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Introduction

The 2021 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 partners and supporters. The report is organized along the lines of the 2021–2025 Strategy and conveys a growing momentum for the Platform, with key advances in the engagement of new partners and the participation in several global forums. The report does not include all the source-to-sea (S2S)-related activities and outcomes of S2S Platform partners. As the impact and influence of the S2S Platform are achieved by a combination of all efforts by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee, and S2S Platform partners, the results reported here should be seen as a collection of highlights where the Secretariat has been involved or informed.

The planning for 2021 looked forward to a busy year of international events, including the Climate Adaptation Summit, World Water Week, the International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress and Exhibition, the United Nations Ocean Conference, the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) World Water Conference, the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Action and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26). As the Covid-19 pandemic continued to restrict travel in 2021, the majority of engagements were carried out online, and some conferences were postponed to 2022. However, it was possible to host a highly successful hybrid event during COP26 in the first Water and Climate Pavilion. The United Nations Ocean Conference was one of the events postponed until 2022; it was used as an opportunity to refine our strategy towards the ocean community together with our partners.

Highlights of 2021 include:

- Engagement of S2S Platform partners and supporters increased by holding four Partners in the Round calls and publishing six interviews.
- An interactive workshop for practitioners to learn about and discuss S2S management organized by the S2S Platform with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) had active engagement and broad participation.
- *Water International* published a special issue on S2S management.
- Engagement with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science was strengthened through the satellite event “Starting at the source to save the ocean”.

2021 Progress Report
• Collaboration with marine organizations led to a successful event at COP26 connecting S2S management to the ocean’s contribution to climate mitigation.

• The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) produced an e-learning tool for Asia-Pacific policy- and decision-makers to learn about links between freshwater and ocean ecosystems based on the S2S approach to management.
Achievements in 2021

The work plan for 2021 was the 7th annual work plan developed by the S2S Platform. It was based on the 2021–2025 Strategy, and its four strategic aims:

1. Strengthening partnerships across actors and initiatives
2. Growing understanding
3. Building commitment for source-to-sea action
4. Taking action on the ground

The work plan was designed to make maximal use of the limited resources available to the Platform Secretariat through a strategic selection of activities and through active engagement of the S2S Platform partners. As the Covid-19 pandemic progressed through 2021 and virtual engagements became the norm, the Secretariat continued to organize online events, which made it possible to reach a larger audience from more regions. A notable example is the high-level panel held during the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) Global Online Forum with around 800 participants. It also made it feasible to expand collaborations with partners as co-convenors and in engaging speakers.
Strategic Aim 1: Strengthening Partnership Across Actors and Initiatives

2025 Goal: The S2S Platform will have active, engaged partners representing the diversity of actors needed to fulfil our vision

2021 targets

- S2S Platform activities are successfully guided by an engaged Steering Committee.
- Enhanced collaboration between members and partners is informed by and actively contributes to S2S Platform activities.
- Partners and supporters are apprised of activities and outcomes and engage with or provide strategic guidance to upcoming activities.
- S2S newsletters serve as a source of information for S2S partners.
- The number of active partners and supporters of the Platform increases.
- An overview of ongoing and planned S2S-related activities is produced.
- Funding is secured for the S2S Platform Secretariat, and opportunities for partners to co-fundraise for S2S activities are explored.

Summary

The newly elected Steering Committee has been actively engaged in strategic direction of the S2S Platform and has brought experience and insight to consultative discussions during meetings. Partners in the Round calls, newsletters and email updates have kept partners informed and increased levels of engagement with each other. The initiative to conduct short interviews with partners and supporters has expanded messaging about S2S management and has increased our audience. Six new partners joined the Platform. A discussion of modalities to secure stable funding for the Secretariat was initiated and activities undertaken to secure multi-year funding.
Main activities

The Secretariat had continuous engagement with the partners in 2021, due to all the different activities carried out. It organized four Steering Committee meetings, which included highly engaged discussions with the Steering Committee members. The main points of discussion during these meetings included: approval of the Secretariat’s work plan; engagement in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science to continue the Platform’s work of promoting collaboration between the freshwater and ocean communities; securing a stable source of funding for the Secretariat; and developing key messages and primary aims for engagement in the international processes in the lead-up to the midterm review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

Four Partners in the Round calls were organized out of the five that had been planned for 2021. The calls facilitated the exchange of information between partners and supporters of the Platform and included presentations such as the PREVENT Waste Alliance; Cap-Net’s joint work with the Secretariat for the capacity needs assessment on S2S management; the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) S2S experience in the Rio Doce watershed; advancing S2S management in the Orange-Senqu River basin by ORASECOM; engagement with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science and the Global Water Partnership’s (GWP) Massive Open Online Course focused on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security. It was not possible to organize the fifth Partners in the Round call of 2021, due to the large number of engagements in the final third of the year. A partners’ meeting was planned to take place during World Water Week but did not take place because World Water Week was held virtually. The success of the Partners in the Round calls as an alternative space for partners to frequently exchange ideas fulfilled the intended purpose of the partners’ meeting. Three of the four newsletters that had been envisaged for 2021 were distributed. The large number of engagements in the last four months of the year made it difficult to dedicate resources to the newsletter. However, the Secretariat communicated S2S-related partner activities by email whenever possible if they did not fit the timing of the newsletter.

An activity that was not foreseen in the work plan for 2021 was the publication of written questions and answers (Q&As) with friends and partners of the Platform for commemoration dates. They have been very successful in providing an opportunity for S2S Platform partners to talk about how the S2S approach links to their primary topics, and the value they obtain from participating in the S2S Platform. The following interviews were conducted, published, and promoted through social media networks:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Views on the S2S Platform website</th>
<th>Social media engagements*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Wetlands Day Q&amp;A with Martha Rojas (Convention on Wetlands)</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Water Day Q&amp;A with Henk Ovink</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Health Day Q&amp;A with Stephanie Wear (The Nature Conservancy)</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Day Q&amp;A with James Dalton (IUCN)</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Oceans Day with Ambassador Peter Thomson</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Disaster Risk Reduction Day with Annemieke Nijhof (Deltares)</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of people who clicked on the post or liked or shared it.

The Secretariat continued its efforts together with SIWI to secure funding. A proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Environment of Sweden, but it was rejected because the Ministry’s support was intended to be temporary and to support the establishment of the S2S Platform. However, other sources of funding were pursued, including as part of the discussion of a partnership agreement between SIWI and the Government of the Netherlands.
Turning the tide on biodiversity loss

The theme of this year’s Biodiversity Day is “we’re part of the solution” and aims to highlight how biodiversity is part of the answer to challenges like climate change, sustainable development and water security. And yet, we are seeing a devastating loss of biodiversity and a breakdown of ecosystems all over the world. We spoke to Dr. James Dalton, Director of IUCN Global Water Programme about how we start to reverse this pattern.

Main outcomes

The Partners in the Round calls have fostered new collaboration between the partners – for example, IUCN’s Ocean programme is now engaged with the PREVENT Waste Alliance due to its presentation during one of the calls. The calls also functioned as a space to continue the discussion of engagement with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, which led to the organization of a satellite event for the learning laboratory on “A Clean Ocean”. The session titled “Starting at the Source to Save the Ocean” took place on 18 November 2021 and was convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), GWP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of the Convention of Wetlands, SIWI, and the S2S Platform.

The written Q&As proved to be a successful collaboration model that highlighted the S2S nature of a partner’s work on a specific topic. It also helped S2S management, and the S2S Platform receive more attention on social media because the Q&As were posted on the partners’ channels, which generally have a stronger presence than the Platform. This is valuable because it extends the reach of the Platform and brings the S2S message to new audiences and communities.
The S2S Platform welcomed six new partners:

- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- Asia Pacific Water Forum
- International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)
- The Nature Conservancy
- Clean Water Wave
- Observatoire des sciences de l’univers Nantes Atlantique (OSUNA)

Furthermore, through different activities, the Platform has engaged with strategic organizations such as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the University of Reims Champagne-Ardennes.
Strategic Aim 2: Growing Understanding

2025 Goal: The S2S Platform establishes a global S2S knowledge hub

2021 targets

- Expanded recognition of the benefits of the S2S approach through presentation in a peer-reviewed journal
- Materials that highlight the S2S approach as important to addressing critical global challenges to be used in different training/capacity-building sessions by partners
- Transfer of knowledge, experiences, and lessons from and between partners
- Broader understanding of the benefits of the S2S approach and key points from discussion included in S2S Studies Synthesis Report
- The S2S Platform actively contributes to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, bringing together freshwater, coastal, and ocean expertise.

Summary

A workshop undertaken in partnership with SIWI and SwAM on implementing S2S management engaged practitioners from 20 countries and received high praise for the quality of the discussion and its professional relevance. The publication of a special issue of Water International on S2S management made a significant contribution to the scientific literature on the need for and benefits of S2S management. S2S Platform partners convened a side event for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science learning laboratory on “A Clean Ocean”, with almost 200 participants.

Main activities

The highly interactive virtual workshop “Implementation of the Source-to-Sea Approach to Management Workshop on Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward” was organized with SIWI and SwAM, which is an observer of the S2S Platform. This workshop took place 16 March 2021 with the following aims: sharing lessons learned from studies and projects; discussing opportunities and challenges in implementing the S2S approach; exploring strengths and limitations of the approach; identifying actions to enable a wider implementation of S2S
management; and strengthening relationships between governments and organizations that wish to be or are engaged in S2S management.

The IWRA, in collaboration with Platform partners SIWI, UNESCO-IHP, Xiamen University, and the Global Water Institute at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), published a special issue of the periodical *Water International* focused on S2S management. This process began in late 2019 with an open call for all partners of the Platform to submit abstracts. The selection of abstracts continued in 2020, along with the drafting of the selected articles. In 2021 the submissions entered final reviews. The *Water International special issue on S2S management* (Volume 46, Issue 2) was launched on 13 April 2021 with a very successful webinar in which panellists presented their case studies of S2S management. The session was attended by more than 450 participants from around the world, and a summary can be read here.

The S2S Platform engaged with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science through the organization of a virtual satellite event for the learning laboratory on “A Clean Ocean”. The session titled “Starting at the Source to Save the Ocean”, organized with UNESCO-IHP, GWP, SIWI, UNDP, and the Convention on Wetlands, took place on 18 November 2021. The focus of the event was to explore ways in which the scientific communities working on the ocean and freshwater ecosystems can increase their collaboration to better understand, monitor, and reduce pollution across the S2S continuum of inland, coastal, and marine ecosystems.

Three policy products were planned to support engagement in global processes such as the United Nations Ocean Conference, COP26, etc. These were not produced due to the postponement of the United Nations Ocean Conference and time limitations. For COP26, although a policy brief was not produced, significant effort was applied to the organization of and content for the S2S Platform event in the Water Pavilion that connected the S2S approach with blue carbon and the mitigation power of the ocean.

A database of S2S knowledge products, tools, and case studies was envisaged; however, with the revision of the SIWI website and the restructuring of the S2S Platform pages within it, it was determined that a separate database would not be needed. All publications, tools, and other relevant resources are located on the S2S Platform microsite.

Although the report *Building momentum toward source-to-sea management: Lessons learned and recommendations from seven cases* prepared by SIWI for SwAM has been completed, it was not published in 2021. Presentation and discussion of the report and its findings has been postponed until publication.
Main outcomes

The workshop organized by the S2S Platform in collaboration with SwAM and SIWI focused on the practical application of S2S management and had more than 40 participants from 20 countries exchanging ideas about the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the S2S approach. The participants appreciated the workshop and commented that the highly interactive format offered a chance to exchange ideas, discuss examples of successful implementation, and share lessons learned. It made it possible to share examples from a wide range of projects from around the world that are taking an S2S approach to addressing development challenges. Twenty participants completed the exit poll; according to their responses, 95 percent found the workshop informative and relevant, and 90 percent thought they would be able to leverage the tools and skills learned during the workshop in their professional practice. Some comments received in the poll include:

“Great initiative. Thank you for organizing! Would be nice to do more of these!”
“I really enjoyed the group session providing examples of best practice of S2S approach across several regions.”

More details of the discussion can be found here.

The launch of the special issue of *Water International* on S2S management marked a high point for scientific collaboration between S2S Platform partners, with seven partners involved: IWRA, UNESCO-IHP, SIWI, Xiamen University, IUCN, UNSW, and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). It also serves as evidence of how the production of scientific knowledge focused on S2S management is increasing and diversifying. The special issue included articles on a range of topics, such as sedimentation, nutrient and pharmaceutical pollution, policy and management, and international law.

The satellite event for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science was attended by nearly 200 participants. It signified the first engagement of the S2S Platform with the initiative, and was the result of a successful collaboration with a group of partners that was initiated during a Partners in the Round call. This is a test of the potential for synergies between partners that can be propelled through these calls. The session hosted a panel of scientists and experts from a wide geographic range, whose work covered different aspects of upstream pollution entering the oceans, including plastics, nutrients, and emerging pollutants. It also included experts on governance and ecosystems, who underlined the importance of generating this type of scientific knowledge and incorporating it into a decision-making process such as that conducted under HELCOM. A recording and a summary of the session can be found here.
Strategic Aim 3: Building Commitment for Source-to-Sea Action

2025 Goal: S2S perspectives hold a permanent place on the global agenda as a solution to rising and persistent development challenges

2021 targets
Benefits of the S2S approach to management are emphasized through different platforms and forums, increasing awareness of the importance of the S2S approach to management in addressing development challenges and influencing policy outcomes.

Summary
Even with the continuing Covid-19 pandemic affecting the opportunity to gather in person, the S2S Platform partners and supporters participated in seven international events. These engagements allowed the Platform to share its knowledge and expertise in relation to a range of topics, including climate change, finance, and ocean science.

Main activities
Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic across the world throughout 2021, there was uncertainty about the format of global processes (virtual, in person, hybrid) or whether they would take place at all due to the continuously evolving regulations to control the pandemic. Along with resource limitations, this affected the decision to withdraw from participating in the IWRA World Water Conference that took place in person in Daegu, Republic of Korea. Some conferences that the Platform was planning to engage with in 2021 were postponed to 2022 – for example, the IWA World Water Congress and the United Nations Ocean Conference – or reduced in scale, such as the conference for the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science. However, the S2S Platform successfully hosted events for World Water Week and COP26. It also hosted events that were not foreseen in the work plan: for the IAHR Global Online Forum, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 9th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (MOP9), and the learning laboratory on “A Clean Ocean” for the
United Nations Decade of Ocean Science. Additionally, the Platform continued to engage with the preparatory process for the 2022 World Water Forum and the Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

Due to the postponement of the United Nations Ocean Conference, the process of creating an open letter was put on hold as the Secretariat awaited a confirmed date for the conference. In late 2021 it was decided that the letter needed an update to reflect the latest discussions surrounding the ocean’s health.
Strategic international events and conferences in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Virtual conference/event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25–26 January</td>
<td>Climate Action Summit Video statement from Peter Thomson</td>
<td>Government of the Netherlands, SIWI, and S2S Platform</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–9 July</td>
<td>IAHR Global Online Forum <em>Hydro-Environment from Source to Sea</em></td>
<td>S2S Platform, IAHR, and SIWI</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23–27 August</td>
<td>World Water Week <em>High-Level Panel: Building Resilience from Source to Sea</em>; <em>Riding the Wave: Financing Source-to-Sea Action</em></td>
<td>S2S Platform, SEI, SwAM, FWP, GWP, UNDP, SIWI, IUCN, and BMZ</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September to 1 October</td>
<td>MOP9 <em>Transboundary cooperation from source to sea – Opportunities for action</em></td>
<td>S2S Platform, UNECE, GWP, UNDP, IWLEARN, and SIWI</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October to 12 November</td>
<td>COP26 <em>Hope comes out of the blue: Inspiring climate action from source to sea</em></td>
<td>S2S Platform, SIWI, WDC, WWT, UNDP, MCS, and Government of the Netherlands</td>
<td>Hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17–19 November</td>
<td>United Nations Decade of Ocean Science &quot;A Clean Ocean&quot; learning laboratory <em>Starting at the Source to Save the Ocean</em></td>
<td>S2S Platform, UNESCO-IHP, GWP, Convention on Wetlands, SIWI, and UNDP</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparations in 2021 for events postponed to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Virtual conference/event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2022</td>
<td>9th World Water Forum</td>
<td>World Water Council</td>
<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2022</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Water Summit</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Water Forum</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2022</td>
<td>IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition 2020</td>
<td>IWA</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main outcomes

The constant engagement of the S2S Platform in global processes by hosting events aims to highlight the importance of S2S management to tackle some of humanity's most pressing challenges. This message continues to be consolidated through these engagements and is also increasingly being embraced outside the S2S community, as evidenced by its appearance on the agenda of researchers, policy-makers, and others. For example, the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne held a conference on S2S in the Loire River basin, and UNAM is implementing an S2S project in the Gulf of California. Both asked the Secretariat for a presentation for online events.

Engagement in three specific global processes proved very fruitful. The participation in MOP9 proved to be very important, as a global workshop on S2S was included in UNECE’s 2022–2024 Programme of Work. The side event in the learning laboratory of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science provided an opportunity to engage new speakers and to reach the ocean audience. The engagement with COP26 was very important to continue to situate S2S more strongly in the discussions surrounding climate change. By partnering with ocean organizations in the organizing of this event, a new narrative about the role of S2S management in climate mitigation was developed. The hybrid event was lauded as one the best sessions ever by SIWI’s then-Director of Communications and its Executive Director.
Additionally, the session during the IAHR Global Online Forum guaranteed a space for a high-level panel during the 39th IAHR World Congress in Granada, Spain, in 2022, which will continue to emphasize the importance of S2S among the communities focused on water and engineering. The World Water Week event, “Riding the wave: Financing source-to-sea action”, enabled a discussion on finance that can form the basis for future activities on how to develop financial strategies that facilitate investment in S2S action.

It is important to note that 17 different partners and organizations engaged in organizing events hosted together with the S2S Platform Secretariat in 2021. Furthermore, the events established or solidified relationships with high-level stakeholders such as:

- Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean
- Martha Rojas, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands
- Sandra Postel, Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2021
- Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Waters of the Netherlands
- Rüdiger Strempel, Executive Secretary of HELCOM
- Sonja Koepel, Secretary of the UNECE Water Convention

In the particular case of Henk Ovink and Peter Thomson, both have continued to promote S2S management and the Platform in engagements not organized by the Secretariat. This is evidence of their support for the S2S “ethos” and that they have both internalized our message.
Strategic Aim 4: Taking Action on the Ground

2025 Goal: Expertise is built, and source-to-sea management is applied in six continents

2021 targets

- Better understanding of capacity needs to feed into capacity development planning
- Sharing/transfer of knowledge, experiences, and lessons from on-the-ground demonstrations
- Awareness raised on S2S management

Summary

A capacity needs assessment was conducted with Cap-Net to increase our understanding of the interest level and need for capacity development in S2S. The results of the survey indicate there is such a need and interest. UN ESCAP launched an e-learning tool for policy- and decision-makers in the Asia-Pacific on understanding links between freshwater and ocean ecosystems, which was developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) and SIWI. The launch of the Amazon Strategic Action Program, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), emphasized the importance of using the S2S approach to management in the Amazon basin.

Main activities

A capacity needs assessment analysis was carried out in collaboration with Cap-Net with the aim of understanding the current degree of awareness of the need for an S2S approach to management, the capacity levels for implementation, and the challenges and barriers to doing so. The assessment was carried out as a virtual survey targeting decision-makers, technical experts, and practitioners in the fields of land, water, coastal, and/or marine management/governance worldwide. To distribute the survey, an outreach campaign was created which included a landing page and circulating the survey between 15 June and 1 September through Cap-Net’s networks and the S2S Platform’s mailing list.
The Secretariat collaborated with FAO in the development of an SDG6 and SDG14 e-learning training for UN ESCAP. The training titled “Understanding freshwater and ocean ecosystem linkages” includes seven modules and a reference booklet. While the course is primarily aimed at policy-makers and civil servants responsible for developing and implementing water, waste, fishing, marine, and environmental policies, programmes, or projects, the lessons learned from this course can be taken and implemented as meaningful action by those in the private sector, civil society, academia, and even the general public interested in the conservation and protection of freshwater and marine resources. The course was designed specifically for the Asia-Pacific region; however, it can also be useful in understanding links between SDG6 and SDG14 in other locations.

To launch the training, UN ESCAP held an executive training programme on the environment and development from 29 November to 3 December. Ruth Mathews, Coordinator of the Secretariat, provided a keynote speech titled “Safeguarding ecosystem health from source to sea” for the session on Integrated Action for Ecosystems and Ocean Health. The week-long training programme included interactive webinars for high-level policy- and decision-makers from national, subnational, and local government institutions that deal with key sectoral policies impacting environmental sustainability; climate change adaptation, resilience, and mitigation planning; city planning; and local resource management. The programme covered topics such as climate ambition, ecosystem health, air pollution, sustainable cities, and environmental governance.

A four-year project was launched by ACTO, GEF, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to implement priority actions of the Amazon Strategic Action Program endorsed by the eight countries sharing the Amazon basin and oriented to strengthen Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), reinforce the Amazon communities’ ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and ensure basin-wide compatible information for coordinated decision-making. The project includes S2S management as one of its pillars, and Ruth Mathews was invited to give a brief presentation on S2S management and the S2S Platform at the launch event on 30 November 2021.
Main outcomes

The capacity needs assessment survey was promoted and circulated for two and a half months and received 142 responses. The vast majority of answers came from Kazakhstan, where Cap-Net paid a third party to apply the survey. Even though the response was more limited than expected, the survey had some interesting results regarding how respondents perceived S2S issues and how S2S management can be implemented in their work. For example, 82 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “The coordinated management of land, freshwater, coasts, and the ocean is critical to achieving benefits across the system as a whole.” We can conclude from this result that respondents are aware of the links between ecosystems, and that coordination is necessary.

The UN ESCAP training provides an excellent opportunity to introduce policy-makers and civil servants in the Asia-Pacific region to the links between SDG6 and SDG14 and the S2S approach to management. UN ESCAP is making this e-learning available on its website.

At the launch of the Amazon Strategic Action Program, speakers from ACTO, GEF, and UNEP stressed the importance of S2S management for the Amazon basin. This is a great opportunity to expand the work of the Platform and its partners in Latin America in favour of S2S management.
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