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ANNUAL REPORT April 2021 - April 2022

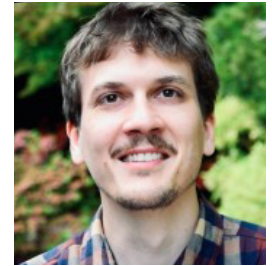
Water Science Policy gUG

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Opening letter from CF

Christian Fischer

CEO & Co-founder, Water science Policy



Dear all,

In significant parts of the world, governments, and other actors, face large challenges to deliver on the human rights to water and sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6). Many are left behind, with over 800 million people lacking access to even basic drinking water, and 2.3 billion to basic sanitation services. This places a particularly heavy burden on women and girls, impeding them from reaching their full potential in many ways.

This is how 9/10 annual reports in the water and sanitation sector start. As a matter of fact, it is copied 1:1 from the next best report I found as I sat down writing this. On this note, thank you Frank van der Valk from the Water Integrity Network in 2017. While we've read and heard this over and over and over and over again, there continues to be little broader interest in the topic outside the primarily English speaking international development space. There may be general awareness in the publics of the world, but there is room for doubt people are aware. Most certainly there is no broader interest.

I do not recall a single moment where I was able to read about poor access to water and sanitation services in the World in German or Spanish for example. Let alone in a medium that is not an inaccessible report, peer-reviewed article or very specific webinar or workshop. The water and sanitation sector is a bubble. It is almost as if the introductory paragraph of this letter is a mandatory prerequisite to publishing anything meaningful. In my view, it is a poor attempt at stirring interest and attracting resources by

communicating the scale of the problem. The problem is not only that it gets borderline boring repetitive over time, but more fundamentally that noone - noone - understands what 2.3 billion means. Numbers are abstract, unrelatable.

The mission of WSP is to reconnect the global public, reach the ones that do not read or write English, go beyond the few that read the relevant research and reports. We believe that broader interest in water and everything that it connects - , sanitation, climate, gender, biodiversity, energy, food - is more than half the battle. Without it, we cannot create the change we want to see for those billions without access to safe and affordable water and/or sanitation.

We do this through stories that captivate and enchant – that make water cool. Then arm with the answers for impact. Our website is full of them and this first annual report presents examples of WSP's work that go beyond our bread and butter of concise articles and photography that are often translated in more than 10 languages, covering interactive story maps, interviews with water rockstars and plenty of videography. We do all this in our free-time without core funding. It is a collaborative effort of more than 100 volunteers from around the world and a value-driven passion project for all of us. WSP has quickly grown into a tight-knit family of young water professionals. I strongly hope we will eventually get to a point where we can continuously fund a core team to continue the amazing water science communication work that the sector so sorely lacks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Fischer'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Timeline

April 2021 - Water Science Policy's new website is launched

May 2021 - Water Science Policy wins a film prize for My Water at the Let's Talk About Water Film Festival, directed by Frantisek Ficek

August 2021 - Water Science Policy develops a series of articles based on Water Integrity Network's Water Integrity Global Outlook 2021

October 2021 - UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme and Water Science Policy collaborate on a joint project to promote a gender-inclusive water sector

November 2021 - Water Science Policy hosts a virtual fundraising gala, featuring six sessions led by experts in their field

December 2021 - The Groundwater photostory competition is officially launched, reflecting the theme of the 2022 World Water Development Report

January 2022 - Several of Water Science Policy's volunteers fly to Argentina to help to film and produce a documentary on marine governance, The People are the Sea

February 2022 - A research and information dissemination collaboration begins between Water Science Policy and EAWAG

February 2022 - The Groundwater photostory competition officially closes

March 2022 - Arteries.blue website is launched, as Water Science Policy takes the user on a virtual storymap along the Mekong River

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Water Science Policy: A Brief Overview

Water Science Policy (WSP) is a digital multi-lingual, multimedia open-access platform which delivers water-related content to a global audience. The organisation is almost entirely volunteer-led, with over one hundred volunteers from more than twenty-five countries dedicating their time and efforts to helping the platform run and flourish. As such, all of WSP's work is driven by a genuine desire to help resolve the world's existing and emerging water crises via effective science communication and inclusive advocacy. It is truly remarkable what can be achieved when motivation, creativity and time are combined, and WSP is an example of this.

WSP started out as a Blog for Water Science x Policy nerds on Wordpress. The project received a major boost when its creators noticed huge gaps in the platform's audience and as a response decided to provide content in as many languages as possible. While only 18% of the global population speak English, 98% of academic output is in English. Naturally, this gap in accessibility to water-related information was visible in the audience accessing the platform, which mostly came from wealthy Anglo-Saxon countries - who are usually distant from contexts of water and sanitation insecurity. A large proportion of knowledge on water science and environmental policy continues being out of reach for many and, as a result, also the human right to water. By translating each article into multiple languages and transcending linguistic barriers, WSP works to promote inclusive access to information about the most fundamental element of life. Additionally, WSP recognises that reading text is not the preferred method of learning for many people. Consequently, WSP's content goes beyond written text formats and uses a variety

of mediums including photos, audio narrations, podcasts and videos. Truly effective science communication means information dissemination for all, not just the few literate English speakers.

Working to resolve the world's water issues is becoming increasingly important in the era of anthropogenic climate change, widespread water scarcity and unprecedented flooding. In response to this, three main principles underpin WSP's work:

- Raise interest, not awareness
- Create impact, not knowledge
- Be solutions-centred, not stuck on issues

WSP has achieved a great deal in its two years of life despite having no formal funding stream. Using the above principles as a guideline, it is clear that WSP has grown exponentially since its humble beginnings as an online blog. Over the course of the past year, WSP has co-produced a documentary on marine governance in Argentina, virtually sailed along the Mekong River, won an award for a short film, collaborated with numerous prestigious organisations such as UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme, the Global Water Partnership, the Swiss Aquatic Research Institute (EAWAG) and the Stockholm International Water Institute and published a multitude of articles and photostories in dozens of languages. And there is no intention of stopping: each year the organisation gains more momentum as its work expands.

This annual report will provide a brief glimpse into everything that was accomplished between April 2021-April 2022, and hints at some of WSP's future projects.

Where we work map



Activities: April 2021-2022

Collaborations: April 2021-2022

- Articles - Areas**
- Articles - Countries**
- Projects**
- My Water**
video locations
- UNESCO Call for Action**
video locations

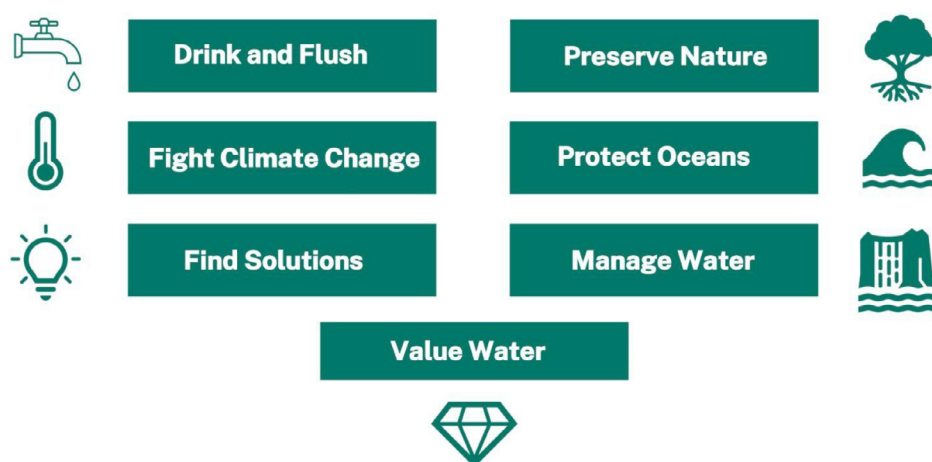
- UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme**
- EAWAG**
- Stockholm International Water Institute**

Highlights

RAISE INTEREST, NOT AWARENESS

Core activities: On-going since WSP's conception

Description: WSP's core activity is publishing water-related articles in a variety of formats: OpEds, policy briefs, photostories, book reviews, investigations and open letters. Acknowledging that the overall topic of 'water' is interdisciplinary, cross-boundary and deeply complex, WSP ensures that its articles bring attention to a broad range of topics by focusing on seven key areas:



Purpose: By sharing multilingual, interdisciplinary articles on an open-access website, WSP bridges geographical regions, borders, ethnicities and language barriers to information. This fosters a better understanding of global water challenges and allows for the identification of transdisciplinary solutions. The result is greater interest in water issues that are so crucial for

our world to adapt to the growing challenges of climate change, mass urbanisation and biodiversity loss, as mitigation and adaptation efforts of these crises have water at their core.

Impact: 96 articles were published on WSP's website over the course of the year, averaging at just under two per week.

Article format	Total number published	Total number of translations	Average number of translations per article
OpEds	64	389	6
Photo stories	22	134	6
Policy briefs	7	53	8
Open letter	1	14	-
Book review	1	4	-
Investigation	1	1	-
Total:	96	595	-

Highlights

Additionally, Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) were introduced to WSP's articles. A DOI is a way of identifying an online article and is often used in academia or the wider publishing industry to ensure appropriate accreditation and ease of locating relevant works. This is significant as it means that WSP's articles are now able to be formally cited in future work.

Sharing information on water-related issues, challenges and solutions is crucial to reverse the effects of climate change. Publishing these articles means that WSP is playing a role in spreading relevant news to both experts and non-experts, allowing people to make more conscious and informed decisions regarding their lives, communities, governments, and planet Earth.

MY WATER - LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER FILM FESTIVAL | May 2021



To watch My Water: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8Ok7AMFuoU&t=96s>

Description: A short film, *My Water*, was put together by WSP's own videographer, Frantisek Ficek, and submitted to the Let's Talk About Water Film Festival. The objective of *My Water* was to illustrate how accessibility to water varies around the world, and so the short film utilised one of the organisation's strongest aspects: its broad geographical span of volunteers. Volunteers from several countries including Germany, Brazil, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Iraq and the USA recorded the journey from their bed to their nearest water source, and then described their own personal relationship with water.

Purpose: *My Water* was produced as WSP's submission to the Let's Talk About Water Film Festival. Let's Talk About Water Film Festival combines film and water science to inform, educate and inspire a global audience. Short films are submitted to share narratives and perspectives on water-related issues and solutions.

Outcome: *My Water* won joint 3rd place in the International Film Prize category. This helped WSP to establish itself as a capable producer of science communication-oriented videos.

"In this film we told the story of ourselves. Of how youth, but not just youth, are empowered and enabled to tell their stories better thanks to digital technologies."

- Frantisek Ficek in an interview with Erin Stephans, senior producer of Let's Talk About Water

Highlights

GROUNDWATER PHOTOSTORY COMPETITION | October 2021 - February 2022

Description: WSP organised and ran a [Groundwater photostory competition](#) in 2021-2022. The competition reflected the theme of the [2022 World Water Development Report](#) and was supported by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme, International Water Resources Association and Global Water Partnership.

Purpose: Groundwater accounts for approximately 99% of liquid freshwater on Earth, and provides 50% of all water used for domestic consumption and 25% of water used for irrigation. Thus, protecting groundwater is key for alleviating poverty and resolving the water crisis. However, it is still hugely undervalued and grossly overexploited, partially because it is 'invisible' and often remains unseen to the human eye compared to other water sources such as rivers, waterfalls and oceans. The competition aimed to present the importance of groundwater using photography.

Outcome: Overall, WSP received more than 100 submissions from around the world. A panel of eight judges selected three winners who received financial prizes, certificates and a PDF booklet which was translated into English, Spanish, French, Hindi and Chinese. WSP announced the winners via a [video](#). The winning photostories were then published on WSP's website and translated into several languages: [Collecting water](#), [The last days on Earth](#), and [Save every drop](#).

The photostories were powerful: some invoked joy, some sadness, others curiosity. The competition highlighted the need to conserve and sustainably manage groundwater by showing genuine human responses to the presence or absence of the resource. In doing so, it also demonstrated that art should be regarded as an effective form of science communication.

The project is on-going. A series of exhibitions will be hosted in Europe and a crowdfunding campaign to create a photobook is also being organised [see: future plans].



Highlights

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION - EAWAG | February 2022 - on-going

Description: In collaboration with [EAWAG](#) (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, acronym based on the organisation's name in German), WSP regularly produced multilingual pieces on the institute's most relevant aquatic science and policy research. The published articles were simplified summaries of research published by EAWAG.

Purpose: WSP and EAWAG are cognizant that complex scientific articles are not available to everyone. The project aims to make water science more accessible to a wider audience by breaking down complex scientific research into straightforward concepts and explaining why and how the findings are relevant to society.

Outcome: From February to April 2022, WSP published 3 articles and produced 22 translations

under this collaboration. More generally, working with a distinguished research facility was useful for WSP in that it demonstrated its ability to translate complicated, technical data into understandable information. This will help to establish partnerships with other research facilities in the future.

Links to the articles: [When rain overwhelms the sewers antibiotic-resistant bacteria flood the river](#), [Restoring dammed rivers using artificial floods](#), and [How wastewater informs COVID-19 policy in Switzerland](#).


To see all of WSP's collaboration work with EAWAG: <https://watersciencepolicy.com/partner/eawag-the-swiss-water-research-institute-f279777e27bb>



Highlights

CREATE IMPACT, NOT KNOWLEDGE

EL PUEBLO ES EL MAR - SOMOS OCÉANOS | September 2021 - on-going



EL PUEBLO ES EL MAR

Description: WSP and Somos OcéanoS (SOS) are working together on a project which focuses on combining local community knowledge and science communication to achieve more effective, inclusive and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Purpose: MPAs are the most widespread regulatory tool used to protect aquatic ecosystems and wildlife. However, many MPAs suffer from poor implementation and management practices, meaning that their social, ecological and economic targets are not met. One of the reasons why this occurs is because local communities are not adequately involved in policy-making processes and do not have access to sound information relating to their MPA. By addressing these issues, SOS works to improve MPA management across the world.

Outcome: A pilot project, [El Pueblo es el Mar](#), took place in early 2022 in an MPA in Patagonia, Argentina. Here, a documentary was produced (originally in Spanish and with subtitles translated

into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese), environmental education activities and capacity-building workshops were held for locals, and a museum exhibition is currently being curated.

The documentary, which is in its post-production stage, is presently being shown at film festivals around the world, including the Latin America and Indigenous Film Festival in the USA (selected), Patagonia Eco Film Festival (selected) and the Mannheim Arts and Film Festival (Best Documentary 2022 Award).

Several positive changes have already taken place in the MPA since the El Pueblo es el Mar project. Notably, the local government is taking action to improve the waste collection system in the area and an independent investigation will be conducted on the chemical plant situated in the MPA.

A second project will likely take place in early 2023 [see: future plans].

Highlights

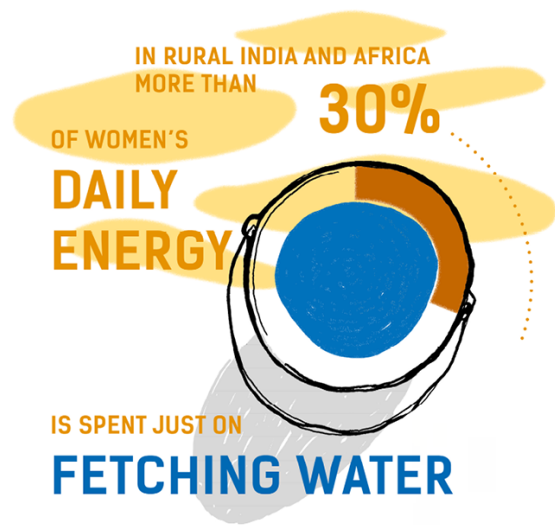
ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WATER DOMAIN - UNESCO WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME | June 2021 - December 2021

Description: WSP worked in collaboration with [UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme](#) to promote and disseminate their [Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain](#).

Purpose: Gender equality is both a cause and an outcome of sustainable development, as is access to water and sanitation. Even so, globally women are still predominantly excluded from the water sector as a result of social, economic and political barriers. As such, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme's Call for Action highlights five key focus areas which, if followed, will lower these barriers and allow for a more inclusive water sector.

Outcome: WSP produced a [video](#) summarising the Call for Action's main points. Within this video, a variety of stakeholders from around the world answered the question "what does gender equality in the water sector mean to you?", demonstrating the varying cultural perspectives on gender and water. [An Op-Ed and relevant infographics](#) based on the Call for Action were also produced and disseminated on both organisations' media channels.

The collaboration project will help to spread awareness of the Call for Action, and WSP's role in its dissemination means that the document will be shared with those who may not usually be involved with UNESCO's work.



Sarah Traore
University of Massachusetts Amherst
| Côte d'Ivoire

There are many gender inequalities in the water sector in Côte d'Ivoire. Women are underrepresented both in the utilities and in academia, and there are very few women in leadership positions.

Cuauhtémoc Osorno Córdova
Parlamento Mexicano Juvenil por el Agua
| Mexico

Managerial positions in water institutions have historically been held by men only. Women generally hold administrative positions, limiting their decision-making capacity in water management.

Nikola Matovik
World Wildlife Fund Adria | Serbia

The water sector is strongly characterized by gender stereotyping that prescribes what professions should be carried out by men or women.

Almaz Kidanemariam
University of Trier | Ethiopia

In rural areas, young boys are allowed to go to school, while young girls have to go long distances to fetch water for the household. I was 7 years old when I started fetching water myself.

Highlights

WATER SCIENCE POLICY'S VIRTUAL GALA | November 2021



21st NOVEMBER
Sunday

Go deep instead of living on the surface

WSP Virtual Gala

Catalysing Water Solutions
to Climate Change

Description: WSP hosted a virtual fundraising Gala. This consisted of three different sessions, with two speakers per session including world-renowned experts such as Torkil Clausen, Ma Jun and Deepa Karthykeyan. The Gala was hosted by some of WSP's dedicated volunteers.

Purpose: Each session was established to raise money and promote a different WSP project. These were:

1. River Project: This project is intended to map the journey of major rivers from source to ocean. It will offer a multifaceted view of rivers' importance by highlighting various features, including human activity, ecological significance and best-practice projects that cut across the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Citizen Science for Global Water Mapping: The objective of this project is to create a central online hub for water-related data collection using citizen science and to develop new indicators relating to access to water and sanitation services.

3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Course for Young Filipino Journalists: The final proposed project aims to create a course for journalists living in the Philippines for reporting and distributing news on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This involves providing technical knowledge on WASH topics and teaching journalistic skills such as how to successfully conduct an interview and different writing styles.

Outcome: Overall, the Gala was a success. Over €1,000 was raised, more than 70 people attended and much positive feedback was received. The raised money went towards funding the River Project, which was completed in March 2022. It is now available via the URL arteries.blue (see beneath).

The Gala was also a success in that the high number of attendees proved that the platform is being recognised by the international community, and that people genuinely wish to engage with its work and projects (even on a Sunday afternoon!). It was a real morale booster for WSP's co-founders and volunteers.

Highlights

BE SOLUTION-CENTRED, NOT STUCK ON ISSUES

ARTERIES.BLUE RIVER PROJECT | December 2021 - March 2022

Description: From source to sea, [Arteries.blue](#) tells data-driven river stories. The project uses a mix of interactive data, graphics, articles from academic researchers and photostories from journalists to communicate the challenges, opportunities, and beauty of some of Earth's most vital lifelines.

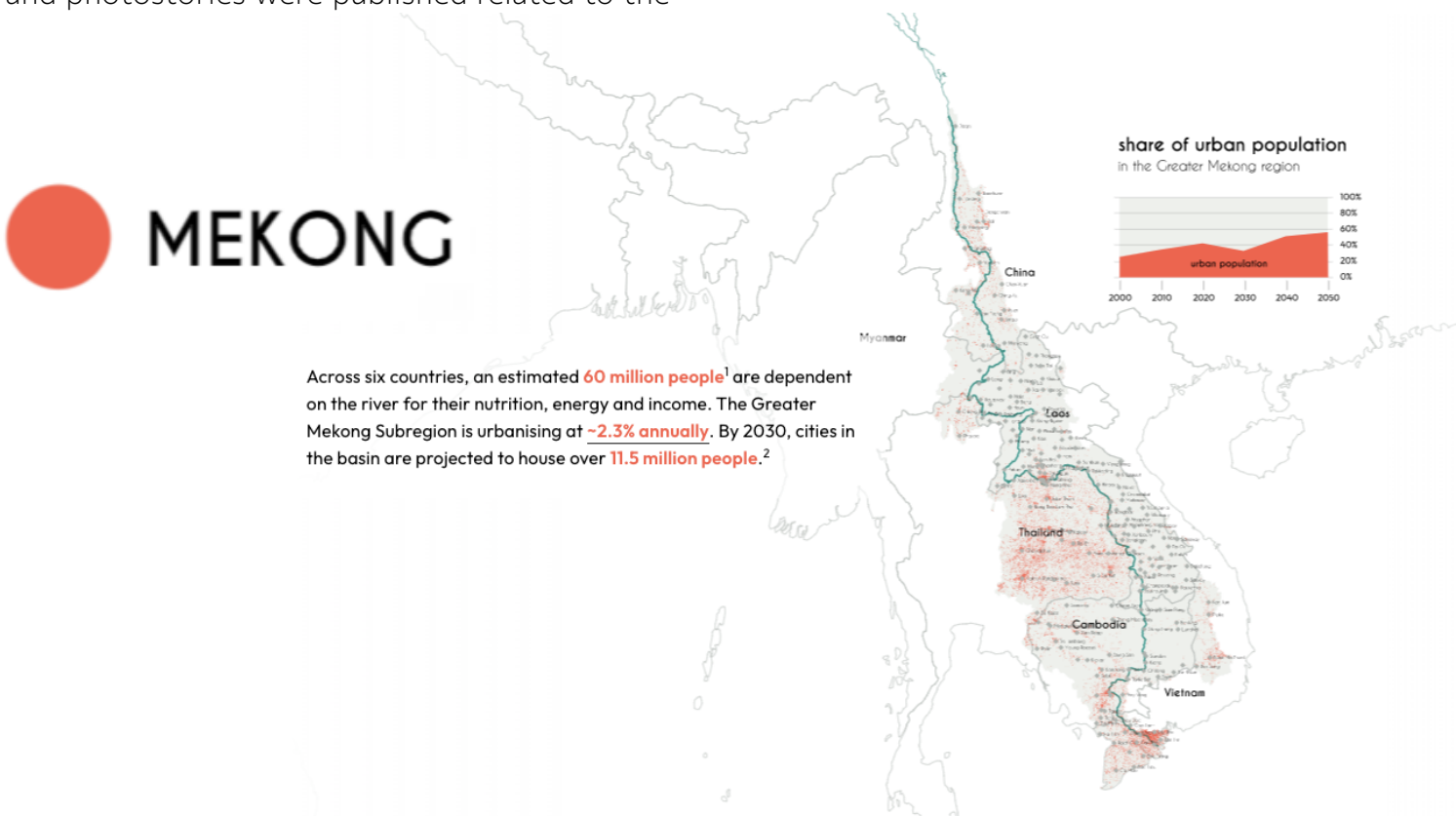
Purpose: By 2025, two-thirds of the global population may face water shortages. As the resource becomes increasingly scarce, the need for states to find ways to resolve conflict and find cooperation grows. Rivers are of extreme importance socially, economically and ecologically. As such, they provide a wide array of ecosystem services. In this innovative project, different forms of data are combined on a single platform to take the user on a journey along the Mekong River from source to sea to highlight the different uses, challenges and benefits within the river basin.

Outcome: As well as the website, 15 articles and photostories were published related to the

project, and over 100 translations of these pieces were produced. They can be accessed via this link: <https://arteries.blue/content>

Examples of photostories are: [Shifting Sands of the Mekong River](#), [The Bunong versus the Sesan II Dam](#), and [A village's fight against illegal fishing on the Mekong](#). Examples of written articles are: [Cooperation, commitment will save the Mekong](#), [Partnerships - a pathway for Mekong's water security](#), or [The world is making the Mekong its dump](#).

During the River Project, WSP had the opportunity to create an innovative, original website which highlighted the intricacies and complexities of the hydrological cycle. In doing so, it illustrated the power of technology to disseminate information in an accessible, interactive, visual manner. This is emblematic of WSP's overall vision and mission, and so the success of the River Project reflects the fact that WSP is able to achieve its goals.



Highlights

WORLD WATER WEEK - STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

| June - September 2021

Description: WSP was a media partner for SIWI's World Water Week 2021.

Purpose: World Water Week is a prestigious event for professionals, academics and students in the water sector to meet on an annual basis and address global water issues and solutions. By acting as a media partner, WSP was able to disseminate knowledge gathered from this annual event, making it more accessible and discoverable to a wider audience.

Outcome: WSP's co-founders contributed to two of three presentations in Seminar 8 'Climate Finance for a green COVID-19 Recovery': [Session 1](#) and [Session 3](#). Within this project, a series of articles were published. Examples include: [Water stewardship and supply chain legislation](#) and [Climate finance potential to unlock private sector investments in adaptation](#).

Additionally, WSP worked with the Water Integrity Network to produce a [series of articles](#) for the launch of the Water Integrity Global Outlook 2021 during World Water Week 2021.



Future plans

● CORE ACTIVITIES

Multilingual website

Excitingly, in the coming months WSP's website will become multilingual as it is translated into multiple languages, helping to lower linguistic barriers to water-related news even further. The website will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Introduction of podcasts

WSP will expand its multimedia work with the introduction of a podcast, Neptune Talks, consisting of interviews with experts in the water sector. An audio feature will also be added to WSP's published articles, as volunteers read the text aloud in different languages. Both of these audio features will be available on Spotify and Apple Music.

Volunteer opportunities

As WSP is nearly entirely volunteer-led, there are always opportunities to get involved and help the platform to grow, as well as offering the volunteers an opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience. As well as open positions available for authors, photographers and translators, WSP will take on a misinformation/disinformation volunteer over the course of the year, in light of the fake news and questionable 'science' which seems to be prevalent in society at the moment. This will help WSP's content to be even more valid and robust.

Establishing a formal income stream

Currently, WSP receives no core funding and most expenses are covered by its co-founders. Establishing a formal income stream in the next twelve months will be a key step for the platform so that WSP is able to hire full-time staff, run self-sustained projects and expand its work even further.

● PROJECTS

Second SOS Project

Following the success of SOS' pilot project in Argentina, a second project is set to take place in early 2023. The location is yet to be confirmed, but it is likely that the chosen MPA will be in either Mexico or the Philippines.

Similar to the Argentina project, another documentary will be produced and shown at international film festivals. Environmental education and capacity-building activities will be offered to local communities.

Groundwater exhibitions, photobook and crowdfunding campaign

Exhibitions of the groundwater photostories will tour around Europe in autumn 2021. It is probable that these will be showcased in Naples and Paris.

Additionally, after receiving numerous beautiful, thought-provoking and emotive photo stories, it was decided that they should be shared even further beyond WSP's website and an exhibition. Subsequently, a groundwater photobook will be produced containing the photo stories, notes from the photographers themselves and comments from international groundwater experts. To do so, a minimum of €12,000 is needed and so a crowdfunding campaign will take place from August 2022 through October 2022.

Euphrates River Project

A second River Project will be developed following on from the Mekong project, this time focusing on the Euphrates river basin. It will aim to highlight the main issues around the Euphrates river in Turkey, Syria and Iraq using data, articles and photostories from the region. At first, a photostories series will be held, and eventually these photostories will be incorporated into another arteries.blue website.

Water Science Policy and Climate Change

Changes in the hydrological cycle are some of the most predominant impacts of climate change, for example increased intensity and severity of floods, droughts and extreme weather events. As water is essential to human life, the water-related impacts of climate change affect all communities, albeit to varying degrees. Well-informed water policies and robust actions are vital to slow down these effects. WSP addresses the intertwined relationship between water and climate in the following ways:

Raise interest, not only awareness

WSP has published numerous articles and photostories exemplifying the impacts which have been and are being caused by climate change. The 'Fight Climate Change' section of the platform is split into seven categories: adaptation; conflicts and migration; divestment; droughts; energy; floods; mitigation; and storms. In total, over 36 articles and photostories have been published on the topic. For example, Fast fashion, water and climate change, The power of story-telling for water and climate and To address climate change, look to nature first are just some of the articles published during the year which aim to engage readers and spark their interest in the topic.

Create impact, not knowledge

Knowledge and evidence are powerful tools for change. WSP sheds light over localised water-related issues which can eventually lead to more effective policy making, as socio-economic contexts are appropriately taken into account. Using audio-visual mediums such as videos and documentaries is a multi-sensory form of communicating information, creating interest and relatability to people's stories. This is important when considering that climate change

may only seem like a distant threat to many. For instance, the photostories Aïda Muluneh: Water Life, The Sea Moves Us, The Sea Moves Fuvemeh and Climate change and water security on the front line - stories from Ethiopia disseminate socio-ecological information in an accessible format which is understood by all: through photography. Moreover, WSP's policy briefs guide and advise decision-makers towards the most sustainable actions. Floods as agents of vitality: Reaffirming human-nature synergies is an example of a policy brief on climate change which provides nature-positive and data-driven recommendations to policy makers.

Be solution-centred, not stuck on issues

WSP not only highlights the many problems relating to climate change, but works to identify solutions through its published work and its projects. For example, the Mekong River Project aims to bring attention to the main issues faced by the river and its surrounding communities, including the damaging impacts of climate change. This project illustrates community-based and nature-based solutions to these issues that offer inspiration for similar lived experiences across the globe. The SOS documentary project also has a substantial climate-change component as coastal communities are among the ones most impacted by climate change. As co-management of (marine) resources is key to building coastal resilience and blue economies, the documentary illustrates some of the obstacles to be overcome in this space. The fact that the very release of the documentary has already had an impact on local management practices and prompted local industries to review their waste management processes is testament to the power of science communication, done the WSP way.

Conclusion



This report briefly summarised WSP's work from April 2021 to April 2022, a period of time which can be described as dynamic, reflective and productive for the platform. Being such a new organisation, WSP is continuously developing and changing, but this year really crystallised WSP's vision, mission and structure.

As can be seen from the Highlights section of this report, a great deal was achieved over the past year, both through the WSP's core activity of publishing articles and its project work. Many exciting activities are planned for the following year, but of course WSP will welcome unexpected projects which help it to achieve its three goals: raise interest, not awareness; create impact, not knowledge; and be solution-centred, not stuck on issues. WSP will be particularly interested in increasing their role in policy-making and advocacy in the future. Inclusion and diversity are part of WSP's DNA and will always be a priority within its work as the organisation strives to give a loud, booming voice to those who are most affected by the repercussions of water and sanitation insecurity, water-related contamination, biodiversity loss, and the impacts of climate change.

All of WSP's content is free to read and listen to, so that everyone can access the latest water-related news, research, and policy insights from around the world. Its content is multilingual and multimedia, reflecting the fact that access to information should not be a privilege but a right, particularly when the information relates to someone's immediate environment. Well-informed journalism and information dissemination can bring light to unsustainable environmental practices and potential human rights violations, empower communities to take action against wrongdoings and encourage positive social change.

Each day, each week, WSP's volunteers generously offer their time and energy to the platform, outside of their full-time jobs and personal lives. Accordingly, at its core WSP is truly driven by a strong connection to water and an enduring commitment to environmental protection, climate action, and social justice.

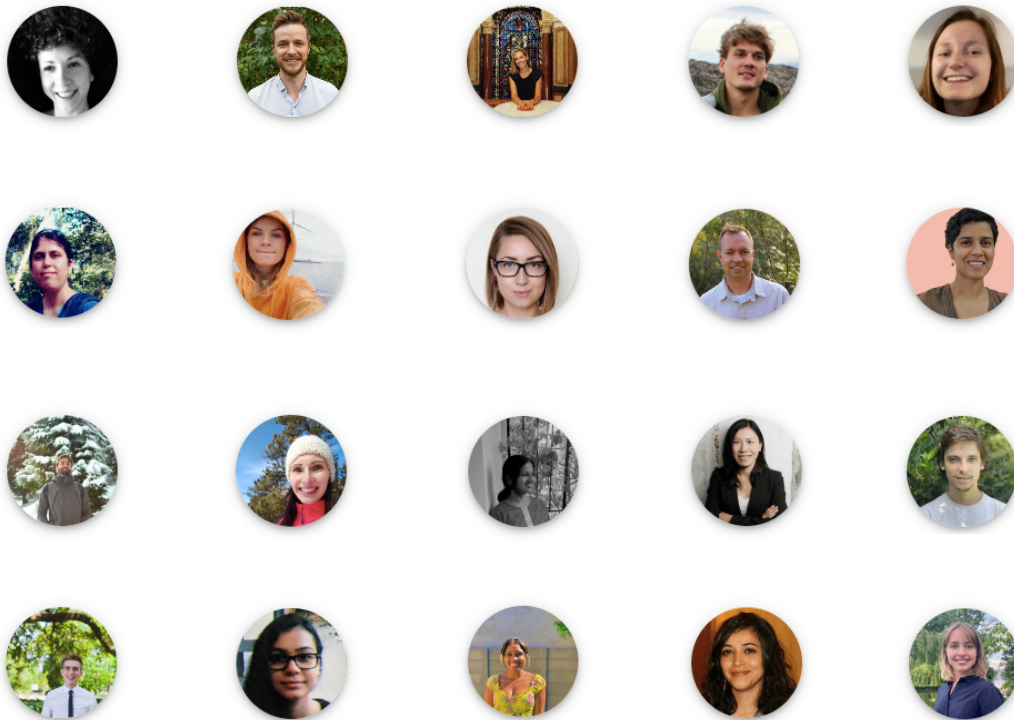
Acknowledgements and expressions of thanks

WSP would like to thank everyone who has donated their time, money and ideas to the organisation. Being almost entirely volunteer-led with no formal income stream, each cent and second are used to fund internal activities and infrastructure such as social media marketing and access to video conferencing services. So thank you to all of our donors for helping to keep WSP running.

WSP would also like to send thanks to its authors, photographers and collaborators. Because of you, WSP has been able to publish articles on fascinating topics and undertake projects which would have been unimaginable at WSP's conception two years ago. You have allowed the platform to explore new sides of science communication and truly establish our name in the water sector.

Thank you also to WSP's readers for engaging with our work. Everything WSP does would be pointless if there were no one there to appreciate it, learn from it, and take action from it. It is because of you that WSP keeps going, to make an impact on the world through sharing knowledge and information dissemination.

Lastly, WSP would like to thank its volunteers. From editors and translators to web developers and videographers, without our volunteers WSP simply would not be able to exist. Time is the most precious resource anyone has, as it is the only resource which cannot be returned. WSP is infinitely grateful to you for sharing your time, knowledge and skills and allowing WSP to grow and thrive.



Annex: Financial statements

Revenue Apr-2021- Apr-2022	
Donations	€18,278.25
Commercial Income	€19,060.00
Total	€37,338.25
Expenses Apr-2021- Apr-2022	
Marketing and Fundraising	€924.45
Website Publications & Projects	€25,052.96
Staff Salaries	€4,870.00
Utilities and Communications	€1,956.21
Total	€32,803.62
Net Income: Apr-2021- Apr-2022	
	€4,534.63
Estimated Financial needs	
Marketing and Fundraising	€40,800.00
Website Publications & Projects	€85,457.75
Staff Salaries	€100,800.00
Utilities and Communications	€30,095.49
Total	€257,153.24

Writers, contributors and editors of the report: Eliana Harrigan, Lama Ranjous, Christian Fischer, Maja Antic, Ivana Čeković, František Ficek

Designer of the report: Kseniia Goniaeva

If you are interested in getting involved with WSP, there are many ways in which you can do so:

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[Become a photographer](#)

[Become a translator](#)

[Donate to WSP](#)

By joining our efforts, you will contribute to the global outreach of news on water, sanitation, resources management and ecosystems in the regions of your interest.

Contact us via

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