The GEO-Wetlands Initiative

GEO Water Workshops

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GWOS History

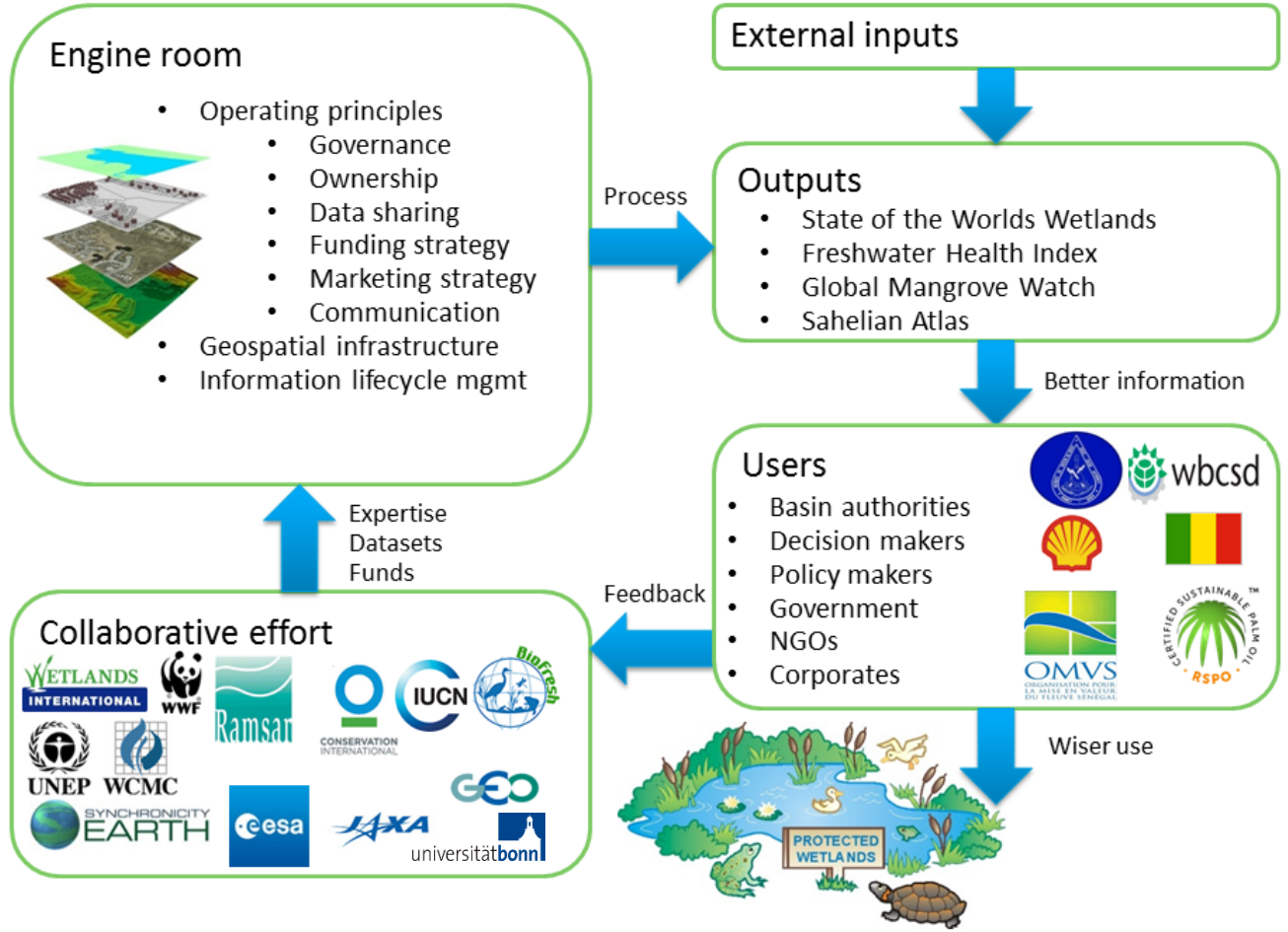
- Since 2007 the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands tries to develop a Global Wetlands Observing System (GWOS) to improve the global wetland assessment capabilities
- 2011 this task was taken up by GEO BON as one of their core components
- 2013 Wetlands International organized two GWOS workshops and conducted a user-requirements analysis

Original GWOS Concept

- Developed in two workshops, lead by Wetlands International
- Based on user requirements analysis and workshop outcomes
- Diverse partnership involved in the concept development

- Main Challenge:

  Mobilization of resources for implementation of the concept



Current status

- Different projects provide initial funding and support GWOS development
  - GlobWetland I+II (ESA) (already finished – preliminary work)
  - Global Mangrove Watch (JAXA – ongoing)
  - Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (H2020 – started 2015)
  - GlobWetland-Africa (ESA – started 2015)
  - DeMo-Wetlands (DLR – started 2016)
  - …

- April 2016: GEO-Wetlands proposed as GEO Initiative
  - To establish an institutional and structured framework and work programme for the GWOS development
  - To allow involvement of the whole wetlands and Earth Observation community

GEO Wetlands – A new global Initiative

- Cross-cutting GEO initiative
  - at the interface of GEO BON, GEO Ecosystems and GEO Water
- Proposed for the new GEO Work Programme 2017-2019
- Framework for cooperation and co-creation

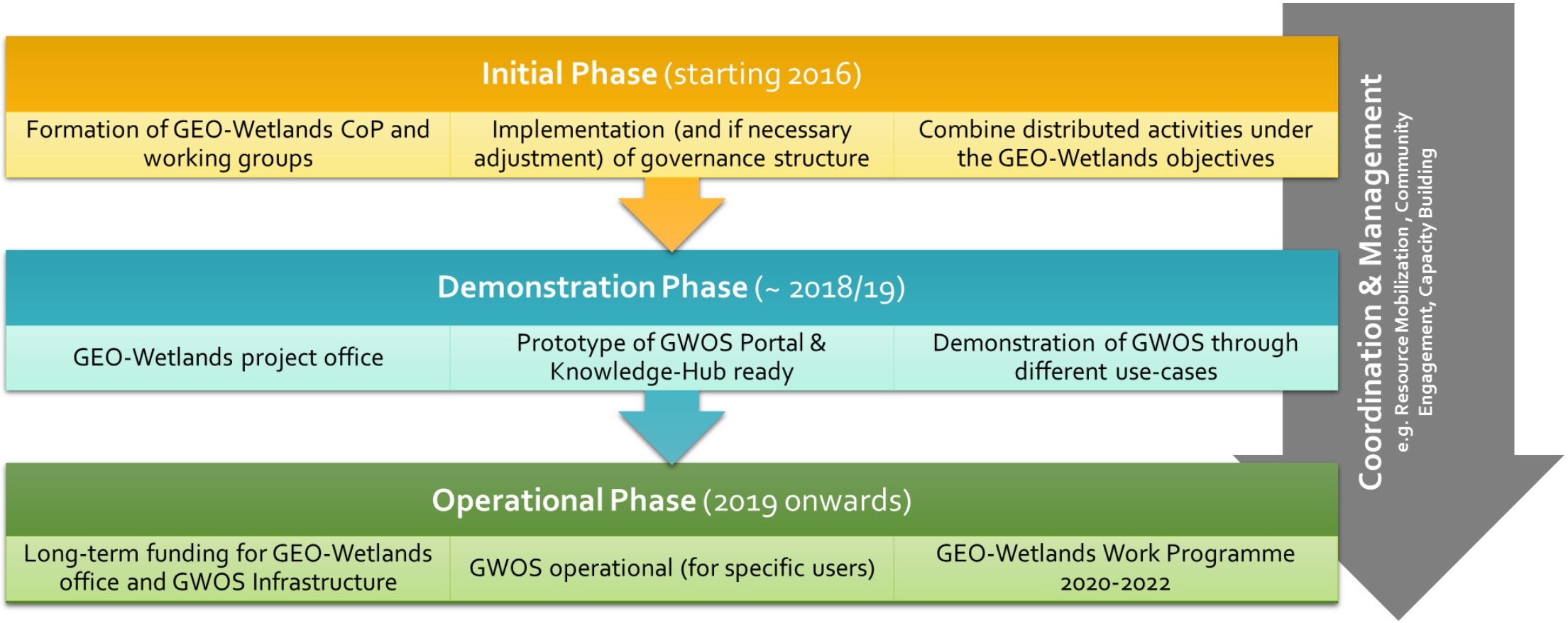
Core Partnership:

Objectives & Tasks

1. Establish governance structure and long-term funding
2. Develop and maintain the GWOS (portal, infrastructure)
3. Form and coordinate GEO-Wetlands Community of Practice
4. Advocate use of EO data in the wetlands community
5. Deliver information and knowledge based on user requirements and needs

Management & Coordination	Development of the GWOS	User Engagement and Communication	Development of a Wetland Knowledge-Hub	Capacity-Building and Training	Resource Mobilization
• Internal communication • Coordinate CoP • Reporting • M&E • Governance structure development	• GWOS Infrastructure • Tools, Products & Apps • Link to GEOSS	• User- and stakeholder network • CoP development • Communication & Dissemination Plan • Organize Events • Outreach	• Knowledge database linked to wetland sites • Best practices, manuals, guidelines • Link to similar efforts	• Capacity-building & training concept • Training materials • Training workshops and webinars	• Support project acquisition • Business model • GEO-Wetlands office • General resource mobilization

Implementation Phases



- Water Quality is a very important variable for the wetlands community
  - Several Wetland projects looking into WQ monitoring

- Great potential for cooperation and bringing both communities together
  - Avoid duplication
  - WQ working group in GEO-Wetlands?
  - Requirements of Wetlands community can feed into AquaWatch product development
  - Wetlands Community as User for AquaWatch products
  - Specific AquaWatch products could be made available through the GWOS Portal

Plans and next steps 2016

- Workshop at GEO BON Open Science Conference / All-hands meeting
  - 4-8 July 2016, Leipzig, Germany
- Formation of GEO-Wetlands Community of Practice and specific (thematic and regional) working groups
- Regular GEO-Wetlands telecons and/or meetings for progress reporting and work planning
  - Maybe specific meetings with other GEO activities to discuss cooperation
- Further development of GEO-Wetlands Work Programme and Governance structure
  - E.g. establishment of Steering Committee

Thank you!

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