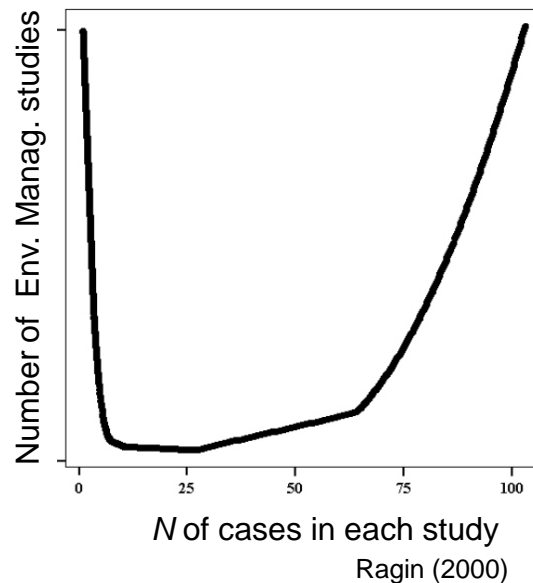


**Cooperation challenges in large,  
online-based collaborative projects:**

**Notes from The *Social-Ecological  
Systems Meta-Analysis Database*  
(SES MAD) project**

# Background of SESMAD



## Motivation

- Does small-scale CPR theory scale up for large-scale environmental governance?
- “Too many” case studies in our field (comparability?)

## Goal and means:

- Qualitative meta-analysis (“Bloomington school”) of large scale governance cases
- Create relational database with approximately 200 variables based on Social-Ecological Systems Framework (Ostrom 2007, 2009)
- Online data collection and sharing tool coordinated by Michael Cox, at Dartmouth University

**SES Framework (Ostrom 2009)**

Social, economic, and political settings (S)



Resource system (RS)

Governance system (GS)

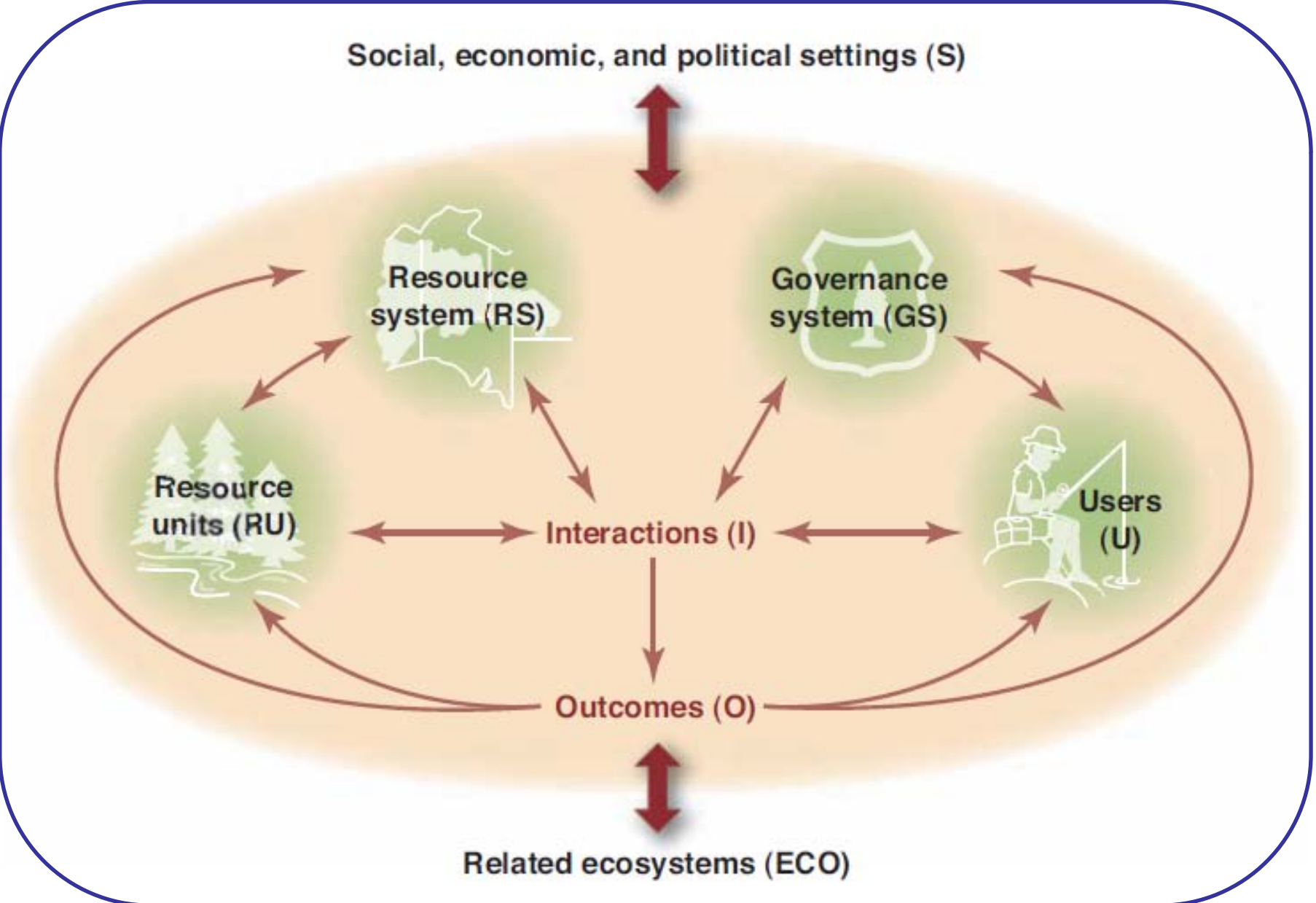
Resource units (RU)

Interactions (I)

Users (U)

Outcomes (O)

Related ecosystems (ECO)



# Members

<b>Michael Cox</b>	Dartmouth College, USA
<b>Mike Schoon</b>	Arizona State University, USA
<b>Natalie Ban</b>	University of Victoria, Canada
<b>Chanda Meek</b>	University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
<b>Forrest Fleischman</b>	Dartmouth College, USA
<b>Gustavo Garcia-Lopez</b>	Puerto Rico Government
<b>Brent Loken</b>	Simon Fraser University, Canada
<b>Frank van Laerhoven</b>	Utrecht University, Netherlands
<b>Graham Epstein</b>	Indiana University, USA
<b>Irene Perez Ibarra</b>	Arizona State University, USA
<b>Louisa Evans</b>	James Cook University, Australia
<b>Mateja Nenadovic</b>	Duke University, USA
<b>Andreas Thiel</b>	Humboldt University, Germany
<b>Sergio Villamayor</b>	Humboldt University, Germany



# Challenges

- Scientists may not be highly incentivized to engage in broadly comparative research projects
  - How to allocate **credit**? How to avoid free riders?
  - How to come to a common understanding of a consistent data collection/**coding** protocol?
- So far, in SESMAD challenges overcome thanks to:
  - **leadership**
  - building-up from smaller, **preexisting networks** (trust)
  - **small groups** based on intrinsic interest on different environmental sectors
- Open source hosting: How to cope with **expanded boundaries of cooperation**?



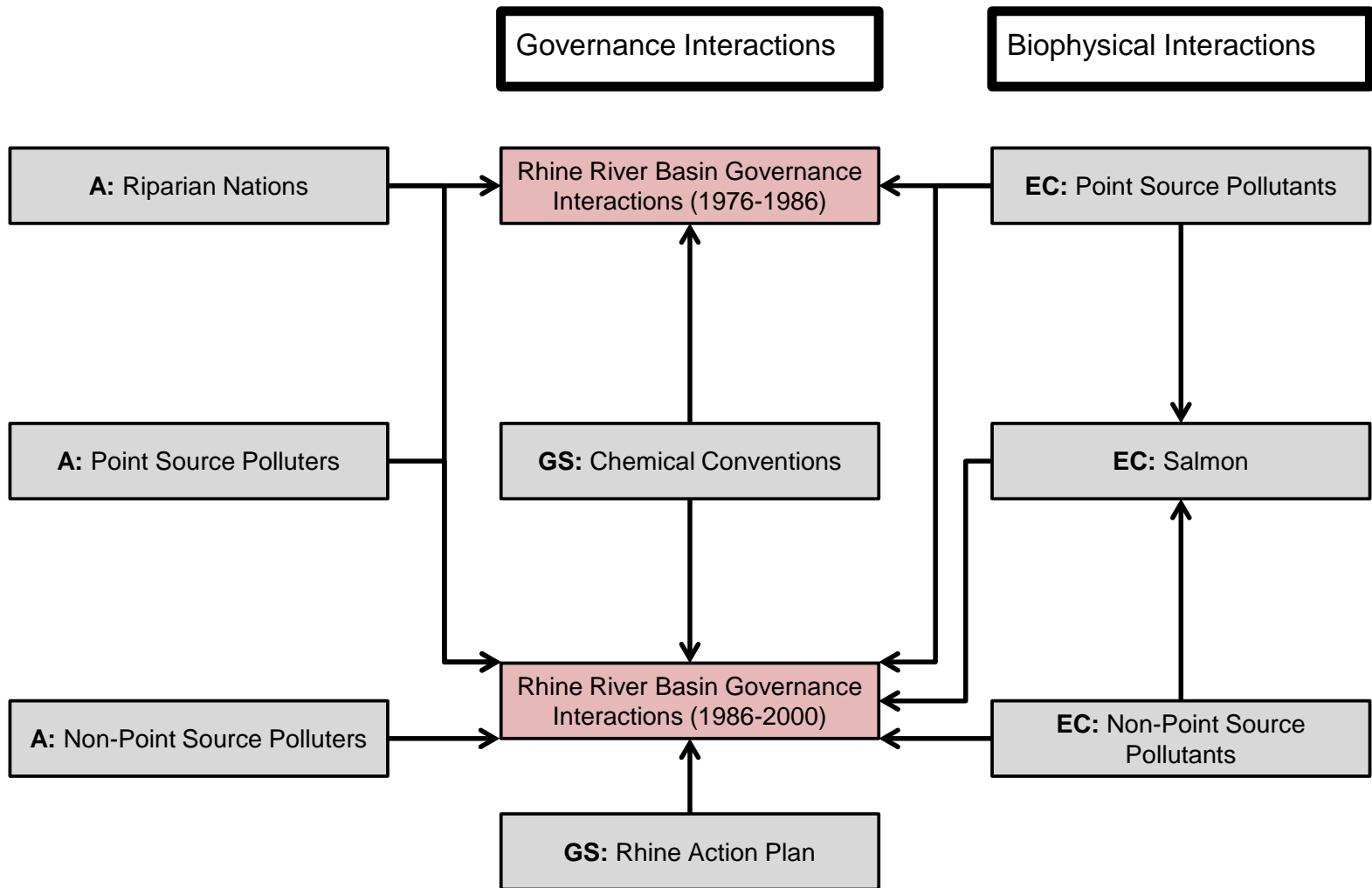


## Interested?

Contact: Michael Cox: [Michael.e.cox@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Michael.e.cox@dartmouth.edu)

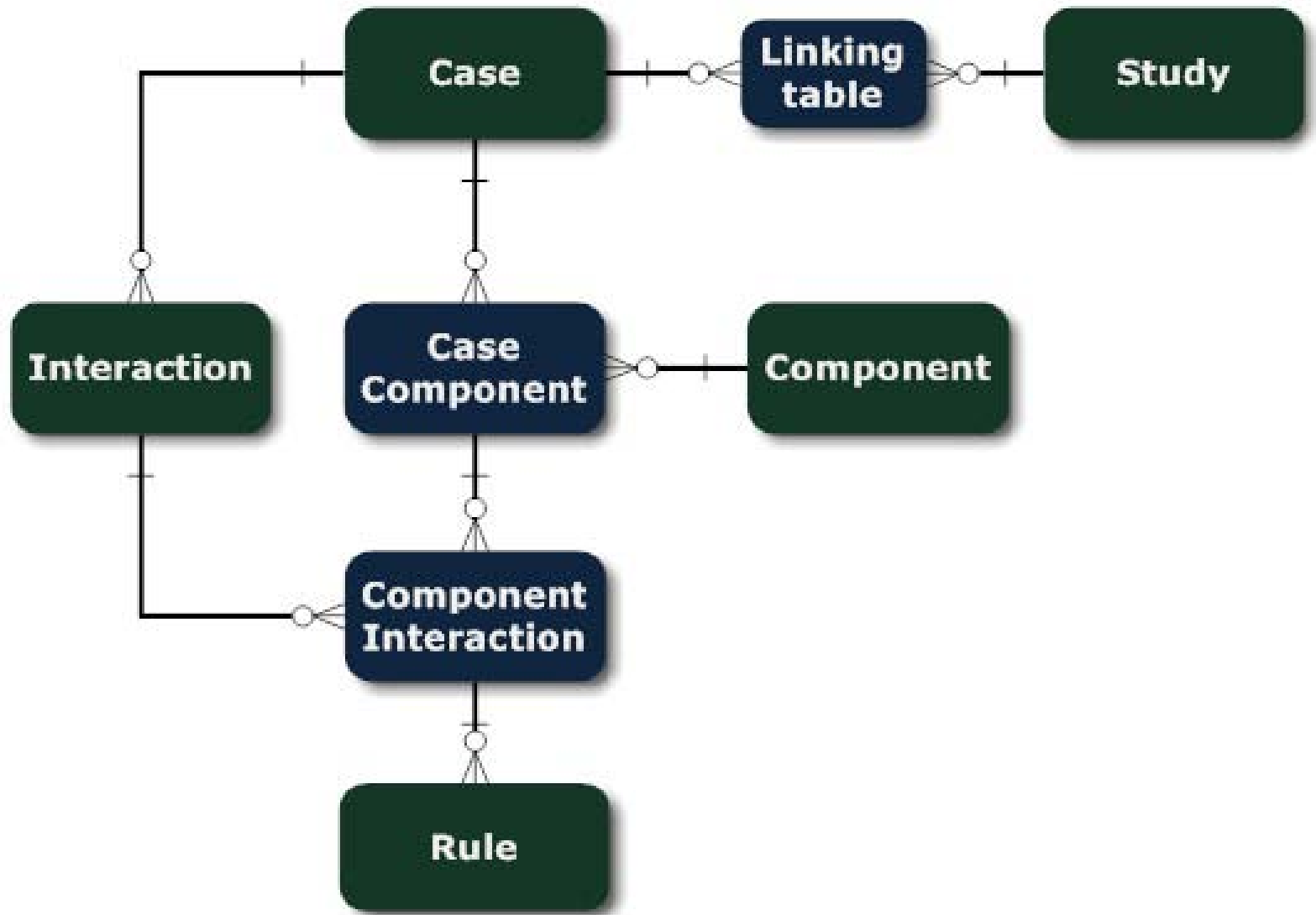
For questions related to this presentation, Sergio Villamayor-Tomas:  
[villamas@agrar.hu-berlin.de](mailto:villamas@agrar.hu-berlin.de)





*Figure 2. Structure of the Rhine SES during the two snapshots coded. The figure highlights the interaction between components.*







# Challenges

**Next steps:** scaling-up to open, online database for data entry and analysis. How to cope with expanded boundaries of cooperation?

- Different types of **membership** associated to different benefits and responsibilities
- Training/integration **workshops**
- **Operational rules** about when and how to enter data and have access to data entered by others.
- ...?

## Interested?

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[villamas@agrar.hu-berlin.de](mailto:villamas@agrar.hu-berlin.de)