



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 2023-01-13 - 2023-04-25

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

Vattenmiljöseminariet 2023

24-25/1 (Stockholm). Several researchers within SLU Water Forum attended [Vattenmiljöseminariet](#) as organized by Havsmiljöinstitutet. The focus of the seminar is on aquatic monitoring and assessment and its role in supporting national and regional status assessments within environmental directives and quality objectives.

Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

January-March. Two meetings between SLU (Ulf Westerlund, Grants office and Jens Olsson), and the project coordinators for [LIFE IP Rich Waters](#) was held on the 16/1 and 31/3 to share information between the organizations and discuss additional possibilities for future cooperation between SLU, county administrative boards and municipalities on emergent water issues. The meeting in January focused on preparation for the Collaboration Workshop for Formas calls (as listed below), and the March meeting on a possible continuation of the project LIFE IP Rich Waters beyond 2025.

Collaboration Workshop for Formas calls

7/2. Under the umbrella of SLU Water Forum a 1.5 hour [match making workshop](#) between SLU researchers and non-academic collaboration partners for upcoming Formas calls was arranged on Zoom. The workshop was held in conjunction with a [Formas seminar](#) where information on current calls was presented. The SLU-workshop attracted the participation of ca 70 participants where approximately one third was researchers from SLU. The workshop was organized by Örjan Östman (Department of Aquatic Resources), Ulf Westerlund (SLU Grants Office), Lisa Beste (communications officer, SLU Water Forum) and Jens Olsson.

Aim and workplan SLU Water Forum 2023-2024

10/2. The [aim and work plan of SLU Water Forum for 2023-2024](#) was finalized and published on the SLU Water Forum internal web page.

Collaboration with Uppsala kommun

15/2. A meeting between Johanna Andersson (Uppsala kommun), Elin Belleza (Uppsala Vatten och Avfall) and Jens Olsson was held to revitalize the collaboration between the three organizations. The discussions focused on possible future collaboration activities. The next meeting is scheduled to 10/5.

2nd International Conference on Biodiversity in the Congo Basin

6-10/3, Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Kevin Bishop (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) and Jens Olsson participated in the [2nd International Conference on Biodiversity in the Congo Basin](#) to prepare for the coming capacity building project at SLU on environmental monitoring and assessment of aquatic resources in the DRC. The project is to be funded by the Swedish embassy in DRC and are planned for 2023-2025.

Third internal water seminar at SLU

20-21/3. The [third internal water seminar at SLU](#) included presentations from 16 early-career researchers from nine different departments and three faculties at SLU. The seminar was attended by around 60 persons and arranged by Anna Gårdmark (Department of Aquatic Resources), Ulf Westerlund (SLU Grants Office), Ulrika Jansson Klintberg (communications officer, Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment), Lisa Beste (communications officer, SLU Water Forum) and Jens Olsson.

World Water Day 2023

22-24/3. A news-drive was arranged during the days of the 2023'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 "*accelerating change*". A [news-post](#) including an interview with Björn Vinnerås (Department of Energy and Technology) 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. The number of views at SLU Water Forum's Twitter account (@sluwater) increased a lot during the days of WWD. From below 500 views per week at most during the period December 2022 – April 2023, to more than 1800 views during 22-24/3.

UN Water Conference

22-24/3 (New York). No on-site attendance from SLU Water Forum was possible during the [UN Water Conference](#). Jennie Barron (Department of Soil and Environment) participated in a [virtual side event](#) to the conference. Jens Olsson and Cristián Alacrón Ferrari (Department of Urban and Rural Development)

participated at a preparatory meeting for the conference at the Governmental Offices of Sweden 26/1.

SLU in Almedalen 2023

January-April. Preparation for SLU's participation in Almedalen 2023. 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. [The event on oceans](#) is scheduled to 29/6 and will focus on the Swedish implementation of the UN's 30x30 goal and the role of environmental monitoring and assessment. Jens Olsson will also take part in a seminar hosted by SIDA on 30/6 focusing on Sweden's work for sustainable oceans in a global perspective.

Seed-money from SLU Water Forum during 2023

March-April. Seven proposals for seed-money from SLU Water Forum during 2023 was submitted to Jens Olsson in February. Three proposals were granted funding. In [Appendix 1](#), the decision from Torleif Hård (Dean at the NJ-faculty) on which applications that was granted funding is found.

Promises on sustainability of water and biodiversity within Uppsala county

March-April. SLU Water Forum contributed with activity reports on SLU's promises on sustainability of water and biodiversity within agreements with the local county board of Uppsala.

News feed and Twitter

January-April. From 13/1 to 25/4, 23 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

January-April. During this period, seven 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 and summer 2023

Collaboration with Uppsala kommun

10/5. Next meeting with Uppsala kommun (Johanna Andersson) and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall (Elin Belleza) to further facilitate collaboration between the organizations.

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) are 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

29/6. See information above.

DRC EMA project

May-December. Researchers within SLU Water Forum will take part in and actively support the project on capacity building in environmental monitoring and assessment (EMA) of aquatic resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that is anticipated to start in early summer 2023 and run for two years.

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.