Briefing Paper

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

AWS Founding Partners

American Standard
CDP DRIVING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES
CRB CENTRE for RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS — Enabling Change for Impact

EWP The Voice of Water
FCH FUNDACIÓN CHILE
FUNDACIÓN FEMSA

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER FOUNDATION
Love 'em INGHAM
IWMI International Water Management Institute

Nestlé Creating Shared Value Nutrition | Water | Rural Development
PACIFIC INSTITUTE
Sealed Air Re-imagine

THE WATER COUNCIL
UNEP
The CEO Water Mandate

Water Environment Federation the water quality people®
Water Footprint NETWORK
Water Stewardship Australia

Centro del Agua para América Latina y el Caribe
ECOLAB

F500 Future 500
GENERAL MILLS

YOUR M&S
Australian Government | MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

The Gold Standard®
The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

VEOLIA ENVIRONNEMENT
WaterAid

water witness because we're all downstream
WWF

THE ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

Mitigating water risks and harnessing opportunities using a globally consistent approach to water stewardship.

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) was founded in 2009 with the mission to promote water stewardship, primarily through an internationally accepted water stewardship standard. From 2010 to 2014, WWF assisted AWS to convene stakeholders throughout the world in an ISEAL-compliant standard-setting process to create the world's first global water stewardship standard.

The AWS Standard, which is may be used by sites in any sector anywhere in the world, was released in April 2014, and consists of six steps in a continuous improvement cycle. The standard drives performance in four outcome areas: good water governance, sustainable water balance, good water quality status and healthy important water-related areas. Within this broad framework, there are 30 required core criteria, and an additional 27 voluntary advanced criteria, that promote internal action as well as collective actions at the catchment level.

The AWS Standard is consistent with WWF's water stewardship steps and provides detailed actions and guidelines for a company's operations to pursue to address their water risks and challenges. The AWS Standard is supported by a step-wise verification system that recognizes water stewardship leadership and offers 3rd party certification for three achievement levels: Core, Gold and Platinum. AWS also offers a multi-stakeholder membership, and a training program to enhance people's capacity and tackle local water challenges.

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Benefitting Business, People and Nature

WWF believes that the AWS Standard can play a key role in helping companies mitigate their water risks and help solve shared water challenges. Such a standard can help companies reduce costs, enhance their brands, and create more stable operations. More than this, the AWS Standard, when combined with certification, can provide assurance to interested parties (e.g., investors) that companies are responsibly acting to mitigate their water risks.

For communities, the AWS Standard helps ensure the availability of clean freshwater, safeguard culturally important water areas and support good governance of water resources

For the environment, the AWS Standard helps deliver not only the quantity and quality of water necessary for species and habitats to thrive, but helps to improve the status of important freshwater areas like wetlands.

Given these benefits, WWF is working throughout the world with AWS, corporate partners, communities, local civil society groups and governments to deliver responsible, globally-consistent water stewardship. Join WWF and other globally-leading organizations and demonstrate your water stewardship leadership by engaging with the Alliance for Water Stewardship.

"Through our work with WWF and AWS, we are expanding our reach beyond our operations and customers to advance sustainable water management practices around the world." – Doug Baker, CEO, Ecolab

"The AWS Standard will enable companies to better assess their performance against a defined set of principles, identify opportunities for improvement and take collaborative steps to improve their water use." – Carlo Galli, Nestlé

The six steps of the AWS Standard

STEP 6: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE
- Disclose internal governance
- Disclose water stewardship performance
- Disclose efforts to address shared water challenges
- Drive transparency in compliance
- Increase water awareness

The AWS Standard (version 1.0):
Core criteria

STEP 1: COMMIT
- Leadership commitment
- Water stewardship policy

STEP 5: EVALUATE
- Evaluate performance, risks & benefits
- Evaluate incidents
- Consult stakeholders
- Update stewardship and incident response plans

STEP 2: GATHER & UNDERSTAND
- Define scope
- ID stakeholders
- Catchment water data
- Site water data
- Indirect water use
- Shared water challenges
- Understand and prioritize water risks & opportunities

STEP 4: IMPLEMENT
- Comply with laws & rights
- Maintain/improve water balance
- Maintain/improve water quality
- Maintain/improve status of IWRAs
- Participate in catchment governance
- Maintain/improve indirect water use
- Provide on-site WASH
- Raise concerns about shared water infrastructure

STEP 3: PLAN
- Legal compliance system
- Water stewardship plan
- Incident response plan
- Notify authorities of plans

For information, visit the Water Stewardship site, panda.org, or the AWS site.