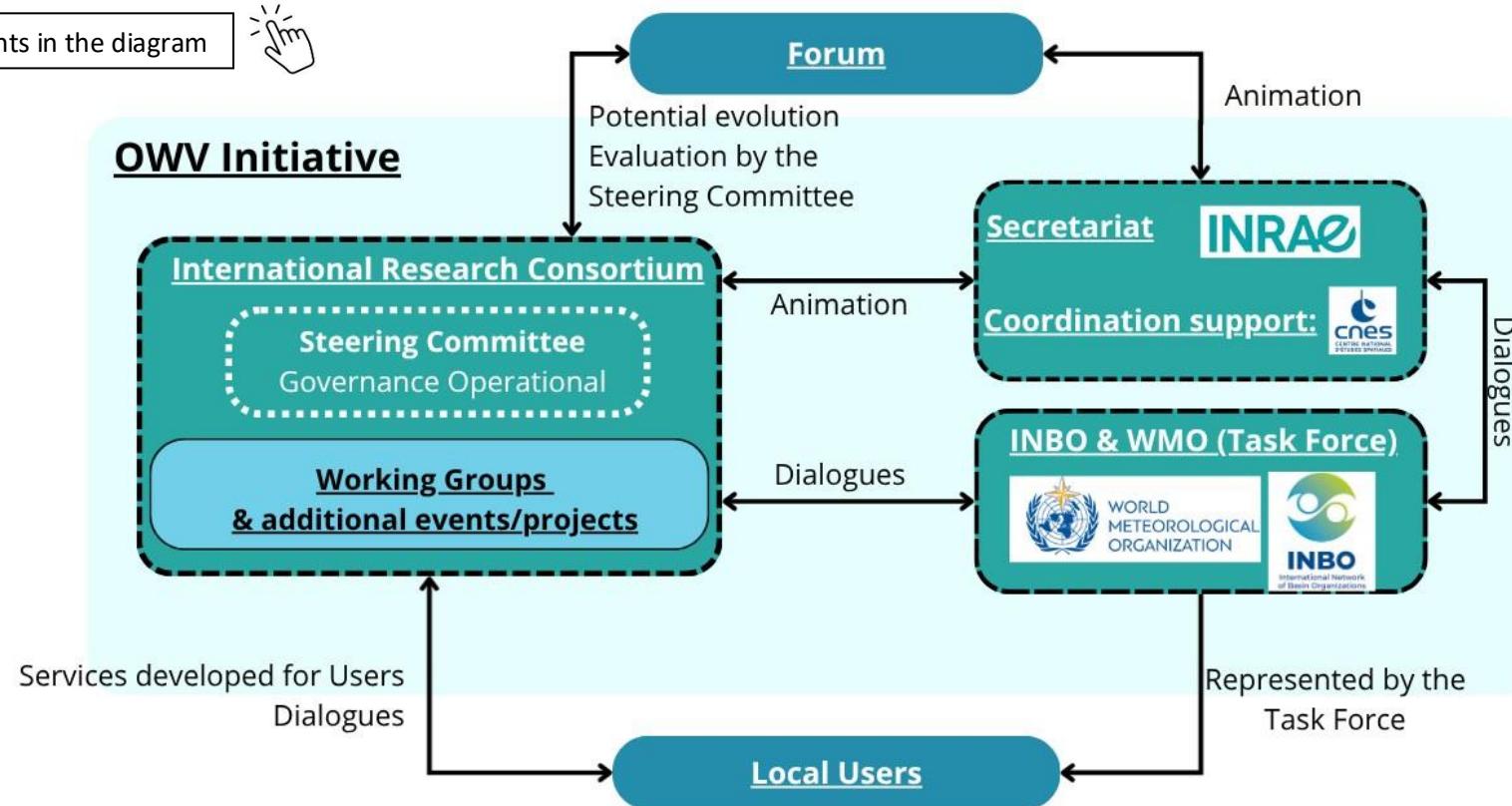


Coordination of the different structures and parts of the One Water Vision Initiative

Click on the components in the diagram



The **One Water Vision (OWV)** initiative aims to **federate innovative solutions** leveraging **satellite observations** to **address water and environmental challenges**. By connecting scientists, space agencies, basin authorities, and end-users, OWV seeks to **promote the development of operational services, practical use cases, and scalable tools that integrate satellite data** with in-situ measurements and modeling approaches. Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, OWV strives to catalyze actionable solutions that meet local, national, transboundary and international water challenges, fostering innovation and impact at multiple scales.

One Water Vision (OWV) is an international initiative launched in December 2024 during COP16 in Riyadh at the One Water Summit. The initiative was established under the coordination of six French organizations, **including INRAE as the Secretariat and CNES as the National Coordinator**. OWV also includes **an International Research Consortium (IRC)** and a **Task Force** to support and liaise with end users.

The initiative promotes the use of **satellite and digital technologies** to improve **water management** at all scales (local, national, transboundary) and over different time horizons, from short-term extreme events (floods, droughts) to long-term planning under climate change. Its approach is **multidisciplinary, inclusive, and internationally coordinated**, with a strong focus on capacity building, real-world use cases, calibration/validation sites, and synergies between missions and programs.

To implement these objectives, OWV aims to establish an **inclusive and integrated governance structure** with different partners. This document provides an overview of OWV's internal structure. *The Secretariat and the Consortium reserve the right to update this document as the initiative evolves.*

Please find more information on the [Vision and Mission of the OWV here](#).

The International Research Consortium of the Initiative

The IRC is composed of international scientific institutions, including space agencies, national research institutes, and universities. It forms the **scientific backbone of the initiative, driving collaboration, research, and operational use** of satellite-based water data

Role and responsibilities

The IRC provides **overall vision, strategic guidance, and decision-making**. It ensures the **institutional responsibility and external representation** of OWV, guaranteeing transparency, complementarity, and international credibility. It balances scientific, operational, and institutional perspectives.

Organizations sign a Letter of Intent detailing motivation, expected contributions, and understanding of their role.

Members have priority access to projects, working groups, and strategic discussions. Participation in at least one working group is expected, leveraging scientific, operational, or institutional expertise.

Steering Committee (operational governance)

A subset of the IRC forms the Steering Committee, responsible for **operational decisions** such as **project prioritization, calendar, resource allocation, and admission/exclusion of members**. The Steering Committee also **guides working groups** and ensures alignment with OWV's strategic objectives. The steering committee has also the right to set a limit on the number of members for central governance in cases of multiple interests.

The Steering Committee is composed of 12 members from diverse backgrounds (scientists, space agencies, international organizations, and geographic diversity), plus one observer from the Secretariat. Terms of 2 years, renewable once; chaired by a president and vice-president with a succession system (VP becomes president after term).

Meetings: Online every 2/3 months, with additional meetings as needed; decisions are made by consensus, or, if requested by the President or Vice-President, by a two-thirds majority vote.

Forum

Role and contributions

Members from the Forum provide additional expertise, technical resources, and geographic coverage. They may participate in working groups and thematic projects (priority is secondary to the Consortium) and help increase OWV's visibility and reach.

Scientific organizations from the Forum with interest to committee full participation in the Initiative can evolve and join the International Research Consortium. There is no guarantee that a scientific organization can automatically evolve to the IRC up to the Steering committee decision and time involvement.

Eligible actors

The members do not have direct governance responsibilities but can be fully involved in **technical** and **scientific tasks**.

Eligible actors include universities, research institutions, user organizations, and private sector partners. **Some types of organizations** (e.g., private sector) are **limited to the Forum area**. The Steering Committee may expand the "Forum only" list based on applications.

Organizations sign a Letter of Intent detailing motivation, expected contributions, and understanding of the non-governance role.

This approach also allows participants to stay engaged, interact, and express their interest without having to commit immediately, keeping the connection active until a formal decision is made.

Users

End-Users (e.g., basin agencies, water authorities, local managers, government representatives, farmers) are **the primary beneficiaries of OWV outputs**. They provide field-based needs and feedback to guide operational services and play a central role in pilot sites and Cal/Val activities.

Involvement

End-Users are **engaged primarily through strategic partners within the Task Force**. They may also be represented **indirectly via local users of Consortium partners**.

The Task Force ensures institutional legitimacy and international visibility, helping OWV remain inclusive rather than a closed network.

Task Force

The **Task Force** (INBO & WMO) **acts as a strategic interface between OWV and end-users**. It supports and amplifies user participation while **sharing experiences, networks, and resources** with the Consortium and the Secretariat.

Working Groups

Definition & Activities.

Working Groups provide a **structured space for developing projects, exchanging knowledge, communicating ideas, and exploring practical applications of satellite data**. They allow participants to:

- Assess feasibility of Earth observation approaches
- Refine methods
- Align efforts to address key water-related challenges

Working Groups are expected to launch in January 2026, with descriptions finalized after discussions among participants.

Additional Events / Projects

OWV aims to create and support **additional activities** linked to Working Group topics and other Consortium ideas, including:

- Webinars, workshops, and conferences
- Pilot projects and demonstrators
- Outreach and training initiatives

These activities **help mobilize broader communities, increase OWV visibility, and dynamically respond to opportunities and funding**. Priority is given to the IRC members.