ecosystem-based Governance. Adapted from Olsen, 2003

# The Orders Framework Calls For

- Focusing on the transition between 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Orders
- Designing for engagement of the three governance mechanisms
- Encouraging a culture of self assessment, peer review and adaptive management
- Resolving the absence of sustained funding for implementation of successful initiatives

# Some Potential Benefits

- Makes periodic summing up on the status of initiatives feasible
- Facilitates comparison and learning across sites and scales
- Simplifies monitoring and the processes of evaluation
- Encourages well informed adaptive behavior