

Water Stewardship Acceleration Forum

Overview

Introduction

At the core of water stewardship lies the task of addressing shared risks through a collaborative approach that builds on a common understanding of the value of water resources and their need for protection. In this context, Water Stewardship is a powerful approach for multi-stakeholder cooperation and joint action.

Among the many challenges persisting within and around SGD 6, there is the need for stronger coordination mechanisms among policy institutions, international NGOs, companies, IFIs, and donors working to advance water resources management. Fragmented initiatives of individual companies fall into a “governance gap” without achieving largescale sustainable resource use. This document outlines the concept for a new initiative aiming to accelerate Water Stewardship: A Water Stewardship Acceleration Forum.

The Water Stewardship Acceleration (WaSA) Forum objectives

There are several communication and cooperation channels already existing in the water stewardship global community. What is currently missing is a systematic exchange with the public sector and a connecting mechanism to support high-level policy discussions (Figure 1). To bridge the gap between globally defined targets for sustainable water resources management and actual economic developments and practices, there is a need for progressive collaboration on addressing bottlenecks for scaling water stewardship initiatives. In this context, the **objectives** of the Water Stewardship Acceleration Forum (WaSA Forum) are:

- 1. Visibility on political agendas** – Strengthen the visibility of water stewardship on political agendas as an integrated approach for engaging the private sector and financial instruments in economic transition and achievement of global goals.
- 2. Platform for policy dialogue** – Establish an exchange mechanism to facilitate dialogue with the public sector on bottlenecks and corresponding policy asks for scaling stewardship projects and programmes, as well as a platform for exploring collaboration on specific initiatives.

Structure and Governance of the WaSA Forum

High-Level Events

- The WaSA Forum is taking place annually in one high-level event,
- On demand and upon the request and approval of the Advisory Group, the WaSA Forum can take place in additional global and regional events.

Secretariat & Advisory Group

The Secretariat of the WaSA Forum will be hosted by GIZ and is co-convened by one or two members of the Advisory Group, in an annual or bi-annual rotating system. For the first two years, the Alliance for Water Stewardship and the CEO Water Mandate are co-leading with the GIZ. The Advisory Group provides strategic orientation and thought leadership, defines the target audience, prepares input for events, and supports the dissemination of outcomes. The formation of the Advisory Group is currently ongoing.

Set-up of the Water Stewardship Acceleration Forum

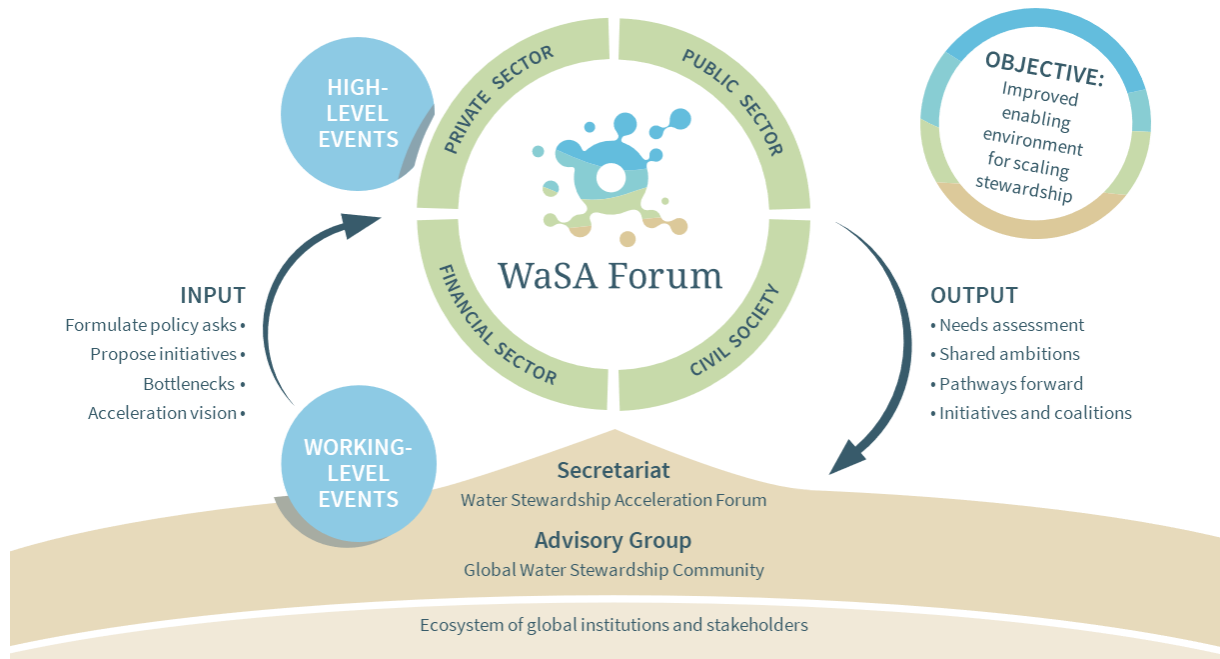


Figure 1 – The WaSA Forum

Target audience

Participating stakeholder groups in the annual forum events will comprise:

- High-level public representatives and policymakers on the ministerial level,
- High-level representatives (CEO, Managing Director, etc.) of private sector companies that engage and/or not yet engage in stewardship initiatives,
- Civil society representatives (the composition of this group requires context-dependency with regards to location and representatives of the other actor segments),
- Financial institutions and donors,
- UN global voices.

Timeline for activities

