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Collective action lessons for the energy transition Learning from social movements of the past

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Collective action lessons for the energy transition: Learning from social movements of the past

Introduction

- Transitioning to a low carbon economy, consumers are expected to play a greater part in the energy system
- Besides being prosumers, individuals may take on more active roles of forming energy collectives as well as other forms of collective actions within the energy system
- To understand 'how' and 'why' collective actions unfold, we adapt Ostrom's Socio-Ecological Systems (SES) framework to analyse two historical examples of collective actions that resulted in large scale societal changes

Disciplinary and multi disciplinary perspectives of collective actions

There are different views and explanations of how and why collective actions take place. To analyse collective actions, researchers can choose from variety of theories stemming from different disciplines such as:

- Sociological perspective theories (the mass society, structural-strain, resource mobilization, political opportunity, critical mass)
- Psychological perspective theories (deprivation, self-efficacy and collective efficacy, collective (social) identity)
- Political economics views (Hardin's, Olson's, Ostrom's)

Researchers may also choose multidisciplinary models to analyse collective actions, such as:

- Social Identity Model of Collective Action (SIMCA)
- Social Identity Model of Pro-Environmental Action (SIMPEA)

Research approach

- Choosing a disciplinary or a multidisciplinary approach to analyse collective actions does not address the important contextual macro elements that surround these actions, nor do they provide the possibility to compare actions across different time periods
- As seen on **Figure 1**, the approach taken to analyse collective actions has four phases, including the creation of a database of collective actions as a deliverable for WP6
- After adapting the SES framework based on the common elements found across collective actions in the database, two case studies for analysis were selected

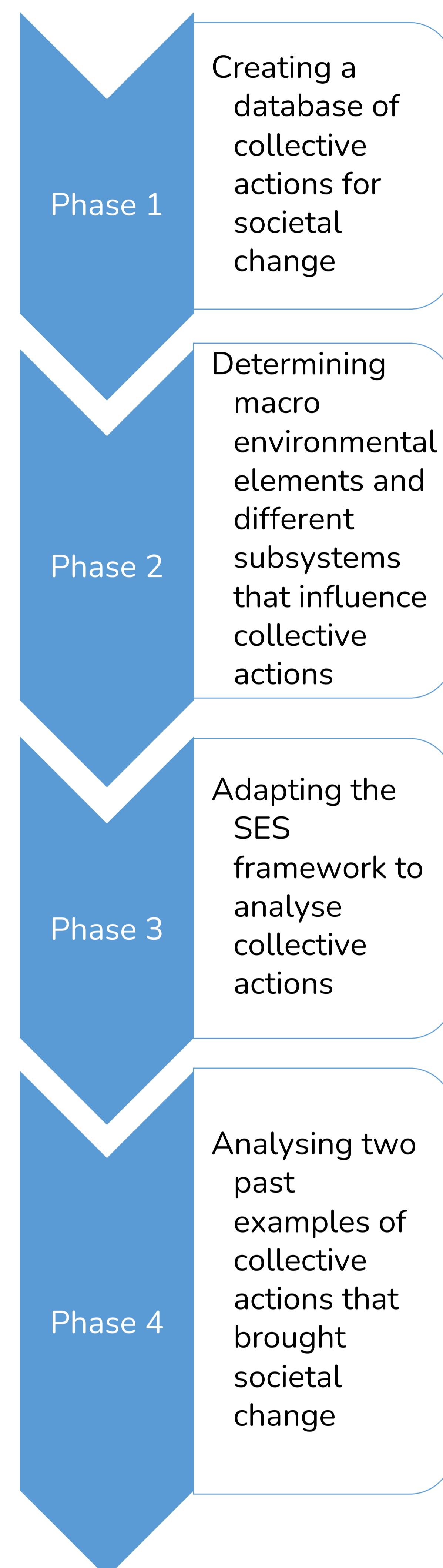


Figure 1 Research approach

Analytical framework: The Adapted SES framework

- Our review of various historical collective actions and movements for social and societal change of different scales resulted in the identification of the important aspects that are already present within the SES framework (**Figure 2**)

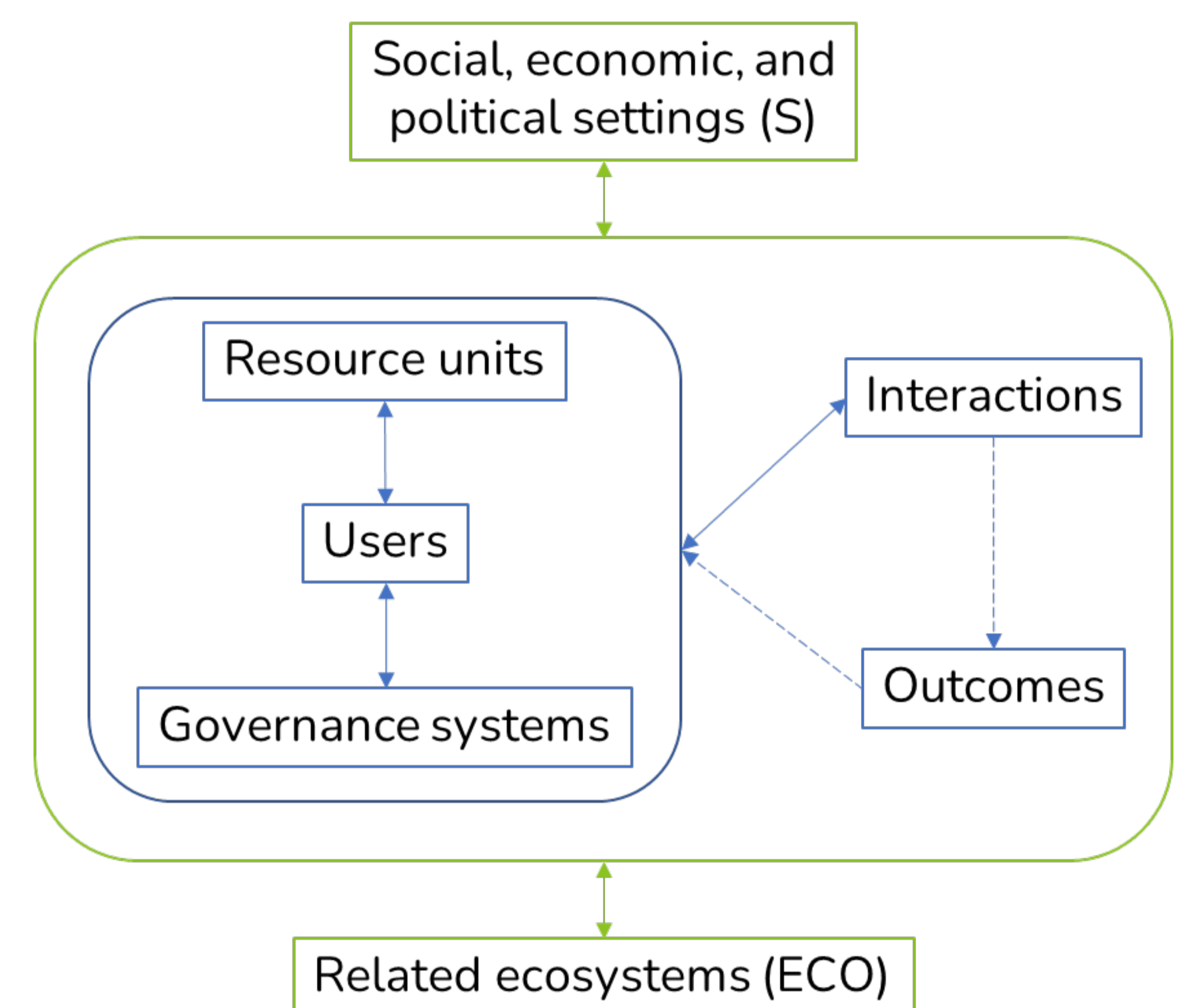


Figure 2 The Adapted Socio-Ecological Systems (SES) framework to analyse collective actions

Chosen case studies

- Two case studies that were analysed by using the adapted SES framework happened in the United States of America across different time periods and at varying rates.
- Both cases are well-studied with an abundance of available literature, they both relate the changing of individual and in-group norms and legal regulations with large scale behavioural changes

Conclusions

