



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

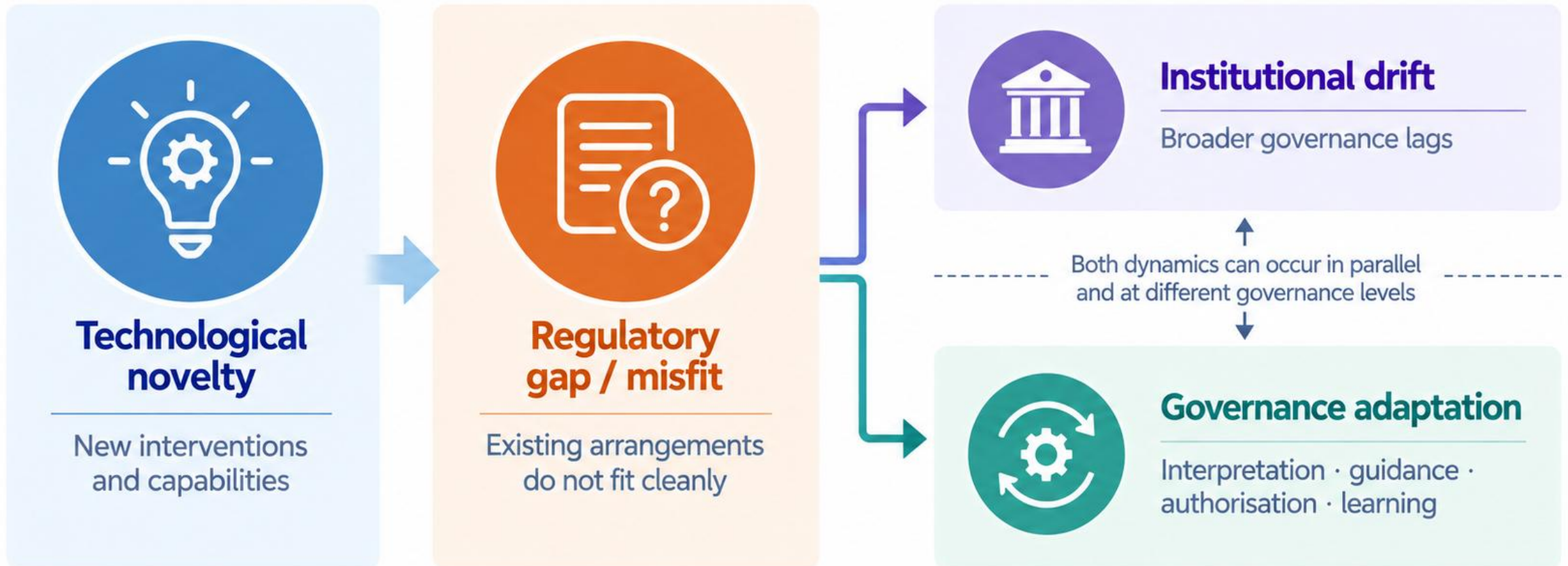
Governance Before Agreement in Novel Sustainability Technologies

Pedro Fidelman

UQ Centre for Policy Futures

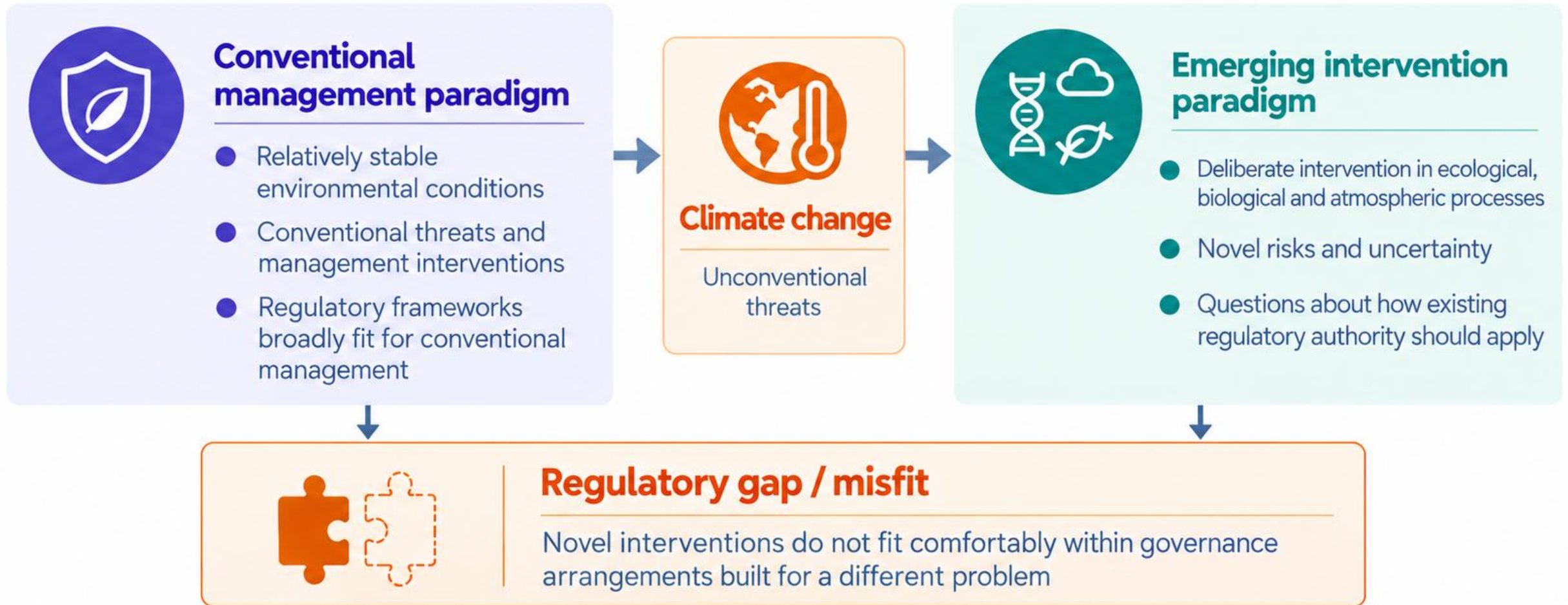
Bath Conference on ESG | 8 September 2026

Regulatory gap, institutional drift — and what happens in between?



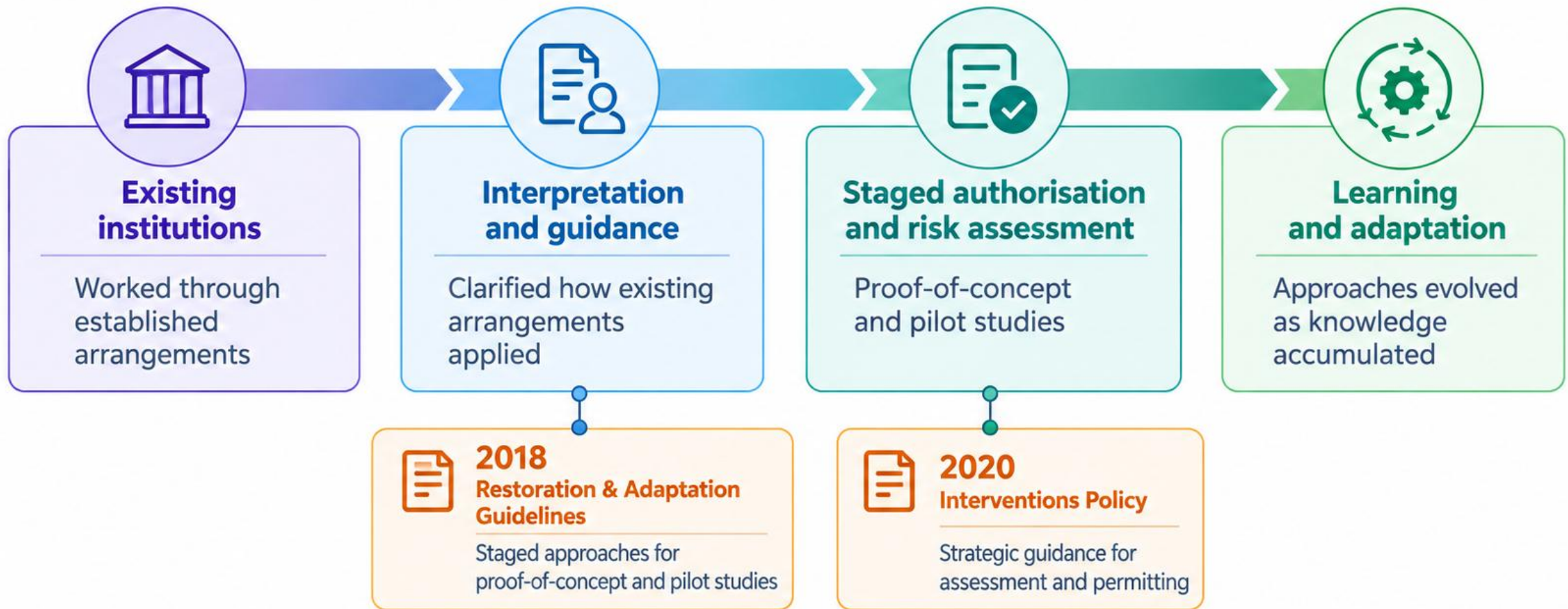
How is the gap governed while broader convergence remains incomplete?

Reef restoration, adaptation and regulatory misfit



The problem was regulatory fit, not the absence of governance

How governance happened in practice

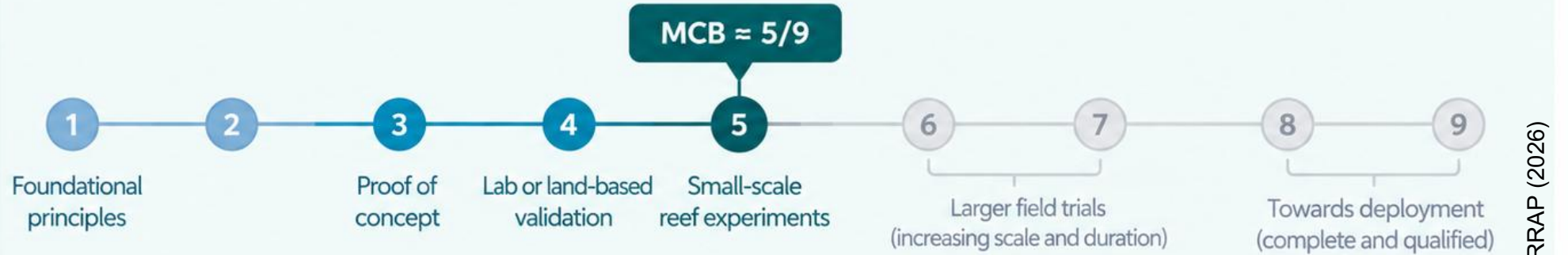


Operational governance was built through existing domestic and sub-national arrangements

Marine cloud brightening: technological & regulatory readiness



TECHNOLOGICAL READINESS (1–9)



REGULATORY READINESS (1–6)



Regulatory readiness developed alongside an emerging technological capability

Why broader governance may still matter



Assisted evolution and other reef interventions

Shared approaches to risk assessment,
monitoring and safeguards

- Common methods and assessment frameworks
- Comparable ecological risks and safeguards
- Opportunities for shared learning as interventions diffuse



Marine cloud brightening

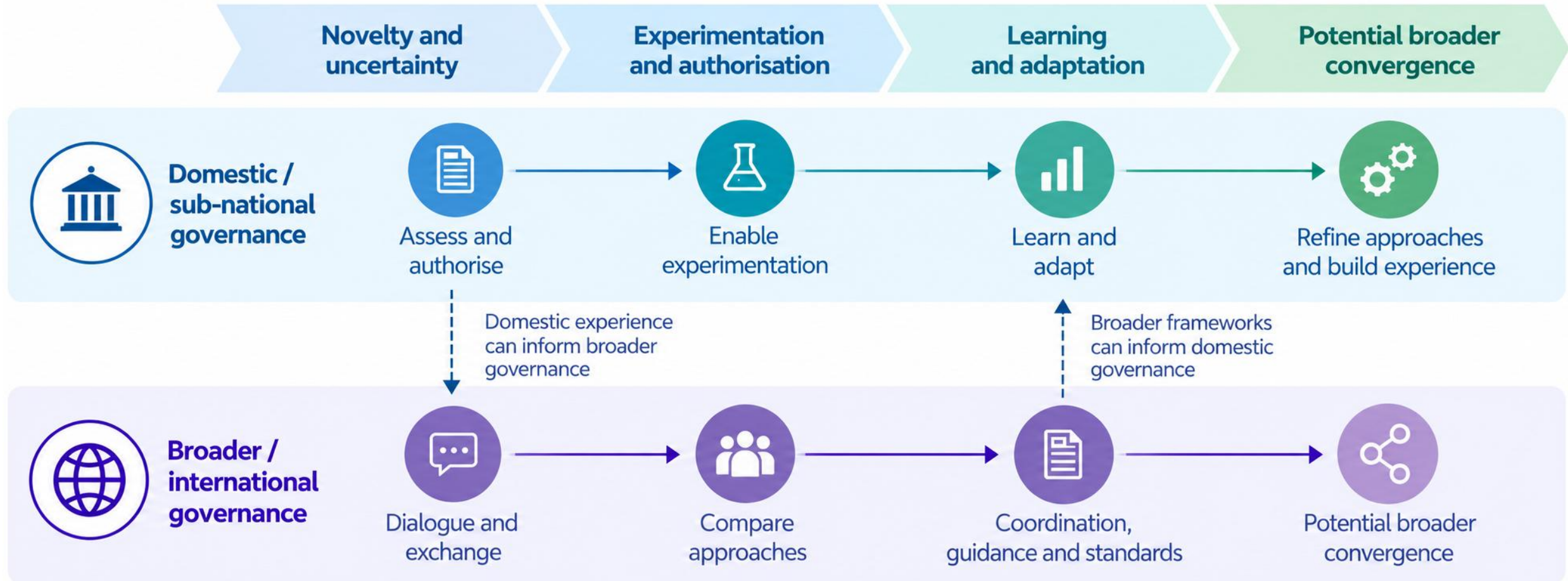
Different governance considerations

- Novelty and interaction with atmospheric processes
- Governance questions beyond conventional reef management
- Broader coordination may become relevant with scale or diffusion



The value of broader convergence differs across technologies

Implications for Earth System Governance





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Thank you

Pedro Fidelman
Centre for Policy Futures

E: p.fidelman@uq.edu.au
W: <http://psiresearch.group>