Highlights from the work of GRoWnet

Annika Kramer, adelphi

GRoWnet – goals

Increase the overall impact of the funding measure towards sustainable management of global water resources and achieving the SDGs.
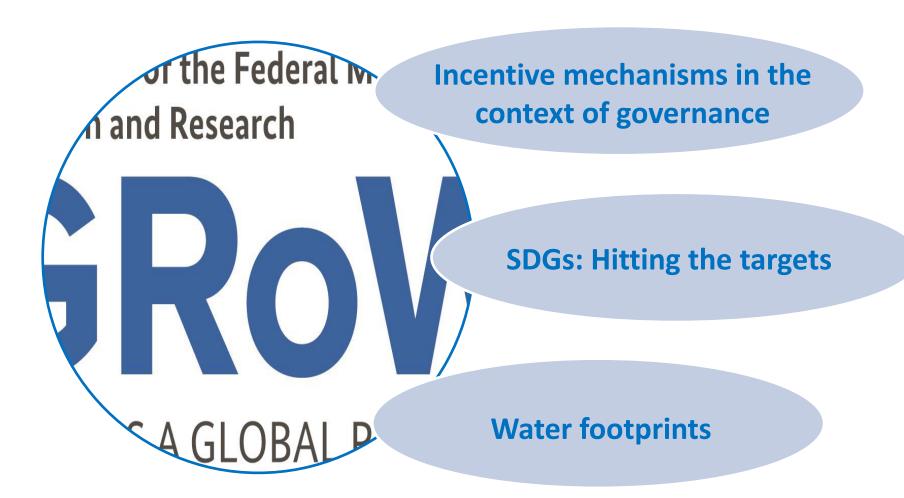
GRoWnet facilitates:

- **networking and knowledge exchange (internal and external)**

- **synthesis of findings from GRoW to jointly develop evidence-based recommendations**

- **targeted communication activities to different target groups**

- ➲ **transfer of results into relevant fields of application (policy and practice)**

GRoWnet provides ideas and communication structures

GRoWnet – Cross-cutting topics

Incentive mechanisms in the context of governance

SDGs: Hitting the targets

Water footprints

GRoWnet – Communication

Newsletter

- Interview with practitioner/ external expert

- Highlights from GRoW-projects

- Cross-cutting topics

- GRoW in the spotlight

- Upcoming GRoW events

- Water news

➡ **Register at www.bmbf-grow.de**

GRoWnet – Transfer

GRoW position paper on SDG 6
- highlighting key scientific challenges
- pointing out where GRoW could contribute to solutions
- emphasising the need for an evidence-based approach to achieving SDG 6
- calling for a science platform on water that would bring together relevant actors.

GRoW
WATER AS A GLOBAL RESOURCE

GRoW position paper on SDG 6
Strengthening the evidence base for the SDG process
21 June 2018

To help achieve the ambitious targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has initiated the "Water as a Global Resource" (GRoW) funding measure. GRoW has created a network of more than 90 institutions that are active in research, business and practice. The partners collaborating within GRoW very much welcome the fact that SDG 6 will be a focus during the 2018 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. They would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the significant role of science in sustainably managing global freshwater resources.

GRoW stands ready to provide support for a stronger science-policy interface that will ensure sound reviewing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ambitious targets for SDG 6 and related SDGs. With this position paper, GRoW would also like to highlight the challenges it sees with regard to achieving SDG 6, and to outline how its research programme can help achieve the SDGs in general and SDG 6 in particular.

KEY CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING SDG 6

Agreeing on the SDGs was a tremendous accomplishment for the international community, and continuing on this path is essential for our joint future. Achieving the targets will require ongoing efforts and new approaches. Within this context, the GRoW research projects would like to highlight the following key challenges:

- **Competing or even conflicting targets in different SDGs result in trade-offs and synergies** (e.g. between SDG 6 and SDG 2, and SDG 6 and SDG 7). Trade-offs manifest differently depending on scale and region. These trade-offs need to be better understood and addressed openly with suitable governance structures to provide an integrated approach to achieving all SDGs.
- **Measuring progress on achieving SDG 6 needs improved methodologies.** Some of the existing indicators on achieving SDG 6 do not sufficiently represent the outlined targets, are not conceptually clear or measurable, or lack adequate data. Countries do not regularly record data for seven of the eleven SDG 6 indicators. In addition, indicators capturing potential synergies and conflicts between targets are largely lacking.
- **The global community of water researchers and practitioners is rather fragmented.** This results in fragmented knowledge and a high degree of uncertainty that paves the way for different interest groups to strategically misinterpret and even misuse water-related knowledge and data. Improved knowledge management is required to provide the evidence base for water as a global resource.

Targeted dissemination to
- international organisations, SDG indicator custodians (UN-Habitat, WHO, UNEP, FAO, UNICEF, etc.)
- Development organisations (GIZ, KfW, BGR, SDC, etc.
- German ministries (Min. Env, Min. Deve. Cooperation, Foreign Office etc.)
- At the UN High Level Politcal Forum on SDGs in New York

GRoWnet – Agenda Day 1

Keynote: The critical role of SDG6 to achieve the 2030 Agenda – State of affairs and knowledge gaps
(*Prof Dr Stefan Uhlenbrook,* UNESCO WWAP)

Project presentations

- **GLOBAL SURFACE WATER RESOURCES**
  Facilitator: Prof Petra Döll (Goethe University Frankfurt)

- **GLOBAL GROUNDWATER AND WATER SUPPLY**
  Facilitator: Prof Sabine Attinger (UFZ Leipzig)

- **WATER FOOTPRINT**
  Facilitator: Prof Wolfram Mauser (LMU München)

GRoW Cross-cutting topics – state of work and next steps

➡ **GRoW Reception/ Improv theatre / Dinner**

GRoWnet – Agenda Day 2

Project presentations

- **GLOBAL ANALYSES AND GOVERNANCE**
  Facilitator: Prof Harald Kunstmann (KIT)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – transfer from research to practice

Africa	*Dr Marius Claassen* (CSIR, South Africa)
	Barbara Gerhager (GIZ)
Latin America	*Dr Mauricio Scheer* (SANEPAR , Brazil)
	Alicia Minaya (Centro Competencias del Agua, Peru/ Berlin)
Digitalisation	*Dr Heike Bach (Vista GmbH)*
	Christian Malewski (Wupperverband)
Water quality	*Harald Köthe (UNESCO)*
	Godehard Hennies (Wasserverbandstag e.V.)
Water-use efficiency	*Benjamin Plaga (Volkswagen)*
	Johannes Schmiester (WWF Germany)

Thank you and enjoy the conference!

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