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**PROMEMORIA**

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## Activity report SLU Water Forum 2022-09-29 - 2023-01-13

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between late September 2022 and early January 2023. At the end there is also a short outlook on future plans and activities of the forum.

### THE Agenda 2030 ranking

September-October. SLU Water Forum contributed to the annual SLU-reporting for the Times Higher Education (THE) Agenda 2030 ranking of universities with regard to SDG 14 (life below water). The complete report from SLU can be found [here](#). Jens Olsson is since fall 2022 included in SLU's coordination group for Agenda 2030 chaired by Pro Vice-Chancellor Ylva Hillbur.

### World Fish workshop

4-6/10. Several researchers within SLU Water Forum participated in a workshop between SLU and Shakuntala Thilstedt (SLU honorary doctor) and Hampus Eriksson from [World Fish](#) aiming at discussing and initiating cooperation between the organizations. Following the workshop, a concept note titled *Climate proofing the flow of nutrition from aquatic foods at lakes, coasts, and islands* is under development. This concept note will serve as the basis for applying for funding for future cooperation on the topic.

### UN's High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

October. Jens Olsson wrote a [blog-post](#) on the SLU's Global Blog as a follow up and reflection from participating in the 2022 HLPF.

### Promises on sustainability of water within Uppsala county

October. SLU Water Forum provided input on SLU's promises on sustainability of water for the local county board of Uppsala. The decision on this by SLU's vice chancellor can be found [here](#).

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

October-November. During these months, work was focused on the preparation for the hearing by the evaluation board of Mistra's call on Blue economy. The SLU led proposal *Mistra Blue Pathways* was one of three proposals that was invited to the hearing. Anna Gårdmark (coordinator Department of Aquatic Resources), Lena Gippert (deputy coordinator, Gothenburg University), Jens Olsson (co-creation WP-leader, Department of Aquatic Resources) and Anders Carlberg (co-creator, Region Västra Götaland) represented *Mistra Blue Pathways* at the hearing on the 26/10. On the 8/12, the steering board of Mistra announced their decision on which proposal to fund and *Mistra Blue Pathways* was unfortunately ranked as the second-best proposal and was hence not granted funding.

## SIWI Source to Sea webinar

9/11. Jens Fölster (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) gave a presentation on the SIWI webinar entitled [\*Our Common Water Resources: Managing Water Streams from Source to Sea.\*](#)

## Call for seed money from SLU Water Forum 2023

30/11. [A call](#) for seed money from SLU Water Forum for 2023 was opened. The deadline for submission of a proposal/application is set to 28/2-2023.

## SI-application restoration of ecosystems in Ukraine

24/11. The application on collaboration between SLU and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla on capacity building and knowledge transfer focusing on restoration of damaged ecosystems in Ukraine after the Russian invasion (RETURN: Restoring EnvironmentTs in UkRaiNe), was approved funding from Swedish Institute (SI) call [\*Academic collaboration in the Baltic Sea region.\*](#) The application is led by Brian Kuns (Department of Urban and Rural Development) and several researchers within SLU Water Forum are part of the application. The project will be initiated during early 2023 and run for 18 months.

## News-post research funding from Formas and VR

9/12. A [news-post](#) that summarizes the outcome of water-related research proposals from SLU within related calls from FORMAS and Vetenskapsrådet during 2022 was published. In total, 20 water-related research proposals from SLU were granted funding in 2022 totaling around 117 mSEK.

## Fall 2022-meeting with WaterCOG

19/12. The fall 2022-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG), focused on dissemination of activities within SLU Water Forum during summer and fall 2022, sharing information between meeting participants, discussing upcoming research calls related to water, and suggesting activities within SLU Water Forum during spring 2023. Notes from the meeting are found [here](#).

## Fifth news-letter from SLU Water Forum

21/12. The [fifth news-letter from SLU Water Forum](#) was released just before Christmas. The news-letter summarizes the activities within SLU Water Forum during summer and fall 2022, and lists coming and on-going activities within the forum during early 2023. The production of the news-letter was this time assisted by Ulrika Jansson Klintberg (communication officer at the Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment).

## Preparation for the third internal water seminar at SLU

December-January. A smaller organization group for planning the seminar was established (Jens Olsson, Anna Gårdmark, Ulf Westerlund, Lisa Beste and Ulrika Jansson Klintberg). The [seminar](#) is planned for the 20-21/3 at Loftets hörsal (Campus Ultuna), and will focus on presentations by younger and early-career researchers at SLU from various “water-departments”. A call for presentations and further planning is currently undertaken.

## Preparation Collaboration Workshop Formas calls

December-January. Örjan Östman (Department of Aquatic Resources), Ulf Westerlund (Grants Office), and Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson (both SLU Water Forum) initiated a [match-making workshop](#) between researchers at SLU and interested collaboration partners for upcoming water-related Formas calls. To date, 59 people have registered for the workshop (37 non-academic, 22 SLU researchers). In early January the coordination team for the workshop was contacted by Formas who was planning for [a similar workshop](#) on the very same date and time (7/2, 13-15). The SLU-initiated workshop will hence be re-scheduled to 15-16.30 the very same day and make use of the information at the Formas-led workshop.

## Aims and workplan SLU Water Forum 2023-2024

December-January. The aims and workplan of SLU Water Forum for 2023-2024 are being updated and outlined. After review by WaterCOG during January and February, the document will be published and made official.

## News feed and Twitter

September-January. From 29/9 to 12/1, 25 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

September-January. During this period, 18 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 2023

### Vattenmiljöseminariet 2023

24-25/1 (Stockholm). Havsmiljöinstitutet are organization the 2023 [Vattenmiljöseminariet](#) in Stockholm. Presentations and participation at the seminar by several researchers from SLU Water Forum are anticipated.

### Collaboration Workshop Formas calls

Date and time tbd (likely in early February). In connection to the [Formas workshop on the 7/2](#), the matchmaking between SLU researchers and non-academic collaboration partners will be arranged.

### Aim and workplan SLU Water Forum 2023-2024

February. The aim and work plan of SLU Water Forum for 2023-2024 will be published and official based on input and advice from WaterCOG.

### Seed-money from SLU Water Forum during 2023

March-December. Decision on which applications to approve within the call on seed-money for projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation and research on water at SLU will be made in March. Following this decision, approved projects are anticipated to run during 2023.

### Third internal water seminar at SLU

20-21/3. The [seminar](#) will be held from lunch to lunch (including a common dinner) on the 20-21/3 at Loftets hörsal (Campus Ultuna). The seminar will focus on presentations by younger and early-career researchers at SLU from various “water-departments”.

### World Water Day 2023

22/3. A news-drive/event as organized by SLU Water Forum for the 2023 World Water Day (WWD) is planned. This year’s theme for WWD is *Accelerating change*.

### UN Water Conference

22-24/3 (New York). If funding and time allows, SLU Water Forum will be represented at the [2023 UN Water Conference](#) focusing on contributions to the [Water Action Agenda](#) and review of progress towards the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals related to water.

## World Ocean Day

8/6. If feasible, a similar news-drive/event will be organized by SLU Water Forum during the 2023 [World Ocean Day](#). The news-drive will focus on SLU's contribution to ocean science to support sustainable use and management of our seas. The 2023 Conservation Action Focus for the day is to protect at least 30% of our blue planet by 2030.

## Sixth news-letter from SLU Water Forum

June. The sixth newsletter from SLU Water Forum summarizing the activities within SLU Water Forum during spring 2023 and listing coming and on-going activities within the forum will be released in late spring 2023.

## Spring 2023 meeting with WaterCOG

June. The spring 2023-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) is planned to June. 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 2023, share of information between meeting participants, and to suggest activities within SLU Water Forum during fall 2023.

## SLU in Almedalen

27-30/6. SLU Water Forum is via Jens Olsson tasked to support the arrangement of a seminar focusing on oceans during SLU's events in Almedalen 2023. R/V Svea will be used as the platform for SLU's events that will all have a focus on environmental monitoring and assessment, its importance, contribution to societal needs and challenges including also the needs for long-term support and funding.

## Additional plans/activities if feasible

### 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.

### List of "water experts" at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU, to be displayed on the Water Forum web, will be established. The current list of "[Baltic Sea-experts](#)" at SLU will serve as the basis for the "water-expert" list.

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

The SLU Water Forum web will be updated, to make it more accessible, structured and informative.