



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**NJ-faculty**  
SLU Water Forum  
Jens Olsson

**PROMEMORIA**  
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## Activity report SLU Water Forum 2021-11-19 - 2022-03-02

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between end of November 2021 to early March 2022. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the forum.

### Program proposal for Mistra's call on *Blue economy*

November-March. A first four-page program suggestion was submitted to Mistra on the 1/10 by the planned program director, professor Anna Gårdmark (Department of Aquatic Resources). As the coordinator for SLU Water Forum, Jens Olsson is engaged in leading the collaboration with stakeholders (so called "co-creators") within the planned program. Mistra will reach a decision in early April on which of the 11 submitted program proposals that will be invited to the second and final stage of the application process (deadline during summer 2022). Currently, the consortium led by Anna Gårdmark are working on outlining and detailing the content of the planned program, by also planning for a whole-day workshop in late April with invited "co-creators" to discuss how to best incorporate the perspectives of these and how to design the "co-creation process" within the planned program. This activity has occupied the majority of Jens Olsson's time as a coordinator for SLU Water Forum during the period of late November to early March.

### Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

November-March. Two meetings between SLU (Staffan Lund and Ulf Westerlund, Grants office, and Jens Olsson, SLU Water Forum) and the project coordinators for LIFE IP Rich Waters have been held (26/11 and 11/2). The aim of the meetings is information sharing between the organizations and discuss possibilities for future cooperation between SLU, county administrative boards and municipalities on emergent water issues. Discussions have for example been initiated between Mälardalens Vattenvårdsförbund and SLU within an initiative for a future project on water passages and connectivity in Mälardalen.

### 2021 fall-meeting with WaterCOG

6/12. The fall 2021-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) had 13 participants and had the aims to present activities of SLU Water Forum during fall 2021, share of information between meeting participants, suggest activities within SLU Water Forum during spring 2022, and discuss

possibilities and interest for initiating common educational programs and courses focused on water at SLU. See Appendix 1 and 2 for complete notes from the meeting. Water-focused education was the core theme of the meeting, and it was concluded that there are limited possibilities for starting up new educational programs at SLU in light of the current situation regarding budget and student recruitment. Water is already included in many educational programs, which is good, but there is a pity that SLU, with all our expertise, can't offer a full educational program on water. Ways forward, as discussed during the meeting, are to

- if possible, create a "water track" for students within existing educational programs,
- investigate possibilities for establishing water-oriented master programs (to use as a recruitment basis for future PhD-students),
- investigate possibilities to establish commissioned training on water for professionals outside SLU,
- continue to engage water experts in current research schools as for example *Ecology – basics and application* and *Focus on Soils and Water*.

### Presentation Mälارينarium #8

6/12. Jens Olsson participated and presented the focus, content and operation of SLU Water Forum during Mälارينarium #8, as arranged by Mälardalens Vattenvårdsförbund and is organized for the members of the Vattenvårdsförbund.

### News-post research funding from Formas and VR

20/12. A news-post that summarizes the outcome of water-related research proposals from SLU within related calls from FORMAS and Vetenskapsrådet during 2021 was published (<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2021/12/slus-vattenforskning-fick-bra-utdelning-fran-forskningsraden-2021/>). In total, 26 water-related research proposals from SLU were granted funding in 2021.

### SLU reporting for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

December-January. Coordinated by SLU Grants Office, SLU Water Forum contributed to the reporting of SLU's contribution to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. See Appendix 3 for the full report from SLU to the Government Offices of Sweden.

### Samverkansforum SLU and Uppsala kommun

December-March. Discussions have been initiated between experts at SLU and officials at Uppsala Vatten concerning cooperation within two potential future projects:

- 1) planning and building of a new storm water pond in Bäcklösa (SLU-experts: Eddie von Wachenfeldt, SLU Swedish Species Information Centre; Sofia Eskilsson, Department of Urban and Rural Development; Karin Wiberg, Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment).
- 2) water from River Dalälven as a source for drinking water (SLU-expert: Stephan Koehler, Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment).

Following these initial discussions, cooperation between the partners is anticipated.

### The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA)

December-February. SLU Water Forum has via Jens Olsson been represented in meetings aiming at organizing events and producing policy briefs to highlight SLU's contribution to the United Nations IYAFA. The work is led by Charlotte Berkström (Department of Aquatic Resources), and representatives from SLU Global, SLU Aquaculture, SLU Future Food and SLU One Health is participating in the preparatory planning work.

### New contract for collaboration at Baltic Sea Science Center

January. A new contract for collaboration between Skansen, Stockholm University and SLU at Baltic Sea Science Center for the years 2022-2024, was signed by the three partners. SLU published a news post about this on 25/1.

(<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2022/1/bssc-samverkansavtal/>)

### Nominations to the Björn Carlsson Baltic Sea Prize 2022

31/1. Together with Staffan Lund (SLU Grants Office), Noël Holmgren and Ann-Britt Florin (both Department of Aquatic Resources), Jens Olsson assisted in the nomination of two candidates from SLU (Michele Casini and Ulf Bergström, both Department of Aquatic Resources) for the Björn Carlsson Baltic Sea Prize in 2022 (<https://bcop.se>).

### Webinar Stockholm +50 and the UN Ocean Conference

1/2. Jens Olsson participated in an information webinar on the Swedish engagement and plans for the upcoming Stockholm +50 and UN Ocean Conference. The webinar was arranged by Havsmiljöinstitutet.

### Planning of “media-drive” during World Water Day 2022

February-March. As undertaken during 2020 and 2021, we are planning for a “media-drive” during the 2022's edition of World Water Day (22/3) with the aim to showcase and share information on water-related work at SLU. This year's theme for the World Water Day is “*groundwater - making the invisible visible*”, and we are planning for a news-post to be released on the 22/3 where Lutz Ahrens (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) gives answers on what SLU does in relation to the 2022 theme of the World Water Day. In addition to this, we will post existing news related to groundwater research at SLU at social media during the days before, at and after the 22/3. Communicators from other relevant platforms, departments and forums at SLU, will contribute to the sharing of information in social media.

### News feed and Twitter

November-March. From 19/11 to 2/3, 35 news/press-releases related to water at SLU have been posted in the news feed at the SLU Water Forum web. These posts and other relevant issues on water related to SLU have routinely also been posted at SLU Water Forum's Twitter account (@SLUwater).

### Information on water related funding opportunities and events

November-March. During this period, 19 e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed to the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

## Plans/activities during spring 2022

### Program proposal for Mistra's call on *Blue economy*

Preparation for the second stage of the application process (as outlined above).

### Media-drive during World Water Day 2022

22/3. Continuing the preparation for the activities during World Water Day 2022 (as outlined above).

### Presentation at UUSI-meeting

11/4. Jens Olsson will present the focus, content and operation of SLU Water Forum during one of the meetings with the coordinators for Uppsala University Sustainability Initiative (UUSI), with the aim to foster enhanced cooperation on water between SLU and Uppsala University.

### Reporting of seed money 2021

During spring 2021, the reporting from the projects receiving seed money from SLU Water Forum is anticipated. The outcome of the projects will potentially be summarized as a news post similarly to what was done following the reporting of seed money in 2020 (<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2021/9/workshop-om-fiskhalsa-skrivarstod-och-slu-internt-vattenseminarium--saddmedel-inom-slu-vattenforum-2020/>).

### Fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum

The fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum summarizing the activities and work within the forum during autumn 2021 and early winter 2022, will be released during spring 2022.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SLU seminar on water

Due to Covid, the planned second seminar on water at SLU ("*Future water research at SLU – a seminar on perspectives from younger scholars*"), initially to be held 25-26/1 2022, is postponed to 26-27/4-2022. The Seminar will be held at Ultuna, with possibilities to attend digitally (<https://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2022/4/seminarium-future-water-research-at-slu--a-seminar-on-perspectives-from-younger-scholars/>).

## Spring 2022-meeting with WaterCOG

The spring 2022-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) is planned to late spring. The content and focus of the meeting are yet to be decided, but will include topics as review of activities of SLU Water Forum during spring 2022, share of information between meeting participants, and to suggest activities within SLU Water Forum during fall 2022.

## Additional plans/activities if feasible

### Seed money from SLU Water Forum during 2022

Pending available funding, seed money for projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation and research on water at SLU will be announced.

### Digital seminar series on water at SLU

Pending available funding, continued planning of a future popular science-oriented seminar series on water at SLU that is open to the public is foreseen.

### Publication record for SLU Water Forum

We plan to produce a list of publications from people included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list. Following this, the selected publications will be visualized and communicated both internally and externally to highlight water related research at SLU.

### SLU Water Forum on Wikipedia

As a "low-hanging fruit" for branding and showcasing the expertise on water at SLU, we plan to encourage experts (in the next newsletter from SLU Water Forum) at SLU to contribute with texts and literature to relevant subjects on water at Wikipedia during the spring 2022.

### List of "water experts" at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU, to be displayed on the Water Forum web, is planned for. The current list of "Baltic Sea-experts" at SLU (<https://www.slu.se/om-slu/pressrum/ostersjoexperter-slu/>) will serve as the basis for the "water-expert" list.

## **Outline and structure of the SLU Water Forum web**

We plan to update the SLU Water Forum web to make it more accessible, structured and informative.