

Towards Low Carbon Society: Role of Civil Society

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- Civil society interests, climate synergy, barriers
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Backdrop: Stakeholders

- One of the goals of LCS is to “take actions that are compatible with the principles of sustainable development, ensuring that the development needs of all groups within society are met.” (*Skea and Nishioka, 2008*)
- “All climate policies are built on assumptions about distributive justice whose procedural aspect demands representation of all stakeholders who have stake in the outcomes of climate policy.” (*Klinsky and Dowlatabadi, 2009*)

Climate policy needs to be participative of all stakeholders and integrated with concerns of sustainable development and equity

Backdrop: Country Specific Strategies

- Country-level LCS roadmaps include new technology innovations, sustainable development, and structural changes in various aspects of economy; These roadmaps and policy targets depend on specific future vision of a particular society (*Fujino et al, 2008; Strachen et al, 2008; Barker et al, 2008*)

**Radical changes needed in technology, infrastructure and societal structures → non-market agents (civil societies) to play imp. role;
Future societal vision, policy targets & roadmaps need to be specific to a country's situation → address domestic stakeholders' concerns**

Backdrop: Sustainability & Transitions

People as 'change agents'

Major Stakeholders

- Policy agencies – domestic and international
- Civil societies – domestic and international
- Businesses

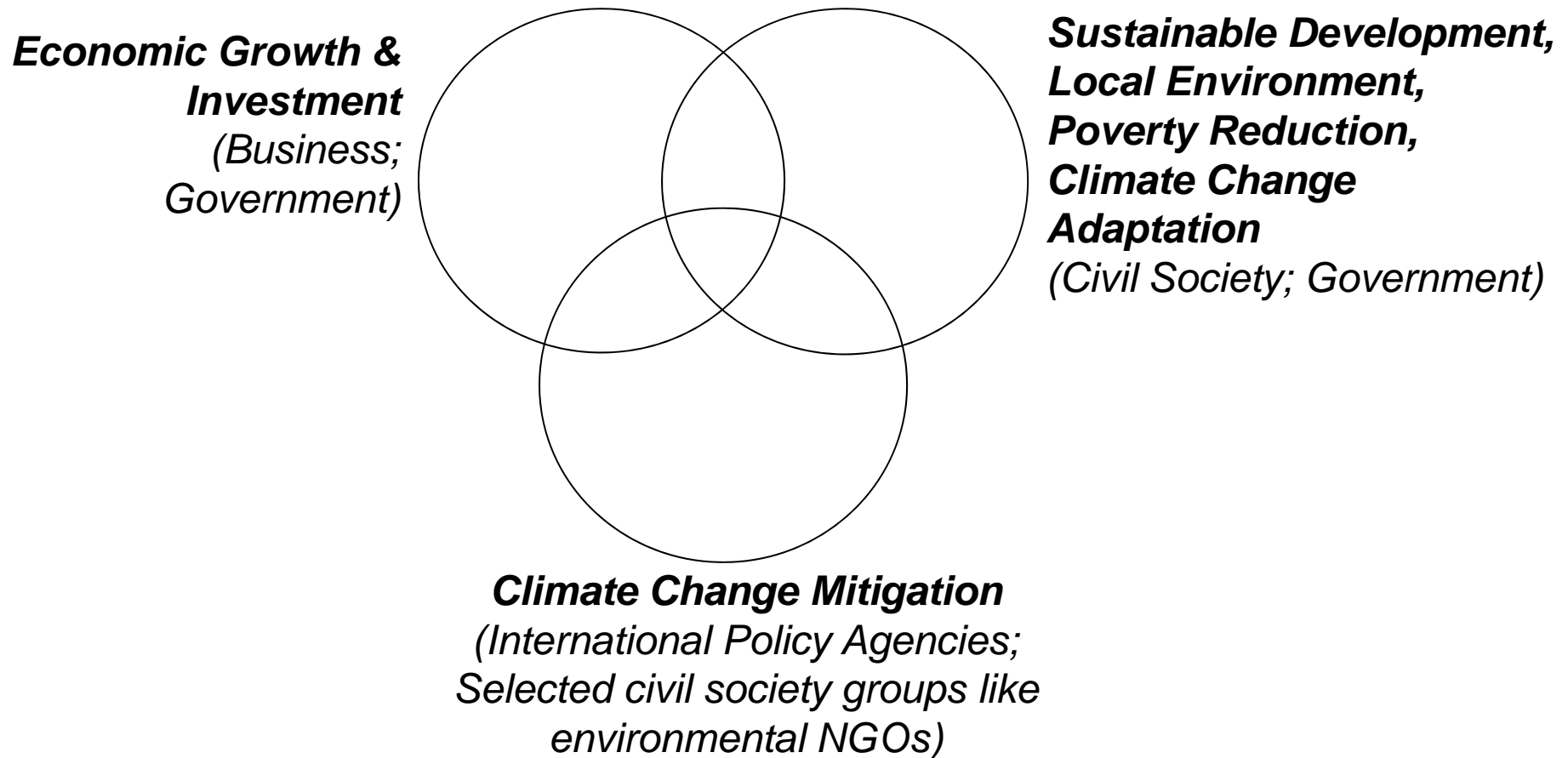
Each is a diverse set of stakeholders

What is Civil Society?

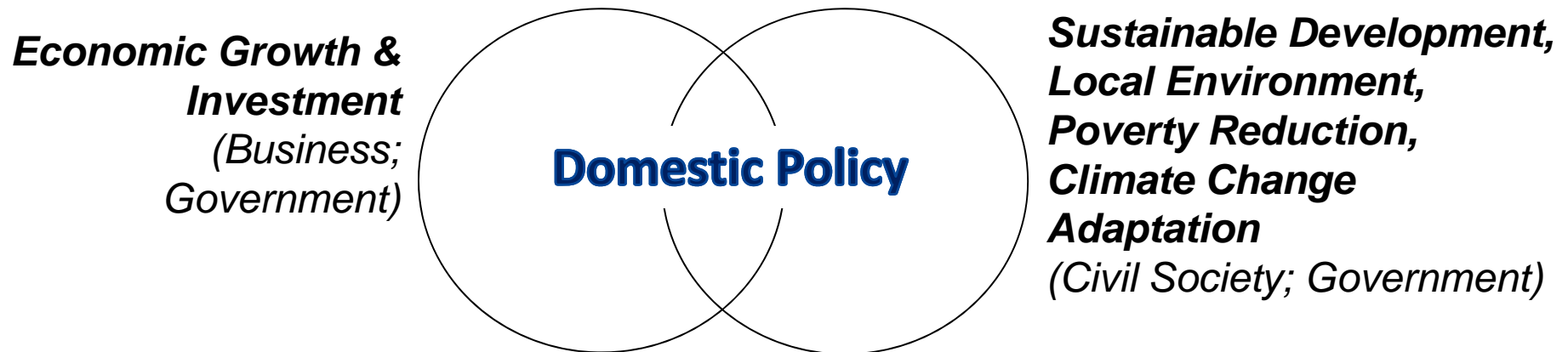
- Civil society refers to the arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organizations such as registered charities, development non-governmental organizations, community groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trade unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions and advocacy groups. (*Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics, 2006*)

Civil societies represent the interests of diverse stakeholders in a society, especially those whose interests may not be fully served by the market or the state

Sets of Issues and Stakeholders



Sets of Issues and Stakeholders: Domestic Policy Examples from India



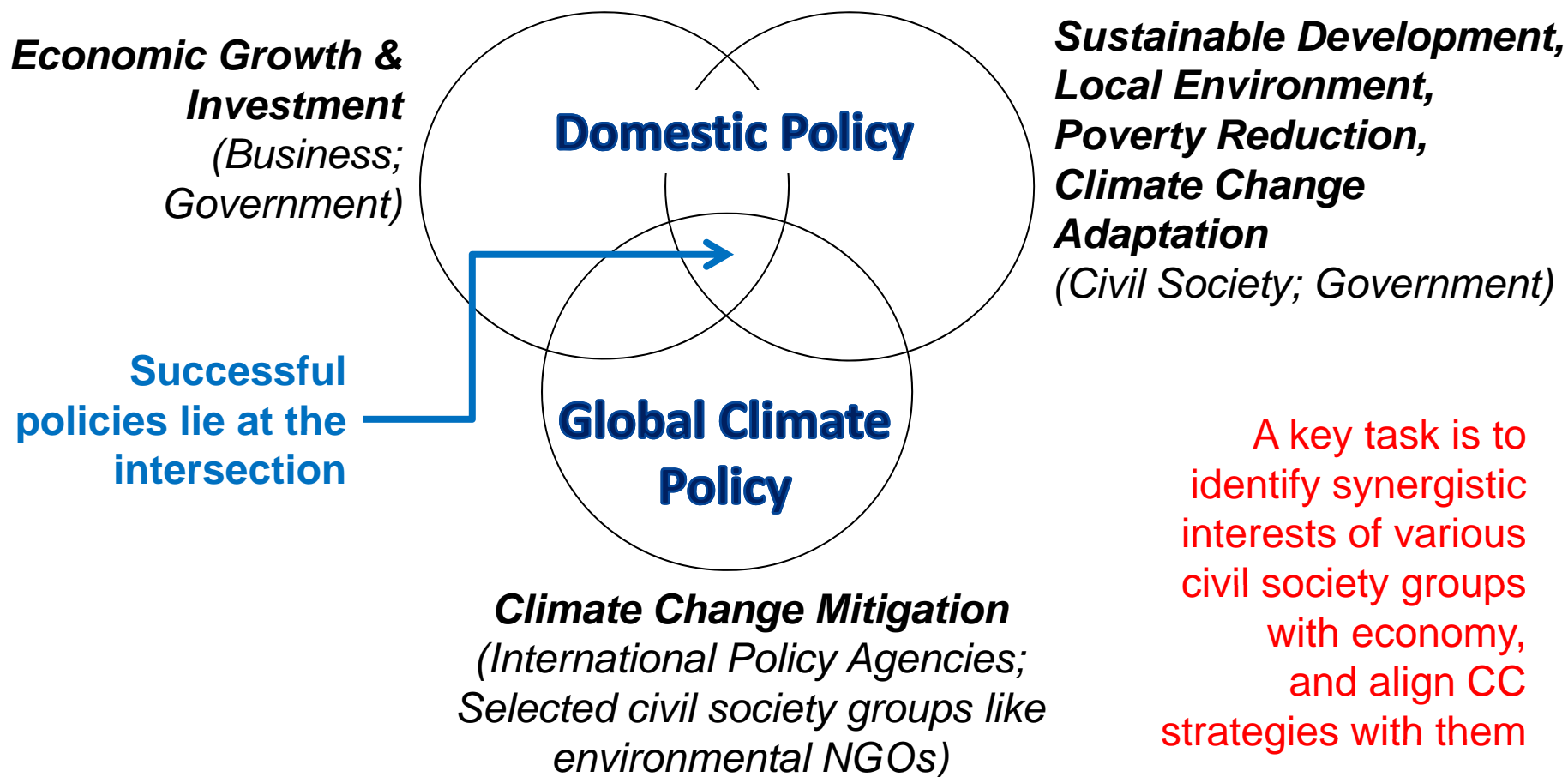
Civil societies are already raising voice against such conflicts

- **Environment & SD:** e.g. Urban transport, Industrial pollution, Deforestation
- **Livelihoods:** e.g. Farmer suicides, Big projects/SEZs, Mining in forests, Urban slums

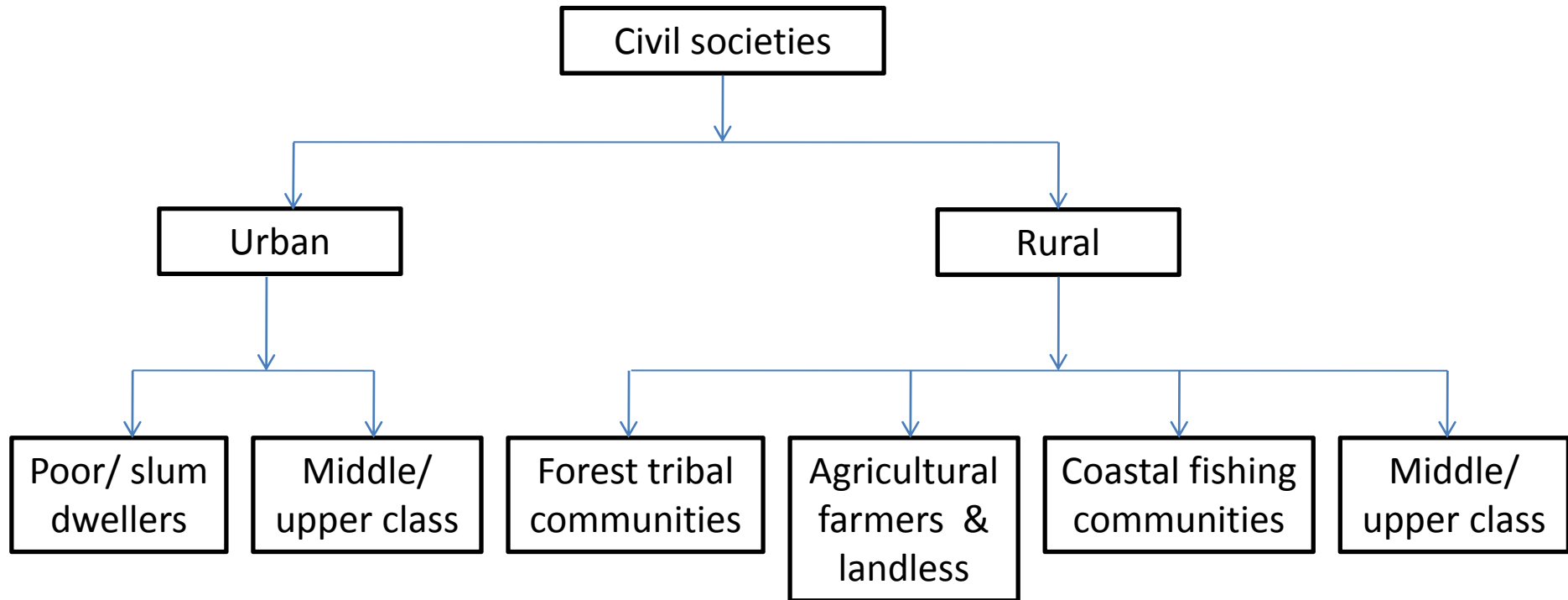
... and demanding policy countermeasures (at the intersection)

- **Environment & SD:** e.g. CNG vehicles, Industrial pollution control, Stricter environmental approval mechanisms, Renewable energy campaigns, CSR
- **Livelihoods:** e.g. Rural employment guarantee, Right to information, Public hearings, Stricter rehabilitation mechanisms, Agro-cooperatives, Micro-credit, CSR

Sets of Issues and Stakeholders: Challenge for Climate Policy



Major Civil Society Interests: An example



Civil Society Interests: Rural (1)

Stakeholder group	Concerns	Potential synergy with climate actions	Barriers
Rural poor in forests and hills – tribal communities	Access to economic opportunities; Threat of displacement from commercial (mining and other) projects that require forests, land and water	Local renewable energy (biomass, wind); Participation in forest conservation and sustainable forest and mining based industries	Scarce financial and other resources; Weak institutional and market support; Poor bargaining control over forest land, water and mineral resources
Rural poor in agricultural areas – landless and small farmers	Access to cost effective farming systems and other economic opportunities; Threat of displacement from commercial projects that require land and water	Local renewable energy; Participation in sustainable agriculture and agro based industries	Scarce financial and other resources; Weak institutional and market support; Poor bargaining control over farming land and water resources

Civil Society Interests: Rural (2)

Stakeholder group	Concerns	Potential synergy with climate actions	Barriers
Rural poor in coastal areas – fishing communities	<p>Access to cost effective fishing and related economic opportunities;</p> <p>Threat of displacement from commercial projects that require coastal lands/water;</p> <p>Threat of displacement from climate change impacts</p>	<p>Local renewable energy;</p> <p>Participation in sustainable fishing and related industries</p>	<p>Scarce financial and other resources;</p> <p>Weak institutional and market support;</p> <p>Poor bargaining control over coastal land and water resources</p>
Rural middle and upper classes	<p>Economic growth;</p> <p>Rural infrastructure (transport, energy and water) capacity and efficiency;</p> <p>Infrastructure (water and energy) support for agriculture and agro-industries</p>	<p>Public transport systems;</p> <p>Decentralized renewable energy;</p> <p>Water harvesting and recycling;</p> <p>Sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>Low awareness of benefits of low carbon and sustainable systems</p>

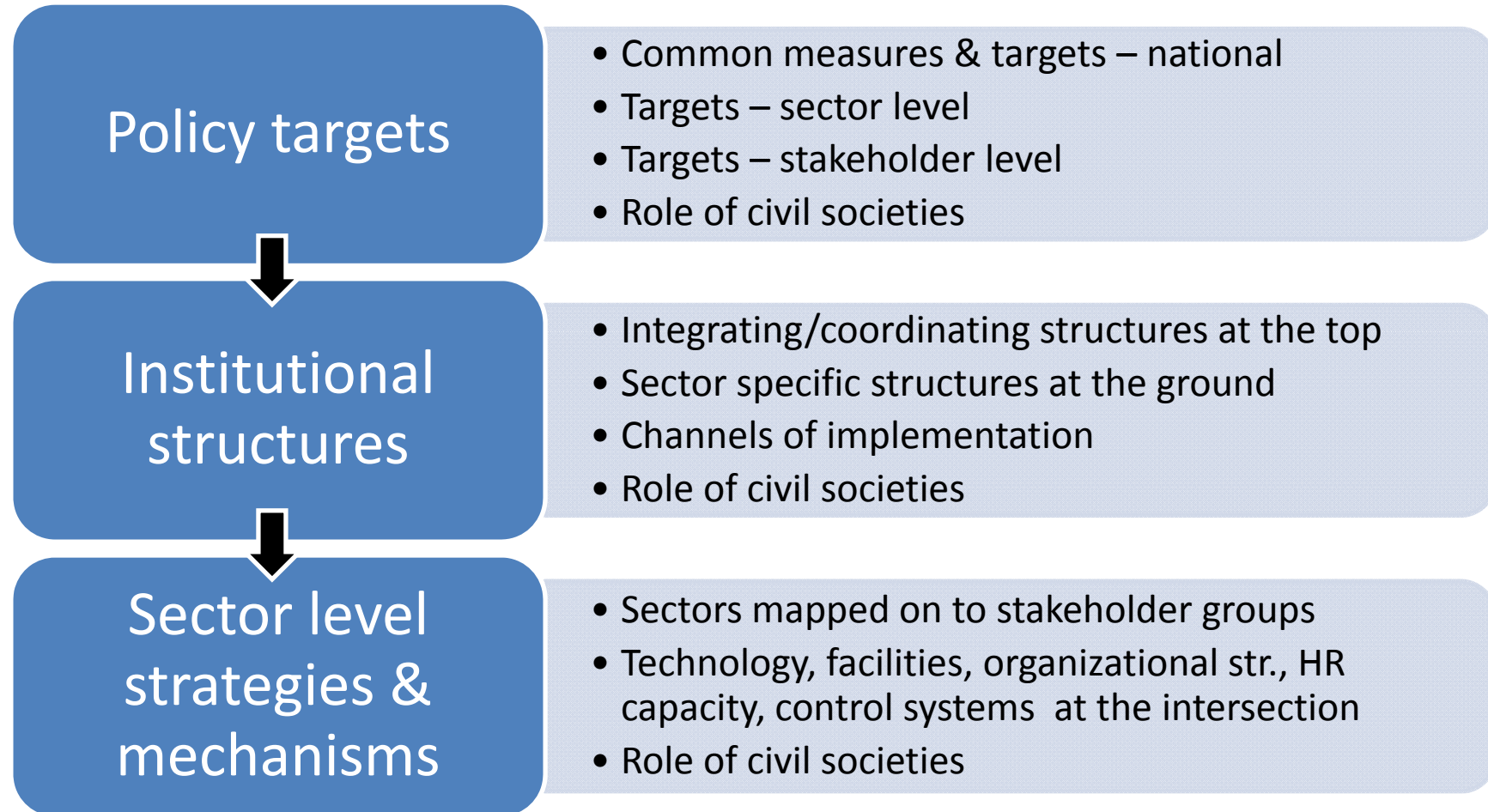
Civil Society Interests: Urban

Stakeholder group	Concerns	Potential synergy with climate actions	Barriers
Urban poor and slum dwellers (vendors, hawkers, small shop/ factory workers, etc.)	Access to housing, clean water, energy, sanitation; Access to economic opportunities; Threat of displacement from commercial projects that require urban land	Small scale renewable energy; Water/ waste recycling; Participation in low carbon urban infrastructure supply and maintenance	Scarce financial and other resources; Weak institutional and market support; Poor say in urban planning process
Urban middle and upper classes	Economic growth; Urban infrastructure (transport, energy and water) capacity and efficiency; Urban environmental pollution	Public transport; Low carbon transport technologies; Low carbon energy; Recycling and waste handling	Low awareness of benefits of low carbon and sustainable systems

Civil Society Interests: Business Assoc.

Stakeholder group	Concerns	Potential synergy with climate actions	Barriers
Formal SME business associations	Investments for growth and efficient technology and management systems	Low carbon technology and management systems	Scarce financial and other resources; High cost of low carbon options; Poor access to knowledge of low carbon innovations; Inadequate government support for innovation
Small businesses in informal economy	Access to efficient technology and management systems; Access to infrastructure inputs	Low carbon technology and management systems	Scarce financial and other resources; Weak government and market support

LCS Strategies at the intersection



Policy target setting process

Scope	Targets for	Participants	Who among civil societies
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth •Poverty red. •SD/Env. •LCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National govt. •Civil societies •Businesses 	National & international NGOs, social movements
Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Output •Energy efficiency •Employment •SD Indices •Pollution red. •Carbon/GHG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sectoral ministry •Civil societies •Sectoral businesses 	Sectoral NGOs, Sectoral SME associations
Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Access to infrastructures •Employment •Employment linked to local resources, SD •GHG footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local admin. bodies •Civil societies •Businesses with local interest 	Community leadership, Community economic groups, Local NGOs,

Institutional structures

Level of policy	Level & type of structures	Examples	Role of civil societies
National	National, Cross-sector, Cross-stakeholder	Cross-sector, cross-stakeholder policy making bodies; Conflict resolution mechanisms	Participants
Sector	Sector, Cross-stakeholder	Cross-stakeholder policy making bodies; Conflict resolution mechanisms	Participants
Sub-regional, Local	Cross-stakeholder, Implementation & Control	P-P-Ps; Local stakeholder participation in project design, assessment, implementation, rehabilitation;	Participants, Watchdogs
		Public hearings & courts	

Sector level strategies

Domain	Sector →	Energy	Transport	Urban	Rural - Agri	Rural - Forest	Rural - Coasts	Etc.	Role of civil societies
Technology		Econ. assessment Env. assessment CC assessment
Facilities		Econ. assessment Env. assessment CC assessment
Organization		Organizing for local participation, e.g. cooperatives
HR capacity		Awareness, Training
Management systems		Progress monitoring

Sector level strategies: examples (1)

Domain	Sector or →	<i>Energy</i>	Role of civil societies
Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Small scale, modular, renewable energy technologies fit with local resource base (solar PV, solar thermal, wind, biomass, etc.) 	Econ. assessment Env. assessment CC assessment
Facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •R&D, component manufacture (centralized) •Module & system assembly (decentralized) •Distribution of components, modules (logistics) •Sales, installation, maintenance (local) •Integrated mgmt of local nat resources (local) 	Econ. assessment Env. assessment CC assessment
Organization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Centralized (R&D, comp mfg.) •Decentralized (assembly, distribution, installation, maintenance, nat resource mgmt) 	Organizing local participation, e.g. cooperatives
HR capacity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Skills for assembly, installation, maintenance •Skills for env. and CC impact assessment 	Awareness, Training
Control systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Economic performance •Env., CC., SD performance 	Progress monitoring

Sector level strategies: examples (2)

Domain	Sector →	<i>Forests & Mining</i>	Role of civil societies
Technology & Facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Forest management (small scale) •Agro processing & distribution (small-medium scale) •Mining (small-medium scale) 	Econ. assessment Env. assessment CC assessment
Organization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tribal community stake ownership of forest lands •Channels for resolving conflicts between forest preservation and mining interests •Channels for negotiations between tribal communities and businesses 	Organizing for local participation, e.g. cooperatives
HR capacity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Skills for sustainable forest mgmt., small-medium scale mining •Skills for env. and CC impact assessment 	Awareness, Training
Control systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Economic performance •Env., CC., SD performance 	Progress monitoring

Conclusion: Roles of civil societies

- As participants in institutions and processes for
 - Target setting
 - Designing, assessing, approving strategies and projects
 - Implementing
- As watchdogs
 - Monitoring
- As agents of change
 - Stakeholders in the CC research process