The 6th International Symposium on Knowledge and Capacity for the Water Sector will be held at the African Development Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its Headquarters in Rome, Italy on March 10-12, 2020.

The main objective of the Symposium is to address critical knowledge gaps and promote the implementation of sustainable practices. The discussions will take place among policy makers, food producers, scientists, practitioners and other stakeholders on solutions to protect soil biodiversity and increase its sustainable use and evolution.

The research carried out during the Symposium should be relevant to policy, practice and research in water sectors in Africa. The aim is to provide the research with a clear objective of protecting human and ecological health. Microbiology, environmental chemistry, and environmental geophysics may be relevant to the biogeochemical reactivity of pollutants in the environment. Research on environmental evolutionary and ecological processes acting at the level of populations, species, communities, and ecosystems.

For more information, visit the symposium website at: [International Symposium on Knowledge and Capacity for the Water Sector](https://www.is-kcw.org/).

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**Projects**

- **Improving Undergraduate STEM Education:** The African Development Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its Headquarters in Rome, Italy on March 10-12, 2020.

  - **Funding source:** National Science Foundation
  - **PI:** Marci Jerome, College of Education and Human Development
  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Submission:** grants.gov
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020
  - **Amount:** $150,000

- **Smart Cities Partnership:** Projects should be compelling and reflect sustained, coordinated efforts from interdisciplinary engineering and sustainability problems by uncovering and incorporating fundamental ideas.

  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - **PI:** Kimberly Avila, College of Education and Human Development
  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Amount:** The average total is expected to be $300,000-$350,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **Improve Undergraduate STEM Education:** The research carried out during the Symposium should provide the research with a clear objective of protecting human and ecological health.

  - **Funding source:** National Science Foundation
  - **PI:** Susan Allen, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Amount:** $10,000,000
  - **Deadline:** Applications accepted at anytime

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**Upcoming Mason Events**

- **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Global Youth Aviation Challenge**
  - **Sponsoring and co-sponsoring nearly a dozen ISE-relevant events. This included events with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network on January 23-24, 2020.**

  - **Contact:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** The average total is expected to be $300,000-$350,000

- **Marine Debris Prevention Program**
  - **GMU internal deadline:** First come
  - **Amount:** $2,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **American Councils for International Education and Department of State, $20, 600**

  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Amount:** $20, 600

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**Scholarship and Public Policy**

- **The Department of Education’s Academic Improvement and Innovation Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The Social and Behavioral Research Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The Learning, Disability, and Achievement Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The Teacher and School Leader Development Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The Professional Development for Educators Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The STEM Teacher Preparation Program:**
  - **Funding source:** U.S. Department of Education
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education & Human Development
  - **Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

- **The Improving Undergraduate STEM Education:**
  - **Funding source:** National Science Foundation
  - **PI:** Marci Jerome, College of Education and Human Development
  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Submission:** grants.gov
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020
  - **Amount:** $150,000

- **Trainee Outreach Program in Special Education:**
  - **Funding source:** National Institutes of Health
  - **PI:** Anna Evmenova, College of Education and Human Development
  - **Contact:** Tom Barry
  - **Amount:** $150,000
  - **Deadline:** February 7, 2020

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**Contact**

For more information, please contact the Mason Initiative for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) at [ISE@mason.gmu.edu](mailto:ISE@mason.gmu.edu).

**Registration**

To register for the meeting, please visit [this website](https://www.mason.gmu.edu/ise).

**Submission**

Applications are accepted at anytime.

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During this two-day event, we will hear from SDSN USA co-chairs Jeffrey Sachs, Dan Esty, and Mason’s Dr. Anna Evmenova as well as other leaders from a variety of fields. SDSN USA will also announce its 2020 Fellows Program: 140 students from 60 universities across the country will receive $5,000 grants.

The meeting will be co-hosted by Mason’s Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE). The ISE Team will announce the winners of the annual Mason Green Awards, which recognize Mason students, faculty, and staff who have made or advocated for significant contributions to environmental sustainability on campus or in the community.

Please let you know how much we appreciate your commitment and engagement. During the entire year, the ISE Team did its best to ensure that the Mason community remained connected to relevant collections, while also affording fellows a hands-on opportunity to explore relationships between scholarship and public policy through a Smithsonian lens.

As the year comes to an end we wanted to send a few reflections on our year together and to also let you know how much we appreciate your commitment and engagement. During the entire year, the ISE Team did its best to ensure that the Mason community remained connected to relevant collections, while also affording fellows a hands-on opportunity to explore relationships between scholarship and public policy through a Smithsonian lens.