ONEX: The OpenNESS Conceptual Nexus

Introduction

When the idea of ecosystem services is used operationally it usually involves groups of people coming together to resolve an issue, or at least to identify strategies for doing so. This type of problem solving can be complex because:

* it will almost certainly involve people sharing and criticizing ideas;
* it will involve making judgments on the basis of uncertain or incomplete evidence; and,
* the positions of those involved may change over time as they learn more about the problem at hand.

ONEX has been created to help groups of people manage these difficulties, especially when they work together over an extended period of time at local scales.

Keywords

Structured decision making, social learning, deliberative methods, collaborative problem solving

## Why would I choose this approach?

ONEX is not a single approach but is best seen as a ‘working environment’ intended for groups of people needing to collaborate on an ecosystem service issue. It is called a ‘conceptual nexus’, because it is basically a network of some of the key ideas used by the ecosystem service community. ONEX helps people to see how these ideas are linked to each other. By exploring these conceptual relationships groups can develop a richer picture of the issue that has brought them together. ONEX therefore helps people to navigate between concepts and to build a collective understanding of them. As a result they are better placed to identify what methods and evidence might be appropriate for soling their problem. We anticipate that such groups will be led by a knowledge broker, familiar with the ecosystem service concept, who can help shape and summarise discussions, and manage ONEX in ways that are appropriate for tackling the problem or issue at hand. Although intended to support the work of groups, ONEX can be used by an individual as a way of managing a project.

## What are the main advantages of the approach?

ONEX is a social media tool that uses the Trello Platform. We have chosen Trello because it is widely used for project management and problem solving. It is also freely available and there is an active user community whose experience can be helpful to those using it for applications. ONEX can be used to help people to better identify their problem and the place of ecosystem services within it, and to make an assessment of the ecosystem services that are relevant to their work. The conceptual nexus also provides a gateway to key issues related to human well-being, sustainable ecosystem management, governance and competitiveness; other topics can be added as experience develops within the user community.

## What are the constraints/limitations of the approach?

The need to manage the deliberative process that surrounds any attempt to resolve a problem or issue within a group of people. The conceptual nexus is most relevant to issues arising from place-based or local scale studies. In the group situation one person or small team needs to act as a knowledge broker.

## What types of value can the approach help me understand?

All types of values (monetary and social).

## How does the approach address uncertainty?

By deliberation.

## How do I apply the approach?

In the context of a group of people collaborating on a prolem usually at lo cal scales.ONEX is fully customisable. You can download the template from, the [ONEX Lab](https://trello.com/b/sm1lX0S0) and change it in ways that makes sense for your application. You need to register with Trello first. The ONEX Template from the [ONEX Lab](https://trello.com/b/sm1lX0S0) will be updated from time to time, and you will also find example case studies and a news section there. There is also a facility to provide feedback.

## Requirements

Access to internet; a knowledge broker, familiar with the ecosystem service concept to manage the deliberative process.

## Where do I go for more information?

The [ONEX Lab](https://trello.com/b/sm1lX0S0)

ONEX was created as part of the EU-funded [OpenNESS Project](http://www.openness-project.eu), and the background and rationale for the system can be found in the publicly avilable deliverables from Work Package 1:

EU FP7 OpenNESS Project Deliverable 1.2, Potschin, M.; Haines-Young, R.; Görg, C.; Heink, U.; Jax, K.; Kretsch, C. and C. Schleyer (2016): Final conceptual frameworks for the analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital in relation to the challenges of well-being, sustainable management, governance and competitiveness, and how these issues can be communicated and resolved in difference place based-contexts. European Commission FP7, 114 pp.

EU FP7 OpenNESS Project Deliverable 1.4, Haines-Young, R.; Potschin, M.; Jax, K.; Görg, C.; Heink, U.; Kelemen, E.; Schleyer, C. (2017): OpenNESS Conceptual Nexus (ONEX). Final guidelines for testing the conceptual frameworks in case study areas using methods and data resources developed in WPs 2, 3 and 4. European Commission FP7, 83pp. (Report prepared with contributions from Irene Iniesta Arandia, Conor Kretsch and Peter Mederly)

If you refer to the ONEX system, please cite as:

Haines-Young, R.; Potschin, M.; Jax, K.; Görg, C.; Heink, U.; Kelemen, E.; Schleyer, C. (2017): OpenNESS Conceptual Network (ONEX). European Commission Seventh Framework Programme Grant Agreement No. 308428. (trello.com/b/aWbq9p7u/onex-v2-0-template)