Global Water System Project (GWSP): 2015 Activities

What publications did you produce in 2015 (list up to five)?


What was your project’s headline finding or activity in 2015?

Recognizing that the formal involvement of the science community in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator development was practically non-existent, the Global Water System Project (GWSP) sponsored by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) organized the conference “Sustainable Development Goals: A water perspective” in August 2015 in Bonn, Germany. With the focus on three essential aspects of SDGs indicators, interlinkages and implementation, the conference played a key and timely role in helping the science community to interact with the international policy consultation process.

GWSP has produced a report summarizing the findings of the conference concerning research gaps in relation to the eight targets of the Water SDG (SDG 6) and the currently proposed indicators. Thus, the conference can be seen as a starting point for a forthcoming fruitful partnership between global water scientists and other stakeholders of the SDG process.
### How do your findings or activities in 2015 contribute to 1) science, 2) policy and 3) society?
Who are the key users of this new knowledge?

The Bonn SDG conference brought together available information and sought to identify knowledge and action gaps, share lessons on viable instruments and approaches, facilitate networks and create a platform for moving toward action on the SDGs.

The conference has produced a summary statement, which identifies the main barriers, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the water-related SDGs. It made a set of core recommendations to institutions and individuals engaged in science, governance, management and decision-making on water and related resources to promote water stewardship.

### Did you engage any stakeholders/societal partners/external users with this work in 2015? If yes, who? How did you engage?

The water SDG framework poses a number of conceptual as well as implementation challenges that require enhancing the close collaboration between the policy and scientific communities and other stakeholders, including industry. The conference has played a key role in helping the science community to interact with the international policy consultation process to inform and catalyze action by key actors—including policymakers, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, educators and researchers as agents of change. Several key people from United Nations organizations (including former co-Chair of the UN Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Uschi Eid, Chair of UN Secretary Generals' Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, Jacqueline McGlade, Chief Scientist at the United Nations Environment Programme) attended the conference.

Also a representative of different stakeholders from UN water was present and discussed the details on SDGs indicators and assessment and monitoring. The program and the list of participants of the conference can be accessed online.

### Did you co-design research questions or co-produce knowledge with other disciplines or societal partners in 2015? If so, how?

GWSP consulted several stakeholders, in NGOs, businesses and the industry sector, in 2015 to frame research questions on SDGs as well as to develop the initial design report of the Sustainable Water Future Program.

There has been stakeholder engagement in the co-design of the water solution lab, which will foster new and adaptive planning and water system design principles through interaction between students, researchers, entrepreneurs and community representatives. The water solution lab has been planned to draw on the latest developments from the water sciences and technology, placing them into a planning and design process for water solutions and engaging the private sector with different partners as a combined force for innovation.
GWSP has now transitioned into the Sustainable Water Future Programme (SWFP) as a Core Project of Future Earth. This new programme has a clear objective to generate solutions by facilitating the adoption of science-based evidence into the implementation and monitoring of goals for sustainable development. SWFP is calling for proposals to form different working groups under the following major research priority areas:

- Water, Sanitation, and Health
- Water Quality and Ecosystem
- Balancing water needs for Human and Nature
- Groundwater Management
- Freshwater System and Deltas
- Understanding Human values of freshwater system in the Anthropocene
- Urban Water System
- Transboundary Water
- Sustainability in the Water Energy Food Nexus
- Climate Risk and Adaptation

Water Future program is also lead convenor of the science forum of the upcoming Budapest Water Summit. Under the patronage of H.E. Mr. János ÁDER, President of Hungary and Member of the High Level Panel on Water convened by the UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank, Hungary will be hosting a high-profile conference and expo: the Budapest Water Summit 2016. The aim of the three-day event is to promote in a very concrete manner the implementation of the sustainable development water goal and all related targets on water and sanitation, as well as to achieve progress in the implementation of the water-related aspects of the Paris Climate Agreement.

**How can you be found online?**  
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