

# GRoW-Newsletter 10/2019

Dear Readers,

GRoW partners have been busy with numerous activities since the [GRoW mid-term conference](#) in February. We are happy to update you on developments of the past few months and announce important upcoming events. First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to announce the GRoW final conference, which will take place in Berlin in June 2020.

**Save the date: 23-24 June 2020!**

**Location: ESMT Berlin, Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin, Germany**

Highlights of this newsletter are:

- GRoW in the spotlight at [Stockholm World Water Week 2019](#) with two exciting events
- Learn more about the role of science to enable and accelerate progress on achieving SDG 6 in an [interview with Natalia Uribe Pando](#) (UNESCO WWAP)
- The GRoW projects WELLE, MedWater and ViWA present their latest results - read more below and register now for the upcoming [WELLE webinars](#)

Enjoy reading!

Kind regards,

The GRoWnet team

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## GRoW in the spotlight

### **GRoW at the Stockholm World Water Week: a step forward towards achieving the Agenda 2030**

Water is a scarce resource and thus plays a critical role in reaching the [United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Without water, life cannot be sustained and without using water in agricultural production, food cannot be produced. However, many people still do not have access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation. Accordingly, the slogan at this year's [World Water Week in Stockholm](#) was: "Leaving no one behind - water and sanitation for everyone". From 25 to 30 August 2019, scientists, water managers and policy-makers discussed strategies that may contribute to solve the global challenges of unequal distribution of water, lack of drinking water, and insufficient sanitation. Two events highlighted different approaches developed within GRoW to help achieve the SDGs – based on the work of the GRoW cross-cutting topics "[SDGs - Hitting the targets](#)" and "[Water Footprint](#)". A highlight of the Water Footprint session was the presentation of the newly published policy brief on [Advancing the Water Footprint into an instrument to support achieving the SDGs](#) which has been developed by adelphi and a group of researchers involved in the various GRoW projects concerned with water footprint.

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## Interview with Natalia Uribe Pando (UNESCO WWAP)

**Natalia Uribe Pando talks to GRoW about regional policy papers underlining the critical role of water to achieve the SDGs**

The UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) recently analysed the **critical role of water to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**. Three regional policy papers for **Africa**,

the **Arab region** and **Latin America and the Caribbean** present findings and policy recommendations to support the inclusion of water in planning across sectors. Additionally, a Policy Brief summarizes findings and policy recommendations from these regional analyses. GRoW talked to Natalia Uribe Pando, Programme Specialist in Policy, Advocacy and Valorisation with UNESCO WWAP about the great potential of SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how research can help to foster synergies and avoid trade-offs.

Find the full interview [here](#).

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## Highlights from WELLE, MedWater and ViWA

### **WELLE: Organizational Water Footprint & Tool – Available online & register now for webinars**

The [WELLE](#) project develops methodical and practical solutions for the determination of the water footprint of companies. Among these solutions is the recently developed web-based tool for calculating a company's water footprint – the **Organizational Water Footprint tool (OWF)**. A free [online tool](#) facilitates identification of organizational water consumption along supply chains in accordance with the novel OWF approach.

Find out more [here](#).

WELLE will organise a webinar to introduce its OWF methodology as well as its online tool and underlying database.

#### **Dates of webinars**

**3 December 10 am** – Please register [here](#).

**10 December 4 pm** – Please register [here](#).

### **MedWater develops new and model-based groundwater management concepts for the Middle East**

[MedWater](#) develops management tools for efficient and sustainable water use of scarce groundwater resources for vulnerable karst aquifers within the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. MedWater recently applied their tools for the Western Aquifer in Israel, aiming at developing a model-based decision support system for Israeli water authorities. The tool successfully supports the assessment of the aquifer's response to changes in precipitation or water consumption and the determination of appropriate management strategies. The results will be transferred to similar aquifers in Southern Europe.

Find out more [here](#).

### **ViWA identifies global hot-spots of agricultural water use efficiency**

Virtual Water Values ([ViWA](#)) monitors global water use efficiency and develops instruments to efficiently use water resources in agriculture. The project uses an agro-hydrological simulation model and extends a general-equilibrium economic model of agricultural trade with virtual water data. Thus, current water use efficiency, crop yields and virtual water flows of traded agricultural goods are simulated. The project further identifies global hot- and cold-spots of water use, which serve for an analysis of trade-offs between commercial water use and ecosystem service protection.

Find out more [here](#).

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## Water news

### BMBF engaged in five transnational projects funded under the Water JPI

The Joint Programming Initiative „Water Challenges for a Changing World“ (Water JPI) issued the 2017 Joint Call on „Water resource management in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals“. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) engages in this Initiative by co-funding five transnational projects. The projects include partners from six European countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden and Cyprus), as well as Brazil and South Africa.

The shortlisted projects cover a wide range of disciplines and – just as GRoW joint research projects – will develop approaches helping to achieve the UN SDGs over the coming years.

We encourage all GRoW projects to connect to these Water JPI projects if there is a potential link and benefit possible. More information can be found [here](#) and on the [FONA Website](#).

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### UN-Water launches SDG 6 Data Portal during the World Water Week in Stockholm

UN-Water launched its [SDG 6 Data Portal](#) at the [World Water Week](#) in Stockholm. This is one of the outcomes of the UN-Water's [Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6](#). The portal compiles data on all SDG 6 global indicators and other key social, economic and environmental parameters. Through maps, charts and tables, the portal offers tailored options for visualization and analysis of the data, including on interlinkages between socio-economic and ecologic factors.

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### Published Article on GRoW (Water as a Global Resource) in the May 2019 edition of “KW Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft”

The May 2019 edition on general water management issues (KW Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft) contains a publication on “Water as a global resource” written by members of the GRoWnet team, providing a good overview of the progress GRoW has made so far. The article briefly discusses the global challenges we face and the necessity for sustainable water management as it explains GRoW and the network lying behind it. Also, it informs the public on the GRoW mid-term conference of last February, where the twelve joint research projects presented their interim results. Further information on the article "Water as a global resource" can be found [here](#) with kind permission of "[KW Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft](#)".

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### Questions concerning GRoW and GRoWnet

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