



EWP WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Standard Document

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Draft Standard version 0.1

For use in pilot testing

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EWP Water Stewardship Programme

Standard Document

Project Coordinator: Sabine von Wiren-Lehr

About this document

This standard has been shaped within the project “Communication of Sustainable Water Management” of the EWP Water Stewardship Programme in order to

- Define the Principles and Criteria of Sustainable Water Management in a comprehensive and concrete way
- Provide guidance to water users in Europe on how to become a good water steward
- Create the basis for an objective reporting, certification and communication scheme for Water Stewardship
- Initiate, support and bring forward the discussion within Europe and within the global Water Stewardship movement.

This standard aims to be pragmatic and implementable by a broad range of water users while still respecting the complexity impacts linked to water use and therefore:

- Comprises social and economic aspects
- Is valid on global scale but based on local assessment with focus on Europe
- Is valid across sectors.

Present status of the standard

This standard version 0.1 represents a first working document elaborated within a multi-stakeholder process including EWP, its partners and the participants of the project named above. This document has been peer reviewed by selected experts.

In a next step, the standard shall be implemented and verified in pilot studies to determine its practical applicability under on-site conditions.

Pilot testing

This document is being exposed to pilot testing by sector-specific organizations. Comments will be sought from reporting organizations and other stakeholders. Comments will be recorded according to a generic EWP piloting framework. The draft standard will then be reviewed and revised in the light of these comments, and the revised standard document will then be made more widely available.

Next steps

Following preliminary testing, the draft standard is expected to be presented as a major input into an international, multi-stakeholder 'global water roundtable' process. This process is estimated to take two to three years to complete. Its ultimate aim is to establish an international Water Stewardship system which will identify and reward reporting organizations that act as stewards of the world's freshwater resources.

The present document will be amended by a proposal for suitable assessment systems to verify and certify compliance.

How this standard works

This standard includes

- A general outline of principles and criteria of Sustainable Water Management
- A table of potential indicators which may be used by reporting organizations to evaluate and certify the degree of compliance with the referring criteria
- A glossary with definitions.

A referring detailed guideline has been edited in order to facilitate its implementation and evaluation.

I. Principles and Criteria of Sustainable Water Management (SWM)

The reporting organization shall have a documented Water Stewardship Policy, endorsed by its top management with the commitment to the following Principles and Criteria of Water Stewardship:

1 Principle 1: Achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction in terms of water quantity

Sustainable Water Management shall achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction from all sources, and maintain or restore environmental flow regime in all catchments where it has a significant influence. Therefore, the abstraction and use of water from all sources shall be evaluated by the water manager.

1.1 The total and the net water abstraction shall be quantified and monitored by source. This includes

- The abstraction from self-supply sources
- The use of alternative water resources
- The water supply by a public water system.

1.2 The impact of water abstraction shall be described and evaluated appropriate to the scale, the intensity of water management and the uniqueness of the significantly affected sources. This assessment shall include

- A list of all sources that are affected by the water abstraction
- A specific and - if possible - quantitative description of the impact of water abstraction on the water source itself and on referring conditions of infrastructure with special regard to environmental impacts and the socio-economic impacts including the impact on regional population (negatively) affected up-streams by water abstraction.

Out of scope

- **Indirect water use for purchased electricity and energy** production, e.g. hydro (parked).
- **Purchased water** (not included in assessment but should be quantitatively monitored):
Water in products and material for production (ref. Criteria 4.2).

2 Principle 2: Ensure the achievement and maintenance of good status in terms of chemical quality and biological elements

Sustainable water management shall ensure to achieve and maintain that the good status of water meets legal and / or agreed quality standards in all river basins in which it has a significant influence. Therefore, the quality of all effluents shall be evaluated by the water manager.

2.1 The total effluent quality shall be determined, monitored and documented by

- An evaluation of the quality of the effluent water itself, including a list of potentially present hazardous substances (pollutants), nutrients and thermal freight in the effluent
- An identification of the referring pollutant data and legal requirements for all physical, biological, chemical and other pollutants that have been identified
- A specification of the sources of pollution
- A characterization of the potential destinations of effluent water.

2.2 Destinations that are affected by discharge of water shall be identified and described in detail. This includes

- A specific description of the destination identity: its characteristics and its conditions of infrastructure disclosing the link to recycling and treatment facilities
- An assessment of the impact on the destination according to the scale, the intensity of water management and the uniqueness of the affected systems. This assessment shall include the environmental impact and the socio-economic impact
- A description of the regional population negatively affected down-stream by water discharge
- An outline on various risk factors influencing the impact on the destination site.

2.3 Local issues of water quality that are potentially influenced by the water use shall be pointed out clearly in qualitative and - if possible - quantitative terms.

Out of scope

- Site evaporation
- Water in products shipped.

3 Principle 3: Restore and preserve water-cycle related high conservation value ecosystems

Sustainable Water Management shall restore and conserve biological diversity and its associated values in high conservation value wetland, lake or riparian areas that are directly linked to its water-cycle.

- 3.1 The impact on changes in water status and linked ecological processes outside the natural range of variation (e.g. salinity or changes in groundwater level) shall be evaluated in high conservation value wetlands, lakes and riparian areas that are linked to the water-cycle of the operation. This includes
- The localization and description of affected areas with focus on their conservation value
 - A description and - if possible - quantification of the impact of water management by the operation on the water status of the high conservation areas and possible consequences for these ecosystems.

4 Principle 4: Achieve equitable and transparent water governance

An operation with sustainable water management shall achieve an equitable system for the allocation of water, make its Water Stewardship policy publically available and raise awareness for Water Stewardship by pro-active measures. Therefore, the water user shall establish, implement and maintain procedures in the management plan and operational practice on the following points:

This principle refers explicitly to a 'continuous improvement' approach rather than 'performance level' approach in relation to river basin sustainability, unless additional minimum performance requirements are specified.

- 4.1 The water management shall ensure the compliance with all legal requirements linked to water use. Therefore, the water user shall establish, implement and maintain procedures to ensure that legal aspects and compliance of its water abstraction, reuse or discharge are entirely disclosed and kept up to date.
- 4.2 Water management in the supply and use chain shall be evaluated **on long term**. Therefore, the purchase of products and material from water sustainable suppliers shall be raised over time according to the possibilities of the organization as follows
- Indirect water supply shall be purchased if possible from suppliers with approved Sustainable Water Management. The water user shall assess its indirect water use in a step-wise process and establish, implement and maintain procedures to identify the suppliers that make the greatest contribution to its indirect water use, raise the awareness of its suppliers for Water Stewardship and ask its suppliers for transparency on their water management by certification or other approval
 - The water user shall evaluate the use chain of water e.g. the waste water treatment in public plants.

Out of scope

- **This criteria is "on-hold"**: At the moment the supply-chain is not included in the scope of this proposal
- **For water users, a 3-step approach is envisaged:**
 1. Step: Assessment of water management of production site (in-gate)
 2. Step: Awareness raising suppliers
 3. Step: Requirement of a written approval from all suppliers referring to the implementation of a Water Stewardship system
- **Agriculture**: as first part of the supply-chain has no obligation to prove the water in products and material used for production.

- 4.3 Water management shall be planned, implemented and monitored taking the management of other resources into account. Connection points and cross media effects of the use of resources shall be defined, monitored and evaluated continuously with special attention to the link between water and energy management. The impact of changes in water management on other resources shall be reported and evaluated.
- 4.4 The efficiency of water consumption shall be improved by stepwise and adopted reduction of losses and increase of water recycling. Recycling of water shall be optimized according to the scale and intensity of the water management. Water loss during production has to be defined, monitored and followed up by planning and implementation of corrective measures and actions. Destinations and local environment affected by un-controlled water losses shall be identified.

Out of scope

- **Water in products and material** for production (ref. Criteria 4.2)
- **Storage** on site
- **Diffuse water losses** (non-significant).

- 4.5 Good/ Best management practices that are available for the specific sector of production shall be involved in management plans, established and implemented with the aim of 'continuous improvement'. Their implementation into practice shall be monitored and assessed internally or by third-party certification.
- 4.6 Transparency on operational water management shall be ensured.
- An internal short- and long-term water management plan appropriate to the scale and intensity of the reporting organization shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of water management and the means of achieving them shall be clearly stated.
 - The reporting organization shall establish and implement a procedure for public communication on its Water Stewardship Policy and for internal communication to all persons working for or on behalf of the reporting organization.
 - The reporting organization shall identify training needs associated with the implementation of its water stewardship system and shall provide training or take other action to meet these needs, and shall retain associated records.
- 4.7 Awareness for Sustainable Water Management shall be raised by the water user within a defined communication strategy including
- Active participation in river basin activities and / or RB committees
 - Active information on Water Stewardship.
- 4.8 Continuous improvement of water management in terms of sustainability on river basin level shall be initiated and supported by innovation and development of the water user's performance **on long term**. New products as well as the entire product range and the referring methods of production shall be developed and optimized in order to actively support and maintain sustainable water management. Innovation projects and investigations for Sustainable Water Management shall be actively supported.

Out of scope

This Criteria is "on-hold" At present, the innovation aspect has not been further elaborated

- 4.9 Transparency on economic aspects of water management shall be ensured. Capital investment, granting loans and insurance services linked to water management shall be available for evaluation. This includes explicitly investments on the implementation of all Criteria listed in this document. The level of cost-recovery including recovery of investments on the implementation of all Criteria listed in this document shall be determined and documented. Incentive systems in place like including water pricing, subsidies for sustainable utilities or polluter-pays regulation applicable at the site of the water users shall be fully reported and kept up to date.

II. Indicators proposed for monitoring Water Stewardship / Sustainable Water Management (SWM)

P1	1.1 Evaluate water abstraction from all sources	
1.1.1	Classification of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and description of all sources used and outlining those that are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Significantly under water stress b) Significantly affected by the water abstraction
1.1.2	Accounting water abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total water volume abstracted by source - Water consumption by source
1.1.3	Resource consents for abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and date of issuance / renewal of resource consents linked to water abstraction - Water withdrawn from non-permitted sources to total water withdrawn
	1.2 Evaluate the impact of water abstraction on sources	
1.2.1	Water source abstraction impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water abstraction volume per source (total & net) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sources significantly under water stress b) No resource consents available
1.2.2	Water source flow regime impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of discontinuous water abstraction (and recharge) on water flow rate of each source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No resource consents available for water abstraction from surface water
P2	2.1 Evaluate the actual and potential effluent quality	
2.1.1	Effluent quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition of water quality - List of main pressure pollutants - Indication of non-regulated pollutants - Identification of potential destinations
2.1.2	Eutrophication potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aggregate measure of the inland water eutrophication potential of some substances
	2.2 Evaluate the water quality impact	
2.2.1	Water quality impact – downstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of significant effects on destination by discharge/run-off of water - Number and description of water bodies (and related habitats) which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Significantly affected by quality of discharged water and runoff e.g. groundwater used for drinking water services b) Designated as water-pollution sensitive areas
	2.3 Local issues due to non-substantial pollution	
2.3.1	Local impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of significant local issues due to non-substantial pollution
P3	3.1 Evaluate the impact on biodiversity in high conservation value areas and ecosystems	
3.1.1	Biodiversity impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of significant impacts on water status and on the ecosystems of high conservation value with focus on biodiversity
P4	4.1 Comply with legal requirements	
4.1.1	Legal compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of compliance with all legal aspects of water abstraction, reuse or discharge
P4	4.2 Water in supply and use chain	
4.2.1	Stewardship supply chain index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water-approved suppliers in relation total entity of suppliers - Description and number of suppliers situated in the same river basin
P4	4.3 Link of water management to the management of other resources	
4.3.1	Water and energy link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of a regularly updated integrated water and energy management plan disclosing interconnections of energy and water consumption
4.3.2	Water and energy productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated evaluation of water and other resources (e.g. energy) efficiency of production
P4	4.4 Raise efficiency of water consumption (reduce losses and increase re-cycling)	

4.4.1	Water recycling efficiency	- Total volume and percentage of recycled water to total volume of water consumption
4.4.2	Total water loss in production	- Sum of water lost in production
4.4.3	Water productivity	- Total water consumption per unit of product
P4	4.5 Apply good/ best management practices	
4.5.1	Good/ best practice implementation	- Number of environmental quality management systems or recognized good management practice systems implemented disclosing a) Indication of water management requirements per management system b) Approval of actual implementation - Number of external complaints linked to water consumption
4.5.2	Technical measures for water quality improvement	- Water discharge: connection to sewage or other adequate solution - Run off: availability of risk assessment plan for run-off and number of prevention measures - Drainage
4.5.3	Water resource management strategy	- Implementation and publication of water resource management strategy including risk assessment and preventive measures - Implementation and publication of water conservancy strategy including risk assessment and preventive measures - Information on a) Water saving devices and potential b) New metering systems installation c) Leakage management
P4	4.6 Ensure transparency on water management	
4.6.1	Internal transparency	- Recognized environmental / quality management systems implemented and certified a) Description of link to water b) Proof of implementation
4.6.2	External transparency	- Disclosure / summary report on water management is publically available
P4	4.7 Raise awareness for SWM within a defined communication strategy	
4.7.1	Participation in river basin activities	- Proof of participation in river basin activities or river basin committees
4.7.2	Water awareness campaigns	- Information campaigns on water or water-linked topics performed
P4	4.8 Innovation and development	
4.8.1	Innovation index	- Funds raised for innovation/investigation/development-projects - Total budget in innovation/investigation/development-projects - Strategy plan to increase sustainability of water management
P4	4.9 Economic transparency	
4.9.1	SWM Investment index	- Investment on SWM-implementation / total investments in water management - Investment on SWM-implementation / total investments in water management - Investments and subsidies in water saving programmes and measures - Amount of investments on long term water supply infrastructures: reservoirs - Water tariff - Environmental charges as percentage of water tariff