



## GRow-Newsletter 09/2020

Dear Readers,

Covid-19 still gives us all a hard time and many things are no longer as they were before. The GRow conference team seized the opportunity and set up a new concept for the final conference: a hybrid format that enables both physical and online participation. In this 4th GRow Newsletter you will learn more about the hybrid concept of the final conference of this BMBF funding measure and what possibilities it offers.

After 3 years of applied research under the theme "Global analyses and local solutions for sustainable water resources management", 12 GRow projects are now in the final spurt to put forth a set of innovative water management solutions. We are happy to inform you about the developments of the last months and to announce important upcoming events.

**Highlights of this newsletter are:**

- Insights into the hybrid conference format
- Introducing our keynote speaker for the GRow Final Conference: Dr Olcay Ünver (Vice-Chair, UN-Water, and Senior Advisor, FAO)
- Latest results of the GRow projects GlobeDrought, STEER and go-CAM

Enjoy reading more below and don't forget to register for the GRow final conference if not done yet!

### [GRow Final Conference](#)

20 - 21 October 2020 at Umweltforum, Berlin, Germany

[Register here](#)

Kind regards,

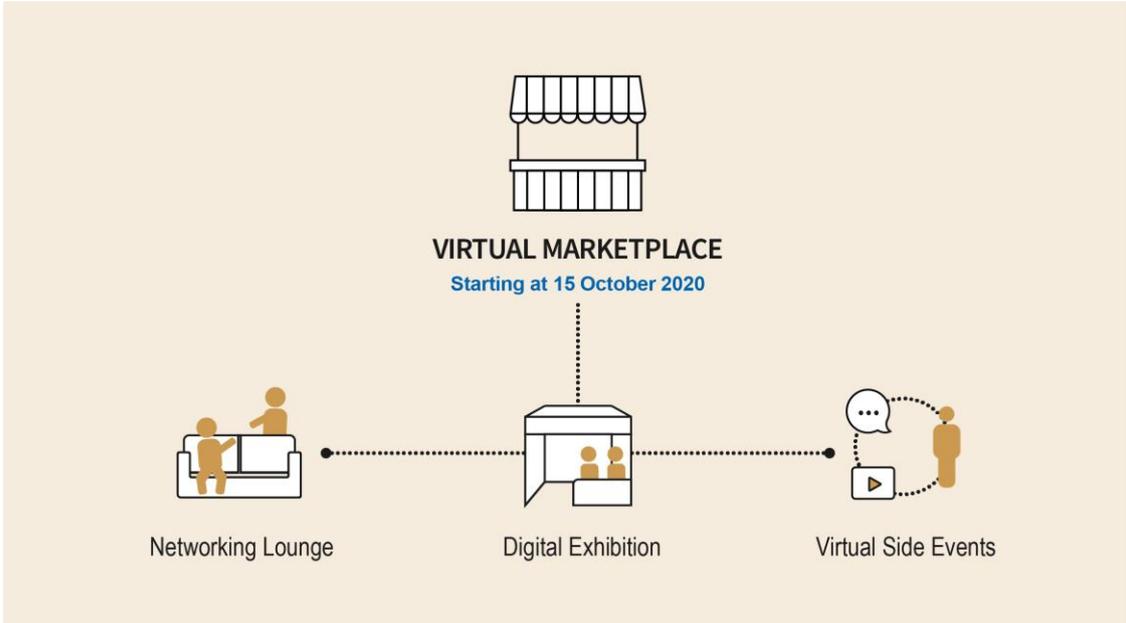
The GRownet team

## The idea behind the hybrid conference concept

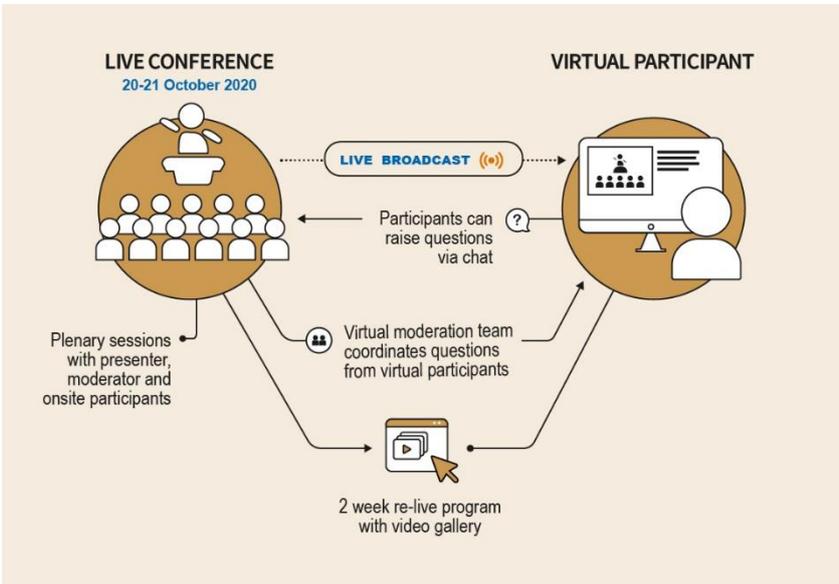
Current restrictions on large events and travel are forcing a breath of fresh air into the event industry. Hybrid conferences - a combination of on-site live events with innovative digital formats - are currently in high demand. Moreover, besides location-independent participation enabling physical as well as digital participants to engage actively in the conference activities and associated higher registration numbers, additional advantages such as savings in travel costs and CO2 make hybrid events an attractive long-term solution.

The GRoW Final Conference will be held in hybrid format framed with the following key elements:

- (1) a **Virtual Marketplace**, starting one week before the live event and available every day until the end of the GRoW Final Conference (for details see below)



- (2) an on-site **Live Event** on 20 & 21 October 2020, including plenary sessions, stakeholder fora and a high-level panel discussion (for details see programme flyer here). Sessions can be attended either physically (limited seat number available) or virtually



(3) a **broadcasting service**, which uploads a recording of the live event to a cloud service where it will be accessible for two weeks

For more information on the hybrid format, please visit the GRoW-website [here](#).

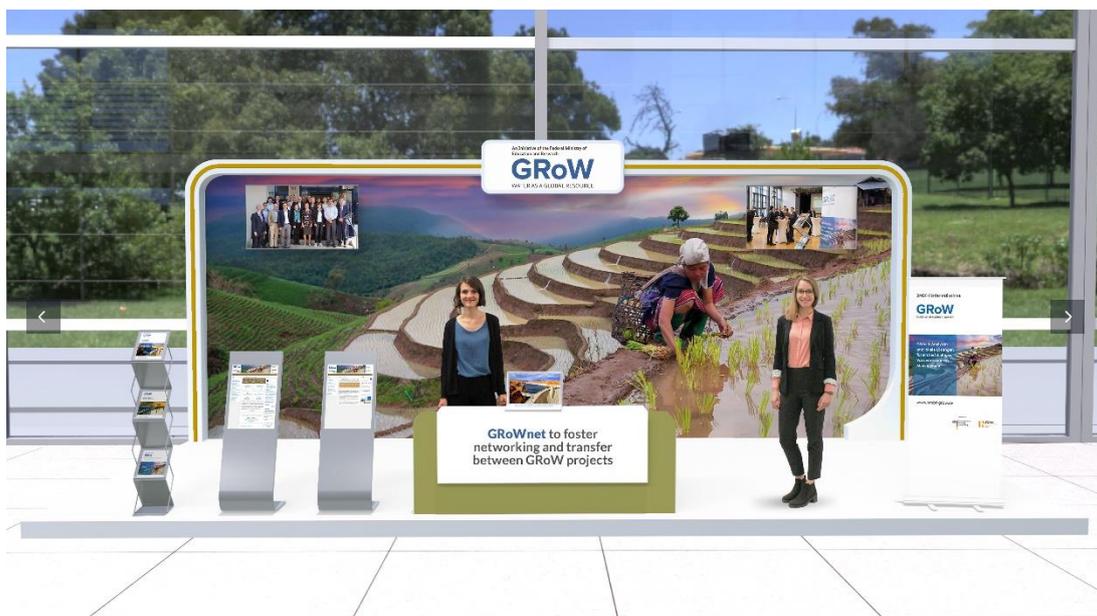
## Join us on a short tour of the virtual marketplace

Similar to a physical marketplace, GRoW projects will present their innovative methods and products at exhibition booths.

The marketplace tour starts at the **exhibition hall** (Fig. 1), which will give a first overview of the booths.



By mouse click, the visitor can easily navigate between the **exhibition booths** and learn more about the 12 GRoW projects by retrieving videos, flyers, and further project information provided (Fig. 2). **Contact persons** are available at the booths live via text or video chat.



Conference visitors are also able to meet bilaterally or in groups with experts, organisations and companies in a **networking lounge**.

In addition to the live event, various **side events** will take place on the marketplace one week before the live event starts and beyond (15-23 October 2020). At these events, GRoW projects will present and discuss further highlights of 3 years of applied research with visitors. An agenda of site events will soon be available on the GRoW [website](#).

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## Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Who will physically attend the conference?

- We regret to inform you that due to Corona-related restrictions, only about 70 people can physically participate in the Umweltforum Berlin. In order to guarantee an adequate transmission quality of the input presentations and discussions, we will give priority to speakers, panellists and moderators. All other participants who wish to participate physically are nevertheless invited to indicate this when registering for the conference. As soon as we have more certainty about the Corona-related regulations and the maximum permitted number of physical participants in October, we will directly contact all participants registered. Either way, a virtual community manager will ensure that the virtual participants are equally involved in conference activities.

Is registration only required for physical, or also for online participants?

- Registration is required for everyone, both physical and digital participants, to attend the conference.

Do I need to download an App to join the virtual marketplace and the conference stream?

- You do not need to download an application in order to join the marketplace and conference virtually. The transmission of the live stream is web browser-based. We recommend installing the latest browser version.

Find answers to further FAQs [here](#).

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## Accelerating progress towards achieving SDG 6: UN-Water Vice-Chair Dr Olcay Ünver reflects on pressing challenges and opportunities in water management

Ünver: "The international community, led by governments, but including the business sector and the civil society, has demonstrated exemplary resolve and solidarity in first having a dedicated water and sanitation goal, SDG 6, in the suite of sustainable development goals, as well as targets in other goals that support this dedicated goal. The achievement of most, if not all, of these, requires action at country level. The success in moving from the global to country and to the appropriate sub-national level is dependent on five fundamental and interconnected elements: 1) adequate, transparent and reliable data and information systems; 2) flexible financing schemes; 3) sound and adaptive governance structures; 4) human and institutional capacity; and 5) innovation. [...] A proper and timely identification of these can turn them into opportunities."



## Highlights from GlobeDrought, STEER and ViWA



### GlobeDrought discusses drought effects on food security and community in upcoming webinar

[GlobeDrought](#) is developing a web-based information system which will provide a spatially description of drought risks by considering drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Linking remote sensing and precipitation data with hydrological and yield modelling, indicators for a multi-layered drought characterization will be developed, enabling the quantification of drought risks.

As part of the regional drought risk assessment conducted in Zimbabwe, a workshop with regional stakeholders will be conducted at the end of September with the aim of validating the study results and evaluating the utility of drought information systems for decision makers. A main element of GlobeDrought is delivering the findings through a [webinar series](#) that features project partners teaming up with co-hosts from key international organisations. Visit the GlobeDrought learning platform [here](#) to find webinar recordings, lectures, and information on the upcoming block on food security



### STEER proposes products to make key insights available to both researches and practitioners

Together with local stakeholders, [STEER](#) aims to identify approaches to increase good governance in relation to complex water resource problems and systemic challenges to implement appropriate measures in individual cases. One of these cases is the Weser-Ems region, where STEER recently hosted a [multi-stakeholder workshop](#) to discuss how to improve groundwater protection in the light of current changing agricultural conditions.

With the project soon coming to an end, STEER's [final consortium meeting](#) addressed how key results can be made available to both researchers and practitioners. Amongst others, a series of briefing papers will provide recommendations for better governance in STEER's in-depth case studies; a special issue will publish major scientific insights; and a Water Governance Tool will enable users to independently carry out governance assessments in their own regions and propose instruments to solve resource problems.



### go-CAM develops an online dialogue platform Coastal Aquifer Management

To close the gap between societal needs and scientific expertise [go-CAM](#) has developed an online dialogue platform called Coastal Aquifer Management (CAM). The CAM provides a bundled and easy to grasp representation of the current state of water management in different regions and allows the visualization and evaluation of future changes. The platform is open for access for different users like water agencies, water supply companies and universities worldwide and therefore fosters dialogue among stakeholders in the water sector of coastal regions. This makes the CAM a valuable tool to transfer the scientific understanding of water resources into modern practice-orientated water management and governance structures. The key features of groundwater relevant to the SDGs are its use, management and sustainability. It has been shown that a better link between targets and their essential status indicators for groundwater is necessary. This would facilitate the translation of groundwater-related and groundwater-relevant aspirations into real, measurable actions.

## Water news

### **The virtual World Water Week 2020 – “Water and Climate Change – Accelerating Action”**

World Water Week At Home (WWWeek@home), a virtual conference that took place from August 24 to 28, was initiated by SIWI after the regular World Water Week 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The GIZ Week on Water for Development (WW4D) was part of the World Water Week and put a special emphasis on key water topics in relation to climate change and Covid-19. In 120 sessions, water and development experts from across the world shared their best ideas for tackling global water issues. During this year’s event, discussions on communication and behavioural change were prominent in many sessions. Change and resilience were also given their expected share of attention.

Further information, resources and recordings of the sessions can be found [here](#).

[Complete article](#)

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### **IWRA Policy Brief: How can concepts like the water footprint and virtual water contribute to an integrated sustainable water use?**

The Policy Brief “Virtual water and trade: lightening water footprints” by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) deals with the opportunities and pitfalls of the concepts water footprint and virtual water. The fields of action identified in the Policy Brief are closely linked to the work of various GRoW joint projects.

The full Policy Brief can be downloaded [here](#). Further information on links to GRoW's work within the cross-cutting topic of the water footprint can be found [here](#).

[Complete article](#)

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### **Translating the “OECD Principles on Water Governance” into practice – how can international water reforms be successfully implemented on the local level?**

In a Policy Brief from the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), the authors discuss how international guidelines such as the “OECD Principles on Water Governance” can be successfully put into practice.

The full policy brief "OECD Principles on Water Governance: From policy to practice" can be downloaded [here](#).

[Complete article](#)

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### **World Water Development Report 2020 - focus on water and climate change**

This year's United Nations World Water Development Report is all about water and climate. It aims to support the water sector in tackling climate change challenges and to inform the climate sector of the opportunities that improved water management offer in the fight against climate change.

Further information and the complete report is available [here](#).

[Complete article](#)

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## **GRoW researcher on TV - Moderator Gert Scobel discusses together with experts challenges and perspectives around the resource water**

Framed under the topic “the water crisis” moderator Gert Scobel and his guests address in the 3sat program “scobel” the current use of water and discuss perspectives for better water reuse. In addition to Prof. Dr. Jürgen Drewes (Institute for Urban Water Management at the TU Munich) and Prof. Dr. Dieter Gerten (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Geography Institute at HU Berlin), GRoW project coordinator Prof. Dr. Claudia Pahl-Wostl (Institute for Environmental Systems Research at the University of Osnabrück) also contributes with her expert knowledge.

The full TV show (in German only) is available [here](#).

[Complete article](#)

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### **Questions concerning GRoW and GRoWnet**

Annika Kramer, Elsa Semmling and Anika Conrad

[adelphi research gGmbH](#)

Alt-Moabit 91, 10559 Berlin

Managing directors: Alexander Carius, Mikael P. Henzler, Walter Kahlenborn

E-Mail: [grownet@adelphi.de](mailto:grownet@adelphi.de)

Website: <https://bmbf-grow.de/en>

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