

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, Stockholm International Water Institute (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explores how uncertainty and complexity can be dealt with, why present rigid water governance systems might become outdated and even increase the vulnerability of key water resources, and how the concept of *resilience* shifts the perspective of integrated water resource management.

Programme

17:15 Dr. Johan Rockström, Opening Speech

17:25 Dr. Mark T. Imperial, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
“Complexity, Environmental Change, and the Design of Institutional Arrangements for Integrated Water Resource Management: Lessons from Watershed Management Efforts in the United States”

17:45 Mr. Henrik Österblom, The Swedish Environmental Advisory Council
“Eutrophication policy implications of a regime shift in the Baltic Sea”

18:05 Mr. 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”

18:25 Dr. Marcus Moench, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition USA/Nepal,
“Freshwater and Livelihood Resilience - Adaptive Strategies for Flood and Drought Mitigation in South East Asia”

18:45 Dr. Guoyi Han, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI)
“Water for Resilient Agriculture: A New Initiative”

Chair: Dr. Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI)