



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

NJ-faculty
SLU Water Forum
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PROMEMORIA

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Activity report SLU Water Forum 2021-03-03 - 2022-06-01

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

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

March-May. The submitted four-page program proposal ("Blue pathways") was one of three to pass the first evaluation round, and was hence invited to the second stage of the application process (deadline 18/8). The consortium is led by Anna Gårdmark (Department of Aquatic Resources) and includes researchers from SLU, Gothenburg University, Stockholm University, KTH, RISE, IVL and Innovatum Science Park. SLU Water Forum is via Jens Olsson involved in the application in leading one of the program work packages focusing on "co-creation" and collaboration with external partners. During the period March-May the work has been focused on detailing, developing and writing the application. As a part of the preparatory work, a physical workshop at KTH with potential "co-creators" was arranged on 28/4. Along with the partners in the program consortium, 16 "co-creators" representing a range of stakeholders from the marine sector participated in the workshop that yielded excellent input for the application and engagement among participants. This activity has occupied the majority of Jens Olsson's time as a coordinator for SLU Water Forum during the period March to May, and will continue to do so until the final application is submitted.

Formas national research program for oceans and water

March-May. Ulf Bjelke (SLU Species Information Centre) and Jens Olsson participated in a dialogue meeting (9/3) arranged by Formas focusing on the planned agenda and content of the research program.

In March, a first call within the program was opened, [*Securing future water supply through sustainable management*](#) (deadline 8/6). Information on the call and potential support from SLU Grants Office in the application process was distributed in the SLU Water Forum mailing list, and applications lead by SLU are anticipated.

SLU Water Forum, via Jens Olsson, provided input to Formas on the strategic research agenda of the program during the second half of May. The research

agenda appears to be well formulated and in line with earlier input from SLU Water Forum, but could be improved by including additional aspects of climate change, systems perspectives and transdisciplinary research.

Application on monitoring and assessment in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Several researchers within SLU Water Forum participated in a meeting on 21/3 for an application to SIDA where SLU could support and develop management of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). More specifically, the overall goal of the application is to build a national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment with a focus on aquatic biodiversity in DRC. The application includes a two-year pilot project, followed by a potential additional five-year project to develop a national evidence base on aquatic biodiversity. The evidence base is aimed at being used in the future governance and management of natural resources in DRC. Following this there is also an aim to build capacity on environmental monitoring and assessment in DRC, and to develop capacity for coordination of environmental monitoring and assessment at the national scale. The application, led by Kevin Bishop (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment), will be submitted to SIDA during the nearest future. If the proposal is granted funding, the project is anticipated to start during the fall 2022, and researchers and experts within SLU Water Forum are foreseen to provide expert input to the work.

World Water Day

22/3. Similar to previous years, SLU Water Forum launched 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*”. A [news-post](#) including an interview with Lutz Ahrens (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) was released on the 22/3. Following this, [a series of additional and related news](#) was posted on social media via SLU Water Forum and other relevant SLU-accounts.

Based on the statistics from Twitter, the number of views at the SLU Water Forum Twitter-account went from on average 194 per day during the period January-March 2022 to on average 442 views during 20-24/3 with a peak on the 22/3 with about 1000 views.

Fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum

March-April. The fourth newsletter from SLU Water Forum summarizing the activities within the forum during the fall 2021 and early winter 2022 was released on 25/4 ([Swedish version](#); [English version](#)).

Samverkansforum SLU and Uppsala kommun

March-May. Collaboration has been initiated between Uppsala kommun and experts at SLU (Eddie von Wachenfeldt, SLU Swedish Species Information

Centre; Sofia Eskilsson, Department of Urban and Rural Development; Karin Wiberg, Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment; Abraham Joel, Department of Soil and Environment) on the planning and establishment of a storm water pond in Bäcklösa. Currently, SLU-experts are providing input on the planning of the pond and how it can also be used as a facility for interests (research and education) at SLU.

Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

March-April. A meeting between SLU (Staffan Lund and Ulf Westerlund, Grants office, and Jens Olsson, SLU Water Forum) and the project coordinators for [LIFE IP Rich Waters](#) was held on the 22/4 to share information between the organizations and discuss additional possibilities for future cooperation between SLU, county administrative boards and municipalities on emergent water issues. During the meeting a future and common application to Interreg, to continue the project [Waterdrive](#), was discussed as well as potential match-making events during the fall 2022 between researchers at SLU and officials at county administrative boards and municipalities to foster future collaboration and project applications.

During April the project coordinators of LIFE IP Rich Waters collected ideas from partners in the project on potential future collaboration with SLU for the Formas call [Securing future water supply through sustainable management](#). The ideas was shared with SLU Water Forum.

Water Security Brief SIDA-hjelpdesk

April. SLU Water Forum was invited to assist Göran Ek at SLU's SIDA-hjelpdesk in producing a brief focusing on water security. Jennie Barron (Department of Soil and Environment) assisted SIDA-hjelpdesk in the work.

Transdisciplinary applications on water to Formas

April-May. SLU Water Forum was via Jens Olsson contacted by Thomas Randrup (Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management) on a potential collaboration for applications to Formas focusing on planning, governance and management in the land-sea interface. The collaboration resulted in applications to three Formas calls open during April and May. Participating researchers in the calls were Thomas Randrup, Ishi Buffam, Christine Haaland and Victoria Sjöstedt (all Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management), and Andreas Bryhn and Jens Olsson (both Department of Aquatic Resources).

2nd SLU seminar on water

26-27/4. The second seminar on water at SLU ([Future water research at SLU – a seminar on perspectives from younger scholars](#)) was held at Ultuna with some participants joining in via video. The seminar included presentations from 13 younger researchers at SLU and Sophie Carler from Formas. The seminar had in total between 35 and 40 participants, foremost younger researchers at SLU.

Meeting with UUSI

9/5. Jens Olsson was invited to give a presentation on SLU Water Forum and transdisciplinary research on water at SLU for the coordination group for [Uppsala University Sustainability Initiatives](#). Following the presentation, discussions were held on future collaboration between SLU and Uppsala University.

Meeting on extended collaboration between SLU and Nelson Mandela University

20/5. SLU Global arranged a meeting to extend the existing collaboration between SLU and Nelson Mandela University (NMU, South Africa) with participation of Kwezi Mzilikazi from NMU. NMU has advertised an interest for future collaboration on marine science, and Charlotte Berkström and Jens Olsson (both Department of Aquatic Resources) participated in the meeting.

News feed and Twitter

March-May. From 3/3 to 1/6, 36 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

March-May. During this period, 12 e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed to the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

Plans/activities during late spring and early fall 2022

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

Submission of the second stage of the application process (as outlined above).
Deadline 18/8.

Reporting of seed money 2021

One of the three projects receiving seed money from SLU Water Forum during 2022 has submitted a report on the results and outcomes of the work undertaken. Reporting of the additional two projects is due to delays anticipated during late spring and fall 2022. The results of the projects will potentially be summarized as a news post similarly to what was done following the [reporting of seed money in 2020](#).

Spring 2022-meeting with WaterCOG

The spring 2022-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) is planned to 13/6. The content and focus of the meeting will include activities of SLU Water Forum during the spring 2022, share of information

between meeting participants, and to suggest activities within SLU Water Forum during the fall 2022.

Workplan SLU Water Forum 2023-2024

We will start outlining the work plan of SLU Water Forum for the years 2023-2024 during fall 2022.

Seed money from SLU Water Forum during 2022-2023

Following discussions and suggestions during the spring WaterCOG-meeting, seed money for projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation and research on water at SLU will be announced during early fall 2022. Projects are anticipated to receive funding and be initiated in 2022, but the majority of the planned work will be undertaken during 2023.

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.

SLU Water Forum on Wikipedia

As a “low-hanging fruit” for branding and showcasing the expertise on water at SLU, we have encouraged experts (in our latest newsletter) at SLU to contribute with texts and literature to relevant subjects on water at Wikipedia. During 2022 we will give practical Wikipedia support, within SLU Water Forum (if researchers show an interest for this).

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.