Governing AI’s environmental impact: Navigating complexity and shaping the future

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Complexity (I)

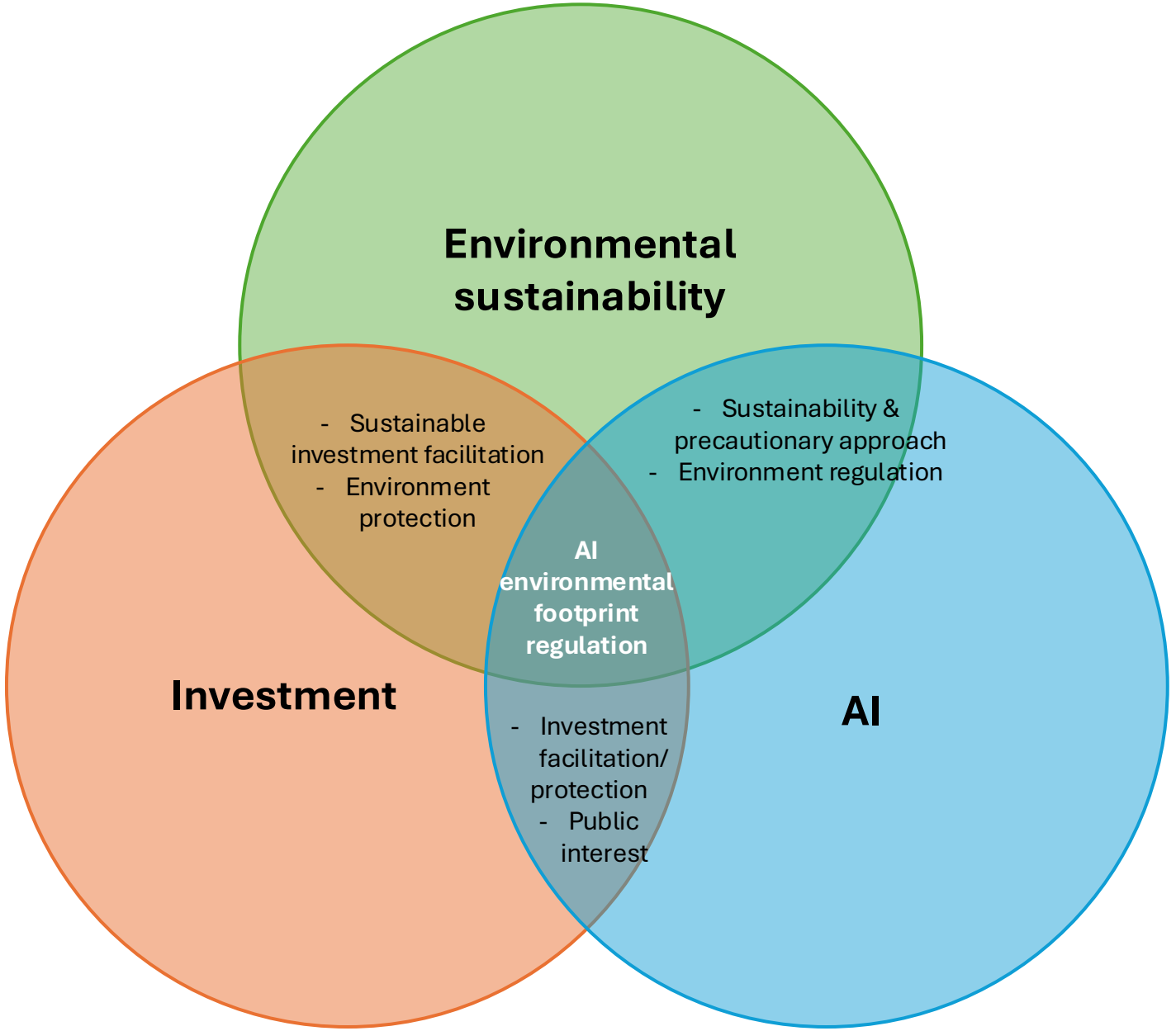
- Urgent need for regulation
  - AI ecosystem/supply chain/lifecycle
  - Under-regulation and developments
    - International
    - Regional
    - National (eg EIA, life cycle assessment)
      - Examples: Coverage of EIA, enforcement…
- Tech
  - Outpaces regulatory design

Complexity (II): Governance mismatches

- Horizontal: regimes (eg environment, investment, digitalisation)

- Vertical: governance levels (local, national, regional, and international) – examples
  - Local/national actors bear environmental costs?

- Temporal: short-term v. long-term


Environmental sustainability
- Sustainable investment facilitation
- Environment protection
- Sustainability & precautionary approach
- Environment regulation
AI environmental footprint regulation
Investment
AI
- Investment facilitation/ protection
- Public interest

The future

- Learning from History: The example of international whaling

- Enduring challenges
  - (Geo)economics and energy supply
  - Knowledge gaps
  - Regulatory capacity…

Concluding remarks

- Trade-off: Sustainability measures are not a cost on competitiveness but a contribution to resource security and reliable AI.

- Align interest: sticks (eg regulation) + carrots (eg govt procurement, tax relief)
  - Mobilise like-minded actors (incl. end-users) through measures like labelling

- Creatively explore governance tools and compare notes

Thank you!

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