



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 2023-04-25 - 2023-09-12

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

Collaboration with Uppsala kommun

10/5. Jens Olsson had a meeting with Uppsala kommun (Johanna Andersson and Paola Ponzio) and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall (Elin Belleza) to further facilitate collaboration between the organizations. The meeting was focused on collaboration on master theses. After the meeting, topics for future master theses as suggested by Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall was distributed to WaterCOG.

Collaboration with the *Life IP Rich Waters* project

17/5. A meeting between SLU (Ulf Westerlund, Grants office and Jens Olsson), and the project coordinators for [LIFE IP Rich Waters](#) was held 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 focused on discussions on a possible continuation of the project LIFE IP Rich Waters beyond 2025 (no news so far), and fund raising as a mean for future project funding. The latter discussion started with a presentation by Anna Lehrman (fundraiser at SLU).

Spring 2023 meeting with WaterCOG

7/6. The spring 2023-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) was held on the 7/6. The meeting focused on 1) reviewing the activities of SLU Water Forum during spring 2023, 2) share of information between meeting participants on current and upcoming projects/calls/events/activities of relevance for SLU Water Forum, and 3) suggestions for activities within the forum during fall 2023. The notes from the meeting are available [here](#).

World Ocean Day

8/6. We published an [interview](#) with Maliheh Mershad (researcher at Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) and [a news drive](#) on the World Ocean Day to

highlight SLU's expertise and contribution to ocean science to support sustainable use and management of our seas. In addition, Mattias Sköld (researcher at the Department of Aquatic Resources) participated in a [seminar](#) arranged by Havsmiljöinstitutet at Sjöhistoriska museet in Stockholm. On the 8 and 9/6 the tweets about the World Water Day shared on X were viewed 401 and 376 times respectively. This is in comparison with on average 132 views per day during June.

Sixth newsletter from SLU Water Forum

22/6. [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, was released on 22/6.

SLU in Almedalen

26-30/6. SLU participated in Almedalen 2023 by hosting [two seminars](#) (one focusing on forests and one on oceans) and additional activities on board R/V Svea. SLU Water Forum via Ulf Bergström, Joakim Hjelm and Jens Olsson (all Department of Aquatic Resources) gave presentations on the seminar focusing on [oceans and the Swedish implementation of UN's 30x30 goal and the role of environmental monitoring and assessment](#). The seminar was attended by more than 50 persons and included besides SLU researchers, politicians, authorities, NGO's and Swedish Youth Organizations. Jens Olsson also took part in [a seminar hosted by SIDA on 30/6 focusing on Sweden's work for sustainable oceans in a global perspective](#) including authorities, NGO's and research institutes. A [news-post](#) was published summarizing SLU activities at Almedalen.

Participation in the RETURN-project

June-August. Researchers from SLU Water Forum participates in the RETURN-project focusing on ecological restoration of environments in Ukraine following the Russian invasion. The project is led by Brian Kuns (Department of Urban and Rural Development). The latest activity within the project was a [workshop with visiting Ukrainian colleagues held at Campus Ultuna 21-24/8](#). The majority of SLU researchers participating are connected to SLU Water Forum.

Funding of larger research projects

June-August. During this period four researchers (all women) within SLU Water Forum have received major grants from funding bodies:

- Karin Eklöf (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) received 11 mnSEK from The Swedish EPA for [a research program focusing on restoration of wetlands in forests](#) within the call "Research on sustainable climate change and adaptation".
- [Lenka Kuglerova and Aida Bargaés Tobella](#) (both Department of Forest Ecology and Management) received 12 and 14 mnSEK each from the Formas call "Links between climate, water and biodiversity".
- Maliheh Mershad (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) received an ERC starting grant of 1.5 mn€ for [her research on interactions between viruses and their bacterial hosts](#).

Web page Master thesis on water at SLU

August. Together with WaterCOG a web page to share information on available master thesis projects related to water has been developed. Before final editing, the web page can be [viewed internally](#) only by those who get the link.

Baltic Sea Day

31/8. Agnes Olin (researcher at Department of Aquatic Resources) was one of nine junior researchers that participated [in a concert performed by Sveriges Radios Symfoniorkester focusing on the Baltic Sea and sustainability as part of the program for the Baltic Sea Festival Science Lab](#). Agnes has together with junior composers created the music piece *Tipping points* in which her research is displayed.

News feed and X

April-September. From 25/4 to 12/9, 39 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 X account (@SLUwater).

Information on water related funding opportunities and events

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

Plans/activities during fall 2023

Web page Master thesis on water at SLU

September-October. Together with WaterCOG a web page hosting information on available master thesis projects related to water at SLU will be finalized and made public.

Vattendagarna 2023

4-5 October. The national conference [Vattendagarna](#) will be arranged in Hässleholm, and participation from several water experts and researchers at SLU are expected.

Miljöövervakningsdagarna 2023

17-19 October. The county board of Uppsala is hosting [the 2023 edition of Miljöövervakningsdagarna](#) which will be located at Campus Ultuna. Water experts and researchers from SLU will give presentations and participate in the conference.

MEMFIS conference

9-10 November. SwAM and Formas arrange the conference [*Marine Environmental Monitoring – Future, Innovation and Sustainability \(MEMFIS\)*](#) in Stockholm.

Several researchers from SLU Water Forum will give presentations and participate in the conference.

Planning of a fourth internal water seminar, spring 2024

November-December. The planning of the fourth SLU internal water seminar to be held in spring 2024 will be initiated.

Seed-money from SLU Water Forum

December. If funding is available, seed-money to strengthen internal cooperation on water at SLU for 2024 will be launched with SLU Water Forum in late 2023. A follow-up of the progress of the projects receiving seed-money in 2023 will also be undertaken.

Seventh news-letter from SLU Water Forum

December. The seventh news-letter from SLU Water Forum summarizing the activities within SLU Water Forum during fall 2023 and listing coming and on-going activities within the forum will be released at the end of 2023.

Fall 2023 meeting with WaterCOG

December. The fall 2023-meeting with the coordination group for water at SLU (WaterCOG) is planned to December. 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 fall 2023, share of information between meeting participants, and to suggest activities within SLU Water Forum during spring 2024.

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.