

Newsletter "The Resilience and Freshwater Initiative"

Nr 2, April 2005

This is the second newsletter from the [Swedish Water House](#) supported "The Resilience and Freshwater Initiative" (RFI). The ambition of the initiative is to make emerging scientific theories of resilience operational for policy making that concerns integrated water management. In this newsletter you will find news about upcoming publications from the initiative, a presentation of new network partners, and links to interesting reports on resilience and freshwater issues. Feel free to circulate this newsletter among your colleagues!

Comments or suggestions? Do not hesitate to send us an e-mail: victor.galaz@pol.gu.se

1. Upcoming publications and events

Policy Brief "Rethinking Water Governance"

The Resilience and Freshwater Initiative (RFI) is in the process of producing its first policy-brief, an eight-page publication targeting policy-makers globally. The brief with the working title "Rethinking water governance: Managing freshwater for resilience and ecosystem services" highlights the need of taking complexity and uncertainty in water management seriously, and introduces the concepts "resilience" and "adaptive co-management". The brief also presents two case studies on adaptive approaches to water management in southern Sweden and South Asia. The brief will be ready for distribution by May 2005.

Two Policy Reports

1. A joint publication coordinated by one of our new network partners ISET (see below) entitled **Water, Climatic Variability and Livelihood Resilience: Concepts, Field Insights and Policy Implications** will be made public by the end of May 2005. The report highlights the fundamental importance of understanding adaptive processes and the factors contributing to livelihood resilience if the world is to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The report also highlights the central role water plays in current rural livelihoods in developing countries, and the impact existing climatic variability and anticipated climate change will have on those livelihoods. This report will be presented by the lead author Marcus Moench (Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, USA) at the Stockholm World Water Week.
2. A second report and joint Stockholm University - Stockholm Environmental Institute

publication entitled **Does the EU Water Framework Directive Build Resilience?** will also be presented at the World Water Week. This report discusses the current implementation of the EU Water Framework in Sweden from a resilience perspective. The main issue analyzed in this publication is whether the Directive supports water management that takes uncertainty, learning and vulnerability seriously. This report will be made public in early July 2005.

Stockholm World Water Week, August 2005

The RFI will realize a seminar on August 21st entitled "Harnessing Uncertainty" on resilience and IWRM during the World Water Week. See below for the preliminary program, and www.worldwaterweek.org for further information.

Harnessing Uncertainty

Taking Complexity and Vulnerability Seriously in Integrated Water Resource Management

Convenor: The Resilience and Freshwater Initiative (Swedish Water House)
Co-Convenor: Centre for Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (Stockholm University), Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), Institute for Social and Environmental Transition USA/Nepal, SIWI.

Managers around the world someday or another have to deal with the uncertainty inherent in water management such as sudden flooding, unexpected algae blooms, technological innovations, or unanticipated high levels of toxic pollutants in freshwater resources. In addition, even uncertainties are uncertain due to unpredictable key drivers such as climate and technological change. This seminar explores how uncertainty and complexity can be dealt with, why present rigid water governance systems might become outdated and even increase the vulnerability of key water resources, and how the concept of *resilience* radically shifts the perspective of integrated water resource management.

Chair Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI)
Opening Speech

Mark T. Imperial, University of North Carolina at Wilmington (USA)
"Complexity, Environmental Change, and the Design of Institutional Arrangements for Integrated Water Resource Management: Lessons from Watershed Management Efforts in the United States"

Henrik Österblom, The Swedish Environmental Advisory Council
"Eutrophication policy and political implications of a regime shift in the Baltic Sea"

Marcus Moench, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (USA/Nepal),
"Water, Climatic Variability and Livelihood Resilience: Concepts, Field Insights and Policy Implications"

Victor Galaz R., The Resilience and Freshwater Initiative/Centre for Transdisciplinary Environmental Research (Stockholm University)
"Does the European Water Framework Directive Build Resilience? - Harnessing Complexity and Uncertainty in European Water Resources Management"

Guoyi Han, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI)
"Water for Resilient Agriculture: A New Initiative"

2. New Network Partners

The Initiative is pleased to present two new network partners.

Institute for Environmental and Social Transition (ISET, USA and Nepal)

“ISET is an international, non-profit institute with members and advisors in both the North and the South. Individuals and organisations involved in ISET all share a commitment to environmentally sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Within this commitment, ISET’s mission is twofold: First, we seek to improve understanding and elevate the level of dialogue as civil society attempts to respond to natural resource and environmental challenges in a rapidly changing global context. Second, we seek to serve as a framework for equal collaboration between individuals and organisations in the North and South on programs that address the first mission. (From ISET’s homepage)”

ISET will be an active member of the RFI by coordinating the policy report focusing on livelihood resilience and adaptive water management.

Homepage: <http://www.i-s-e-t.org/>

The Office for Regional Planning and Urban Transportation, Stockholm (‘Regionplane- och trafikkontoret’ in Swedish)

The Office of Regional Planning and Urban Transportation (RTK) has been delegated responsibility from the Stockholm County Council for regional planning, overall traffic planning and regional development issues. RTK also deals with issues concerning the environment, nature conservation, rural areas and the Stockholm archipelago. RTK monitors and initiates structural issues for Stockholm County and the region around Lake Mälaren, as well as cooperate internationally within the area of regional development. (From RTK homepage)

Homepage: <http://www.rtk.sll.se/english/>

3. Resilience and Freshwater - Related Publications

How will climate change affect European freshwater resources? The European Commissions Joint Research Centre makes an up-to-date and highly interesting scientific synthesis in its publication “Climate Change and the European Water Dimension”. The report can be found here:

<http://ies.jrc.cec.eu.int/fileadmin/Documentation/Reports/Inland_and_Marine_Waters/Climate_Change_and_the_European_Water_Dimension_2005.pdf>

Brian Walker, Steve Carpenter and others discuss how resilience can be integrated into participatory processes. The ambition is to create processes that are able to tackle uncertainty and change. The article can be found here: <http://www.consecol.org/vol6/iss1/art14>