

An aerial photograph of a river valley with karst mountains at sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the scene. The river flows through the valley, with several small boats visible. The mountains are dark and jagged, with some mist or low clouds hanging in the air. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

2017 Annual Report

Welcome to the interactive version of the 2017 Annual Report

In this special version, optimized for digital consumption, we have included tools to help you discover the story behind the story. Use the following links, buttons and arrows to help you unearth the full picture.

Use the 'play' button to view related videos

Use buttons to download reports or view galleries

Read it here

Linked text brings you to articles and blogs

Linked text is always highlighted

Arrows like these, make it easy to flip through pages

Prefer to read the report on paper? Use this button to download a printable version.



Strengthening water governance for a just, prosperous and sustainable future



Photo: Thomas Henriksson

2017 continued in the brisk pace set by earlier years. Several initiatives to elevate water in our minds and on political agendas were set in motion and others kept running. SIWI contributed to the High-Level Panel on Water's work on valuing water (released 2018) and to the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23), notably, co-hosting the Water Action Day.

Internally, we have worked hard to strengthen our processes and systems to build a stronger, better and faster SIWI to be able to keep up with demands and responding to the increasing pressures on our global water resources.

SIWI's external work has included contributions to policy development on a global scale through [our source-to-sea initiative](#), at the regional scale through our work on water and climate in Europe, and locally by [bringing human rights into tariff setting in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and supporting governments in the assessment and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have also improved [business practices in textile, food, forest, and pharmaceutical industries](#). SIWI has built up significant competence and networks around the interface between private and public sectors with regards to infrastructure investments, especially in Africa, that we see as crucial for wise water management in the future.

This is SIWI

SIWI is dedicated to improving the management of the most vital natural resource on this planet: freshwater. Our finite and renewable freshwater is used in vast quantities by all terrestrial beings. Yet, the wrong amount, at the wrong time, in an unsuitable quality, can spell disaster. Water has largely dictated where and how we live and make a living. It is fundamental for our economies and indispensable to our health.

Increasing demands for freshwater are being met by an equally rapid rise in awareness, capacity and resolve to improve the use and stewardship of water. SIWI plays an important role in building and broadening the capacity of the global water community and in expanding the community itself by engaging new actors and sectors.

While we broaden our engagement with water and water actors, we have also gone deeper to understand new facets of how intricate our human interactions are with water. By showing how societies' gendered roles make women and men engage with water in different ways, we can begin to address glaring inequalities in access and voice. We instituted the Gold Standard of World Water Week to do our part in [promoting and empowering younger and female voices in the global water debate](#).

We are more convinced than ever that an open and fact-based discussion between countries, sectors and actors on how our water is governed is the only way we can achieve a water wise world.

Torgny Holmgren
Executive Director
SIWI

SIWI's vision is a water wise world. In order to realize that vision, we...

...generate knowledge about and solutions to the world's water challenges

...link actors across communities and regions to catalyze sustainable solutions

...influence public and private actors to integrate water in policy and practice

...build capacity for water wise actions

...award and promote excellence that inspires and contributes to a water wise world

In 2018, SIWI launched its new strategy.

[Read it here](#)

SIWI management and board

Senior Management Team

Torgny Holmgren
Executive Director

Dr Therese Sjömander-Magnusson
Chief Operating Officer

Henrik Fellesson
Chief Financial Officer

Birgitta Liss Lymer
Director, Water Governance

Gabriela Suhoschi
Director, World Water Week and Prizes

Jens Berggren
Director, Communications

Katarina Veem
Director, Swedish Water House and International Policy

Maria Vink
Director, Transboundary Water Management

SIWI Board (as of 31 March 2018)

Peter Forssman, Chair

City of Stockholm representatives
Eva-Louise Erlandsson Slorach,
First Vice Chair
Isabel Smedberg-Palmqvist,
Second Vice Chair
Sofia Arkelsten
Måns Lönnroth
Karin Olofsson

Founders Council representatives
Tove Erikslund
Shekofeh Holmér
Johannes von Hülsen
Pär Larshans

Co-opted members
Jan Peter Bergkvist,
Chair, Founders Council
Bosse Ringholm,
Lay auditor
Louise Heegaard,
Staff representative



Staff and finances

Staff | In 2017 SIWI had 71 staff members, nearly half (42 per cent) of which join SIWI from 26 countries outside Sweden.

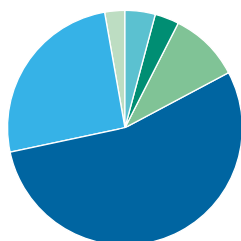
In addition to carrying out our programmatic work, staff dedicated much time over the past year to strengthening SIWI from within. Staff contributed to improving organizational processes, informing the organization's new strategic direction, implementing responsive feedback mechanisms and building

support systems for good leadership. Critical internal mechanisms such as a whistleblower function and guidelines for procurement were also formalized, ensuring a higher level of transparency and accountability.

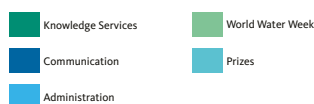
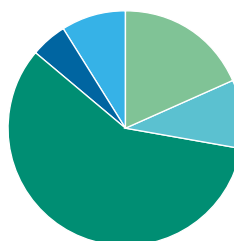
Finances | SIWI revenues reached 111 million SEK in 2017. A graphical breakdown of income and cost can be found below.

Meet our team

2017 Revenue



2017 Cost



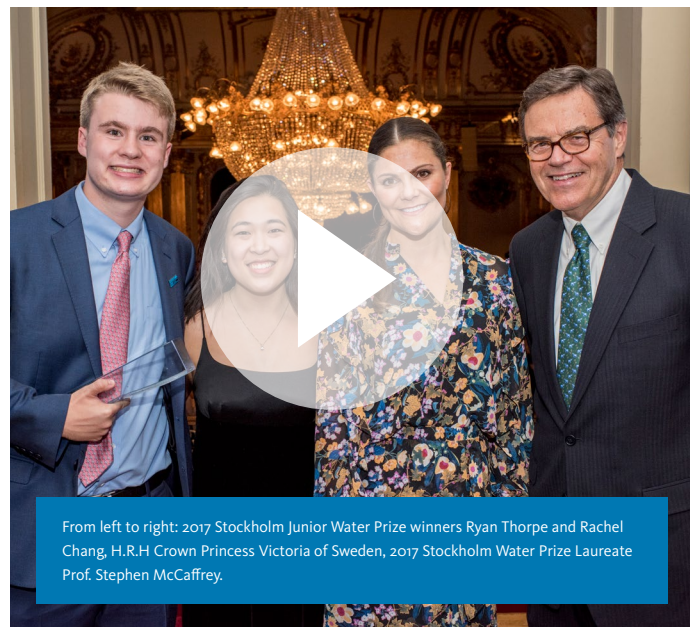
Awarding and promoting excellence

SIWI recognizes superior achievement and promotes youthful innovation to inspire a water wise world for all.

Stockholm Water Prize | In its 27th year, the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize was awarded to [Prof. Stephen McCaffrey](#) for his “path-breaking leadership and legal scholarship in international water law,” as articulated by the Nominating Committee. Prof. McCaffrey is recognized for his seminal work on treaty negotiation, his major scholarly work, including his book *The Law of International Watercourses*, and his leadership in providing expert legal advice, wise counsel, training and facilitation of complex negotiations with a wide range of stakeholders. Prof. McCaffrey is also recognized as one of the architects of the Human Right to Water.

Stockholm Water Prize Founders (as of 31 December 2017): Bacardi, Borealis, Europeiska ERV, Kemira, Poul Due Jensen Foundation, Ragn-Sells, Water Environment Federation, Xylem, Ålandsbanken.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize | Ensuring that every person has access to clean, safe water was at the heart of this year’s winning team. Representing USA, [Ryan Thorpe and Rachel Chang](#)



From left to right: 2017 Stockholm Junior Water Prize winners Ryan Thorpe and Rachel Chang, H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, 2017 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Prof. Stephen McCaffrey.

Photo: Jonas Borg

received the 2017 Stockholm Junior Water Prize for their novel approach to detect and purify water contaminated with shigella, E. coli, salmonella, and cholera more rapidly and sensitively than conventional methods. This new approach could prevent the contraction and outbreak of waterborne diseases and expand access to potable water throughout the world.

Generating knowledge

SIWI fosters the development of knowledge to find solutions to the world’s water challenges.

SIWI-UNDP Water Governance Facility (WGF) explored the experience of women impacted by integrity issues and how they engage in corrupt practices in the water sector. Drawing on first-hand accounts from Bogotá and Johannesburg, the report also sheds light on the sexual exploitation that women are subject to in their attempts to secure water resources and careers in the water sector. By way of this ground breaking report, SIWI has given voice to an issue experienced by many but rarely discussed.

Thought leaders in water diplomacy, SIWI and IHE-Delft developed novel methods to support dialogue among riparian states in Asia. Tools, such as role-playing scenarios, provided insights into different interests and challenges faced by riparian actors, fostering understanding and sharing of perspectives over shared waters.

SIWI and International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) were invited to serve as guest editors for a special issue of *Journal of Hydrology* on water diplomacy, highlighting our ability to bridge multidisciplinary fields relevant to water diplomacy and bringing in science, policy and practice to advance international water cooperation.

“ I was thrilled when I saw the paper ‘Sex for Water’ as that helped legitimise an issue that is overlooked and most of the time has its credibility questioned.

Sareen Malik, Africa Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation

[Read the report](#)



Photo: Thomas Henrikson

Linking actors

SIWI works across borders, sectors and disciplines to catalyze sustainable water solutions.

In 2017, **World Water Week** introduced a new format to allow organizations to showcase projects to forge new partnerships. In its first year, [the Showcase](#) was a huge success, underlining World Water Week's continued relevance and unsurpassable convening power.

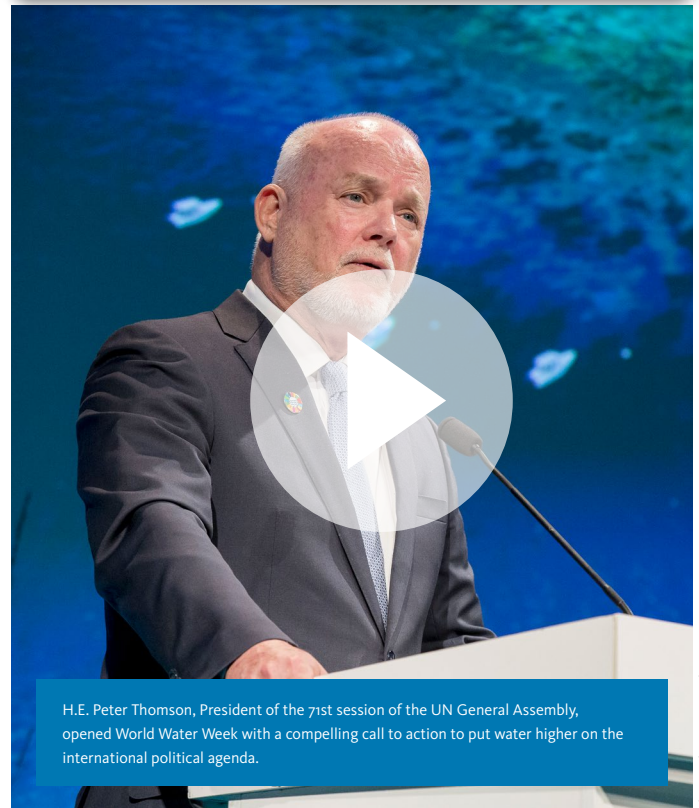
SIWI's support to the [EU-China Environmental Sustainability Programme](#) helped connect and convey experience and expertise to improve Chinese water management in general and water quality in particular.

The physical link between forests and water is as direct as it is universal, but unfortunately, the policies and professional communities involved in their management are largely unconnected. To mend this gap, SIWI's [cluster group on Forest and Water in the Landscape](#) gathered more than 43 organizations from academic, civil, public and private sectors.

“ Since the Water and Forest cluster group started, water-forest interactions are discussed everywhere! Before that, nobody brought it up.

Stefan Berggren, Head of Department for Natural Resources at Swedish Ministry of Environment and Energy

SIWI and the [Alliance for Global Water and Adaptation \(AGWA\)](#), a network that SIWI hosts and co-chairs with the World Bank, successfully coordinated and delivered the [Water Action Day](#) at COP23 fulfilling its ambition to raise the importance of water and the role of non-state actors among high-level representatives from local authorities, private sector actors, international organizations and civil society organizations.



H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, opened World Water Week with a compelling call to action to put water higher on the international political agenda.

Photo: Thomas Henriksen

The [Africa-EU Water Partnership project](#) is being implemented by SIWI on behalf of the EU, African Ministers' Council on Water and Sida, and aims to attract investment finance to water infrastructure in Africa. The project's unusual approach leverages SIWI's impartial facilitator position to advise public sponsors on the optimal finance structuring of an infrastructure project, resulting in a more collaborative space for financing water projects on the continent.

Partnering with the private sector to achieve a water wise world

The Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI), which works with top Nordic fashion brands and their suppliers, saved 5.21 million cubic meters of water, 39 million kWh of electricity and 18 700 tonnes of chemicals across 95 factories in India, China, Bangladesh and Turkey.

The agricultural sector is the single largest user of water, responsible for some 70 per cent of global withdrawals. SIWI has brought awareness to major food and beverage companies in Sweden, to improve water management within supply chains and inform how their suppliers can be more resilient.

SIWI is helping to expand the niche market of sustainable pharmaceuticals through dialogue and practical tools for suppliers and procurers – growing knowledge on what to demand and how to produce them. The objective is to reduce water borne pollution, with special focus on water and antibiotics to contain the spread of antibiotic resistance.



Influencing

SIWI works with private, public and community actors to integrate water wise actions into policy and practice.

GoAL WaSH, a project under WGF which strives for sustainable service delivery in the water and sanitation sector, led the drafting of the [National Water Supply and Sanitation Commission \(WSSC\) Act](#) that was approved by the President of Liberia in 2017.

Following two years of mediation and technical advice from WGF, an Integrity Pact has been implemented between El Salvador's National Water and Sewerage Administration and a social auditor to improve transparency and citizen participation.

The Action Platform for Source-to Sea Management (S2S Platform) was a key participant at the [UN Conference to Support Implementation of SDG 14](#), the so-called Ocean Conference. Influential actors such as the Global Environment Facility, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, UN Environment have included distinct references to source-to-sea approaches in pivotal policy documents.



[See the #WaterWomen gallery here](#)

Seeing is believing – SIWI sought to change the way women are viewed in the water sector by showcasing images of empowered women with agency, rather than mere victims. A social media campaign collected 128 stories and images of water women from around the world; now part of the #WaterWomen permanent gallery.

Photo: Alasdair Jardine, Courtesy of BORDA

“ *The message we take back from today is that if we do not foster peace in water issues we cannot achieve peace in any other sector.* ”

Anne Babinaga, Deputy Head Regional Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda

Raising the profile of women as decision-makers

SIWI held a training together with Swedish Women's Peace Mediation Network to engage women water leaders in decision-making and peace building processes. The training empowered women from the ten Nile Basin countries to participate in water negotiations and to build cross-border relations.

Through trainings delivered by SIWI's Water Integrity MENA programme, the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) built the capacity of female farmers to improve governance of water resources and mainstream gender equality in decision-making.

SIWI believes that a water wise world can only be achieved through inclusive dialogue. In 2017, World Water Week introduced the Gold Standard to provide special recognition for events that had a good gender balance in their panels and included at least one speaker younger than 35 years old. Following our introduction, other conferences have quickly followed suit.

A European Parliament resolution to further the role of women within climate was directly informed by a [SIWI-AGWA policy brief](#), [The gender dimension of water and climate change](#). Several wordings were inspired by the brief.

Building capacity

SIWI enhances institutional and individual capacity to help promote effective water management.

SIWI promotes knowledge exchange and policy dialogue within the Nature Insurance Value – Assessment and Demonstration (NAIAD) programme to support innovation in policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that harness the insurance capacity of ecosystems in disaster risk management, climate adaptation and ecosystem management.

The **World Water Week Journalist Grant** offers journalists from developing countries the opportunity to build their capacity in reporting on water issues through visiting World Water Week. This year's journalists, from Pakistan, Kenya and Vietnam, have gone on to write stories for their communities about water scarcity, provision of sanitation services, transboundary water cooperation and the importance of including women in decision-making.

Through **Water Integrity MENA**, the Jordan River Foundation empowered 25 Syrian refugee and Jordanian youth to be advocates for responsible water consumption and broke a taboo of discussing integrity issues in the presence of women. The group launched initiatives for water-saving and -sharing while promoting dialogue with local water authorities.

A **human rights-based tariff setting methodology** developed with the support of **GoAL WaSH in Bosnia-Herzegovina** has been endorsed by all stakeholders. This is a significant step towards achieving a sustainable and fair water supply for all.



Photo: IUCN

“ This action plan generated a change here and enabled women’s participation in integrity issues. Also, it raised awareness that sustainability of integrity actions is important.

Ebrahim Omoush, Jordan River Foundation

Building up tomorrow’s leaders

Engaging the next generation of water leaders is critical to achieving and sustaining a water wise world. SIWI remains committed to supporting the development and including the voices of youth through a number of activities:

World Water Week provides youth the opportunity to have their voices heard and help inform the content of the Week through the Young Scientific Programme Committee, Junior Rapporteurs, assistantships and Young Professionals Day.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize has grown to include 35 participating countries, with recent additions from Brazil, Switzerland, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Stockholm Junior Water Prize continues its mission to inspire and encourage innovation among the next generation of water leaders.

WaterTank connects Stockholm Junior Water Prize finalists with mentorship opportunities to help young talents take their projects from theory to practice. In 2017, our mentorship network has continued to grow and we have begun work on launching a new interactive phase of WaterTank.



Join the water conversation



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