Institutional collaboration and mechanisms for ensuring sustainability of a NWI S

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Outline

Key questions
- What is sustainability?
- Who are the key actors/institutions?
- What worked and what did not work?
- What are the main requirements for sustainability?
What is sustainability?

- The ability to be maintained at a particular level without causing damage to or depletion of the resource.

*Oxford English Reference Dictionary*
Sustainability deals with updating the system with the relevant data on an on-going basis to ensure that the needs of the users are met in a timely manner.
Who are the Key Actors?

- Data Manager/Administrator
- Data Contributors
- Users
Why NWIS didn’t work?

- Governance
  - Bureaucracy, funding, changes
- Institutional
  - Budget, staffing
- Technical
  - Instruments, coverage, trained staff
What worked

- Clearly articulated Institutional Mandates and relationships among agencies (supported by policies / legislation)
- Relevant Strategies and Work Plans
- Inter-agency system of permits, checks and counterbalances
What worked?

- On going investment in development and updates
- Human resource capacity building
- Legislative and institutional readjustments
Institutional collaboration

- NWIS Steering Committee
- Clearly defined roles, relationships and responsibilities
- Must be part of their normal work
Mechanisms for Sustainability

- Legislative and institutional framework
- Communication and feedback
- Quality assurance systems
- On-going investment in development and updates
- Public awareness and capacity building
Data Administrator

- Leadership – commitment, initiative, passion, etc
- Communication
- Feedback
- Flexible
- Responsive
- Well informed
Data contributors

- Commitment
- Ownership
- Utility – what’s in it for me?
- Increased Efficiency – doing what we do better
- Communication
- Integrity
Data users

- Utility – what’s in it for me?
- Increased Efficiency – doing what we do better
- Dynamic
- Communication
Conclusions

- For sustainability the NWIS
  - Contributors and uses who see the value of the system – making what they do easier
  - Communication, feedback and adjustments
  - On-going investment
Conclusions

- For sustainability the NWIS
  - Reliable data
  - Committed, well trained data manager
  - Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of contributing agencies
NWIS of the future?
The key to sustainability...

The NWIS must be able to assist the key actors do their normal work more efficiently, so that it is not seen as an additional responsibility or burden.
Thank you