

# AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Guidance Document

FIRST DRAFT FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUT

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# Table of Contents

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<b>Table of Contents.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Preamble and Background to the Guidance Document.....	2
Introduction to the Guidance Document.....	2
Development of the Guidance .....	2
Next Steps .....	2
<b>Implementation Steps.....</b>	<b>3</b>
General Guidance .....	3
Guidance on Step 1: Make a Leadership Commitment .....	7
Guidance on Step 2: Measure the Site’s Water Use .....	8
Guidance on Step 3: Measure the Use of Water Within the Area of Influence .....	8
Guidance on Step 4: Measure the Current Status of Water in the Area of Influence .....	12
Guidance on Step 5: Measure the Impacts and Risks of Water Use in the Area of Influence .....	12
Guidance on Step 6: Measure and Manage Indirect Water Use .....	13
Guidance on Step 7: Develop Plans for the Water Impacts of Rare Incidents .....	15
Guidance on Step 8: Develop and Internally Disseminate a Water Stewardship Plan or Policy.....	15
Guidance on Step 9: Remain in Legal Compliance and Respect Water Rights .....	16
Guidance on Step 10: Improve Your Water Impacts.....	16
Guidance on Step 11: Establish the Necessary Capacity to Carry Out All of the Steps .....	18
Guidance on Step 12: Disclose Your Water Stewardship Plans, Actions and Results .....	19

# Introduction

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## Preamble and Background to the Guidance Document

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard Guidance Document (or “the Guidance” for the purposes of this document) helps the implementing entity gain a better understanding of how to implement the AWS’s International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard, or simply “the Standard”). It is designed to supplement the Standard and is not intended as a stand-alone document. Rather, it provides detailed guidance on how to interpret the various principles, criteria and indicators listed in the Standard, provide examples of actions to assist in compliance and provide additional references that can guide Implementers if more detailed information is required.

The Guidance is also intended for use by verification entities to ensure consistency in the application of the final version of the Standard<sup>1</sup> and thereby maintain equality between verifications. It is not intended to serve as the basis for verification, and under no circumstances should be used for such purposes. Rather it simply provides users with a more nuanced understanding of how to employ the Standard and interpret its various aspects.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AN EARLY DRAFT INTENDED TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK. BOTH AWS AND THE ISDC ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS CURRENTLY VERY LIMITED AND NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED. THIS DRAFT IS INTENDED TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK AND BUILD OUT THE GUIDANCE NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND AND IMPLEMENT THE DRAFT AWS STANDARD.**

## Introduction to the Guidance Document

The AWS Standard Guidance Document is loosely structured around the AWS Standard. Most areas will begin with general guidance under the Step, and then provide additional details, examples, and references under the specific criteria and indicators. However, given that the Standard is in its first draft, the Guidance has a limited focus at this point on known areas of subjective interpretation.

The Guidance will be expanded for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the AWS Standard using stakeholder feedback.

## Development of the Guidance

This is the initial draft AWS Standard Guidance Document. This version was developed by the AWS Secretariat in conjunction with the International Standard Development Committee (ISDC) and is directly tied to the AWS Standard as required in the Terms of Reference set out by the AWS Board in April 2011.

For more details on the process employed in the development of the Standard, please see the AWS Water Roundtable Process document.

## Next Steps

The AWS, via the Water Roundtable, is committed to an equitable, open and transparent standard-setting process, following the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards, and involving stakeholder interests from many different countries and from all parts of the supply chain.

Like the AWS Standard it is designed to accompany, this version of the Guidance (v\_03\_13\_2012) will be open to general stakeholder input and feedback until June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The period between the first and second draft is referred to as Phase I. Phase II will begin when the second draft AWS Standard is released in late 2012. The final version of the Standard is slated for mid-2013. Throughout this document you will see a series of yellow boxes (example below). These boxes are designed to flag specific areas, and pose questions for stakeholder input.

### Example of a Stakeholder Feedback Box

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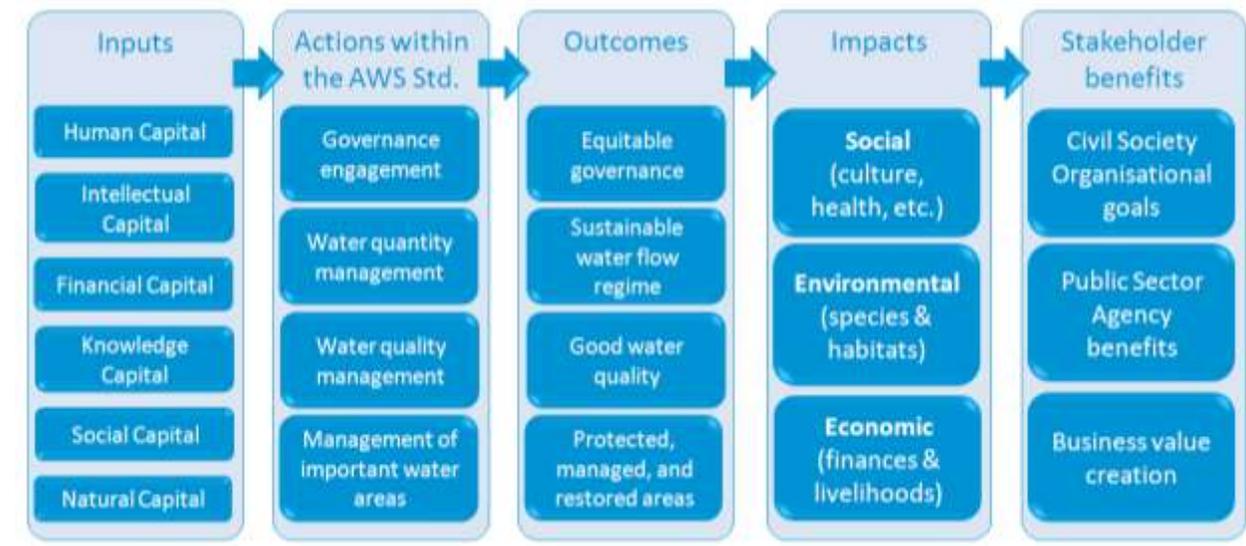
<sup>1</sup> Verification or performance will not be performed against draft versions of the standard except when testing the auditability of the draft.

# Implementation Steps

## General Guidance

The AWS Standard is based around a theory of change that argues that if a series of inputs are combined with a set of good water stewardship practices (or actions), then improvements to water governance, water balance, water quality, and Important Water Areas can drive a number of social, environmental and economic benefits (Figure 1). This change model underpins the logic of the Standard and will serve as the basis for demonstrating the short- and long-term benefits for implementing companies & water service providers, communities, and species.

Figure 1: Theory of Change for AWS Standard

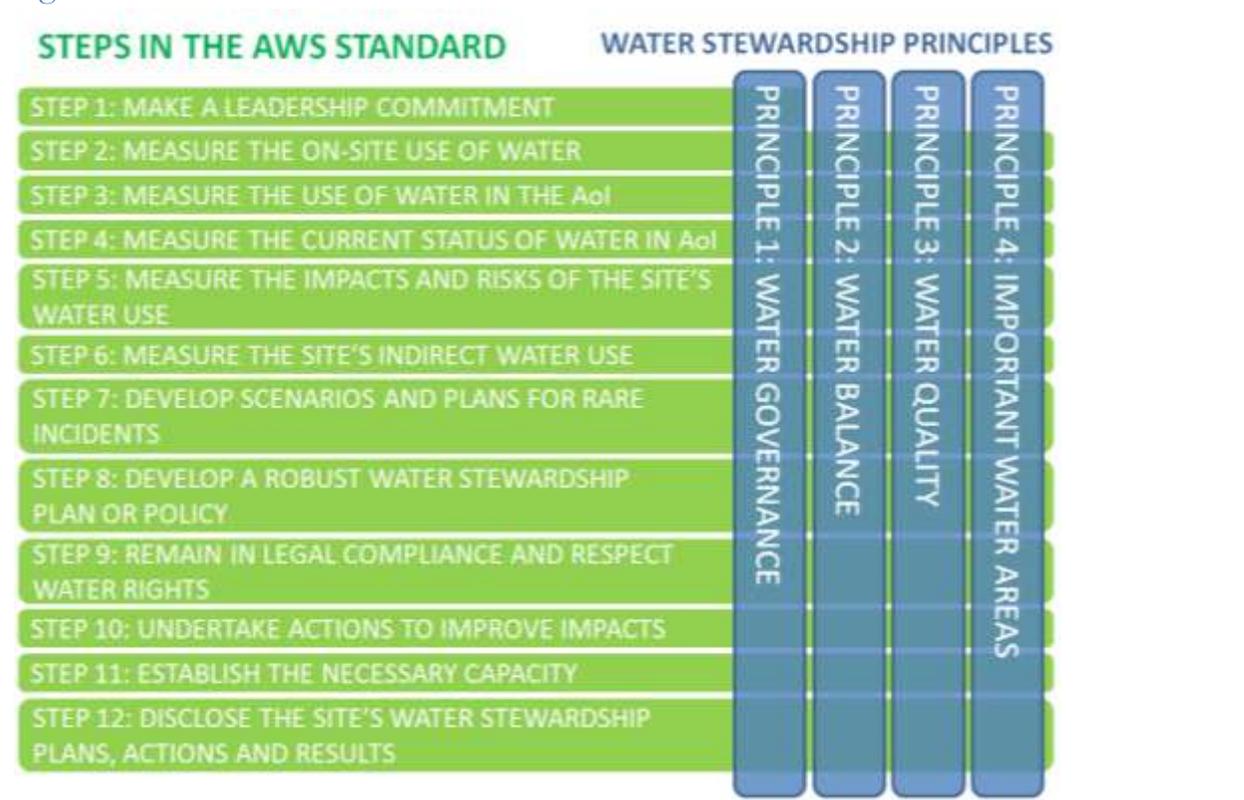


Since the Standard is site-focused at present, AWS encourages companies or water service providers with multiple sites to perform a water risk analysis for all of their sites before selecting specific sites at which to implement the Standard. This water-risk “portfolio review” will allow an entity to be much more strategic in the application of the Standard. There are several emergent approaches to water risk assessments which AWS would suggest exploring (noted below), but does not specify any one as proprietary.

The Standard is essentially a total of 12 steps in a matrix with the principles, criteria and indicators. This matrix structure can be seen in Figure 2.

Guidance on single versus multi-site certification shall be forthcoming but has not been outlined in this document.

Figure 2: General Overview of the AWS Standard and its Structure



## Guidance on the Principles (notably Important Water Areas)

- The Standard has four Principles which are defined in the glossary. The intent of these Principles is to act as fundamental “pillars” of water stewardship, or in other words, themes that run through all water stewardship efforts. They represent fundamental aspects of water: how humans are responsible and accountable for water (governance), the quantities and timing of water (water balance), the properties of the water (water quality), and the spatial aspects of areas that may or may not contain water at a given time, but are critical to water systems (Important Water Areas).
- Of these four Principles, perhaps the one that is least well understood is the concept of “Important Water Areas”. The definition provides some level of guidance, but flexibility has intentionally been left in the definition because “importance” is relative to stakeholder values.
- Important Water Areas should be determined through a stakeholder engagement process based in the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) that explicitly considers the role of women, local and indigenous communities in water.
- The concept of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs), derived from the world of forestry, works relatively well for water areas and can assist in the provision of approaches and tools to help identify such areas. See: <http://www.hcvnetwork.org/about-hcvf/the-hcv-process-folder>
- Environmentally Important Water Areas should include globally-, regionally- and locally identified water-related areas that are disproportionately important in the values they provide. Some examples and sources of information are noted below:
  - Protected areas (<http://www.wdpa.org/>)
  - Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (<http://www.zeroextinction.org/>)
  - Important Bird Areas (<http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/>)
  - Ramsar Wetlands (<http://www.wetlands.org/reports/rammap/mapper.cfm>)
  - Unique features within UNESCO biosphere reserves (<http://www.unesco.org/mabdb/bios1-2.htm>)

- Locally and regionally identified areas that provide key ecological attributes and maintain the ecological integrity of aquatic species, habitats and ecological processes.
- Other
- Socially Important Water Areas can include the following:
  - UNESCO World Heritage Sites (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/254>)
  - Cultural mapping exercises ([http://www.landcoalition.org/sites/default/files/publication/704/03\\_UNESCO\\_cultural\\_mapping.pdf](http://www.landcoalition.org/sites/default/files/publication/704/03_UNESCO_cultural_mapping.pdf))
  - Locally and regionally identified sites of importance for the preservation of indigenous and other local cultures.
  - Other
- Economically Important Water Areas can include:
  - Areas that contribute valuable ecosystem services (<http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/>, and in particular, <http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/InVEST.html>), as well as
  - Locally and regionally-identified areas that provide livelihoods or contribute disproportionately to the local economy.
- Regardless of the method employed to identify Important Water Areas, it is critical that the identified areas are vetted by stakeholders since the term “important” is entirely subjective. Compliance with Principle 4 as a whole is a function of the extent to which due process has been followed in actively engaging stakeholders around the identified Important Water Areas.
- It is recognized that complete unanimity will likely not be achieved, nor is it the expectation of the Standard that this should occur. Rather, a general consensus should be sought regarding the identification of Important Water Areas.

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. Please provide additional data sources/tools for environmental, social and economic Important Water Areas.

## Guidance on Recognition of Other Water-Related Programs/Standards

AWS recognizes the potential for both confusion and additional burdens related to compliance with multiple standards. Our ambition is that the AWS Standard should complement existing standards and tools and we are committed to working with other standard-setting bodies and organizations working in related fields with a view to finding appropriate models of recognition and/or equivalence. Accordingly, while not formally part of the Standard (it is an aspect of the Standard System), the AWS would like to seek input on recognition of other standards, tools and efforts.

AWS will be actively soliciting input from ISEAL-compliant standards and regional water stewardship standards to help determine equivalency between principles, criteria and indicators. However, AWS also encourages other interested parties to provide proposals on how their standard (or components of their standard) should be considered equivalent.

The following table is an initial list of standards and water-related initiatives which may be well suited to exploring equivalency. **THIS TABLE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE EXHAUSTIVE**, and was drawn from a combination of ISEAL-compliant standards, and Board-related initiatives. It also provides a list of some of the criteria which merit further discussion for possible equivalency. **Note: Stakeholders from standard systems not listed here are encouraged to give input related to their standard. AWS welcomes suggestions and input on other standards and water-related initiatives that should be considered.**

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. Please provide additional standards or water-related programs you believe AWS should engage for recognition and evaluating equivalency.
3. Should AWS take a different approach to water-related program recognition and equivalency?

<b>Third-party verified water-related program</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Examples of possible relevant section of program/standard</b>	<b>Proposed equivalency (to be completed by program)</b>
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) – Pangasius	October 20, 2011	Criteria 2.4 (water use), 3.1 (nutrients), 3.2 (water quality of source), 3.3 (water quality of effluent)	TBD
Bonsucro	March 2011	Criterion 5.2 (water use and erosion)	
Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)	July 2009	Criteria 1.8 (pesticides), 2.1 (water use optimization), 2.2 (water extraction), 3.3 (erosion)	
CEO Water Mandate	2012	Leadership Commitment	
European Water Stewardship Standard	November 2011	All principles & criteria	
Fairtrade Standard for Small Producer Organizations	May 2011	Requirement 3.2.27	
Rainforest Alliance/ Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) – Sustainable Agriculture Standard	December 2010	Criteria 2.1 (natural ecosystem identification, protection, restoration), 2.6 (aquatic ecosystems & runoff), 4.1-4.9 (water conservation), 7.1-7.6 (community relations)	
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB)	May 11, 2010	Criteria 9a (water rights), 9b (water management plans), 9c (water depletion), 9d (water quality)	
Responsible Jewellery Council Principles & Code of Practices	December 2009	Provisions 2.11 (community engagement), 2.13 (indigenous peoples), 3.1 (EMS), 3.2 (hazardous substances), 3.3 (aquatic waste & emissions), 3.4 (use of water), 3.5 (biodiversity), 4.4 (impact assessment), 4.6 (sustainability reporting)	
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil	October 2007	Criteria 4.3 (erosion), 4.4 (water availability and quality), and 4.6 (agrochemical use)	

Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)	June 10, 2010	Criteria 5.3 (water supply and quality), 5.2 (vegetation along water courses), 5.3 (erosion), 5.5 (agrochemical use), 5.9 (chemical drift)
Water Stewardship Australia Standard	January 2012	All principles & criteria
Other...		

## Guidance on Step 1: Make a Leadership Commitment

- The leadership commitment is a senior-level commitment that the implementing entity (or Implementer) strive to achieve responsible water stewardship<sup>2</sup>. It is a pre-requisite to applying to AWS to enter certification.
- An acceptable commitment may take one of several forms:
  1. The template noted in Appendix A of the Guidance Document provides a sample leadership commitment form which can be used if no other forms are present. This is intended to be used for small and medium enterprises who cannot easily participate in larger global efforts and who lack the capacity to develop their own water stewardship commitments.
  2. AWS will work with the CEO Water Mandate to determine whether being a Mandate signatory shall be sufficient to meet this requirement.
  3. If the entity has made a larger sustainability or corporate social responsibility commitment, which has been signed by a senior-level individual within the entity, this will suffice **IF** such a commitment (A) has an explicit water component, and (B) the water component references the need to improve water use both internally and play a role in improving water externally, beyond the entity's sphere of direct control. Note: general sustainability/CSR commitments are not acceptable, nor are general commitments to address water impacts. The commitment **MUST** link to the concept of water stewardship, which, critically, has aspects of quantity, quality, governance and sites, as well as requiring action both internally and externally within the watershed.
- If an implementing site is its own complete entity, then the site leader and entity leader is likely one-and-the-same, or in other words, there is only one person. In this case, this individual, be it a CEO, Executive Director, President, etc., would likely be the individual to sign the commitment. If the entity is run by a partnership, or group of individuals, then the signature of one of these individuals is sufficient. Alternatively, a member of the senior management team (typically denoted by departmental control, often titled as vice-presidents or managing directors) with water-related responsibilities could sign the commitment. AWS encourages the most senior individuals to sign the leadership commitment.
- If an implementing entity is **NOT** its own complete business or water service provider - in other words, is one of a number of sites making up a larger entity, then the leadership commitment is a two-fold exercise.
  - First, a member of the senior-level management team from the controlling entity must provide a signed leadership commitment, as noted above.
  - Second, **an additional commitment must also be provided by the site-level leader** or a senior management member. This is done to ensure that there is both corporate (high-level) support for the water stewardship efforts being undertaken at the site level, as well as site-level support for implementation.

### Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

<sup>2</sup> See glossary for definition of “responsible water stewardship”.

## Guidance on Step 2: Measure the Site's Water Use

Step 2 is intended to cover the most basic of water stewardship principles – site-level water management and knowledge of one's water use. This step is echoed in the CEO Water Mandate's Direct Operations key area.

- Sites include both the facility and the full extent of the land upon which such sites are located.
- On-site boundaries are likely to be legally delineated. Site surveys, where available, are an excellent source of data, as are tools such as Google Earth.
- Water sources are likely known, but should also consider other forms of water including: sea water, ground water, lakes, streams/rivers, wetlands, snow, glaciers, and precipitation. National and sub-National topographic survey maps should provide a site with source locations. In addition, considerable geospatial watershed data can be obtained here: <http://hydrosheds.cr.usgs.gov/>
- A useful tool to outline responsibilities and accountabilities is a responsibility assignment matrix – sometimes referred to as a RACI model/table (Responsible-Accountable-Consulted-Informed). General details can be found here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Responsibility\\_assignment\\_matrix](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Responsibility_assignment_matrix)
- CEO Water Mandate has produced a guide to water accounting which may provide additional guidance: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/corporate\\_water\\_accounting\\_analysis/corporate\\_water\\_accounting\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/corporate_water_accounting_analysis/corporate_water_accounting_analysis.pdf)
- An initial list of pollutants commonly discharged has been developed and is listed in Table 1 of the draft AWS Standard. This list will be expanded to add other pollutants that are globally common. For those pollutants that are sector-specific, stakeholders are encouraged to suggest these for the sector-supplements (see Appendix C in the draft Standard).
- Currently, where identification of the main water quality parameters of concern is not specified in legal requirements or mandates, it is largely left to the discretion of the site with local stakeholders being the arbiters. This approach ensures that local water quality issues can be taken into account, while providing some level of oversight. Should there be concerns on this proposed approach, we welcome alternative suggestions.
- See above for guidance on the identification of Important Water Areas

### Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 3: Measure the Use of Water Within the Area of Influence

Step 3 involves engaging stakeholders and delineating the area of influence. This step is echoed in several of the CEO Water Mandate's key areas including Supply Chain and Watershed Management, Collective Action, and Community Engagement. External engagement is one of the key distinctions between water management and water stewardship, and it is a fundamental component of ensuring a collective response to shared risk. However, the challenge of determining the extent of “how far beyond the site” a steward should engage is challenging at best.

The following guidance is intended to help on both of these fronts.

### Stakeholder engagement

The degree of engagement necessary is a function of the local situation in which the site is located. Different degrees of stakeholder engagement will be necessary depending on the condition and outcomes that are sought by the site. There is a wealth of information in terms of guidance for stakeholder engagement. Some suggested references include the following:

- AccountAbility's stakeholder engagement standard: <http://www.accountability.org/images/content/3/6/362/AA1000SES%202010%20PRINT.PDF>
- Proactive stakeholder engagement: practice guide for [http://www.csreurope.org/data/files/toolbox/Stakeholder\\_engagement.pdf](http://www.csreurope.org/data/files/toolbox/Stakeholder_engagement.pdf)

- Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets: [http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/p\\_StakeholderEngagement\\_Full/\\$FILE/IFC\\_StakeholderEngagement.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/p_StakeholderEngagement_Full/$FILE/IFC_StakeholderEngagement.pdf)
- Module 4: Stakeholders and Conflict Resolution in IWRM: [http://cap-net.org/sites/cap-net.org/files/training\\_materials/Module\\_4\\_-\\_Stakeholders\\_and\\_conflict\\_resolution\\_in\\_IWRM.pdf](http://cap-net.org/sites/cap-net.org/files/training_materials/Module_4_-_Stakeholders_and_conflict_resolution_in_IWRM.pdf)
- Equity and Inclusion: a rights-based approach: [http://www.wateraid.org/documents/plugin\\_documents/equity\\_and\\_inclusion\\_english.pdf](http://www.wateraid.org/documents/plugin_documents/equity_and_inclusion_english.pdf)

Other references are welcome and stakeholders are encouraged to provide suggestions for the next version of this Guidance Document.

In general, AWS recommends that Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) form the basis for the process to be followed during all stakeholder consultation, which ought to be gender sensitive and result in consensus-driven negotiated agreements<sup>3</sup>. For more detail on FPIC, please see:

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/workshop\\_FPIC\\_tamang.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/workshop_FPIC_tamang.doc)

While FPIC provides the process conditions for stakeholder engagement and negotiated agreements, consensus should be the decision-making tool applied. Consensus facilitators should invite all locally-affected stakeholders, local leaders, representatives of community and indigenous peoples groups and all relevant stakeholders to participate in the consultative process. As well, relevant government authorities should be included in the stakeholder process to ensure efficient streamlining of the process with legal requirements.

Special attention should be made to ensure that women, youth, indigenous and vulnerable people can participate meaningfully in meetings and negotiations. Where the need is identified by the facilitator, there should be informal workshops to build local understanding in the community of the processes that may impact them directly to aid meaningful engagement.

Documentation necessary to inform stakeholder positions should be made freely available to stakeholders in a timely, open, transparent and accessible manner through distribution channels appropriate to the local conditions.

#### **Delineating the site's source watershed and its area of influence**

One of the most important and yet most challenging aspects to stewardship involves reaching beyond the property boundaries and becoming involved in the governance of water in the areas which affect, and are affected by, a site's water use. This raises the challenge of trying to answer the question: how far beyond one's property lines is a water steward expected to reach? This area is known as the site's area of influence (or "defined scope"). The fundamental logic of "area of influence" stems from the model presented by the UN Global Compact ("Sphere of Influence"), shown in Figure 4 below. However, this model is designed for corporations (and primarily large ones at that). To make it applicable to smaller entities and sites, an alternative version was developed (Figure 5).

Figure 4: The UN Global Compact's Sphere of Influence Model



<sup>3</sup> This approach is drawn from the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and AWS acknowledges use of their text in the following paragraphs on FPIC.

Figure 5: A Site Area of Influence Model (adapted from UN Global Compact)



Using this model as a basis for engagement, there is the need to first identify and engage stakeholders (all of the circles), as well as specifically identify the spatial extent of “how far”.

The guidance below is drawn from Brian Richter (The Nature Conservancy) and should be used to help a site to determine its scope in terms of the “watershed”. When combined with input from stakeholders, the hope is that it provides a reasonable basis for delineating an area of influence. Lastly, there are also other factors to consider in terms of the size of the operation (in terms of water use or financial wealth), its type of operation (and risk level), the characteristics of the water resource unit (flow/sensitivity), the population. All of these elements affect the ultimate area of influence and AWS hopes to add to this guidance material through time to assist Implementers with this challenging question.

**From Brian Richter:**

Questions to be addressed for guiding area of influence:

- What sources of water (rivers, lakes, aquifers) are being used by the site?
- Into which water bodies is the site discharging wastewater or polluted runoff?
- What are the spatial boundaries of the watershed(s) or aquifer(s) being used by the site?
- What is the spatial extent of the site’s impact on water quantity or quality in each watershed or aquifer?

It is important for a site to understand the boundaries of the watershed supplying its water or diluting its wastewater, as well as the parts of the local hydrologic system or watershed likely being influenced by their operations or supply chain activities. The combination of the source watershed and the “area of influence” defines the spatial boundaries for a sustainability assessment. Different source watersheds and areas of influence will need to be defined for each part of a site’s direct operations and its supply chain.

Delineating a site’s watershed is usually a straightforward task; the upstream land area or aquifer body contributing to its point(s) of water diversion or wastewater discharge defines the contributing watershed of interest (Figure 5). When a site is sourcing water from multiple diversion points – either surface or groundwater or both – different source watersheds for each source will need to be delineated.

Defining the likely geographic extent of a site’s influence on hydrologic conditions is also of critical importance in defining the scope because it delimits the area that might be experiencing adverse impacts from the site’s use of water. The “point of origin” for the area of influence is the location at which the site is extracting or returning (discharging) water (Figure 5); the area of influence emanates downstream or outward from this point of origin to the limits of detectable influence.

**The limits of detectable influence downstream or down-gradient from a point of origin (water withdrawal or wastewater discharge points) can be determined in one of three suggested ways:**

- In the best case approach, the limits of detectable influence can be identified using a hydrologic simulation model. This can be a time-consuming and expensive exercise, but it provides the most technically credible and defensible means for delineating where a site’s influence begins and ends. This level of technical analysis might be warranted

once a site determines that significant ecological or social impacts exist, or can be expected (Step 4 of the Standard).

- A next-best approach is to apply some default rules of thumb.<sup>4</sup> For example, one might conservatively assume that water consumption or water quality effects in small rivers (< 10 m<sup>3</sup>/s annual average flow) might extend for as much as 50 kilometers downstream, or until the small river is joined by a larger river (>10 m<sup>3</sup>/s). For larger rivers, the area of influence could be assumed to extend for 100 kilometers downstream. For aquifers, the area of influence could be assumed to extend to a radius of 50 km from the point of extraction or wastewater discharge.
- A least-desirable approach is to use pre-set watershed or river basin boundaries, such as standardized watersheds or river basins mapped by government agencies or research institutions. If the pre-determined watershed boundaries are considerably larger than the site's actual area of influence, any estimation of the site's influence or impacts will be diminished. If this approach is applied, the smallest-possible watershed containing the site's points of water extraction or return/discharge should be used.

These methods, in general, will generate a conservative estimate for the area of influence, i.e, an estimate that would include all major impacts that need to be considered.

Figure 6: Map of a Site's influence

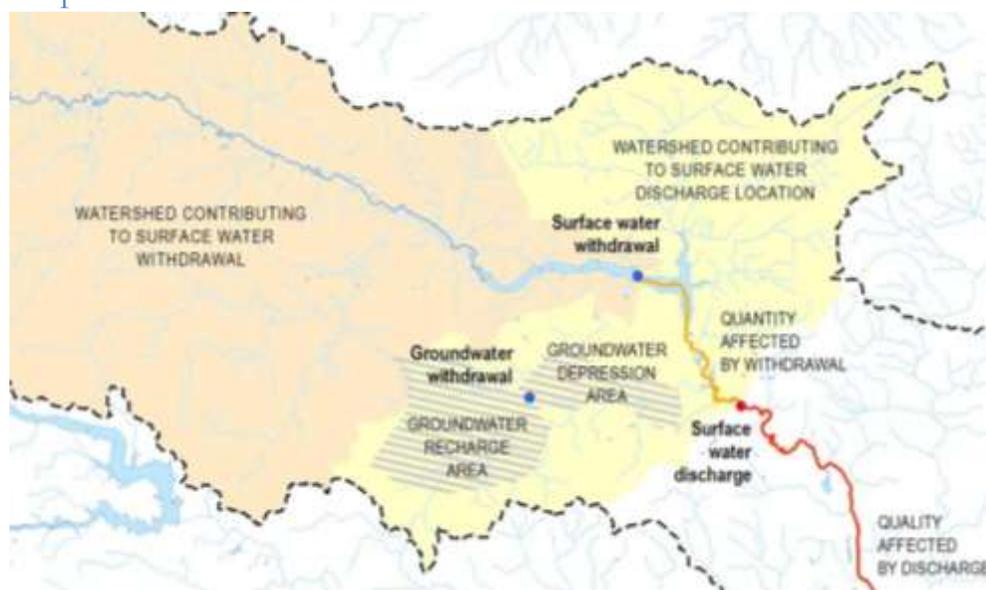


Figure 6 portrays a complicated but realistic scenario for a site's influence on local hydrologic systems. Note that three "points of origin" are identified here, including the location of surface water and groundwater withdrawals (blue dots), and the location at which wastewater is discharged (red dot). The watershed area contributing to the groundwater withdrawal is shown as the groundwater recharge area (hatched). The watershed area contributing to the surface water withdrawal point is highlighted in peach color. The watershed contributing to the wastewater discharge point would include both the peach and yellow highlighted areas. Finally, three different "areas of influence" are shown here. One is the area of influence downstream of the surface water withdrawal, marked by a yellow line. The area of influence downstream of the waste water discharge is marked by a red line. The area of influence down-gradient from the groundwater withdrawal point is noted as the groundwater depression area (hatched).

In addition to the above, it is recognized that the ability and need to engage within this area of influence is contingent upon the size of the implementing entity, the amount of water withdrawn, as well as by how many stakeholders lie within the area of influence. The hope is that additional guidance regarding reasonable expectations can be developed via stakeholder input.

<sup>4</sup> The authors acknowledge that any such rules of thumb will require considerable peer review and debate. The numbers suggested here are placeholders.

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 4: Measure the Current Status of Water in the Area of Influence

Step 4 involves developing a picture of the status of water within the defined scope. Increasingly entities are recognizing that since water is a shared resource, it ultimately represents a shared risk. To get a sense of the status of that shared resource, it is necessary to begin to take measurements beyond one's property lines.

However, watershed data is challenging to come by, especially in certain parts of the world. While increasingly data sets are becoming available that can help to inform these analyses, it is recognized that this step will vary considerably from region to region.

Some data sets, tools and guides that can assist in getting sites started include:

- 2.4: HydroSHEDS: <http://hydrosbeds.cr.usgs.gov/>
- 2.4: WFN WaterStat: <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/WaterStat-WaterScarcity>
- 2.4: WBCSD Global Water Tool: <http://www.wbcsd.org/work-program/sector-projects/water/global-water-tool.aspx>
- 2.4: Flow : the essentials of environmental flows: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2003-021.pdf>
- 2.4: WWF – Keeping rivers alive: a primer on environmental flows and their assessment: [http://assets.wmf.org.uk/downloads/keeping\\_rivers\\_alive.pdf](http://assets.wmf.org.uk/downloads/keeping_rivers_alive.pdf)
- 2.4: Environmental Flows Network: <http://www.eflownet.org>
- 3.4: GEMSTAT: <http://www.gemstat.org/>
- 4.4: UNEP's Environmental Data Explorer: <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>
- 4.4: Global Land Cover Facility: <http://glcf.umd.edu/data/landcover/>
- 4.4: InVEST Ecosystem Services Valuation Tool: <http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/InVEST.html>
- Value : counting ecosystems as water infrastructure: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2004-046.pdf>

## Stakeholder Feedback

3. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
4. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 5: Measure the Impacts and Risks of Water Use in the Area of Influence

Impacts and risk reduction are core to stewardship. While the realm of environmental and social impact assessment is a well established field with considerable guidance, water risk assessment is less well established. The following guidance provides some guidance notes on both of these fronts.

### Impact Assessment

While many sites are legally required to undertake a full environmental and social impact assessment, a strategic impact assessment, or a rapid environmental assessment, many smaller sites are not subject to these requirements. For these smaller sites, a series of impact indicators have been provided in the draft AWS Standard for sites to evaluate.

- Corporate Water Accounting – An Analysis of Methods and Tools for Measuring Water Use and its Impacts: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/corporate\\_water\\_accounting\\_analysis/corporate\\_water\\_accounting\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/corporate_water_accounting_analysis/corporate_water_accounting_analysis.pdf)
- CEO Water Mandate - Managing impacts and stewardship response: <http://ceowatermandate.org/water-assessment-tools-methods/accounting-needs-functions/managing-impacts-and-stewardship-response/>

Where an impact assessment is required by national, regional, or local laws, the process should be integrated with the AWS impact assessment process to avoid duplication of efforts, but the higher and more comprehensive standard should be applied<sup>5</sup>.

A screening exercise should be employed for all new and existing operations and extensions to operations of all sizes to determine whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or a Rapid Environmental and Social Assessment (RESA) is required. The ESIA, if required as determined through the screening exercise, should be carried out using qualified professionals.

Where water use will have significant social impacts, as measured during the screening exercise, a social impact assessment process should be carried out using local experts to ensure that local customs, languages, practices and indigenous knowledge are respected and utilized.

AWS is considering how to handle the situation of multiple small sites within a watershed interested in implementing the Standard, including how impacts assessments and other such endeavours would be handled. More information on this will come as AWS develops the verification process.

### Water Risk Analysis

#### General guidance:

- CEO Water Mandate - Water risk assessment and identification: <http://ceowatermandate.org/water-assessment-tools-methods/accounting-needs-functions/risk-assessment-and-identification/>
- WWF – Understanding water risks: [http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/understanding\\_water\\_risk\\_in.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/understanding_water_risk_in.pdf)
- Assessing water risk: a practical approach for financial institutions: [http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/deg\\_wwf\\_water\\_risk\\_final.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/deg_wwf_water_risk_final.pdf)

#### Global-Regional Scale:

- DEG-WWF Water Risk Tool: **NOTE:** Online tool available March 28, 2012. [http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/how\\_we\\_work/conservation/freshwater/water\\_management/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/freshwater/water_management/)
- WBCSD Global Water Tool: <http://www.wbcsd.org/work-program/sector-projects/water/global-water-tool.aspx>

#### Regional-Local Scale:

- GEMI Local Water Tool: <http://www.gemi.org>
- Aqueduct: <http://insights.wri.org/aqueduct/welcome> (limited to select watersheds)
- Ceres Aqua Gauge: <http://www.ceres.org/issues/water/aqua-gauge/aqua-gauge>

The area of water risk analysis has seen considerable advances in recent years. There are now several tools that have emerged. Several of these, including the DEG-WWF Water Risk tool, can act as a global-level portfolio screen to identify sites that are exposed to high levels of water risk. From there, additional information can be generated by driving down to other tools such as Aqueduct (watershed data), the GEMI LWT (site and watershed analysis) or the Ceres Aqua Gauge (a site and watershed risk framework). All of these can be useful tools in informing risk evaluations and Implementers are encouraged to explore each of them for their suitability. Please note that none of these are officially “endorsed” by AWS; rather they represent some of the tools which AWS is currently aware of.

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 6: Measure and Manage Indirect Water Use

Indirect water use is a very important part of water stewardship, and is an area which can be challenging to address. Developing an understanding of indirect water use is something that is increasingly recognized as good practice, and accordingly, there has been increasing efforts put into how to measure water use within the supply chain. While some

<sup>5</sup> This approach is drawn from the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and AWS acknowledges use of their text in the following paragraphs on ESIA's.

sites may have limited capacity to engage in indirect water use, it is the responsibility of the implementer to explain why they have limited influence on their suppliers.

Like the notion of area of influence, indirect water use ranges from those who provide treated water and those that treat waste water to supply chain members in the watershed and beyond. Several well-recognized methodologies have emerged in recent years to measure indirect water use, most notably the Water Footprint Network's Water Footprint Assessment Methodology, as well as the ISO 14046 Water Footprint Life Cycle Analysis methodology currently being finalized. Each of these, from different angles, measures indirect water use. While the AWS recommends exploration of either of these methodologies, for many sites, such efforts are beyond their capacities. Accordingly, the following guidance is recommended for the first steps related to indirect water use

### Existing Indirect Water Use Methodologies for Advanced Sites

- WWF – Water Footprinting: identifying & addressing water risks in the value chain:  
[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/sabmiller\\_water\\_footprinting\\_report\\_final\\_.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/sabmiller_water_footprinting_report_final_.pdf)
- WFN methodology: <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/WaterFootprintAssessmentManual>
- ISO 14046: [http://www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_catalogue/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=43263](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=43263)

## Stakeholder Feedback: Requesting a Simplified Indirect Water Use Methodology

The AWS is interested in determining whether a simplified indirect water use methodology can be developed which could be employed by the implementing site to evaluate its indirect water use in a simple, but effective manner, thereby strengthening this important step without placing an undue burden on the site. All suggestions are welcome.

### Simplified Guidance

- Identify water service providers who either provide input water or manage effluent/wastewater
- Review how water is being managed by those upstream or downstream service providers in terms of general governance, water balance, water quality, and Important Water Areas. Determine whether they have any policies in place, whether they are adversely impacting flows, quality or Important Areas, and if so, begin a dialogue to determine whether solutions can be found.
- Identify a list of input products that originate from within the area of influence (or defined scope). If there are members of the Implementer's supply chain located within the basin, then consider performing a simplified calculation of indirect water use to determine which are the priority (largest indirect water using) products using data from the WFN's WaterStat database: <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/WaterStat>. This database can be used to generate rough product water footprints by product at the national and sub-national levels. *Note: this is the only readily available indirect water use data currently available. Should additional data become available, AWS will consider it at that time.*
- For those priority products, review how water is being managed by those supply chain members in terms of general governance, water balance, water quality, and Important Water Areas. As with water service providers, determine whether they have any policies in place, whether they are adversely impacting flows, quality or Important Areas, and if so, begin a dialogue to determine whether solutions can be found.
- *Note: should stakeholder input indicate that Promoters must play a more prominent role in the Standard (or a second standard be developed), it is likely that this section will be expanded considerably.*

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from this section?

## Guidance on Step 7: Develop Plans for the Water Impacts of Rare Incidents

Step 7 begins with a focus on short-term rare incidents (which, for water and wastewater utilities, is more appropriately characterized as emergency management planning), but also covers longer-term rare incidents, including planning for climate change adaptation. AWS encourages sites to have an Environmental Management System that covers such rare incidents, as well as begins to plan for other scenarios both in the short and long-term. To this extent, the following guide is a useful source of guidance and tools:

- Climate Change and Water: <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf>
- Change : adaptation of water resources management to climate change: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2003-004.pdf>
- Climate Wizard: <http://www.climatewizard.org/>
- Adaptation to Climate Change Team: <http://act-adapt.org/water-security/>
- ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System: [http://www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_14000\\_essentials](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_14000_essentials)
- US Federal Emergency Management Agency: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/techtools/index.cfm>  
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/techtools/index.cfm#eip>
- Climate Ready Water Utilities Toolbox: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/climate/toolbox.html>
- Climate Resilience Evaluation & Awareness Tool (CREAT)  
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/creat.cfm>

### Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 8: Develop and Internally Disseminate a Water Stewardship Plan or Policy

Generally the development and documentation of a water stewardship plan or policy is something that most entities will likely feel comfortable with. The plan or policy ought to cover the various elements covered within the Standard and it is encouraged that the plan look to the Extra Credits for stretch targets. The plan should look to cover most, if not all, of the following:

- An introduction stating the aims of the plan or policy
- An explanation of how the plan or policy links to the entity’s core mission
- Annual and longer term goals or objectives
- Coverage of the various principles, criteria, indicators and steps covered in the AWS Standard, including:
- The leadership commitment
- An explanation of the governance of water-related responsibilities and accountabilities throughout the site/entity.
- A review of the current and future contexts for the basin
- Explicit trade-offs related to the food-energy-water nexus
- How disclosure is to be handled
- A cost/benefit statement, estimate or calculation

While designed as a framework for assessing corporate water risk management, the Ceres Aqua Gauge is helpful to look towards when crafting a water stewardship plan or policy:

<http://www.ceres.org/issues/water/aqua-gauge/aqua-gauge>

Dissemination within the entity, to ensure that various staff are not only aware of the plan, but also can relate to how their jobs link to the plan. This should involve an active in-house training and awareness plan.

What may be less clear is how to go about evaluating and understanding the water-energy-food-climate nexus. Accordingly, several pieces of guidance on this front are listed below:

- WEF Water Resources Group - Water Security: The Water-Energy-Food-Climate Nexus: <http://www.weforum.org/reports/water-security-water-energy-food-climate-nexus>
- UNEP - Bioenergy and Water Nexus: [http://www.unep.org/pdf/Water\\_Nexus.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/Water_Nexus.pdf)
- McKinsey – Charting our water future: [http://www.mckinsey.com/App\\_Media/Reports/Water/Charting\\_Our\\_Water\\_Future\\_Exec%20Summary\\_001.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/App_Media/Reports/Water/Charting_Our_Water_Future_Exec%20Summary_001.pdf)

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 9: Remain in Legal Compliance and Respect Water Rights

While legal compliance should not require much guidance, respecting water rights can be a more challenging issue. To this extent, the following guidance may prove useful:

- The Human Right to Water: Emerging Corporate Practice and Stakeholder Expectations: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/Environment/ceo\\_water\\_mandate/Water\\_Mandate\\_Human\\_Rights\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/ceo_water_mandate/Water_Mandate_Human_Rights_White_Paper.pdf)
- UN World Water Assessment Programme – Water for People, Water for Life: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001295/129556e.pdf>
- The Rights to Water and Sanitation: information portal on the human rights to water and sanitation: <http://www.righttowater.info/>

## Stakeholder Feedback

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 10: Improve Your Water Impacts

Improving water impacts – be it reducing negative impacts or enhancing positive impacts – is the ultimate aim of water stewardship. Impacts are classified into environmental, social and economic impacts, but stem from various outputs and outcomes (which align with the Principles). Accordingly, the actions undertaken within the Principles – improving water governance at the site and within the watershed, reducing water use or enhancing environmental/cultural flows to balance water use with stakeholder needs, improving water quality, or properly managing, protecting or restoring Important Water Areas will ultimately result in the desired impacts. The following guidance is organized by Principle.

### Governance:

- UNEP - Rule: reforming water governance: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtm-wpd/edocs/2009-002.pdf>
- UNEP - Negotiate: reaching agreements over water: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtm-wpd/edocs/2010-006.pdf>
- UNEP - Share: managing waters across boundaries: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtm-wpd/edocs/2008-016.pdf>
- CEO Water Mandate - Framework for Responsible Business Engagement with Water Policy: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/responsible\\_business\\_engagement\\_framework/responsible\\_business\\_engagement.pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/responsible_business_engagement_framework/responsible_business_engagement.pdf)
- CEO Water Mandate - Guide to Responsible Business Engagement with Water Policy: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/Environment/ceo\\_water\\_mandate/Guide\\_Responsible\\_Business\\_Engagement\\_Water\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/ceo_water_mandate/Guide_Responsible_Business_Engagement_Water_Policy.pdf)
- WWF - Investigating shared risk in water: corporate engagement with the public policy process: [http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/investigating\\_shared\\_risk\\_final\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/investigating_shared_risk_final_low_res.pdf)

### Water Balance:

- UNEP - Flow: the essentials of environmental flows: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2003-021.pdf>
- UN Water – Coping with water scarcity: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/agl/aglw/docs/waterscarcity.pdf>
- UNEP – Rainwater harvesting: a lifeline for human well-being: [http://www.unep.org/Themes/Freshwater/PDF/Rainwater\\_Harvesting\\_090310b.pdf](http://www.unep.org/Themes/Freshwater/PDF/Rainwater_Harvesting_090310b.pdf)
- IWMI – An ecosystem services approach to water and food security: [http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/topics/ecosystems/PDF/Synthesis\\_Report-An\\_Ecosystem\\_Services\\_Approach\\_to\\_Water\\_and\\_Food\\_Security\\_2011\\_UNEP-IWMI.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/topics/ecosystems/PDF/Synthesis_Report-An_Ecosystem_Services_Approach_to_Water_and_Food_Security_2011_UNEP-IWMI.pdf)
- IWMI – Water storage in an era of climate change: [http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Blue\\_Papers/PDF/Blue\\_Paper\\_2010-final.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Blue_Papers/PDF/Blue_Paper_2010-final.pdf)
- World Bank – Rural water supplies collaborative: best ways to build social collaboration: <http://water.worldbank.org/water/node/84030>
- World Bank – Handshake: tapped out: <http://water.worldbank.org/water/node/83675>
- World Bank – IBNET water supply and sanitation performance blue book: <http://water.worldbank.org/water/publications/ibnet-water-supply-and-sanitation-performance-blue-book>

### Water Quality:

- WHO – Guidelines for drinking water: water quality (4th Ed.) [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/2011/dwg\\_guidelines/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/dwg_guidelines/en/)
- UNEP – Clearing the waters: a focus on water quality solutions: [http://www.unep.org/PDF/Clearing\\_the\\_Waters.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/Clearing_the_Waters.pdf)
- UNEP GEMS – Water quality for ecosystem and human health: [http://www.gemswater.org/publications/pdfs/water\\_quality\\_human\\_health.pdf](http://www.gemswater.org/publications/pdfs/water_quality_human_health.pdf)
- WHO – Safer water, better health: [http://wqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435\\_eng.pdf](http://wqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435_eng.pdf)
- UNICEF – UNICEF handbook on water quality: [http://www.unicef.org/wash/files/WQ\\_Handbook\\_final\\_signed\\_16\\_April\\_2008.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/wash/files/WQ_Handbook_final_signed_16_April_2008.pdf)
- UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): <http://www.unicef.org/wash/>
- World Bank – IBNET water supply and sanitation performance blue book: <http://water.worldbank.org/water/publications/ibnet-water-supply-and-sanitation-performance-blue-book>

### Important Water Areas:

- UNEP - Pay: establishing payments for watershed services: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-054.pdf>
- The Nature Conservancy - Conservation Easements: Conserving Land, Water and a Way of Life: [http://www.nature.org/aboutus/privatelandsconservation/conservationeasements/conserving\\_a\\_way\\_of\\_life.pdf](http://www.nature.org/aboutus/privatelandsconservation/conservationeasements/conserving_a_way_of_life.pdf)
- The Nature Conservancy - Water Funds: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/latinamerica/water-funds-of-south-america.xml>

## Stakeholder Feedback

In addition to these, there are a number of emerging tools which should assist Implementers in collective action. For example, the CEO Water Mandate is in the process of developing a “Water Action Hub” which will link water stewards interested in taking collective action within a watershed. Likewise, WWF is developing a stewardship response toolkit. Both of these tools were unavailable at the time that this document was published. However, these tools will be listed as they emerge and become available. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide suggestions on such tools.

### Questions

1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 11: Establish the Necessary Capacity to Carry Out All of the Steps

There are a number of guidance documents that can help inform how to go about building water-related capacity. Below is a list of several documents that can assist on this front:

- UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development: <http://www.unwater.unu.edu/>
- UNESCO-IHE: Institutional Capacity Building: <http://www.unesco-ibe.org/Project-activities/Institutional-capacity-building>
- Cap-Net: Capacity Development in IWRM: <http://www.cap-net.org/>
- Gender and Water Alliance: <http://www.genderandwater.org/page/4751>
- SIWI: Capacity Building: <http://www.simi.org/capacitybuilding>
- InWent: Water and waste management: [http://www.inwent.org/portal/internationale\\_zusammenarbeit/umwelt/wasser\\_abfall/index.php.en](http://www.inwent.org/portal/internationale_zusammenarbeit/umwelt/wasser_abfall/index.php.en)
- ICLEI: Information and guidance materials for local governments on IWRM: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=812>
- WaterNet: <http://www.waternetonline.ibe.nl/>
- Nile Basin Capacity Building Network For River Engineering: <http://www.nbcbn.com/>
- Mekong River Commission: Integrated Capacity Building Programme: [http://www.mrcmekong.org/programmes/capacity\\_building.htm](http://www.mrcmekong.org/programmes/capacity_building.htm)
- Network of Asian River Basin Organizations – NARBO: <http://www.adbi.org/partnership.narbo/>
- Effective utility management - EPA: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/watereum.cfm>
- Small Public Water Systems and Capacity Development – EPA: <http://water.epa.gov/type/drink/pws/smallsystems/>
- Planning for Sustainability – EPA: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/upload/EPA-s-Planning-for-Sustainability-Handbook.pdf>

In addition to the above, one of the expectations within the Standard related to providing a written description of the governance capacity within the scope. The expectation here is to perform a fairly high-level review of the institutions by asking some of the following questions:

- Does the national leadership have the capacities to realistically implement the proposed sector programme?
- Is there a need to strengthening the key sector organisations?
- Does the national government have the capacity to formulate and implement a sector policy, sector budget and its medium term perspective?
- What is the past record with development partners and other donor supported programmes in water resources / sector programmes?
- Have recent evaluations/capacity assessments of sector programmes/projects been lead by the national government and in accordance with Paris Declaration principles and do these evaluations of recent programmes/projects offer useful indications?
- Are customary rights, transboundary disputes or other legal issues a constraint to effective support to water-related activities?
- Are the national institutional structures and capacities adequate for effective management and coordination of the proposed national sector framework and do the key organisations have clear, legally defined mandates?
- How many key agencies are there at the higher tiers of authority and are they capable of managing water resources in a holistic and coordinated way?
- Is institutional reform needed, and if so, is the government aware and supportive of reform?

## Stakeholder Feedback

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1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Guidance on Step 12: Disclose Your Water Stewardship Plans, Actions and Results

The final step, Disclosure, is something widely recognized by various communities. Notably, the financial sector is taking an increasing interest not only in water risk, but in disclosure, exemplified by the growth of disclosure respondents (\$16 trillion dollars in assets under management according to CDP Water Disclosure).

The general guidance around disclosure is that the disclosure should speak to the materiality of water issues for the entity, should engage stakeholders to inform the report content, should align with existing efforts such as the Global Reporting Initiative or the Carbon Disclosure Project's Water Disclosure work, and also address a combination of plans, actions and results.

### Additional disclosure guidance

The following pieces of guidance represent some of the latest thinking on disclosure when it comes to water stewardship:

- CDP Water Disclosure Guidance: <https://www.cdproject.net/en-US/Pages/guidance.aspx>
- CEO Water Mandate - WATER DISCLOSURE 2.0 Assessment of Current and Emerging Practice in Corporate Water Reporting: [http://ceowatermandate.org/files/Water\\_Disclosure.pdf](http://ceowatermandate.org/files/Water_Disclosure.pdf)
- CEO Water Mandate – Communicating water risk and performance: <http://ceowatermandate.org/water-assessment-tools-methods/accounting-needs-functions/communicating-water-risk-performance/>
- Global Reporting Initiative: <https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/latest-guidelines/g3-1-guidelines/Pages/default.aspx>

## Stakeholder Feedback

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1. Do the proposed guidance and approach make sense? What needs to be clarified?
2. What is missing from the guidance in this section?

## Stakeholder Feedback: Sectoral and Regional Guidelines

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It is recognized that in addition to global references, there are numerous high-quality sector-specific and region-specific guidance documents. AWS would be grateful to stakeholders for **identifying sectoral and regional guidance documents** in order that they can be referenced in future versions of this document. These can be local, sub-national, national or international documents and can be referenced via links or sent directly to AWS staff.