Embedding
PROJECT

WATER

Water Quantity

A GETTING STARTED GUIDE

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Water Quantity

A GETTING STARTED GUIDE

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ABOUT THIS SERIES

This guide is part of our series of Getting Started Guides that supports your company to develop an embedded sustainability strategy. Each guide tackles a specific sustainability sub-issue and explores what your company needs to do to support the resilience of the environmental and social systems around you.

In each guide, we address relevant trends, system thresholds, key concepts, key actors, and key resources. We also offer guidance on how to address the impacts of decisions and activities in your operations and value chains as well as developing credible goals and outlining key corporate actions and internal targets that can help to provide clarity on the work ahead.

We recommend you read the first guide in the series, Getting Started Guides: An Introduction, which explains our overall approach and the value of setting a clear strategy anchored in your company's most material issues. It also explains how you can leverage process-based interim targets to clearly outline and track the specific actions that your company needs to take to achieve its high-level goals.

A complete list of focus areas and sub-issues can be found in our guide Scan: A Comprehensive List of Sustainability Issues for Companies.

This guidebook addresses the sub-issue **Water Quantity**, which is part of the broader sustainability issue of Water.

Note: The issue topic of water is addressed over four separate guides:

This guide, ***Water Quantity: A Getting Started Guide,*** addresses supporting water balance through management and stewardship.

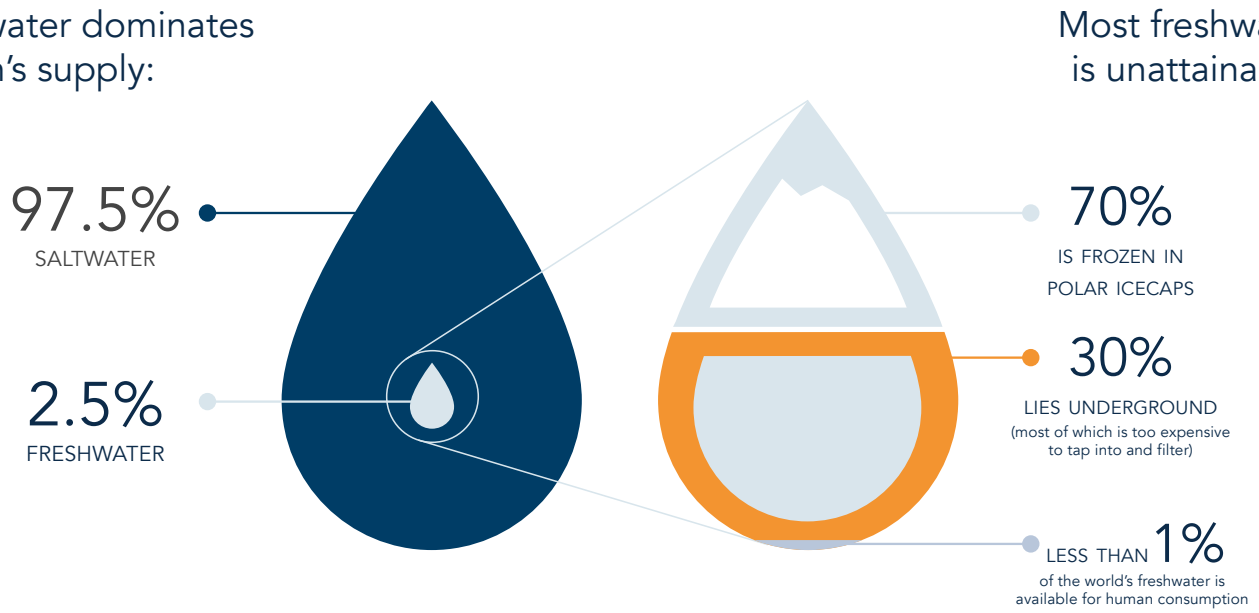
Water Management and Stewardship: A Getting Started Guide explains the water management – water stewardship continuum and how this continuum of action informs a credible water strategy. It provides a high-level overview of the current state of water, including social and environmental components; introduces the concept of water catchments that underpin the context in which action is taken; and explains how companies move between water management and stewardship approaches based on the contexts where they and their value chain partners operate.

Water Quality: A Getting Started Guide addresses supporting water quality through management and stewardship.

The upcoming series of guidebooks on Rights and Resilience in Communities will include ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: A Getting Started Guide***, which will cover water, sanitation and hygiene within the context of supporting community wellbeing.

1 SETTING THE STAGE – THE IMPENDING WATER SCARCITY CRISIS

Water resources, while renewable, are finite and increasingly in crisis. Only 0.5% of the water on earth is useable freshwater, and over the last 20 years, terrestrial water storage (defined by the World Meteorological Organisation as the "the summation of all water on the land surface and in the subsurface, including soil moisture, snow and ice") has been declining, while demand has been growing.

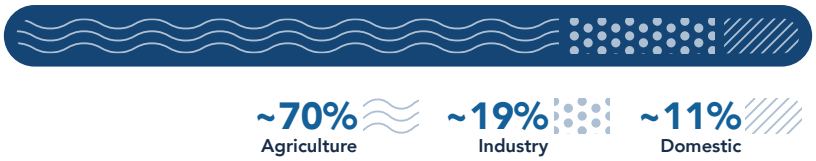


Climatic change is accelerating the hydrologicalal cycle, rendering it more erratic and unpredictable. We are facing growing problems of either too much or too little water.

For instance, 2023 was a record year for heat and was also the driest year for global rivers in 33 years. Over 50% of global catchment areas had deviations from near-normal conditions of river discharge, with many areas experiencing lower than normal levels. In that same year, we also saw glaciers suffer the largest mass loss recorded in the last 50 years. As mountain glaciers continue to retreat and disappear with rising global temperatures, renewable freshwater flows are declining in crucial basins around the world.

Globally, water systems are becoming increasingly stressed and human activities are the leading cause. Agriculture alone uses nearly 70% of the world's available freshwater, followed by industry at nearly 20% - and the currently prevailing methods of water management are wasteful and unsustainable, putting our already scarce resources at greater risk.

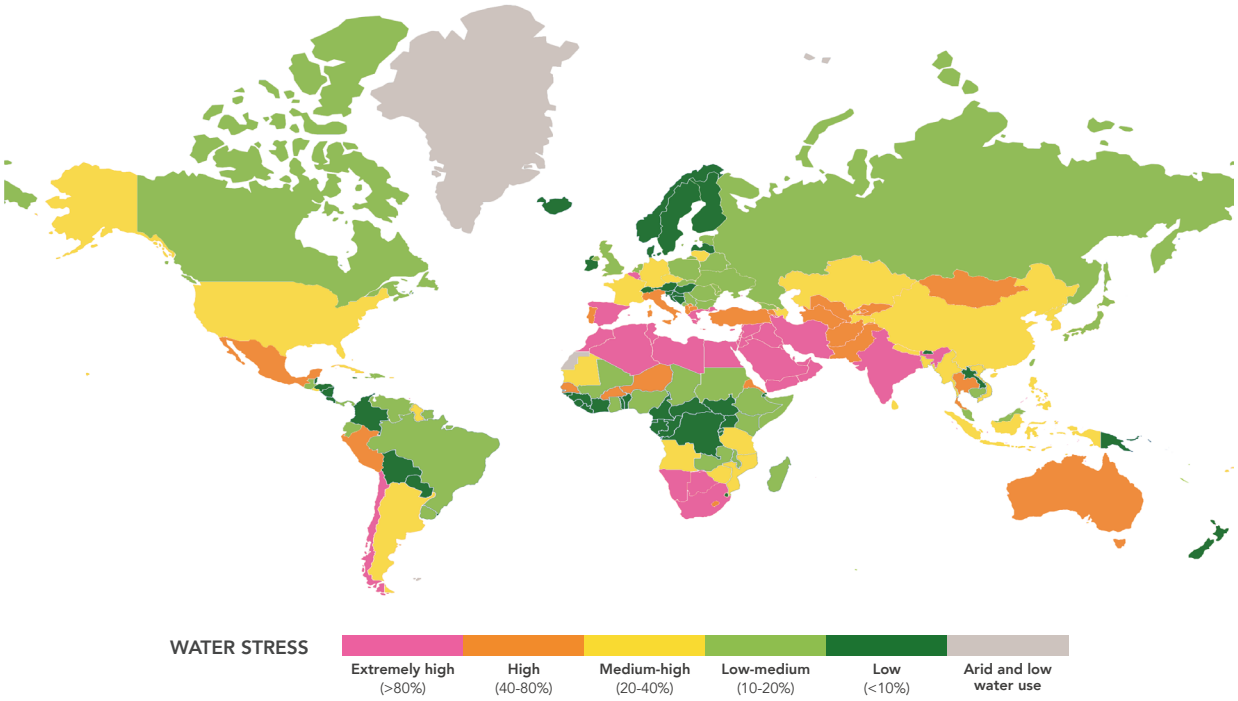
Main Users of Fresh Water



Adapted from UNESCO

Human processes continue to demand more water at a pace greater than our natural water systems can replenish. Over the last century, global freshwater use has increased by a factor of six and has been growing at a rate of about 1% per year since the 1980s. Shifting weather patterns due to climate change are further disrupting the hydrological cycle. We are reaching a point where water insecurity is becoming unavoidable, with significant cascading impacts on food security, health, and wellbeing.

Water Stress By 2050



Adapted from World Resources Institute

Water scarcity can also present significant risks to business. Two-thirds of all businesses face substantial water-related risks and will experience greater physical, regulatory, reputational, and stakeholder risk as water stress worsens.

Companies need to urgently address their impacts on water resources and become responsible water stewards, ensuring that their activities do not restrict water availability for other users and nature so that water systems can continue to support our collective needs. This means understanding your water risks, use, and impacts; pursuing effective water management; reducing the amount of water use in operations and value chains through water reuse and recycling programs, particularly in water stressed regions; and supporting the resilience of water systems and sustainable water balance through collaboration and water stewardship, where appropriate.

Note: *Sustainability issues are generally systemic issues, because they are deeply interconnected and rooted in complex environmental, social, and economic systems. In these guides, a system threshold is defined as the point at which the resilience of an environmental, social, or economic system becomes compromised. This occurs when the total impacts imposed on the system exceed its capacity to assimilate those impacts.*

SYSTEM THRESHOLD

Water is crucial for life as we know it – from the continued existence of our natural systems that underpin all life on earth to agricultural, industrial, and community uses in everyday life. Freshwater is one of the nine planetary boundaries that support and regulate Earth's systems, and one that has already been crossed beyond the safe operating space. Human activities have profoundly changed the hydrological cycle with cascading impacts on natural functions and shifting precipitation levels around the world.

Water is a shared resource. Companies cannot continue to rely on the ability of water systems to recover from stresses, shocks, and excessive water withdrawal for company operations. They need to identify water-stressed regions where they operate, understand their impacts on shared water resources, and take action to ensure that their operations align with supporting the resilience of catchments by restoring water balance.

KEY TOPICS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER QUANTITY

- Water balance
- Water consumption
- Water efficiency
- Water replenishment
- Maintaining environmental flows
- Discharging during peak flows
- Demand during drought
- Surface water levels
- Aquifer draw-down
- Flooding

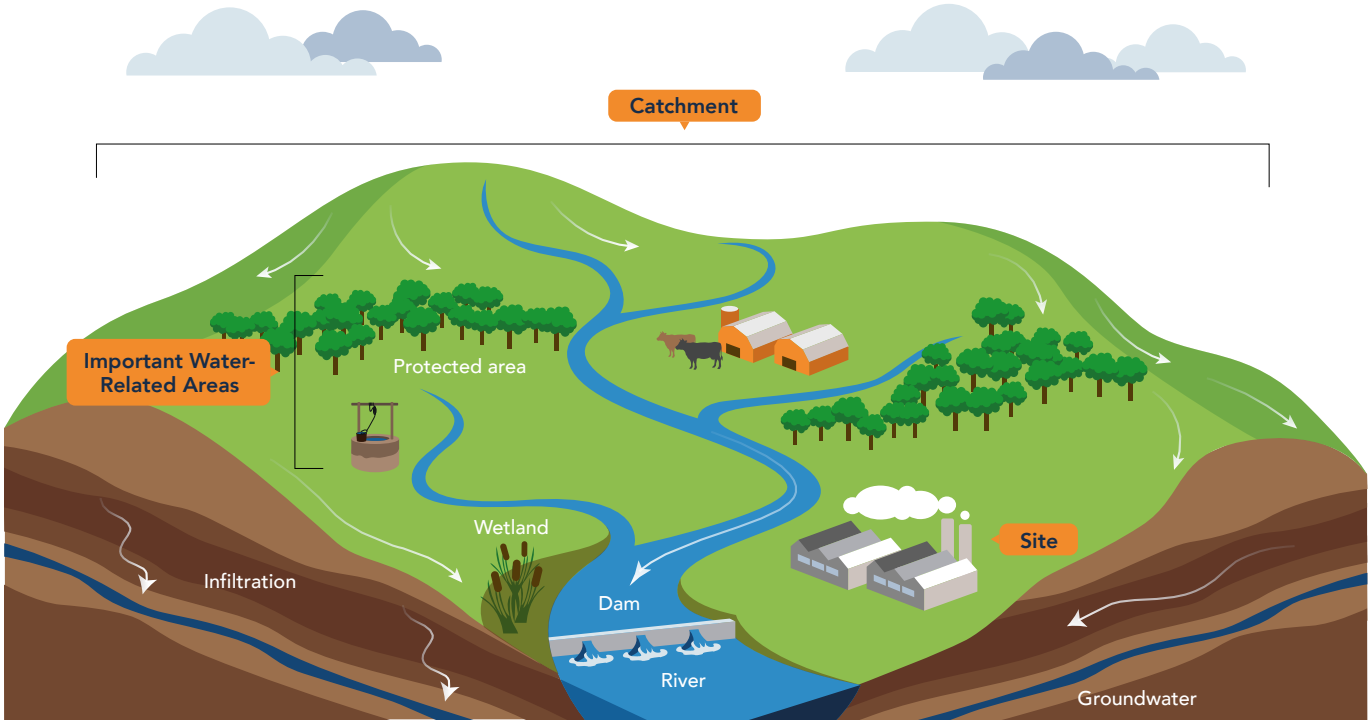
2 KEY CONCEPTS IN WATER QUANTITY

As your water strategy will be underpinned by context, it is also important to define and understand commonly used terms that define the boundaries of action.

A ***catchment***, as defined by the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), is the "geographical zone in which water is captured, flows through, and eventually discharges at one or more points. The concept includes both surface water catchment and groundwater catchment." The terms watershed, basin, and river basin are often used interchangeably.

An ***Important Water-Related Area (IWRA)***, as defined by AWS, is "an area or feature of high value for humans or nature from an environmental, community or cultural perspective. In addition to formally recognised conservation areas, it includes such features as water wells and springs used for drinking water and features of cultural significance."

A ***site***, as defined by AWS, is "the physical area over which the implementing organization owns or manages land and carries out its principal activities. […] Where the organization operates its own water sources and/or wastewater plant, these should be considered part of the 'site'."



Catchments face competing demands for water that can include drinking water and sanitation; community, cultural, and spiritual uses; navigation; as well as agricultural and industrial uses. The allocation of water from a catchment needs to balance water usage across these competing demands.

Sustainable water balance, as defined by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), "ensures adequate availability for all users—including nature—at all times. It addresses the amount and timing of water use, including whether the volumes withdrawn, consumed, and returned are sustainable relative to renewable supplies."

On a more technical level, the AWS defines water balance as "assessment of all water flows and storage volumes of an entity. […] The assessment should measure all water inflows, throughflows, outflows, water storage volume and changes in storage. The first step is to identify and map each component, and then to quantify it. These are combined into the water balance equation, which should balance (at least approximately): {water outflow} = {water inflow} + {change in storage}."

Your water quantity strategy should aim to help restore sustainable water balance in the catchments where you operate. It is not simply about reducing water usage in your company, but rather understanding the impacts of the amount of water you use, when you use it, and how and when you return it. These factors are crucial to ensuring that water systems remain resilient. For example, discharging or undertaking replenishment efforts during peak flows can negatively impact environmental flows, and high demand from operations during drought seasons can impact the ability of other water users to access water resources for their needs. Applying these considerations in your own operating context will be key to a credible water strategy.

Additonal terms and definitions:

Water challenges: "Water-related issues that are shared by both corporate actors and other stakeholders within a water catchment. They lend themselves to being addressed in collaborative ways to the benefit of multiple stakeholders and are often called shared water challenges."

Total water use: "Total amount of incoming water supply. However, a proportion of this water is usually returned to the local or regional water cycle. Water may be returned as irrigation losses or where wastewater is treated to a high quality and returned to a nearby water body. This can offset some of the impact of the original water abstractions."

Net water use: The "amount that is not returned locally. Losses may be from […] evaporative losses from cooling systems or reservoirs, or water that leaves a manufacturing site in finished product. Net water use is the most important [concept when …] considering impacts within the catchment."

Water efficiency: "The concept of using less net water for an equivalent purpose or volume of production. […] methods to improve water efficiency include: technology (eg. drip irrigation), leakage reduction, [and] re-use and recycling of [water and] wastewater."

Indirect water use: "Water used in a site's supply chain representing that used in manufacturing and provision of all products and services, excluding water used on site."

3 KEY PLAYERS IN WATER QUANTITY

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) is a global membership collaboration that contributes to the sustainability of water resources through the adoption of a universal framework for the sustainable use of water – the International Water Stewardship Standard. The framework helps water users to understand their impacts and offers guidance to achieve good water stewardship practices.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) engages with businesses on water stewardship, releasing resources and collaborating with companies to integrate water stewardship. The WWF also fosters collaboration between companies, the public sector, and civil society to support transformational change.

CEO WATER MANDATE

The CEO Water Mandate is a commitment platform for business leaders and learners to advance water stewardship, in partnership with the United Nations, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders. The Mandate develops tools and resources, convenes stakeholders, and facilitates partnerships and collective actions that improve conditions in at-risk water systems around the world.

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK (SBTN)

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) provides a Freshwater Hub that offers guidance on corporate water stewardship and science-based targets for freshwater. SBTN has also published detailed methodologies for companies to assess and prioritise impacts on freshwater quality and quantity.

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The World Resources Institute (WRI) offers water-related data, tools, and resources on corporate water stewardship within their Water Program, including a suite of Aqueduct tools which offer insights on key water risks in catchments around the world.

4 COMMITTING TO TAKE ACTION – MID- AND LONG-TERM GOALS

When it comes to taking action on **Water Quantity**, the mid- and long-term commitments that your organisation elects to make should be based on your identified priorities, areas of greatest impact, and your capacity to undertake the work required. It is important to note that this section does not provide all possible mid- and long-term goals related to this issue, but rather a sample of the goals that were most frequently adopted by companies in our research.

Common mid- and long-term goals and/or commitments on **Water Quantity** include variations of the following:

Long-term goal: Align our actions with restoring sustainable water balance in the catchment(s) where we operate to contribute to the ability of other water users to enjoy a balance between the social, economic, and recreational and cultural uses of water

- Safely and responsibly return water equivalent to what is used in operations and products by 20[XX], in line with achieving sustainable water balance for the catchment(s) where we operate.
- Reduce water withdrawal by [X]% by 20[XX], in line with achieving sustainable water balance for the catchment(s) where we operate.
- Enable integrated water management in catchments affected by operations by 20[XX].

Long-term goal: Responsibly reduce our water use impacts in water-stressed catchments where we operate by 20[XX]

- [X] water dependant sites will be water resilient through water efficiency solutions and technologies by 20[XX].
- Reduce water usage in operations (or value chains) by [X]% by 20[XX].
- Use [X]% less water per [determined weight or number metric] of product by 20[XX].
- Improve water use efficiency by [X]% by 20[XX].
- Improve water reuse and recycling by 20[XX].

While some companies use the term "net positive water" we caution against the term. While well intended, net positive water targets tend to narrow the focus to water replenishment leading to, for instance, high-level water balances that do not adequately account for the seasonality of water return. Net positive water commitments can also direct attention away from collective action to address key components of shared water challenges in a catchment. This WWF Guidance Note on Net Positive Water further explains some of the drawbacks of the concept of "net positive water" and provides recommendations for how to frame credible commitments and targets.

5 HOW TO GET THERE – PROCESS-BASED INTERIM TARGETS

Note: *The following proposed timelines are only for guidance and are based on the pace outlined by other companies. The timeframe for actions and work for each step needs to be embedded in your organisational context, which may require different time allocations.*

The sequence outlined below assumes that your company has significant impacts on water within its direct operations and that you will begin by learning and taking action to get your own house in order prior to engaging with your value chain. Whereas, companies with limited direct impacts, where the majority of their water impacts reside within their value chain, may (and likely should) opt to engage with value chain partners at a much earlier stage.

YEAR 1: UNDERSTAND LOCAL WATER ISSUES AND IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS

Water issues are fundamentally dependent on their local context – your organisation should aim to identify priority catchments and water-stressed areas and work to understand the specific local water challenges faced by ecosystems and communities. Much of this work may occur concurrently within a broader water stewardship strategy – further guidance on key approaches to identifying priority areas can be found in Water Management and Stewardship: A Getting Started Guide.

YEAR 1: GATHER PRELIMINARY DATA AND ESTABLISH BASELINES

Analyse your operations to understand where your organisation is having the greatest impacts on water quantity. Begin to gather data on site water balance, such as inflows, outflows, and storage, and any trends in variances within water usage over time. Align this with similar data on a catchment level, including any existing data on water stress and scarcity within the catchment as well as understanding the relationships between water demand and water availability throughout the year.

Many companies employ tools such as WRI's Aqueduct to further inform this work as detailed hydrologicalal data can be difficult to capture. For instance, for many consumer goods organisations, their greatest water impacts tend to reside within agricultural supply chains and in manufacturing.

Establish baselines to ground your efforts and quantify current trends. In your operations, this can include installing water metering technology, conducting water quantity assessments, and understanding water intensity. Additionally, consider whether approaches such as water footprinting may be a useful framework to support your organisation's efforts to put your water usage in context with respect to the competing demands present in each catchment.

CASE STUDY: Apple identifies high water stress locations for action

Apple leverages the World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas and Aqueduct Baseline Water Stress Indicator to inform their understanding of local watershed health and baseline water stress in the areas where they operate. The company then collects and analyses data and site-level feedback, combining the information to develop a water footprint to understand water usage across their value chain. Using this methodology, Apple has identified that 70 percent of their water use

occurs in catchments defined as high or extreme basin stress, and that the majority of their water-related impact is within the manufacturing supply chain. For context, the company defines "facility water use as high stress if the area is located within or withdraws water from a basin that has high or extremely high baseline water stress based on the WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas V4.0 tool, and as refined by additional local knowledge and third-party research."

Examples of process-based targets for Year 1:

- By 20[XX], we will understand local water issues and challenges in the catchments where we operate.
- By 20[XX], we will identify priority catchments and water-stressed areas where we operate.
- By 20[XX], we will gather data to assess water use in our sites and catchments where we operate.
- By 20[XX], we will establish water use trends and baselines.

YEAR 2: ASSESS WATER RISKS

Understand the types of water-related business risks that your company may face – this short article by the CEO Water Mandate can be a good starting point for surfacing the different types of risks and opportunities. Conduct a water risk assessment on a select number of operating sites that your company has prioritised in year one.

CASE STUDY: The Coca-Cola Company's approach to understanding water risks

To understand water-related risks and prioritise locations for action, the Coca-Cola Company conducted an enterprise water risk assessment, leveraging the process from the World Resources Institute's Aqueduct tool and internally developed water vulnerability analysis tools. This analysis of water sourcing risks across their operational facilities was mapped with sourcing basins, allowing the company to place each location into one of three categories to prioritise action:

- Leadership locations that face the greatest water-related risks and must achieve the company's definition of 100% regenerative water use
- Advanced efficiency locations that are in water-stressed regions or areas and will need advanced water efficiency improvements
- Contributing locations that face low-water risk but will undertake activities to contribute to increased water security

This process was key to supporting the Coca-Cola Company in taking a more contextual approach to how it understands water issues and prioritising locations for interventions.

YEAR 2: DETERMINE A SUSTAINABLE LEVEL OF WATER USE

Seek to better understand the "desired state" for the catchment, what sustainable water balance would look like, and how your water usage would need to align with it to achieve a sustainable level of water use. Compare this with your baseline for current usage to understand the reductions needed to do your part to achieve water balance in the catchment(s) where you operate. This should be viewed from a water balance perspective for both the site and catchment to understand current outflows, inflows, and changes in water storage.

YEAR 2: IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICE

Identify industry, regional, and/or catchment specific guidance on best practice to reduce impacts and achieve water balance. While this will look different for each industry and catchment context, it can include aspects such as improved processes or technologies for water efficiency, innovations that

reduce total water usage, and guidance on good practice for replenishment or restoration that aim to restore catchment health in ways that address the role of timing in maintaining environmental flows.

Examples of process-based targets for Year 2:

- By 20[XX], we will conduct a water risk assessment on [x or x%] of operational sites.
- By 20[XX], we will determine a sustainable level of water use for [x] catchments.
- By 20[XX], we will understand the reductions needed in our water usage to contribute to achieving water balance in the catchment(s) where we operate.
- By 20[XX], we will identify best practice for water use and water balance.

YEAR 3: DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

Based on your understanding of current water usage, risks, and reduction efforts needed to achieve water balance in the catchment(s) where you operate, prioritise actions in your identified priority catchments. Take actions to reduce freshwater withdrawals by rethinking products and processes to require less water by design to reduce total water usage where possible. Consider whether new technologies or processes can be implemented to increase water efficiency and support water reuse and recycling where possible within your operations. For companies with significant impacts, explore if water replenishment can support catchment-level efforts.

Ensure that your action plan is embedded within the broader concept of restoring sustainable water balance to ensure all users within the catchment have adequate availability and access to water resources. Set clear, measurable, and time-bound targets on water usage and water balance to guide this work over the long-term.

YEAR 3: UNDERSTAND INDIRECT WATER USAGE

For many companies, their greatest impacts on water availability will reside with their value chains – this includes water used in agriculture, manufacturing processes, and more. Understanding your company's indirect water usage will be key to prioritise engagements and interventions in the value chain. The Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard recommends gathering the following data to conduct an indirect water use calculation:

- Identify your primary inputs, which are the "materially important product(s) or service(s) that a site consumes to generate the product(s) or services(s) it provides as its primary function"
- Determine your primary inputs' annual water usage and country/region/catchment of origin
- Multiply the annual consumption amounts by the appropriate commodity/source region water footprint values to get an estimate of total footprint
- Use other data sources to identity any concerns present in the catchments that primary inputs are sourced from

Examples of process-based targets for Year 3:

- By 20[XX], we will develop a strategy to reduce water usage in our operations and replenish water in water stressed catchments where we operate.
- By 20[XX], we will set measurable and time-bound targets for water usage and water balance.
- By 20[XX], we will understand our indirect water usage.

YEAR 4: EXTEND YOUR LEARNINGS TO YOUR VALUE CHAIN

Leverage your learnings from your operational efforts to support reductions in water usage and engage in collaborative action to pursue water balance within your value chain. Share water targets with suppliers and insights to encourage a greater

understanding of water impacts throughout your value chain. Prioritise steps in your value chain where you have the biggest impacts on water. Co-develop solutions to reduce water usage, transition to practices that increase water efficiency, and support water balance in catchments throughout your value chain. Consider whether alternative sourcing options may be required to reduce water usage in highly water-stressed catchments.

CASE STUDY: Levi Strauss & Co. builds a contextual water strategy

To support suppliers in building contextual water strategies and targets that align with their manufacturing target of reducing water used in products by 50% in areas of high water stress, Levi Strauss & Co. began by categorising suppliers based on whether they operate within areas of low, medium, or high water stress. They are working with suppliers in areas facing high water stress to set absolute water use reduction targets that serve as milestones alongside intermediate two-year targets to understand and track progress. Suppliers in areas facing low and medium water stress are being engaged to collaboratively set water efficiency targets. A case study by WWF on contextual water targets by Levi Strauss & Co. can be found here.

YEAR 4: COLLABORATE FOR SYSTEM-WIDE CHANGE

Consider how your organisation can support systems-level change on water. Identify industry collaborations or local and/or international organisations working to address key water challenges your organisation has identified through earlier stages of your water quantity journey. Explore collaborations that can help you to improve your own strategy and support broader systemic change towards the resilience of shared water resources to achieve sustainable water balance. Also consider whether your organisation can leverage its position to advocate for industry shifts or policy alternatives that support greater water availability and resilience.

CASE STUDY: Woolworth's leverages an understanding of water impacts to guide efforts for system change.

Recognising that water security was an increasing risk for fresh produce suppliers, Woolworths Holdings Limited partnered with WWF-SA and other organisations to assess opportunities to improve water efficiency at the farm level. However, they found that many farmers had already adopted sophisticated water efficiency measures, and that the main cause of water insecurity stemmed from water risks at a catchment level. Assessing that various trends and issues shaped the catchment context, Woolworths partnered with local actors to ultimately identify and prioritise the eradication of invasive species that consume too much water compared to local flora as a key pathway to increased water security. Understanding that various actors were already working on this issue but lacked the resources to coordinate or execute projects to the scale required, the company choose to take an indirect supporting role by providing complimentary resources, such as funding for a four-year local coordinator position, to make existing efforts more effective.

Examples of process-based targets for Year 4:

- By 20[XX], we will work with our suppliers to support the uptake of practices that reduce impacts on water usage across our value chain.
- By 20[XX], we will empower and train suppliers on practices to reduce water usage in the production stage.
- By 20[XX], we will identify industry, local, and/or international collaboration opportunities to support systemic change towards the resilience of shared water resources.

RESOURCES

GUIDANCE

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER CRISIS

State of Global Water Resources is the World Meteorological Association's annual stocktake on how global freshwater availability is being affected by our changing climate. It provides an overview of trends and major events related to river discharge, reservoirs, groundwater levels, high-impact hydrologicalal events (such as floods and droughts), and highlights hotspots for changes in freshwater storage, including the crucial role and vulnerability of snow and ice.

The Global Assessment of Private Sector Impacts on Water from Ceres is a good resource for any change agent or business leader who wants to understand how industry practices are driving critical threats to global freshwater systems. It explains how industry at large is affecting freshwater resources and how, in turn, business is being impacted; the specific impacts on water from different business sectors; critical and emergent impacts and threats to global water systems; and strategies to mitigating them.

SETTING A WATER QUANTITY STRATEGY AND TARGETS

Putting Water Strategy into Context by the WWF was created to help businesses begin the process of embedding science-based water targets into their operations and strategy. It details six shifts that corporations need to make in the development of their water strategies, and introduces a four-step approach to facilitate this change: 1) assess the foundational components that a water strategy needs to account for, such as risks, opportunities, and corporate monitoring and evaluation criterion; 2) prioritise the areas of strategic relevance relating to inherent and residual water-related risks and/or opportunities; 3) define the context and the related actions that will be focused upon; and 4) set goals and targets that are aligned with and informed by the context.

Contextual Water Targets: A Practical Guide to Setting Contextual Corporate- and Site-Level Water Targets from the WWF builds upon their Putting Water Strategy into Context report and introduces a five-step target-setting framework that can help you to draw on local water context to set contextual water targets at both a corporate- and site-level. The guide also provides a primer on other commonly used water–related targets types (non–contextual, contextual, and science–based) and explains how they relate and can complement one another.

Setting Site Water Targets Informed by Catchment Context: A Guide For Companies explains fundamental definitions for setting catchment-based water targets; explains the elements most crucial for setting site water targets that reflect the catchment context; and includes a "stoplight" system for early, high-level assessment of water challenges.

Water Balance Targets by WWF offers insights on how to set water balance targets rooted in the context on the catchments where you operate, including exploring challenges and opportunities of making water balance targets effective within water stewardship strategies. The report also offers case studies to further conceptualise water balance in action.

TAKING ACTION IN OPERATIONS AND VALUE CHAINS

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard will help you to understand your water use and impacts, and to work collaboratively and transparently for sustainable water management within a catchment context. The standard has five steps: 1) gather and understand, 2) commit and plan, 3) implement, 4) evaluate, and 5) communicate and disclose. The AWS also provides a certification process.

Developed by the Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable (BIER), Context-Based Decision Guide for Water Reuse and Recycling will help you to hasten internal conversations on the investments required to advance context-based water stewardship. The guide will also help you to understand when (and why) an organisation should consider moving beyond water reduction and towards water reuse and recycling.

Advancing Water Stewardship Through Supplier Collaboration, co-authored by WWF, AstraZeneca and the Embedding Project, this guide can help you to credibly address your material impacts on water across your full value chain. The guide identifies potential pathways for cooperation with suppliers, and groups them into five categories: operational enhancements, financial activation, advocacy engagement, industry alignment, and procurement incentivisation. Each pathway includes specific actions to engage suppliers and explains their potential benefits.

TOOLS

The Water Risk Filter uses 32 annually updated, peer reviewed data layers alongside a risk questionnaire to help you explore, understand, prioritise, and respond to water risks at specific sites. It is designed to be easy to use by non-water experts and is the only water risk tool to assess both basin and operational risks.

Water Footprint Network provides access to tools and resources to help you calculate your organisation's water footprint. This may help you to identify potential sources of risk and discover where to prioritise your efforts.

ECOLAB's Smart Water Navigator provides a holistic roadmap to corporate water management that can help you to minimise risk and optimise costs. The Navigator features two tools: the Water Risk Monetizer, and the Water Action Assessment. You can use the Water Risk Monetizer tool to estimate the amount of revenue that could potentially be lost due to the impact of water scarcity on your organisation's operations. It draws on global basin-level water data and will help you determine water risk at a facility level. The Water Action Assessment employs a straightforward questionnaire to help you understand how your facilities are performing compared to industry-leading water management practices and allows you to gauge the maturity of your water stewardship strategy.

Water Circularity Metric: Tool and guidance note from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) features a set of indicators that can help you to assess and advance the circularity of water at the facility level. It also includes a scenario-based Water Circularity Metric (WCM) tool to help users measure, set targets, and monitor progress on circular water management.

Developed by the CEO Water Mandate, the Pacific Institute, and other water experts, the Water Resilience Assessment Framework (WRAF) can help you to advance tangible and quantifiable water system resilience. The WRAF is an iterative process that consists of four key steps: visualising the system, developing a resilience strategy, testing the resilience strategy, and evaluation. Created to inform resilience decision-making to help prevent water shocks and stresses from becoming crises, this is an important resource for informing and guiding short- and long-term decisions and actions from stakeholders.

Explore more resources on water quantity here.

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