



The Swedish Water House

*Your Network for Water Sustainability
Expertise and Knowledge*



www.swedishwaterhouse.se

The Swedish Water House

Since 2003 the Swedish Water House (SWH) initiative has built national networks, mobilised competence and reached out internationally to link expert knowledge on water, environment and development issues.

Specifically, the Swedish Water House supports international policy development and cooperation in the water and development field by generating knowledge, disseminating it and building partnerships within the general areas of sustainable basin management and integrated water resources management.

To do this, the Swedish Water House stimulates cooperation and networking among Swedish-based, internationally-oriented academic institutions, research institutes, NGOs/stakeholders, consultants and government agencies. These "Network Partners" share information about their activities in Sweden and abroad, profile their unique competence and access knowledge via the Swedish Water House.

Non-Swedish stakeholders also benefit. The SWH offers easy access to Swedish competence in water and economics, environment, gender, governance, management and sanitation. Through the Swedish Water House and its Network Partners, new perspectives and knowledge are made available for wider international consumption and application.

The initiative was established by the Swedish Government to contribute to the implementation of actions leading to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and other international targets. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) administers the Swedish Water House.

Through its main activities, SWH:

- Builds projects and networks to cultivate knowledge. Through its Cluster Groups, SWH connects individuals and organisations across disciplines. Groups are based around a water-related theme or issue and work to build strong links between research and development on one side, and policy development and decision-making on the other side. Cluster Groups share their findings and participate in international networks and processes.
- Shares knowledge at seminars and public events. The Swedish Water House has organised or supported more than 100 seminars* which have been open, creative and constructive venues for the exchange of knowledge on Swedish and international water and development issues. Some seminars examine new research areas; others highlight Cluster Group work; and others still highlight topical issues or contribute to the formulation of policy recommendations.
- Builds awareness to increase understanding and stimulate action. Innovative knowledge and experiences generated by the Swedish Water House and its Network Partners are spread far and wide. Monitoring of international processes in water and development, on-line databases, disseminated reports and policy briefs, and electronic- and web-based information contribute to debate, co-operation and application. Swedish Water House resources, networks and news are conveniently accessed via www.swedishwaterhouse.se.

*As of May 2009

Projects and Networks – where knowledge is cultivated

The Swedish Water House fosters Swedish contributions to knowledge generation and international water processes. SWH creates “meeting places” between Swedish and international actors and identifies potential contributions and synergies in similarly-themed processes around the world. Further, new and innovative ideas for Cluster Groups are encouraged: emerging water-related topics, links to ongoing international processes or projects, and areas requiring stronger links between science, policy and practice, for example.

Swedish Water House Cluster Groups either previously or currently active include:

- Resilience and Freshwater Initiative
- Swedish Environmental Flows Initiative
- Swedish Network for the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture
- Swedish Stakeholder Process to Discuss Large-Scale Water Infrastructure
- Water and Anti-Corruption Network
- Water and Local Conflict Group
- Water and Sanitation in Peri-Urban Areas
- Water and rights
- Climate, Water and Vulnerability

Cluster Groups are small, manageable idea laboratories and interdisciplinary networks with fixed start and stop dates. Interest and knowledge generated often continues after the group has formally ended because of the momentum created and links to ongoing national and international processes. Young professionals as Cluster Group leaders bring enthusiasm, dynamism and cross-generational networking and knowledge-sharing.

Outside of the Cluster Group framework, SWH projects have mapped Swedish water expertise in international water issues, provided support to the EU Water Initiative and the Northern Water Network (NoWNET). SWH is also a member of the European Water Partnership (EWP).



Seminars and Events

– where knowledge is shared

The Swedish Water House has organised or supported 100 seminars on a wide variety of subjects. These seminars have allowed for an open and creative exchange of views on Swedish and international water and development issues. Some seminars are conducted in an exploratory manner with the aim to examine new areas. Others highlight the ongoing work of Cluster Groups. And others still highlight topics of current interest, provide a forum for leading Swedish- and non-Swedish experts, or contribute to the formulation of policy recommendations. Seminars are arranged by the Swedish Water House, its Network Partners or in collaboration with others.

A short listing of some topics covered in recent seminars:

- Anti-corruption in water
- Aral Sea
- Baltic Sea
- Climate change, vulnerability and adaptation
- Ecosystems services
- Environmental conflicts and the media
- Environmental flows
- Environmental management

- European Framework Directive
- European Union Water Initiative
- Financing Integrated Water Resources Management
- Green-blue water resources
- Human Development Report
- Millennium Development Goals
- Peri-urban water and sanitation
- Resilience
- Sanitation
- Science and journalism
- Transboundary water management
- Water as a human right
- Water in the climate change negotiations
- United Nations World Water Day
- Water scarcity

A full listing of previous, including related outcomes and reports, plus upcoming seminars is found at www.swedishwaterhouse.se. The complexity of the water field and the diversity of the Network Partners in particular and other international stakeholders in general provide the Swedish Water House with a broad palate of potential seminars for the future. Seminars on policy, research, science, management, information sharing, networking and technology are equally welcome.



Awareness Building – where knowledge stimulates understanding and action

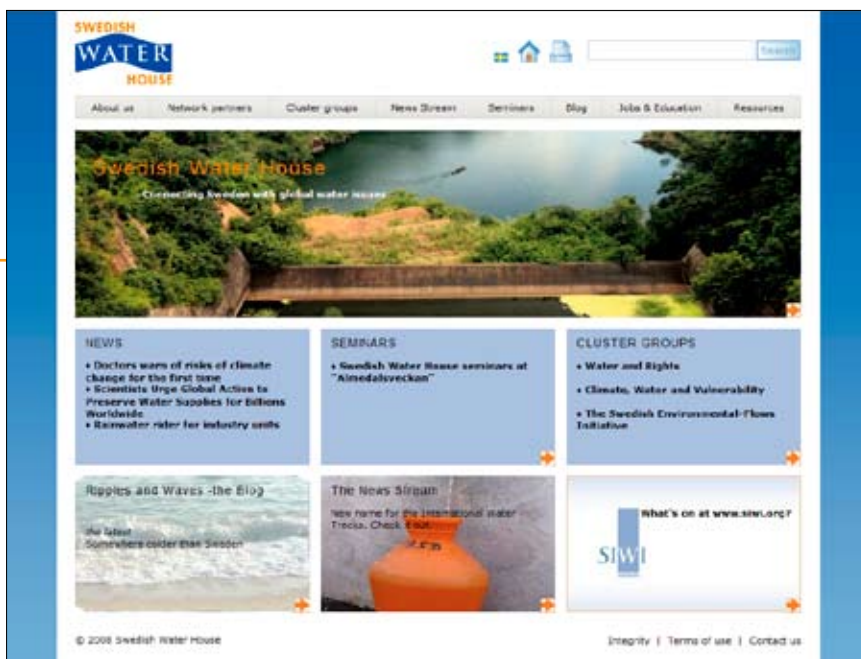
Beyond the inter-personal communication fostered through the building of networks and participation in international processes, and at specific seminars, the Swedish Water House facilitates information access and dissemination through its full-service, interactive web site, www.swedishwaterhouse.se.

Here you can:

- Find previous and upcoming seminars
- Share your views on the SWH Blog
- Read about Cluster Group projects
- Keep abreast of international water news

- Search the SWH Resources
- Discover the Network Partners
- Browse job opportunities
- Follow international processes in the News Stream

Cluster Groups projects produce policy briefs and special reports. Titles produced by the Swedish Water House are free of charge and are distributed globally. An electronic newsletter keeps Network Partners and Swedish and international stakeholders updated on activities.



Swedish Water House Questions and Answers

Is the Swedish Water House an organisation?

No. It is a project built around networks which stimulate contact and exchange among existing national and international organisations in order to identify and solve specific water-related problems.

How does the Swedish Water House increase understanding and stimulate action?

By serving as a knowledge resource centre to help national and international organisations and government agencies further actions at local, national and international levels – and support international policy processes.

Does the Swedish Water House fund projects?

No. Swedish Water House resources are used to start up and enable new ideas and engagement among and between Swedish actors. Such funding is leveraged with resources and interest available through the actors and in international processes. When Cluster Groups end, the networks and knowledge created continue.

Does it cost anything to attend seminars, or to gain access to information?

SWH seminars (except during the World Water Week) are free of charge as are publications and reports (this may not apply to certain publications produced or seminars arranged by individual Network Partners).

I'm Swedish, how can I get involved?

Become a Network Partner, or engage in international processes or networks via www.swedishwaterhouse.se!

I'm not Swedish, what can I gain from the Swedish Water House?

Through www.swedishwaterhouse.se, you or your organisation can gain access to cutting-edge Swedish knowledge, establish new expert contacts, join existing networks, stimulate new thinking or contribute to any processes, projects and networks where you are already involved.



For more information about the Swedish Water House, collaboration or becoming a Network Partner, please visit www.swedishwaterhouse.se.



Swedish Water House is administered by SIWI.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE, SIWI

DROTTNINGGATAN 33, SE-III 51 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

PHONE +46 8 522 139 60 + FAX +46 8 522 139 61 + siwi@siwi.org + www.siwi.org