

Water Co-Governance for sustainable ecosystems



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Introduction

Water systems are critical to human and ecological survival and are changing faster than ever (climate change, population growth and urban development).

Complex Interactions

Chemical

Physical

Biological

Ecological

Water Co-Governance for Sustainable ecosystems

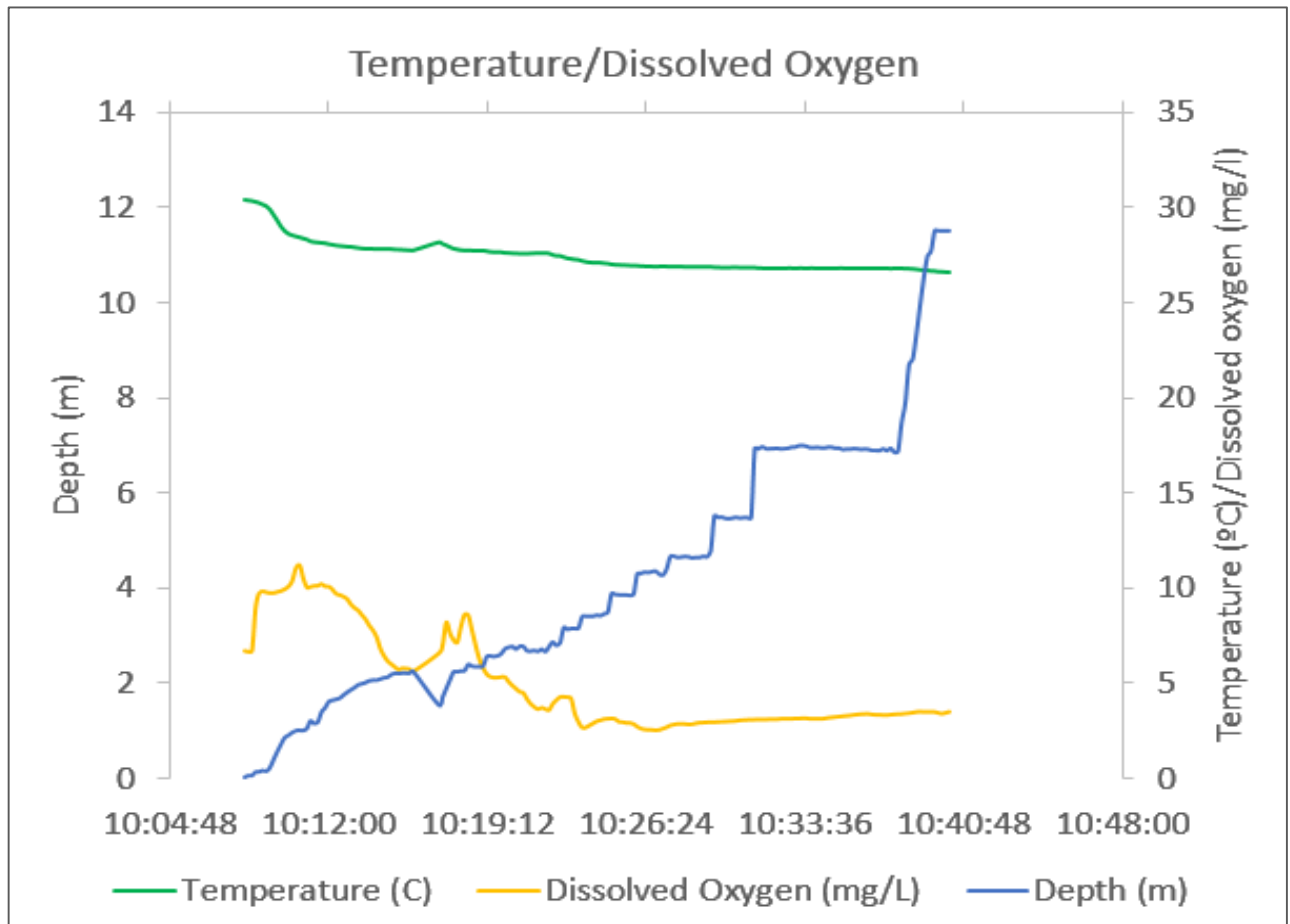


WaterCoG: EU Interreg Project

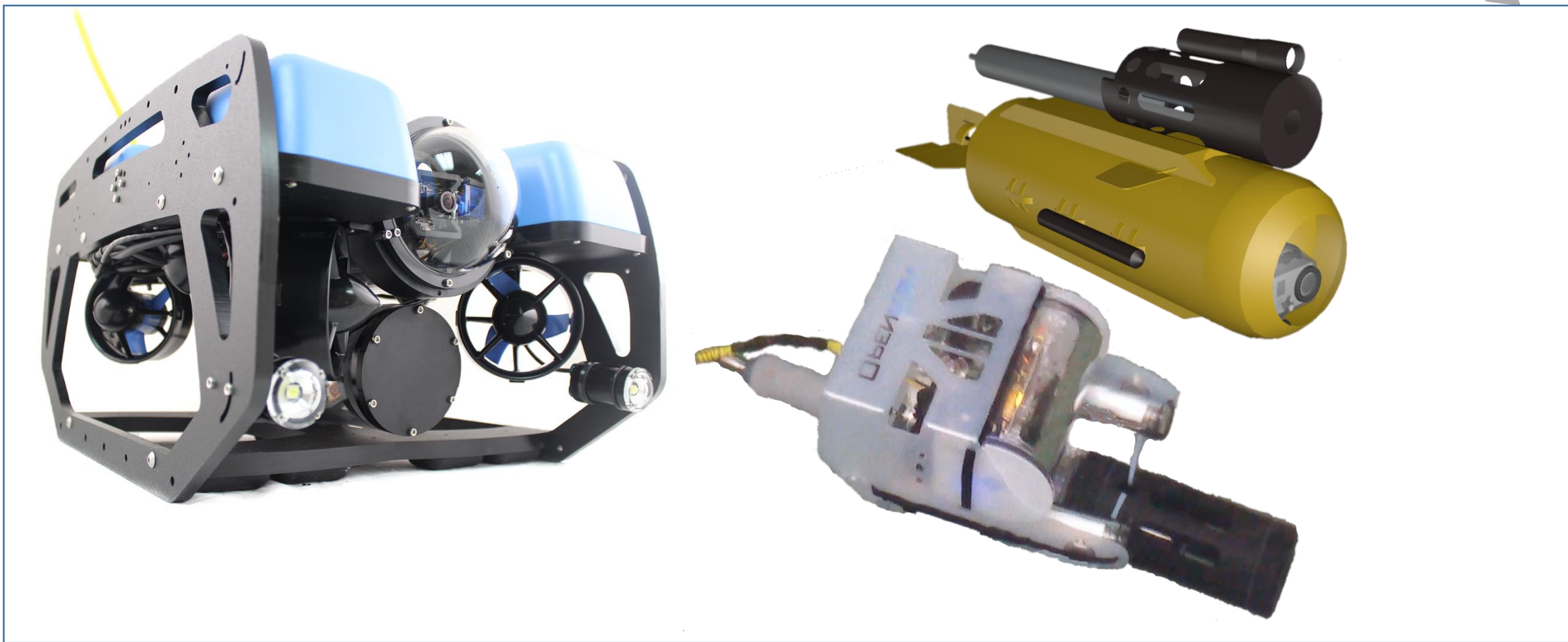
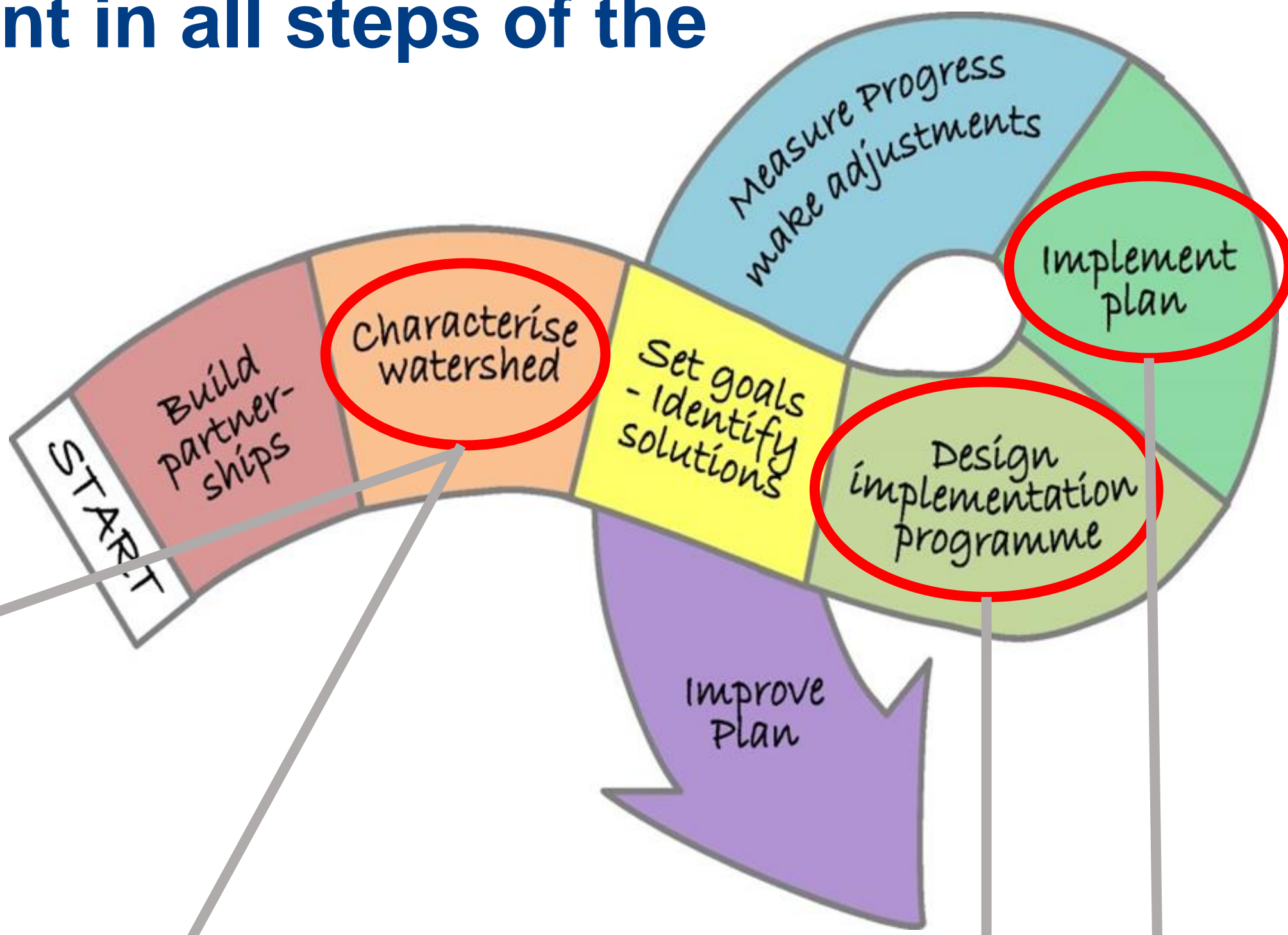
- Change in working practice and institutional arrangements towards “Co-governance”
- Improving the integration between top-down implementation of European directives and national legislation
- Bottom-up, participatory developed solutions for improving the quality and sustainable management strategies of North Sea Region (NSR) ecosystems.

Methodology

Top down and bottom up involvement in all steps of the water management cycle is crucial



- Technology enable high resolution monitoring of basic water quality parameters such as turbidity, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen or nutrients (ammonium/nitrate, phosphate).
- Water quality parameters can vary widely in space (x, y and depth) and time (day / night and seasonal).
- Drones, apps, and other user-friendly monitoring tools create awareness and stimulate participation of locals and all stakeholders involved



Mobile sensors. Bio-monitoring (sediments). Ecology scans using underwater cameras. Continuous/static measurements



Citizens science. Using apps for water quality measurements



Catchment officers finding size specific measures. Eg constructed wetlands, bufferstrips

Local based water plans

- WaterCoG will demonstrate local based water plans in different pilots
- Applying new participatory approaches in the planning, delivery and monitoring of activities
- Balancing the need for growth, sustainable intensification of farming and forestry, and renewable energy schemes with the need to deliver other environmental ecosystem services
- Improved integration and implementation of existing Directives aimed at delivering environmental ecosystem services
- Developing transferable approaches and support tools to enable the adoption and up scaling of best practice to build capacity within North Sea regions to improve the quality of ecosystems.

