

# Overview of ICAN Working Groups

- [http://icoastalatlantlas.net/ican\\_gov](http://icoastalatlantlas.net/ican_gov)

# Steering and Management Working Group Updates

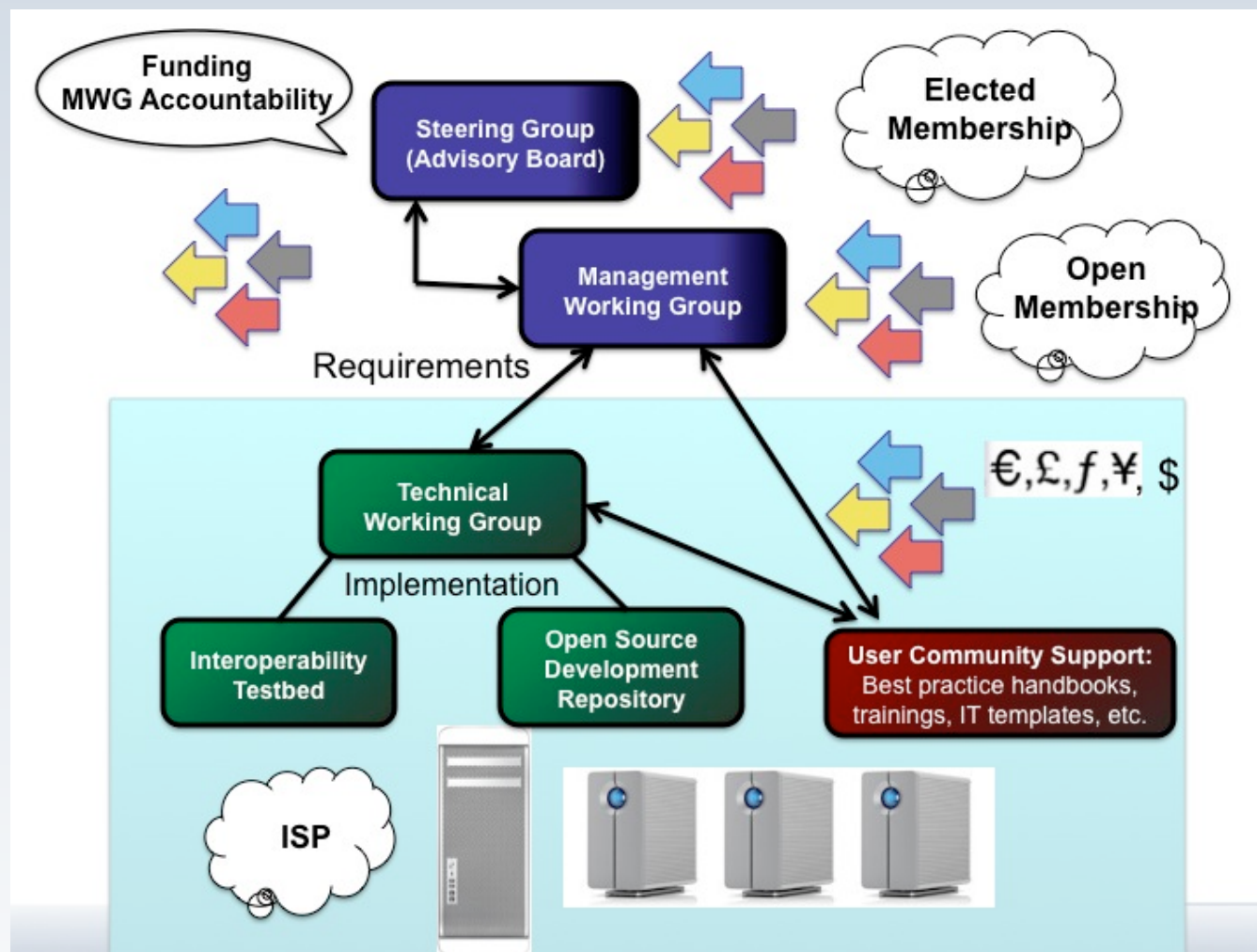
## Review ICAN aims and achievement

- The International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) **aims** to be a *global reference for the development of coastal web atlases*
- Achieving this aim through fulfilling ICAN's **Objectives**

### Points/Questions for Discussion

1. *Are we realising ICAN Objectives?*
2. *How can the Steering and Management Group best support this process?*
3. *Is the current structure working?*

# Current Idea for Governance Structure from [icoastalatlant.net/ican\\_gov](http://icoastalatlant.net/ican_gov)



# Are we realising ICAN Objectives?

## To date - ICAN achievements

### Objectives

- **Ensure that ICAN has representation from coastal web atlas development and user groups from across the world.**
  - to date ICAN contains more than 50 members representing organizations from more than 17 countries from 3 continents and we are continuing to grow
- **Develop technical and policy guidelines to assist coastal web atlas developers in acquiring data and engaging with data providers. Accordingly, collate and publish a set of best-practise guidelines for the development of coastal web atlases.**
  - ICAN handbook in 2010/2011
- **Highlight the benefits of interoperability and standards based systems to the coastal atlas developer communities.**
  - The first ICAN prototype proof of concept
  - updates based on GeoDI and NETMAR experience

# ICAN Achievements

## Objectives:

- **Develop collaborative projects for the sharing of know-how, implementation of technical solutions and demonstration of atlas benefits to users.**
  - Workshops: African Marine Atlas, Caribbean Marine Atlas, Great Lakes Workshop, Sao Paulo workshop
  - Software re-use: MIDA elements used in IODE supported national AMA atlases
- **Align the atlas efforts of the Network partners in order that interoperability can be facilitated.**
  - How to join the ICAN demonstrator – this workshop
- Engage with other relevant international projects and developments.
  - international conferences, review of ICZM recommendations, OGC interoperability, IODE activities.
- **Involve representatives of the relevant user communities to help in tailoring coastal web atlases to their needs.**
  - ICAN has put an emphasize on user needs and communities in recent years and via the individual member atlases collated information and shared experience

# Steering and Management Working Group Updates

## Review ICAN Aims and Achievement

Yes, ICAN is actively addressing its objectives.

1. Can we do better?

*2. How can the Steering and Management Group best support this process?*

*3. Is the current structure working?*

# Discussion - 1

- Abandon current working group structure or try to keep and improve? Current structure tried and tested in similar organizations. Keep and try to improve for now.
- But how to better engage working group members given that we are all volunteers?
- Tech Working Group has been successful as they have had established tasks and have communicated regularly via conference calls.
- Important for Steering and Management to have similar strong foci, give these groups as a whole some tangible action items, rather than individuals trying to carry the load
- Time management issues, make goals more realistic.
- Can we also spread the word a bit more broadly about ICAN?

## Discussion - 2

- “Wow factor” of an actual, working demonstrator on both discovery and display of metadata and data will help too. This will show the real value proposition of ICAN to the CWA and ICZM/CMSP communities and can be presented and published broadly. NETMAR prototype is coming soon.
- We should also continue to hold as equally important the original goals of ICAN for human network, assistance, building of a community of knowledge, community of practice.
- There *is* quite a bit of networking and activity going on. Consultations, users surveys, cross-fertilization at other meetings, etc.
- But need to let the ICAN community know better what is going on in between ICAN meetings; the consultations, the resources being used, etc. Can we formalize this a bit more? Our skill group is large now; wonderful diversity.

## Discussion - 3

- Quarterly newsletter sent out by email? Email more effective than posting on web which requires going to a web site and possibly having to search. Newsletter great for hearing about what is happening in different regions, helps to spark energy that normally comes from the workshop but then fades afterward.
- Use model of **ACZISC Coastal Update e-newsletter**? Can use existing ICAN Updates listserv which is free and open for anyone to join and already has a large membership  
([http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/ican\\_updates](http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/ican_updates))
- Must do the hard work of formalizing a strategic plan for ICAN, value proposition, possibly a business model and specific action items for Steering and Management. Need better leadership there even though we are grassroots, unfunded, volunteers.
- This was discussed at ICAN 4. Need to return to Action Items spreadsheet and push a bit harder on items that continuously slip through cracks
- Good segue to Friday morning discussion.