

AGWA Annual Meeting 2018 Summary  
25 August 2018, 13:00-17:00 CEST  
Stockholm, Sweden

Meeting Facilitator: Mark Fletcher, Arup

Meeting co-convenors: John Matthews, AGWA; Maggie White, SIWI; Diego Rodriguez, World Bank

Participants: Maggie White, Diego Rodriguez, John Matthews, Mark Fletcher, Louise Whiting, Cees van de Guchte, Paul Fleming, Ingrid Timboe, Katarina Veem, Torgny Holmgren, Josh Newton, Alicia Douglas, Anil Mishra, Sonja Koeppel, Karin Lexén, Martin Kerres, Robert Kranefield, Darko Manakovski, Kathryn Pharr, Elena Lopez Gunn, Aparna Sridhar, Jenna Shinen

### **Opening statement / Reflections on the past year** (*John Matthews*)

After a short welcome from Mark Fletcher and participant introductions, the meeting opened with a reflection from John on the work that has been done over the past year and the unique space that AGWA has come to occupy within the global water community. This year has seen a rapid expansion and differentiation of AGWA's activities and we are quickly becoming the go-to water adaptation organization within the UNFCCC, as demonstrated by their approach to AGWA earlier in 2018 asking us to co-lead a series of regional adaptation workshops for national adaptation focal points. This nicely illustrates the reality that AGWA does not work solely at the project, national or international scale, or just on policy or technical aspects. Instead, we work at the "decision scale" - helping practitioners and policy makers make informed decisions at all institutional levels in an era of deep uncertainty.

### **Policy Group Report** (*Maggie White & Ingrid Timboe*)

The policy group expanded in late 2017 to include Ingrid Timboe, who now helps coordinate our work on global climate and water policy in concert with Maggie White at SIWI. This past year has been a busy one, with a scaling-up of our engagement with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action as well as the creation of the Working Group on Water and Climate, started at the 8th World Water Forum this past March. This working group is designed to make targeted recommendations on where water can be most beneficial and welcome within the climate action policy arena. We are once again co-convenors for the water group at the COP, and are helping to organize several sessions at COP24 related to water, climate, land use, and DRR, among other topics. We have also expanded our work to include linking water and climate with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with support from our colleagues at Deltares in the Netherlands and BMZ / GIZ in Germany.

### **Reports from AGWA Partners**

In this segment we heard brief updates from the following AGWA members:

- Elena Lopez Gunn, ICATALYST, on the NIAID project
- Ingrid Timboe, AGWA, on the ClimateReady Podcast
- Anil Mishra, UNESCO IHP, on the forthcoming CRIDA publication
- Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, on UNECE and Transboundary Adaptation, as well as UN Water's new "words into action" document on water and disasters
- Alicia Douglas, WaterRising.org, on WaterRising and her new environmental justice proposal
- Mark Fletcher, Arup, on the City Water Resilience Framework (CWRF)
- Diego Rodriguez on the World Bank's Bottom-Up Approaches Conference & the Knowledge Platform

### **AGWA Budget** (*John Matthews*)

John gave an overview of the past year's spending and income as well as projected expenses and income for 2018-2019. More details on the numbers are available in the annual report. While the past year saw record core support for our work, our financial flows remain complex. This complexity is inextricably linked to our lack of legal organizational status, and is a primary reason why we are moving to formalize AGWA over the coming months.

**Formalization of AGWA's structure** (*Katarina Veem & Maggie White*)

SIWI has secured the services of Josh Newton, GWP, as an independent consultant to help us determine the best option(s) for AGWA moving forward. This work will be completed this fall, in time for the Steering Committee to make a final decision about AGWA's future structure and status in November. Our hope is to unveil the "new" AGWA at COP24 in December.

**Strategic discussion on 2018-2020 priorities** (*all participants*)

This discussion included all parties and centered around what AGWA's priorities for the coming year should be, given our growing staff and core support. On the policy side, it was agreed that we should continue to push on the linkages between water and climate, through the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda, but also through other fora within the UNFCCC system, such as through the Koronivia Joint Decision on Agriculture, Nairobi Work Program, the Technical Expert Meetings, and the Talanoa facilitative dialogue, among others. Additionally, we should continue and perhaps expand our work on linking water, climate and DRR policy and practice, as the deadline for commitments under the Sendai Framework for DRR is 2020. On the technical side, we are working with the World Bank to grow the Knowledge Platform and plan to co-host a bottom-up approaches conference in 2019. Other technical priorities include expanding our capacity building and training materials for risk assessment and risk reduction; urban resilience and the CWRP in particular; economics and the evaluation, comparison, and communication of ecological and engineering based approaches; insurance and adaptation; support for green/climate/resilience bonds; and more application of EEDS and continuum of green, gray, hybrid infrastructure.

**Vision and goals for the coming year** (*John Matthews, Diego Rodriguez, Maggie White*)

AGWA remains a small core with a big network. Our transition to an NGO represents a maturation, with both risks and opportunities. Perhaps the most important goal is to maintain the dynamic focus of AGWA as an institution, responding to new needs, trying to remain "strategically opportunistic" on a core set of goals even as the landscape of institutions and issues shift, and staying in close touch with the membership.