



EWP WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Glossary

3/8/2010

Draft Standard version 0.1

For use in pilot testing

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Words in this document are used as defined in most standard English language dictionaries. In the EWP Water Stewardship Programme documents, the words below are understood as follows:

- **Available water:** includes the network of freshwater resources (rivers, lakes, groundwater and others), used to supply human activities e.g. irrigation and industrial applications
- **Connection points:** are direct links of water management and management of other resources (e.g. cooling water systems)
- **Cross media effects:** are effects on management and use of resources directly linked to water management
- **Destination:** is the water body designated as receptor of the water discharges and water lost in production
- **Diffuse source** (of pollution): are primarily associated with run-off and other discharges related to different land uses such as agriculture and forestry, from septic tanks associated with rural dwellings and from the land spreading of industrial, municipal and agricultural wastes. (Source: <http://www.euwfd.com/html/glossary.html>)
- **DPSIR** is a framework (European Environment Agency) and has integrated approach for reporting driving forces, pressures, states, impacts and responses developed by EEA (based on the PSR framework by OECD). The DPSIR framework is a chain of causal links starting with 'driving forces' (economic sectors, human activities) through 'pressures' (emissions, waste) to 'states' (physical, chemical and biological) and 'impacts' on ecosystems, human health and functions, eventually leading to political 'responses' (prioritisation, target setting, indicators). The framework is a structure for presenting indicators needed to enable feedback to policy makers on environmental quality and the resulting impact of the political choices made or to be made in the future. (Source: <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu/terminology>)
- **Environmental impact:** is any alteration of environmental conditions or creation of a new set of environmental conditions, adverse or beneficial, caused or induced by the action or set of actions under consideration. (Source: <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>)
- **Evaporation:** is the transformation of liquid water into vapour as a result of heating. (Source: <http://www.euwfd.com/html/glossary.html>)
- **Flow rate (minimum and ecological flow):** is the ecological quality of rivers must be maintained by maintaining a minimum flow. Rivers must not dry-up or have their physical regimes significantly altered in order to conserve the hydrological and ecological functions of their drainage networks. This question must be borne in mind when planning and managing the water resources, especially in semi-arid zones. (Source: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/92-9167-056-1/page008.html>)
- **Flow regime (environmental):** is the pattern of variation in water flows and levels through rivers, wetlands, lakes and groundwater within a catchment over time. (Source: *Water Stewardship Standard Draft 00, Water Stewardship Initiative – June 2009*)
- **Fossil water:** is water that infiltrated usually millennia ago and often under climatic conditions different to the present, and that has been stored underground since that time and frequently denominated as old water and non-renewable. (Source: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001469/146997e.pdf>)
- **Good management practices (GMP):** are practices that address environmental, economic and social sustainability in products processing, and result in safe and quality products, i.e. GAP, Global GAP and others. Also referred as best management practices
- **Good (water) status:** is a general term meaning the status achieved by a surface water body when both the ecological status and its chemical status are at least good or, for groundwater, when both its quantitative status and chemical status are at least good. (Source: <http://www.euwfd.com/html/glossary.html>)
- **Governance:** has many dimensions:
 - a) creating a fair legal, policy and regulatory framework in which the rights of people to access resources are secured
 - b) improving the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of government agencies
 - c) ensuring the participation of the poor in decision making
 - d) enhancing the role of civil society
 - e) ensuring basic security and political freedoms; and others(Source: <http://www.semide.net>)
- **GRI:** is the Global Report Initiative including the GRI framework this framework sets out the principles and

indicators that organizations can use to measure and report their economic, environmental, and social performance. (Source: <http://www.globalreporting.org>)

- **High conservation value wetland, lake or riparian areas:** are areas that are, or whose management has a critical influence on:
 - a) globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of rare, threatened or endangered species
 - b) rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
 - c) the provision of basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
 - d) meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health)
 - e) critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)

(Source: *Water Stewardship Standard Draft 00, Water Stewardship Initiative – June 2009*)

- **Impact:** are consequences of an event or action in terms of freshwater species health and survival, or human livelihoods and well-being. Impacts may be adverse or beneficial, may be narrow or broad (e.g. affecting few people/ species or many people/ species), may affect different people or species differently, may be short or long term, may vary in scale and importance, and may be directly or indirectly related to an event or action. (Source: *Water Stewardship Standard Draft 00, Water Stewardship Initiative – June 2009*)

- **Point source (of pollution):** are primarily discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants associated with population centres or effluent discharges from industry. (Source: <http://www.euwfd.com/html/glossary.html>)

- **Polluter pays principle:** is enshrined within the WFD requiring that the polluter of the water environment should pay, provided this is established through fair pricing policies. (Source: <http://www.euwfd.com/html/glossary.html>)

- **Principles, Criteria and Indicators (P/C/I):**

Principle: fundamental statement about a desired outcome

Criteria: conditions that need to be met in order to achieve a Principle. Note: Criteria add meaning and operationality to a principle without themselves being direct measures of performance

Indicator: measurable states which allow the assessment of whether or not associated criteria are being met. Note: Indicators convey a single, meaningful message or piece of information

Means of verification: the type of information or observations that are used to demonstrate that the required indicator state is being realised

(Source: *ISEAL code, draft 5.3, January 2010*)

- **Reporting organization:** is a public or private entity that verifies, establishes and monitors the sustainability of its water management system according with the present scheme. The organization committed to SWM assessment.

- **Resource consent:** is a permit, permission or written approval from the River Basin responsible authorities (in Europe according with the WFD, article 11) that allows the operation to withdraw a defined water volume of a specified source.

- **River basin:** is the area of land from which all surface run-off flows through a sequence of streams, rivers and, possibly, lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta. (Source: <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>)

- **Water abstraction (withdrawal):** is water removed from any sources, either permanently or temporarily. Mine water and drainage are included. Similar to water withdrawal. (Source: <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>)

- **Water consumption:** represents water that was used by the operation but not returned to its proximate source. It involves evaporated water, transpired, incorporated into products, crops or waste, consumed by man or livestock, or otherwise removed from the local resource. Water that is polluted to an extent prohibiting its use by others wishing access is termed "consumption". Water consumption= water lost +water in products, crops or waste + water otherwise removed from the system (e.g. by heavy pollution). Also referred to as consumptive water use. (Source: *WBCSD*)

- **Water discharge:** is the introduction of used water by an organisation into the environment, with its

associated quality characteristics, including, for example, the temperature of the discharge. (Source: *Water Stewardship Standard Draft 00, Water Stewardship Initiative – June 2009*)

- **Water loss:** is a conceptual term referring to water that escapes from a system due either to natural or anthropogenic causes. (Source: *WBCSD*)
- **Water recycling:** is the act of processing used water/wastewater through another cycle before discharge to final treatment and/or discharge to the environment. In general, there are three types of water recycling/reuse:
 - a) Wastewater recycled back in the same process or higher use of recycled water in the process cycle
 - b) Wastewater recycled/reused in a different process, but within the same facility
 - c) Wastewater reused at another of the reporting organization's facilities.

Also referred to as water reuse. (Source: *GRI version 3.0*)

- **Water stress:** occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of fresh water resources in terms of quantity (aquifer over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.). (Source: <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>)
- **Water stress index (WSI):** is the water abstraction as percentage of available water per source. (Source: *Pfister, S.; Koehler, A.; Hellweg, S. (2009). Assessing the environmental impacts of freshwater consumption in LCA. Environmental Science and Technology*)
- **Water use:** is the total amount of water withdrawn by an operation to produce products or provide a service. Water use includes the sum of total water consumption and water pollution regardless if the water is returned to the local resource or not.
- **WFD:** water framework directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.