



## Activity report SLU Water Forum 2020-09-15 - 2020-11-13

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between mid-September and mid-November 2020. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the Forum.

### **Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun**

September-October. This activity, including planning, having the five meetings and compiling meeting notes, has consumed considerable time during September and October. The dialogue meetings appear successful with engaged researcher from SLU and experts from Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall AB. The next step is that Jens Olsson together with the coordinators from Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten och Avfall AB meet up on the 26/11 to discuss the next steps for the collaboration. A more continuous dialogue and collaboration together with following-up activities and meetings during the spring are expected outcomes of the first dialogue meetings. For more information and meeting notes, see <https://internt.slu.se/riktat/lasta-interna-sidor/vattenforum/integrerad-vattenresursforvaltning-och-akvatiska-ekosystem/>

### **Promise on biodiversity in the Uppsala-region**

22/9. Activities and work within SLU Water Forum in relation to the promises that SLU will provide Uppsala län on sustainability work focusing on biodiversity, was submitted to deputy vice-chancellor Anna Lundhagen and environmental manager Johanna Sennmark. The activities for SLU Water Forum relates to "Samverkansforum SLU and Uppsala kommun".

### **Self-evaluation SLU Water Forum 2019-2020**

29/9. A self-evaluation of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum for the years 2019-2020 was submitted by Jens Olsson to dean Torleif Härd on the 29/9 ([https://internt.slu.se/globalassets/mw/riktade/vattenforum-internt/ovrigt/sjalvvardering2019-2020/self-evaluation-slu-water-forum-2020\\_final.pdf](https://internt.slu.se/globalassets/mw/riktade/vattenforum-internt/ovrigt/sjalvvardering2019-2020/self-evaluation-slu-water-forum-2020_final.pdf)). The *Strategy and workplan* of SLU Water Forum for the years 2019-2020 served as the basis for the self-evaluation.

### **Meeting on fund-raising and fish at the VH-faculty**

30/9. Jens Olsson participated in a meeting with Olle Håstad and Åsa Formo from the VH-faculty office to discuss inclusion of the fish-related work at the VH-faculty in SLU Water Forum and potential sources for future funding.

### **World food day**

16/10. SLU Global initiated an idea to promote a communication drive on food and

water during the World food day 2020 focused the release of the FAO SOFA report *Overcoming water challenges in agriculture* where Jennie Barron from SLU participated. SLU Water Forum took this forward and engaged SLU Aqua, SLU Aquaculture and SLU Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies. Some news were distributed in social media related to food and water during the 16/10, but unfortunately FAO withdraw the FAO SOFA report at the date of release.

#### **Meeting SMI at SLU**

1/10. The third meeting of the group at SLU for coordination of SLU:s work related to SMI (Smartare miljöinformation). Relates to ”Planeringsforum för Vatten och hav” in which Jens Olsson is representing SLU.

#### **SLU collaboration in Central Eurasia**

17/10. SLU Water Forum was asked by deputy vice-chancellor Ylva Hillburn to survey existing cooperation in Central Eurasia and to participate in a round table discussion on future networking for environmental research- and education collaboration in Central Eurasia. A list of current cooperation on water was submitted by SLU Water Forum. Lutz Ahrens (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment) and Kartik Baruah (Department of Animal Nutrition and Management) participated in the round table discussion held on the 17/10.

#### **Meeting with the coordinator for SLU Skogsplantforum.**

28/10. Jens Olsson had a meeting with Daniel Gräns (coordinator for Skogsplantforum at the S-faculty), to share ideas and experience on how to establish and run a thematic forum at SLU.

#### **Meeting ”VA-guiden”**

6/11. Jens Olsson participated in a first meeting between SLU and ”VA-guiden” to discuss future cooperation and engagement. A follow-up meeting is planned to the 20/11.

#### **Thematic brief on water, biodiversity and ecosystem services**

November. SLU Water Forum was contacted by SLU:s SIDA-helpdesk for leading/contributing to a future thematic brief on water, biodiversity and ecosystem services in relation to SIDA:s focal areas. Given the short time frame and foresight, SLU Water Forum will not lead this task, but via Ulf Bjelke (Species Information Center), Kevin Bishop (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment), Stefan Bertilsson (Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment), Chalotte Berkström (SLU Aqua) and Jens Olsson provide input and help to the SIDA-helpdesk in developing the thematic brief.

#### **Planning of internal seminar on water at SLU**

November. Örjan Östman received seed-money from SLU Water Forum for arranging an internal seminar on water at SLU (*Internal SLU Symposium on: Future perspectives on Source-to-Sea*) in order to share ideas and knowledge and foster future cooperation. Jens Olsson and WaterCOG has provided input on the outline and content of the seminar that is planned to be held via Zoom in February 2021. The draft idea for the seminar is that key persons from SLU:s water related work give presentations during two consecutive half-days.

### **Updating the SLU Water Forum web**

November. Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson are working on making minor updates of the SLU Water Forum web.

### **Meeting with WaterCOG**

10/11. The autumn 2020 meeting with WaterCOG was held via Zoom and attended by 13 participants. The notes of the meeting are not yet finalized, but in short the meeting was focused on:

1. Activities and work within SLU Water Forum since last meeting
2. Information from WaterCOG on news/upcoming events related to water at SLU
3. Knowledge needs on water and a future interdisciplinary research program at SLU
4. Plans/activities for the nearest future.

The meeting was very productive including sharing of ideas and upcoming events and suggestions on the future work of SLU Water Forum (see the next sub-heading of the activity report).

### **Information-seminar "Östersjöstiftelsen"**

11/11. Jens Olsson participated in an information seminar about the open calls and sources of funding from "Östersjöstiftelsen" (<https://ostersjostiftelsen.se>). As apparent from the information provided, the projects funded must be lead and administrated by researcher at Södertörns Högskola. Information on open calls from Östersjöstiftelsen" has been distributed to SLU Water Forum.

### **News feed and Twitter**

September-November. There is a continuous feed of news on water via the SLU Water Forum web. From 1/9 to 13/11, 32 different news/press-releases related to water at SLU has been linked to the news feed at the SLU Water Forum web. These posts and other relevant issues on water related to SLU have routinely also been spread via @SLUwater at Twitter.

### **Information on water related funding opportunities and events**

September-November. During this period, at least 16 e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed on the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

## **Plans/activities during autumn 2020 and early 2021**

### **Seminars and meetings within projects funded by SLU Water Forum "seed-money"**

During the end of 2020 and early 2021 work, meetings and seminars within the projects receiving funding are anticipated to take place. For example:

- *Innovative water purification technology for peri- and polyflouroalkyl substances in drinking water.* The project has succeeded with submitting a research proposal to TUFFO SGI ([www.swedgeo.se](http://www.swedgeo.se)) that has passed the

first round of evaluations. Currently the work is focusing on preparing an application for the second stage submission and establishing a network for future collaboration. Jens Olsson will meet up with the project leaders on the 16/11.

- ***Fiskhälsa i fokus***. The planned internal workshop at SLU will be held via Zoom on the 1/12.
- ***Internal SLU Symposium on: Future perspectives on Source-to-Sea***. A seminar is planned to February 2021. Planning and outlining of the seminar has recently been initiated.

### **Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun**

See above for detailed information on how the work and cooperation will be continued.

### **Strategy and work-plan SLU Water Forum 2021-2022**

The current strategy and work-plan of SLU Water Forum will be updated for the years 2021-2022 during late 2020 and early 2021. WaterCOG will provide input on the outline and content of the new strategy and work-plan.

### **Publication-record SLU Water Forum**

Based on discussions during the WaterCOG-meeting a next step would be that the list of publications from people included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list is shared with representatives in WaterCOG in order to filter out publications that are not related to water at SLU. Following this, the selected publications will be visualized and communicated both internally and externally to highlight water related research at SLU.

### **Knowledge needs on water and future internal cooperation at SLU**

WaterCOG suggested Jens Olsson to one more time send out the list of emerging knowledge needs on water to groups/parts of SLU that have not yet provided input. Following perceived additional input, suggestions will be grouped into thematic areas and a dedicated workshop focusing on how to take this further will be arranged during spring 2021.

### **List of “water-experts” at SLU**

WaterCOG supported establishing a list of experts on water at SLU to be displayed on the Water Forum web. 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.

### **Second newsletter from SLU Water Forum**

WaterCOG supported the suggestion of releasing a second newsletter from SLU Water Forum in early 2021. The newsletter will summarize the activities and work within SLU Water Forum during autumn 2020.

### **News-drive from SLU Water Forum during the World Water Day 2021**

WaterCOG supported the suggestion of a news-drive by SLU Water Forum during World Water Day 2021 (22/3). The 2021-focus of the event will likely be “valuing water”.

### **Launch of seed-money from SLU Water Forum 2021**

Early 2021. If the current budget situation allows, seed money for 2021 on pilot projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation focusing on water at SLU will be launched by SLU Water Forum.