

# Action Platform for Source to Sea Management

## 2018 Progress Report



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## Introduction

The 2018 Progress Report for the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) presents the activities undertaken by the Secretariat as well as outcomes contributed to by Platform members and its partners. The report is organized along the lines of the 2017-2020 Strategy and conveys a growing momentum for the S2S Platform, with key advances in the policy arena as well as in the development of knowledge products. Membership in the S2S Platform also continues to grow. It does not include all the source-to-sea related activities and outcomes of the Platform members. As the impact and influence of the S2S Platform is the full combination of efforts by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee and Platform members, the results reported here should be seen as a collection of highlights where the Secretariat has been involved or informed.

## Action Platform on Source to Sea Management

The Action Platform on Source to Sea Management was launched on 1 September 2014 as a multi-stakeholder initiative to exchange and generate knowledge, and support joint action for improved management of land, freshwater, coastal and marine linkages. The mission of the S2S Platform is to support coordinated and innovative approaches to governance and management. It does this through generating and sharing knowledge, influencing policy making and program implementation as well as through networking activities for the S2S Platform members. Membership in the S2S Platform is open to all stakeholders that are committed to improving coherence and coordination in land, freshwater, coastal and ocean management. It focuses on governance and management innovations to address the full range of source-to-sea issues. The S2S Platform is coordinated by SIWI. For more information on the S2S Platform, visit [www.siwi.org/source-to-sea](http://www.siwi.org/source-to-sea)

Since its formation, the S2S Platform has established itself as a key player in the international policy arena by connecting actors between freshwater and marine management, developing a common problem formulation and knowledge-base in the form of a source-to-sea conceptual framework and by and by building commitment at global and regional levels for using a source-to-sea approach to resource management. The S2S Platform now includes more than 25 of the key UN organizations, research institutes, international environmental NGOs, conventions, intergovernmental sea and river basin commissions active in this field.

The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management aims to facilitate contact between decision-makers and experts to provide on-demand knowledge, support, advice and guidance to coordinated policy making and implementation from land, freshwater, coast to ocean. By doing so, it will enhance the efforts of the international community to fulfil inter alia its commitments to the Manila Declaration. The mission and objectives of the Platform are as follows:

### Mission

- To support coordinated and innovative approaches to governance and management from source to sea.

### Objectives

- Improve coherence and integration in land, water, coastal and marine management

- Support coordinated implementation of the freshwater- and marine-related SDGs (SDGs 6 and 14) and other SDG targets important to realize those goals<sup>1</sup>.
- Catalyse collaborative actions among governments, financiers, practitioners and the scientific community
- Generate and share knowledge in land, water, coastal and marine management
- Stimulate innovation in governance, planning and implementation, through pilot and demonstration projects
- Serve as a technical resource to support the implementation of ongoing and emerging programmes with strong source-to-sea linkages

## Financing the S2S Platform

In 2018, like in 2017, the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy granted a contribution of SEK 2 000 000 to the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), which hosts the Secretariat for the S2S Platform. The support could be used for costs related to the S2S Platform Secretariat and for implementing planned actions in the three work areas: 1) knowledge generation and sharing, 2) supporting policy making and program implementation and 3) a growing and vibrant S2S Platform. The guiding frame for the activities undertaken by SIWI in relation to the S2S Platform in 2018 was provided by the 2018 Work Plan approved by the S2S Platform Steering Committee. Thanks to the contribution provided by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy, the Secretariat was reinforced with a full-time staff member from June 2018, which allowed for additional input by the S2S Platform in relation to a number of the activities.

## 2018 Work Plan

The Work Plan for 2018 was the fourth annual work plan developed by the Action Platform on Source to Sea Management. It is based on the Strategic Plan 2017-2020, and its three work areas:

- 1) Knowledge generation and sharing;
- 2) Supporting policy making and program implementation; and
- 3) A growing and vibrant S2S Platform.

The Work Plan is designed to make maximal use of the limited resources available to the Platform through a strategic selection of activities and through active engagement of the S2S Platform members.

Following the policy outcomes mentioned above, the S2S Platform partners are focusing on operationalization of the source-to-sea approach with the publication of the *Practitioners Guide for Implementing Source-to-Sea Management in Projects and Programmes* and the preparation of a *Source-to-Sea Framework for Marine Litter Prevention*.

## Work area 1 – Knowledge generation and sharing

### 1. Sharing of source-to-sea knowledge at strategic international events and conferences.

#### *Main activities:*

In 2018, the S2S Platform has been active in presenting the source-to-sea approach in international and regional meetings and conferences, which have provided a forum for sharing knowledge, an opportunity to engage in policy and programmatic processes and for networking among partners (Table 1). The S2S Platform arranged opportunities to share knowledge and discuss the source-to-sea approach and its application to a range of global issues, e.g., corporate water stewardship, marine pollution, transboundary water cooperation, water security, climate change, at 13 international and regional events in 2018.

At World Water Week, two S2S Platform events were held, *Business Leadership for Oceans – Source-to-Sea Solutions* and *IWRM and The source-to-sea balancing act - development needs and ecosystem preservation* –one seminar was organized *Ecosystem-based Approaches – Complementary, Duplicating or Competing* and a presentation given in *Microplastics in Freshwater Environments*.

In addition, two specific source-to-sea workshops held at the Swedish International Development Agency (organized by Sida); one source-to-sea workshop for Baltic stakeholders (organized by SIWI Swedish Water House) and one webinar focused on water quality management (organized by IWRA).

Not only did these regional and international events provide opportunities to promote the source-to-sea approach and expand its uptake, they also involved S2S Platform members in organizing, co-convening and presenting in the events, which provided an opportunity to draw upon the extensive experience of S2S Platform members. Co-conveners of S2S Platform events in 2018 include Delta Alliance, Deltares, FAO, GEF IW:LEARN, Great Barrier Reef Authority, GWP, IUCN, SIWI, Sida, Swedish Government, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, UNDP, UNESCO and World Ocean Council. Many more have contributed as presenters and panellists during S2S Platform events.

*Table 1: 2018 Strategic international events and conferences*

| Date        | Conference/Event  | S2S Platform engagement  | Location             |
|-------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 4-6 March   | Viet Nam International Water Week   | S2S side-event organized by SwAM*  | Ha Noi, Viet Nam     |
| 18-23 March | 8 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum   | S2S High Level Panel*, 1 thematic session organized by S2S Secretariat*<br><a href="#">S2S HLP @ WWF8</a><br><a href="#">S2S events @ WWF8</a> | Brasilia, Brazil     |
| 19-22 June  | High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable | S2S and water quality side-event organized by UNESCO and SIWI  | Dushanbe, Tajikistan |

|                |  |   |                     |
|----------------|--|---|---------------------|
|                | Development” 2018-2028   |   |                     |
| 9-18 July      | UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (review of SDG 6 and others) (HLPF) | S2S side event organized by S2S Secretariat*<br><a href="#">S2S at HLPF</a>   | New York, USA       |
| 26-31 August   | 2018 World Water Week  | 2 events and 1 seminar organized by S2S Secretariat*<br><a href="#">S2S Platform @ WWW</a><br><a href="#">S2S Business Leaders @ WWW</a>  | Stockholm, Sweden   |
| 2-5 October    | Asia Water Forum: Information, Innovation and Technology                                     | ADB organized event on Curbing Marine Litter Pollution, Source-to-Sea Framework for Marine Litter Prevention presented by S2S Platform Coordinator*   | Manila, Philippines |
| 10-12 October  | 8 <sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention                | IW:LEARN organized event on S2S and transboundary cooperation*<br><a href="#">S2S @ UNECE MoP</a><br><a href="#">S2S Transboundary Water Cooperation</a>  | Astana, Kazakhstan  |
| 31 Oct – 1 Nov | Managing Packaging Waste – Preventing Marine Litter ASEAN Regional Workshop                  | Regional workshop organized by ASEAN, governments of Germany, Norway and Indonesia. Recommendation from S2S Working Group* included in final recommendations.<br><a href="#">S2S for Preventing Marine Litter</a> | Bali, Indonesia     |
| 31 Oct – 1 Nov | 4th Inter-governmental Review of the Global Programme of Action                              | GPA-organized event on review of governmental commitments on addressing marine pollution from land-based pollution and progress of the programme over the period from 2012 further to the Manila Declaration      | Bali, Indonesia     |
| 5-8 November   | 9th GEF International Waters Conference  | GWP organized S2S clinic* and FAO and ADB organized S2S in Asia workshop*   | Marrakech, Morocco  |

|                |  |  |                     |
|----------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 8 November     | China-Europe Platform High-Level Policy Dialogue   | SwAM organized workshop and presented S2S  | Beijing, China      |
| 27-30 November | East Asian Seas Congress   | S2S Platform Coordinator presented keynote in plenary and FAO and UNDP organized S2S event*                            | Iloilo, Philippines |
| 3-14 December  | 24 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24 UNFCCC) | FAO organized event on nature-based solutions and climate, S2S presentation by SIWI<br><a href="#">S2S for Climate</a> | Katowice, Poland    |

\* With active contribution from the S2S Secretariat

#### *Main outcomes:*

- See links in Table 1 for published results.
- The first *High Level Panel on Source-to-Sea Management* was organized at the **8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**. The High Level Panel was a true collaborative venture between S2S Platform members that together secured distinguished panellists including Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ministers from Senegal and Peru and senior representatives from the governments of Bulgaria, Brazil and Sweden, from Suez (private sector) and the GEF. This joint effort contributed to the importance of source-to-sea approaches being acknowledged in the World Water Forum Ministerial Declaration for the first time, and for source-to-sea now having a firm place as part of the discussions in preparation for the next Forum.
- A side event *Making the most of SDG 6 implementation – for benefits from source to sea* was held during the **High Level Political Forum** in NY. This side event was a very positive collaboration with the Swedish Resident Mission and was well attended. However, we did not succeed in bringing source to sea into official outcomes of the High Level Political Forum on SDG 6.
- A workshop with the **Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development** led to their engagement in the *Business Leadership for Oceans: Source-to-sea Solutions* event at World Water Week. It is notable that Sida requested expert advice on the source-to-sea approach, which is now included in their strategy.
- In an effort to bring together the ocean and freshwater communities and to reach out to the private sector, the S2S Platform convened, with World Ocean Council, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development "Business Leadership for Oceans: Source-to-Sea Solutions" at **World Water Week**. The participation of the panellists and audience was very positive with interest in the S2S Platform expressed by all. IKEA has indicated interest in follow up in spring 2019 and Nestle Waters is interested in the S2S Framework for Marine Litter Prevention when it is finalized. The session

met the WWW Gold Standard of 40% women and at least on youth by having 60% women in the session overall and one youth. Engaging the private sector in the S2S Platform will strengthen its capacity for achieving cross-sectoral cooperation in source-to-sea management.

- Following up on high-level discussions at the 2017 UN Oceans conference, the 8th World Water Forum and the 2018 High-Level Political Forum opportunities for addressing source-to-sea priorities as part of climate adaptation, sustainable development and biodiversity conservation efforts were discussed at the session *The source-to-sea balancing act – development needs and ecosystem preservation* at **World Water Week**. H. E. Dr. Mohamed Abdelaty, Minister of Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation, Republic of Egypt gave the keynote speech in which he called for taking a source-to-sea approach to water management.
- Source-to-sea got more recognition during the **UNECE Water Convention Meeting of the Parties** in Astana. Source-to-sea is part of the UNECE mandate, and a side-event was held on the topic. Interest in source to sea is rising in both ocean and freshwater communities.
- Several SC members were present at the High-Level Conference on **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference**, in Nairobi, Kenya. Source-to-sea, or the need to link water to oceans, was highlighted both by Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy on Ocean, and by S2S Platform members as part of other presentations. Freshwater has been included as part of the blue economy. Strong links were made between ocean recreation and job creation. The importance of nutrient and plastic pollution in source-to-sea flows was highlighted.
- Source-to-sea actively entered the global dialogue on preventing plastic leakage to oceans through the presentation of and discussion about the Source-to-Sea Framework for Marine Litter Prevention at **Asia Water Forum, Managing Packaging Waste – Preventing Marine Litter, IWC9 and East Asia Seas Congress**. Made positive contact with a range of stakeholders involved in this topic including World Bank, ADB, UNESCAP, Ocean Conservancy, Plastic Ocean Foundation.
- At **IWC9**, source-to-sea was presented in a clinic that provided an opportunity for GEF project teams to ask questions about how to incorporate the source-to-sea approach in their ongoing and future activities. A mix of freshwater and marine programmes were represented in the clinic. This clinic was especially important since earlier conference workshops had split the ocean and freshwater projects into separate rooms.
- The overall recommendation from the S2S Partnership Hub Dialogue stated during the closing session of the **International Conference of the EAS Congress 2018** are, *“National and local governments of the region, international/regional organizations, financial institutions, donors, investors, the private sector and universities/research institutions need to work collaboratively and in a mutually supportive manner over the next 3 years to demonstrate progress in developing and demonstrating a ‘regional approach’ to S2S governance and management, building on existing experiences, sharing knowledge and best practices on effective*



*institutional mechanisms, policies/strategies, legislation, financing, and investments from new projects, and helping to increase S2S effectiveness and reach.”*

- The Asia Pacific region is very active in source to sea and is currently showing leadership in this area as evidenced by the events organized by FAO, UNDP, ADB and PEMSEA.

## 2. Development of knowledge products, source-to-sea applications, case studies, training materials and relevant tools for source-to-sea management

### *Main activities:*

*Water quality management from source to sea: from global commitments to coordinated implementation”* published in the scientific journal *Water International*. The article reviews links and gaps related to water quality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It uses these as a starting point to analyze challenges in water quality management at national and basin levels from a ‘source to sea’ perspective. Experiences in the Danube River, Black Sea, East Asian Seas and the Baltic highlight key issues to be addressed during the implementation of the agenda to achieve water quality objectives in fresh, coastal and marine waters. It assesses priorities for supplementary actions to be supported to improve prospects for achieving targets in these areas.

*Implementing the source-to-sea approach: A guide for practitioners* has been a major work during 2018. The guide can be used by project and programme teams to integrate a source-to-sea approach to the design, planning and implementation of new or existing initiatives. The methodology presented in the guide builds upon the source-to-sea conceptual framework that was developed by the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is intended to be a companion to existing project design, planning and implementation methods. It presents a general approach that can be used at all levels and can be adapted to the local context.

*Source-to-sea framework for marine litter prevention* is an ongoing project funded by BMZ. A waste management consultant was contracted to support the development of the framework, which will be presented in a report due in Q1 2019.

*Water Resources Governance from Source to sea* was contributed as a chapter for the MOOC prepared for the SDG Academy. Launch of the MOOC is planned for 14 January 2019 and again in September.

The policy brief *Transboundary waters: cooperation from source to sea* was prepared for and disseminated at the UNECE Water Convention and UN Watercourses Convention 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

The policy brief *The blue trinity: freshwater, oceans and climate change* was prepared for and disseminated at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties.

### *Main outcomes:*

- A big step in the development of the source-to-sea approach and its contribution to supporting source-to-sea management has been taken with the publication of the

*Implementing the source-to-sea approach: A guide for practitioners.* The guide should help advance the operationalization of the source-to-sea approach and expand its uptake in projects and programmes globally.

- The work on developing the *Source-to-sea framework for marine litter prevention* has been a strategic opportunity to apply the source-to-sea approach as described in the guide for practitioners to an important global topic and has provided an entry point to this global discussion.
- Once the MOOC is online, the chapter on *Water Resources Governance from Source to sea* will be a valuable resource in bringing attention to source-to-sea management in relation to the achievement of SDG6.
- The policy brief *Transboundary waters: cooperation from source to sea* enabled a discussion with UNECE regarding the value of bring the source-to-sea perspective into transboundary water cooperation.

## Work area 2 – Supporting policy making and program implementation

1. Promote and facilitate the uptake of the source-to-sea concept in strategic technical and policy processes

### *Main activities:*

See above table for strategic technical and policy processes engaged in.

### *Main outcomes:*

- Source-to-sea included in the **World Water Forum 8 Ministerial Declaration**:
  - *“The contribution made by all relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society, academia, indigenous people and local communities and private sector, towards the development and implementation of positive and pro-active policies and cooperation on water issues, as well as of solutions that can be shared among countries and across stakeholders, with **the source to sea perspective and using water as a connector**”*
- Source to sea included in the **High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028** Final Declaration Promoting Action And Policy Dialogue Dushanbe, Tajikistan 20-21 June 2018:
  - *“Make concentrated and coordinated efforts to **build innovative, robust, flexible and fair systems for source to sea Integrated Water Resources Management**, to increase water use efficiency and productivity, particularly in agriculture, energy, tourism, urban and rural development, as well as industry, to better appreciate the value of water and associated ecosystem services, to reduce emissions and the transport of hazardous substances and to take into consideration the serious impacts on the quality and availability of water resources caused from extractive activities”*
- Source to sea included in the outcome of the **Managing Packaging Waste and Preventing Marine Litter Regional Workshop**:

- *“The participants exchanged information and views on the current state of packaging value chains and packaging waste management in Southeast Asia, including its contribution to marine pollution in the region. They discussed solutions for packaging design and responsible production, packaging in retail and consumption, packaging waste collection, packaging waste sorting and recycling, the integration of the informal economy as well as **source-to-sea management for preventing marine pollution**. Participants also discussed amongst others about approaches for extended producer responsibility, financing schemes, public awareness raising, partnerships along the packaging value chain, business opportunities, standards for packaging design and recycled materials, social benefits and safeguards and the role of regional trade and cooperation in ASEAN.”*
  
- Source to sea included in the **Draft programme of work of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2018–2022:**
  - *“The new programme of work is substantially anchored in the 2030 Agenda and the directions set forth under the various Sustainable Development Goals, with specific focus on addressing target 14.1, “By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”, and target 6.3, “By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”. **A priority focus on these two targets is in line with the conceptual design and implementation of the work programme of the Global Programme of Action in applying integrated source-to-sea or ridge-to-reef approaches to address marine pollution.**”*
  - *“**The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform)**, hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute, is a highly relevant framework for the Programme in terms of enhancing knowledge exchange. The S2S Platform aims to facilitate contact between decision makers and experts to provide on-demand knowledge, support, advice and guidance to policy development and promote implementation of management priorities in “source-to-sea” systems. The Programme **would remain a core partner in this platform to facilitate access to stakeholders.**”*
  - *“**Delivery of at least 4 regional train-the-trainer courses on integrated source-to-sea approaches to support national planning and policy development**”*
  
- **Source-to-sea is highlighted** as a key focus area in preparations for the **9th World Water Forum** to be held in Dakar, Senegal in 2021.
  
- At **24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties** in the official MPGCA Water segment the importance of a holistic and integrated approach **to resilient water management and source to sea was cited** and examples were given. At the Nexus round table on water, landscapes and energy source to sea was mentioned by 2 speakers. The issues of eutrophication were also highlighted and how to transform waste into resources in a circular economy perspective.

- Sweden **emphasized the source-to-sea approach** in the “**Strategy for Sweden’s global development cooperation in the areas of environmental sustainability, sustainable climate and oceans, and sustainable use of natural resources 2018-2022** (source: [Annex to Government decision 01.03.2018 UD2018/03677/GA](#))
- **United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** resolution on marine litter and microplastics calls for source-to-sea approach in its decision [UNEP/EA.3/Res.7](#)
  - *“To develop integrated and **source-to-sea approaches** to combat marine litter and microplastics from all sources, taking into account that plastic litter and microplastics are transported to the oceans from land-based sources by rivers and run-off or wind from land and that plastic litter is an important source of microplastics, and include the land/sea and freshwater/sea interface in action plans for preventing marine litter, including microplastics”.*
- **Source-to-sea appears 14 times** in UNDP's Water and Oceans Governance Programme's Contribution to the **UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021**
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF) 7 Programming Directions** include reference to the source-to-sea approach.
  - *“Setting effective policy goals, coupled with investments, requires working at all scales, with a range of stakeholders, in the public and private sectors and **across the watershed from source-to-sea and beyond**. These principles are fundamental to the GEF-7 investments in International Waters.”*
  - *“Under sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, the following types of investments will be supported: “Create **multi-state cooperation frameworks in transboundary deltas including an integrated source-to-sea approach**”*
  - *“GEF Investments in water, food, energy and environmental security will support: Efforts to increase water efficiency, reuse, and reduce point and non-point sources of pollution addressing both primary and emerging pollutants, **along the source to sea continuum**”*
  - *“Looking to GEF-7 a suite of investments are needed to prevent, reduce, and control coastal point and non-point pollution to ensure ecological, social, and economic well-being of coastal and island nations. The GEF will continue to pilot and promote the scaling of innovative point and non-point nutrient pollution, through the following types of investments: Catalyze national policy development coupled with investments in innovative approaches, through regional processes, to address nutrient and emerging pollution issues **along the Source-to-Sea/Ridge-to-Reef Continuum**”*
- **EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy**, approved on November 19, 2018.
  - *The Council resolves to enhance EU diplomatic engagement on water, as a tool for peace, security and stability. EU water diplomacy must aim at facilitating the prevention, containment and resolution of conflicts, contributing to the **equitable, sustainable and integrated management of water resources from source to sea**, and*

*promoting resilience to climate change impacts on water. Cooperation on water must be harnessed to promote regional integration and address political instability.*

## 2. Promote and facilitate the uptake of the source-to-sea concept in project and programme design by members and others (“on the ground activities”)

### *Main activities:*

Participated in 9th IW:LEARN International Waters Conference and contributed to the clinic on *How to apply source-to-sea management in practice* which addressed the following questions: What are the components of a source-to-sea system? How to determine the boundaries of the source-to-sea system/reference area? How to define and analyze the components of the anthropogenic and natural environment within a source-to-sea system /reference area as well as how to define and analyze the interactions among these components? Which stakeholders to involve, when and how? and how to design and monitor intervention strategies. Through IWC9 and other conferences, received requests for knowledge resources on and possible support with integrating source-to-sea in projects.

### *Main outcomes:*

- Increasing integration of source-to-sea in programming and project development, e.g., FAO Asia and UNDP Asia Pacific.
- UNDP, with PEMSEA, is preparing a project, *Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries* is preparing a project for GEF funding to improve integrated water resources management, reduce pollution loads from nutrients and other land-based activities, sustain freshwater environmental flows and reduce climate vulnerability through demonstrations and replications, planning and strengthening of integrated river basin management in 7 countries in the East Asian Seas. In the context of this project, **IRBM is also being applied in support of a “source-to-sea” management approach.**
- Received request from IUCN for source-to-sea publications and potential support in **applying source to sea in project activities in 2019** under framework agreement between Viet Nam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.
- Received request for source-to-sea materials to support GEF project ‘*Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change*’ which has as one of its project objectives: Implementing the Strategic Action Program (SAP), promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and **source-to-sea approaches**, to improve ecological, social and economic benefits and, enabling the countries to meet their relevant SDG and convention targets in the Amazon basin.

- UNESCAP is planning a ‘landscapes to seascapes’ project in 2019 that fits nicely into a **source-to-sea approach** and could benefit greatly from knowledge exchange through the platform. The project also envisages a training element to accelerate the implementation of such an integrated approach, focusing on coastlines and coastal settlements in islands in the Asia region.
- FAO Country Programming Framework for Sri Lanka Country 2018-2022 has as an output formulation of **GEF proposal for Source to Sea in one watershed** with the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment under Increased capacity of targeted institutions to protect natural resources and promote conservation practices.

### 3. Provide on demand knowledge support

#### *Main activities:*

Requested to provide a presentation on the source-to-sea approach to be used by Global Water Partnership to promote the use of source to sea in their Learning Deltas Asia Initiative (LDAI), which is aimed at stimulating increased cooperation worldwide between those involved in the governance of deltas, strengthening a science-policy interface and, developing a framework for analysis and action.

Requested to provide a presentation on the source-to-sea approach to be used by SIWI in the FAO organized event on Nature-Based Solutions at 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24 UNFCCC).

Craig Leeson of Plastic Ocean Foundation and full-length film Plastic Ocean requested copy of S2S presentation to use when talking to government in Mexico.

#### *Main outcomes:*

S2S Platform seen as the expert in source to sea and as having the best developed knowledge resources.

## Work area 3 – Growing a vibrant S2S Platform

### 1. S2S Platform engagement

#### *Main activities:*

S2S Platform convened 2 partner meetings, one in associated with the 8th World Water Forum and the other at World Water Week with 16 and 20 partners and potential partners, respectively. S2S Platform partners were involved in events organized by the Secretariat as well as events organized by S2S Platform Partners (see table above).

Four Steering Committee meetings were held in 2018.

Bilateral meetings were held with prospective S2S Platform members and invitations were sent out to: Asia Development Bank, Ocean Conservancy, World Bank, InterAmerican Development Bank, Plastic Ocean Foundation, UNESCAP, WWF.

Five organizations joined the S2S Platform in 2018: PEMSEA, COALMA, French Water Partnership, UNSW Global Water Institute, UNESCO IHP.

*Main outcomes:*

- The autumn Steering Committee meeting, which was scheduled for Friday afternoon was cancelled due to low attendance. Future meetings will be scheduled Monday - Thursday.
- Meetings were held with ADB at World Water Week, Asia Water Forum and East Asia Seas Congress. ADB is developing a **Source-to-Sea Strategy** to reduce marine pollution and litter and restore the health of rivers and marine ecosystems through enhanced commitment & action to address marine and fresh water pollution and increased investments in Source-to-Sea solutions. The strategy includes knowledge, enabling environments and project investments from source-to-sea.
- A roundtable discussion about partner-led topical working groups was held at the Partner Meeting during World Water Week. Many ideas for topics were offered, however there was insufficient time to narrow those topics to a small number that would be initiated in 2019.

## 2. External communications

*Main activities:*

S2S Platform has maintained a website and twitter channel as its primary outlets for digital communication. Digital channels have been the primary tools for promoting and sharing events, publications and news from the S2S Platform. The Platform has also benefitted from SIWI's website and social media channels, having several of its news items, events and all publications showcased on these outlets.

In December 2018 a document sharing hub was established, providing a digital repository of S2S related documents.

*Main outcomes:*

- **Webpage:** Since launching in December 2017, the S2S Platform webpage has become the natural hub for reading the latest news, achievements and publications from the S2S Platform. The vibrant webpage, which sees regular updates has attracted more than 2200 views since 1 January 2018. Its positioning as part of the SIWI webpage ([www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org)) has allowed for improved visibility through SIWI's search engine optimization tools. Positioning with SIWI has also allowed for S2S Platform products to reach wider audiences – Roughly 35% of page views come from cross-promotion on SIWI's website and social media. On SIWI's website as a whole, source-to-sea related content was viewed more than 3400 times. Source-to-sea initiatives and publications have been featured throughout SIWI's website and have been prominently featured on SIWI's campaign pages for the High-level political forum (<http://www.siwi.org/siwi-high-level-political-forum/>), COP 24 (<http://www.siwi.org/siwi-at-cop/>)

Top posts from the S2S Platform page in 2018 were:

1. News: Source-to-sea management a prominent issue at 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

(<http://www.siwi.org/latest/source-sea-management-prominent-issue-8th-world-water-forum/>) – 246 views

2. Publication: A conceptual framework for governing and managing key flows in a source-to-sea continuum (Water Policy article) (<http://www.siwi.org/publications/conceptual-framework-governing-managing-key-flows-source-sea-continuum-water-policy-article/>) – 214 views

3. News: Transboundary water cooperation is crucial to address source-to-sea priorities (<http://www.siwi.org/latest/transboundary-water-cooperation-is-crucial-to-address-source-to-sea-priorities/>) – 211 views (also shared on SIWI website homepage and SIWI social media)

- Twitter: Tweets from @S2Splatform have received nearly 50 000 impressions since 1 January 2018. The twitter channel has been used to promote the work of the S2S Platform, promote source-to-sea related activities from members, and most importantly, the channel has helped to highlight the importance of source-to-sea management in relation to climate change, sustainable development, Agenda 2030, water resources management, marine litter and more.

The S2S Platform hashtag (#S2Snews) has been used a total of 85 times this year. Including top tweets from SIWI, Nigerian Ministry of Water Resources, and Director General of Sweden's Agency for Marine & Water Management.

Hashtags most frequently mentioned with S2S Platform are water security, SGD 6 and tags of high-level political processes and conferences. This highlights the S2S Platform's influence and relevance to the most pressing water issues and political processes.

- S2S Document Hub: The S2S Document Hub has been set up as a free service for all S2S Platform members. Much research had been spent in trying to find a resource efficient solution that would allow barrier free access to all members. The ultimate aim is to foster an environment and relationship of sharing and collaboration among all S2S Platform Members.