



## Self-evaluation activities of SLU Water Forum, August 2019 – September 2020

### 1 Background

The activity and operation of SLU Water Forum during the past year (August 2019 – September 2020) is to be evaluated in fall 2020. This document summarizes the activities in relation to the aims as outlined in the *Strategy and workplan* for the forum during 2019-2020 (SLU ua. 2019.1.1.1-4593, Appendix 1). Below, activities for each aim are briefly presented including references to webpages and documents where more information can be found. The document also includes a short self-reflection and future perspectives section on the operation of SLU Water Forum.

### 2 Activities related to the overall aims of SLU Water Forum (as developed from Appendix 1)

A list of the six main aims of SLU Water Forum including the respective activities between August 2019 and September 2020 is summarized here.

#### 2.1 *To strengthen water related research, environmental monitoring and assessment, education and collaboration at SLU.*

- Information on **upcoming funding calls and opportunities** has regularly been sent to the SLU Water Forum mailing list. Several **meetings with SLU Grants Office** have also been undertaken (see Appendix 2-5 for more information).
- **Establishment of a coordination group for water at SLU**, “WaterCOG”. See Appendix 2 and 4, and <https://internt.slu.se/en/targeted-info/locked-internal-pages/water-forum/watercog/> for more information.
- SLU Water Forum granted four **development projects** funding with seed-money to strengthen transdisciplinary cooperation on water at SLU. See Appendix 4-5, and <https://internt.slu.se/en/targeted-info/locked-internal-pages/water-forum/development-projects/> for more information.

- Presentation of SLU Water Forum for the **Foma-board at the NJ-faculty** (Appendix 2) and **SET** (Appendix 4).
- Initiation of collaboration and a dialogue on shared interests between **SLU Global** and SLU Water Forum (Appendix 2 and 5).
- Meeting with the **private foundation Voice of the ocean** (<http://voiceoftheocean.org/sv/>) including launching a call for funding opportunities to SLU (Appendix 2-3).
- Co-arrangement of a **seminar focusing on “Fish in the city”** (Appendix 3).
- Establishment of a **unique profile for e-mails** from SLU Water Forum via [water@slu.se](mailto:water@slu.se) (Appendix 4).

2.2 *The activities and operation of SLU Water Forum could result in a joint and interdisciplinary research program focused on water (e.g. “MISTRA-WATER”), and coordinated by SLU.*

The work towards this aim has so far only been initiated and has during the past year been focused on the following two activities:

- Internal (within SLU) **survey on knowledge needs on water issues in light of current and future environmental- and societal challenges**. See Appendix 4-5 for more information.
- SLU Water Forum granted four **development projects** funding with seed-money, see above.

2.3 *Internal (within SLU) focus. External cooperation will likely follow as a result of increased internal cooperation.*

- Development of a **Strategy and workplan** for SLU Water Forum 2019-2020 (Appendix 1). Decision on the document taken by the Dean of the NJ-Faculty 2019-11-21 (SLU ua. 2019-1.1.1-4593).
- Initiating the first steps to create a **publication record** of SLU Water Forum in order to quantify and communicate the extent of research on water at SLU (Appendix 3).
- Engagement of **communication support** (via Lisa Beste) to SLU Water Forum. Initially extending 10 % of a full-time position during the period April-December 2020.
- SLU Water Forum granted four **development projects** funding with seed-money, see above.
- Release of the **first newsletter from SLU Water Forum** on the 4/9. See <https://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/4644504A714340584178454159/494A594575454358477943415A43> (for the Swedish version) and

<https://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/4644504A7143475F4179414759/494A594575454358477943415A43> (English version).

- Launch of an **internal webpage** for SLU Water Forum as a platform for sharing internal news and information.  
<https://internt.slu.se/en/targeted-info/locked-internal-pages/water-forum/>

#### 2.4 *Agenda 2030 and the SDG's as an overarching framework for the work of SLU Water Forum.*

- **Collaboration with Uppsala kommun and Uppsala vatten och avfall AB** "Integrated water resource management and aquatic ecosystems". See Appendix 3-5, and <https://internt.slu.se/en/targeted-info/locked-internal-pages/water-forum/integrated-water-resource-management-and-aquatic-ecosystems/>.
- **Submission of a proposal** (Aqua4SDGs) to Sida:s call for innovative ideas for capacity development programmes. See Appendix 3 for more information.
- Regular information to SLU Water Forum on **upcoming conferences and seminars** related to water.
- Participation in the **Water JPI workshop** 22-23/10-2019. See Appendix 2 for more information.
- SLU-representation in the group "**Planeringsforum vatten och hav**" within SMI (Smartare Miljöinformation). See Appendix 2-5 for more information.
- Collaboration and dialogue with Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) on the engagement of SLU in the work of SIWI. See Appendix 3 and 5 for more information.

#### 2.5 *SLU Waterforum should follow the "source-to-sea" concept and promote/encourage transdisciplinary and cross-departmental work. Special consideration should be put on climate change and how water related work is communicated.*

No specific activity has been devoted to this aim. Rather, the source-to-sea concept and climate change is overarching the work-set of SLU Water Forum and is thus including relevant parts of SLU whenever feasible.

2.6 *Make SLU a more “blue” University.*

- **Input on SLU:s strategy 2021-2025 from a SLU Water Forum perspective** (Appendix 6).
- **Poster on SLU Water Forum during ”Vattendagarna 2019”** in Västerås, September 2019.
- **News-drives** from SLU Water Forum during the World Water Day 2020 (Appendix 4, <https://www.slu.se/en/ew-calendar/2020/3/world-water-day-2020/>) and the Baltic Sea Day 2020 (Appendix 5, <https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2020/8/slu-uppmarksammar-ostersjodagen/>).
- **Engagement in the media-drive “Vad du bör veta om havet med Lasse Åberg”** by the private foundation Voice of the Ocean during summer 2020. See <http://voiceoftheocean.org/sv/projekt/vad-du-behover-veta-om-havet/> for more information. SLU:s contribution here has been to provide input on key topics to address in the campaign, and to suggest examples of relevant literature and researchers/experts to contact for more in-depth information. So far, the campaign is estimated to have reached 1.5 million viewers via TV4, and has had more than 780 000 views on Facebook.
- **Collaboration with Skansen and Stockholm University in the recently opened exhibition Baltic Sea Science Center (BSSC) at Skansen.** Besides serving as reviewers of the scientific content of BSSC, part of SLU:s operation and research related to the Baltic Sea are now displayed in the exhibition. This includes for example short movies with researchers from SLU, a model of R/V Svea, a station displaying recent research news from SLU and SU, and a short movie on SLU:s work in relation to the Baltic Sea in the entrance of BSSC. Since the opening of BSSC in April 2019, more than 750 000 people have visited the exhibition.
- **Seminar day** in September 2019 focused on SLU:s water-related research and environmental monitoring together with officials from the Sichuan province, China. The seminar day included 12 persons from SLU and 20 officials from the Sichuan province.
- **Collaboration with Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall AB**, see above.
- From March 2020 the **news feed on the SLU Water Forum webpage** (<https://www.slu.se/en/Collaborative-Centres-and-Projects/slu-water->

forum/) and **activity on the Twitter account of SLU Water Forum (@SLUwater)** has increased substantially.

- **Presentation of SLU Water Forum on the Access-day focusing on water at Uppsala University (3/6)** as arranged by Uppsala University Sustainable Initiatives. For more information see Appendix 5.
- The aims 2.1-2.5 above do all to a larger or lesser extent target this aim (2.6) as well.

### 3 Self-reflection and future perspectives

From the perspective as a coordinator for SLU Water Forum, I think the activities within the forum during the past year to a large extent have followed the short-term objectives and expected results as outlined in the *Strategy and workplan* of the forum (Appendix 1). For example, the first news-letter and information on water-related issues and events at SLU have been distributed to the subscribers of SLU Water Forum:s mailing list. Effort has, moreover, also been devoted to communicating water-related activities and work at SLU externally via the SLU Water Forum web page, social media and by attending conferences, seminars and meetings. These achievements had not been possible without the support and engagement of the experts on water at SLU.

As I see it, the activities as outlined above serves as a good basis for the further development of SLU Water Forum. More focus do, however, need to be put on developing and facilitating joint research applications and cooperation on water at SLU. Specifically, the transdisciplinary aspects of the internal cooperation need to be emphasized. This is key aspect for the future development of the forum, despite the challenges in engaging individual researchers and research groups in projects and cooperation that extends beyond their existing and traditional research agenda. Therefore, the desirable next steps for SLU Water Forum to take would be:

- 1) to focus on facilitating transdisciplinary cooperation on water at SLU,
- 2) to follow up the outcome of current development projects,
- 3) to launch a call in 2021 for additional development projects,
- 4) to maintain the work of communicating water related work at SLU internally and externally,
- 5) to further develop the collaboration with Uppsala kommun on *Integrated water resource management and aquatic ecosystems*, and to extend the collaboration with Skansen and Stockholm university at the Baltic Sea Science Center,
- 6) to revise and update the current *Strategy and workplan* for SLU Water Forum for the years 2021-2022.