



Water Stewardship: Accelerating Transboundary Climate Adaptation

13 MAY 2026

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WEBINAR INFORMATION – HOUSEKEEPING RULES



- **‘Chat’ box:** please use this for general requests and for interactive activities.
- **‘Q&A’ box:** please use this to send questions to the panelists.
(We will answer these during the discussions)

***Please Note:** Attendees’ microphones are muted. We cannot respond to ‘Raise Hand’.*

Context: Water stewardship for adaptation

Climate impacts are experienced through water. Building resilience therefore depends on managing whole catchments across fragmented jurisdictions.

Scarcity, floods, and rapid shifts between extremes are reshaping risk.

Effective adaptation must reflect basin-wide realities, not only administrative boundaries.

Shared action across stakeholders may offer a practical route to stronger resilience.

Introduction

WEBINAR 02 July 2026 13:00 BST Water Stewardship: Accelerating Transboundary Climate Adaptation



Miriam Feilberg
Chair, Sustainability in
the Water Sector SG



Oliver Maennicke
Founding Advisor,
Global Advisory Alliance



Maheen Malik
Water and Policy
Coordinator, Alliance
for Water Stewardship



Klaudia
Schachtschneider
Senior Research
Specialist, Pacific
Institute



Ramanuj Mitra
IWA & Grundfos Youth
Action for SDG 6 Fellow

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Co-organisers



AGENDA

- **Introduction to the topic and Housekeeping**
Afia Siddiqui, Learn and Knowledge Officer, IWA
- **Context Setting**
IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship
- **Introduction to the Session and Panel**
Miriam Feilberg, Chair, Sustainability in the Water Sector SG
- **Panel Discussion**
Oliver Maennicke, Founding Advisor, Global Advisory Alliance
Klaudia Schachtschneider, CEO, Water Mandate
Maheen Malik, Water and Climate Policy Coordinator, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)
- **Live Q&A from the audience**
Miriam Feilberg and Speakers
- **Closing remarks**
Miriam Feilberg, Chair, Sustainability in the Water Sector SG

Scaling the Transboundary Challenge

Oliver Maennicke

SCALING THE TRANSBOUNDARY CHALLENGE

Local Scale

- Communal Trust

Shared village wells and local aquifers. Conflict arises from immediate physical shocks and seasonal scarcity.

Focus: Mutual maintenance & local water budgeting.

Subnational

- Provincial Friction

Inter-state river basins and agricultural rights. Managed by political jurisdictions within a single nation.

Focus: Collective action via private-sector leverage.

International

- Sovereign Security

Continental basins (Danube, Indus). Friction stems from geopolitical mistrust and data secrecy.

Focus: Track-Two Diplomacy & Blended Finance.

SYNCING HORIZONS VIA BANKABLE MODULES

The problem

- The Timeline Friction
 - global treaties and multilateral funds operate on **15-20 year cycles**. This creates a vacuum that repels corporate capital, which requires measurable returns within annual cycles.

The solution

- Modular Bankability
 - Practitioners must package long-term goals into **near-term bankable assets**. These modular units fit corporate planning cycles today while engineered to build towards transboundary resilience tomorrow.

DE-RISKING THROUGH THE ESG PALETTE



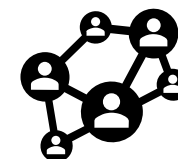
- Social De-risking

- Integrating local traditions and cultural rights ensures "Social License," mitigating the primary operational risks that make water & climate resilience projects unbankable.



- Joint Fact-Finding

- Moving from passive consultation to active, community-led data generation. This turns e.g. abstract hydrological models into trusted, verifiable assets.

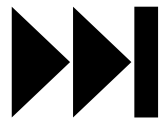


- Engagement as CAPEX

- Baking social architecture costs directly into the CAPEX budget. If the social alignment isn't funded, the physical asset is stranded.

TEMPLATES FOR BANKABLE RESILIENCE

- The financial sandbox
- Perfecting the Blueprint
 - Stable environments allow practitioners to iron out complex legal and financial mechanics without the noise of geopolitical conflict.



- **Plug-and-Play Models:** Standardizing contracts and ROI metrics in low-risk zones.
- **Investor Confidence:** Using easy environments as a "Proof of Concept" for large-scale multilateral funding.
- **Rapid Deployment:** Moving from template to crisis zone as soon as political windows open.

Introducing the Water Resilience Coalition Collaboratives Model: The Rio Bravo/Grande

Klaudia Schachtschneider



Tools, Guidance, Positioning

**United Nations**
Global Compact

Largest corporate sustainability platform

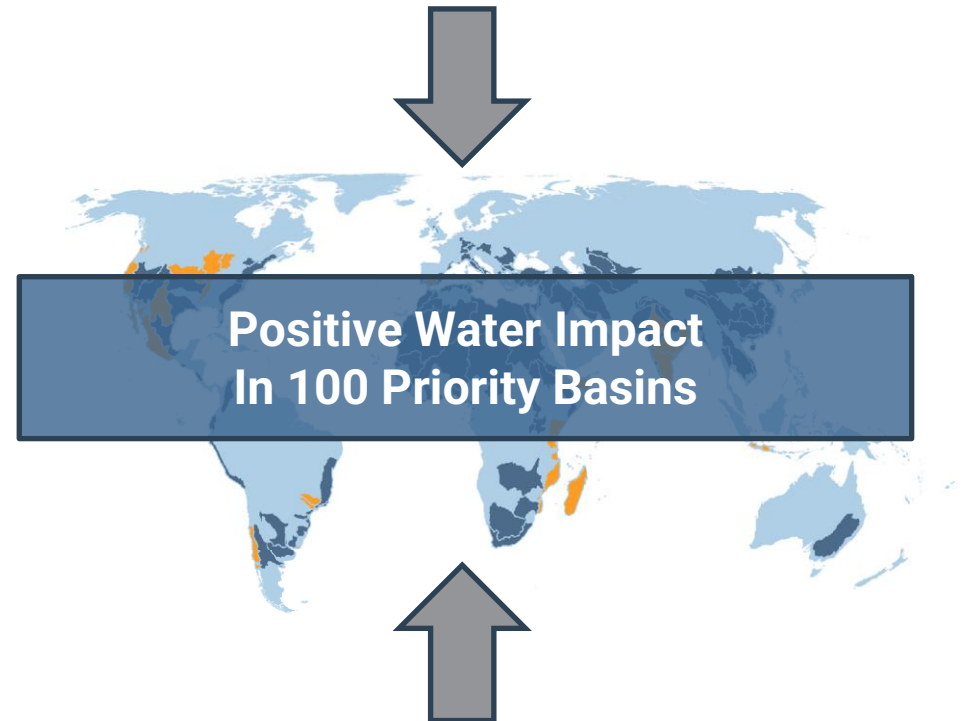
**PACIFIC INSTITUTE**

Top water resilience thought leadership

**CEO WATER MANDATE**

Self-funded coalition for corporate water stewardship

Over 500 Companies



Positive Water Impact
In 100 Priority Basins



Pathways for Finance, Technology,
Collective Action, Scaling

WRC Members and Partners

40+ companies with a combined market value of \$5 trillion, united by one shared goal: building a water-resilient future.



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Waterscan

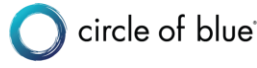


xylem
Let's Solve Water

Partners



Bluerisk



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



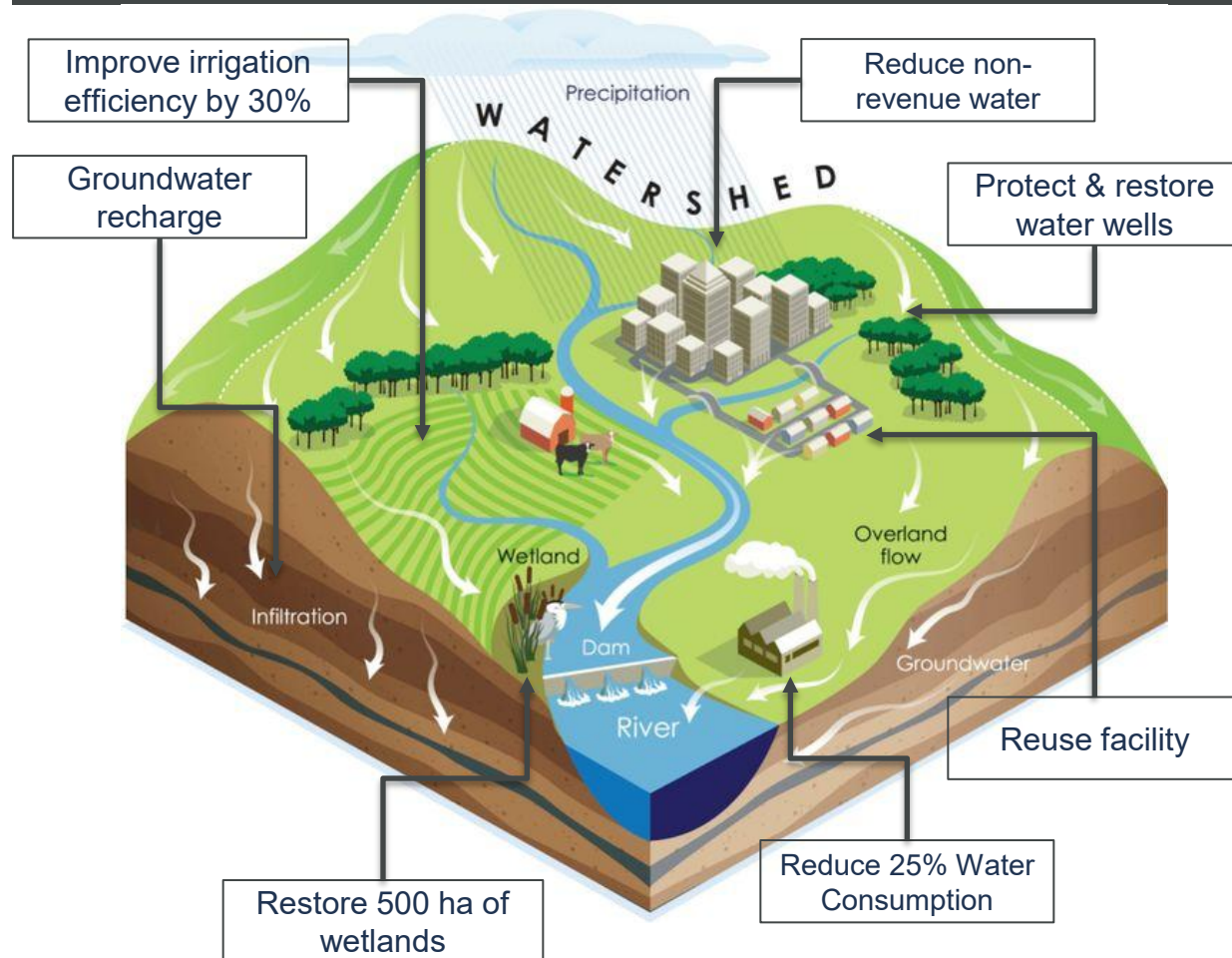
100 Priority Water-Stressed Basins

- ▶ Arno
- ▶ Berg/Breede
- ▶ Colorado
- ▶ Godavari
- ▶ Guadalquivir
- ▶ Indus
- ▶ Java
- ▶ Jordan
- ▶ Krishna & Cauvery
- ▶ Maipo/Mapocho
- ▶ Meghna
- ▶ Mississippi
- ▶ Murray-Darling



Identified Barriers to Basin-Level Collective Action

Companies, NGOs, and governments are moving, so what is missing?



No coordination between stakeholders

Who else is in the basin and doing what?

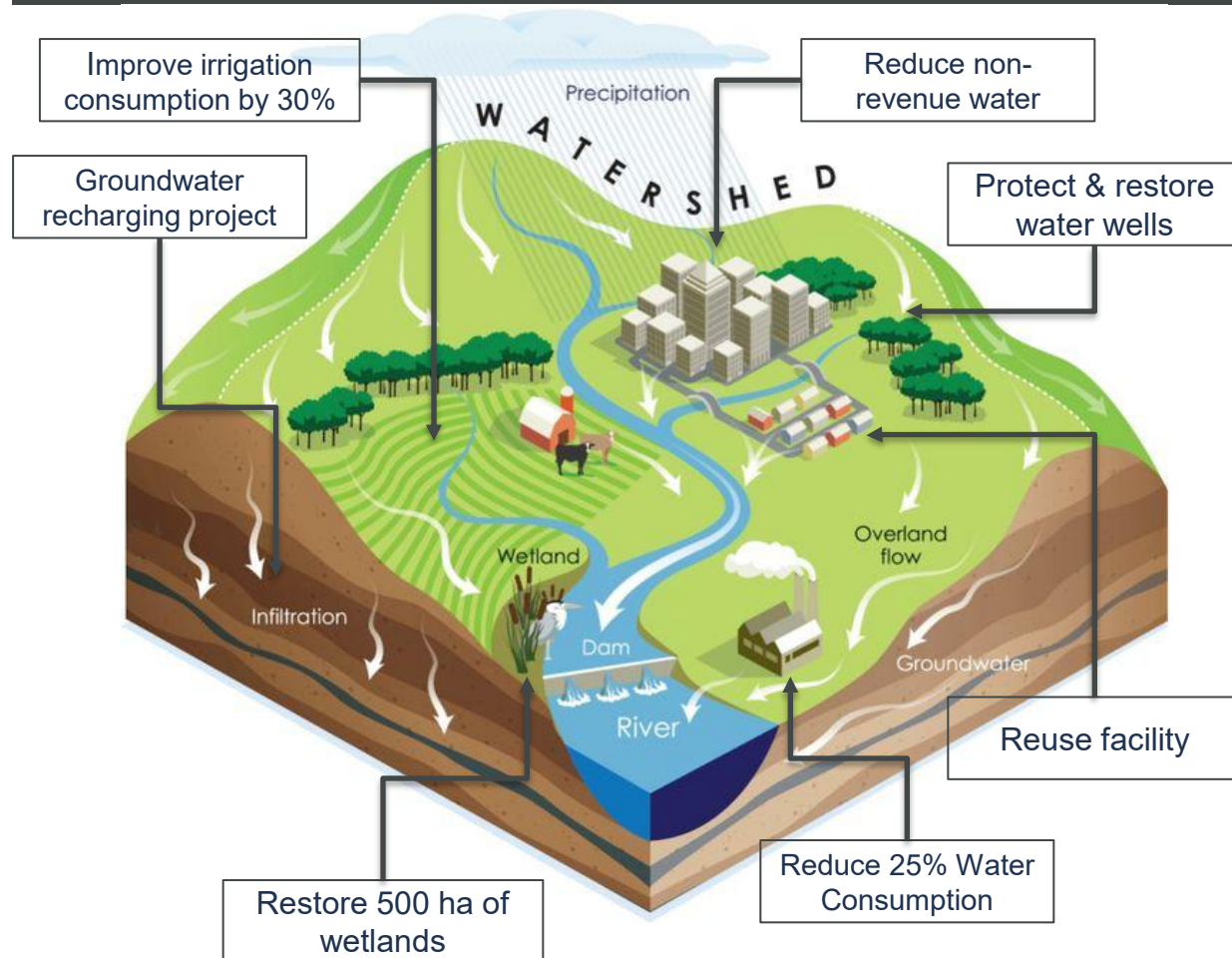
No baseline target to compare progress

Small scale, high cost

No standard metrics/reporting system

The Proposal for Change in Our Priority Basins

Companies, NGOs, and governments are moving, so what is needed?



Neutral party to facilitate alignment between stakeholders

Stakeholders mapped and discussing synergies between their actions

Timebound target and progress report

Tailored collective actions and sharing solutions to gain needed scale, optimized costs

Standard metrics + reporting system allowing the aggregation of the impact

Collaboratives

How it works in practice

Map the Challenges	Define the target	Understand the roadmap	Engage the solution providers	Estimate cost to achieve the target	Report Progress
20% Shortfall by 2030	Replenish 1 million m3 by 2030	25% through NBS 20% through Reuse 55% through Regen Ag	10% WWF 5% Local NGO 1 10% Other NGOs	\$250 million in 10 years for NBS	100k m3 in 2025 with NBS
10m people with no WASH	Enable WASH for 5m people	25% Microloans 50% Decentralized sanitation with PPP 25% infrastructure repairs			





MANOS AL AGUA

por el río Bravo.

Rio Grande/Bravo Water Action Collaborative



Rio Bravo - Rio Grande

About RBGWAC

Join Us

Basin Leaders

Basin Diagnostic

Impact

The Rio Bravo (Grande) Water Action Collaborative

The Rio Grande (known as Río Bravo in Mexico) is one of North America's most significant transboundary river systems, weaving together geography, ecology, and culture across two nations. It spans nearly 1,900 miles (~3,000 km) making it the 4th longest river in North America. Originating high in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado in the US, the river flows through the US states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas and continues through the Mexico states of Durango, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas.

The Rio Bravo Rio Grande Water Action Collaborative aims to address



The Challenge for the Rio Grande / Bravo Basin

Consumption has outpaced replenishment for decades.

Addressing this requires understanding and connecting the physical system with human pressures and incentives, all within a complex regulatory landscape.



Disconnected Analysis

Extensive technical studies without an actionable framework integrating hydrology, demand, social impact, and governance.

Fragmented Governance

Multiple jurisdictions, two nations, different legal frameworks.

Interventions must meet expected volumetric benefits and prove feasibility.

Science-to-Investment Gap

Lack of cost-yield data and clear implementers.

Missing bridge between research and bankable action.

Supply-Demand Imbalance

Basin water used mainly for agriculture.

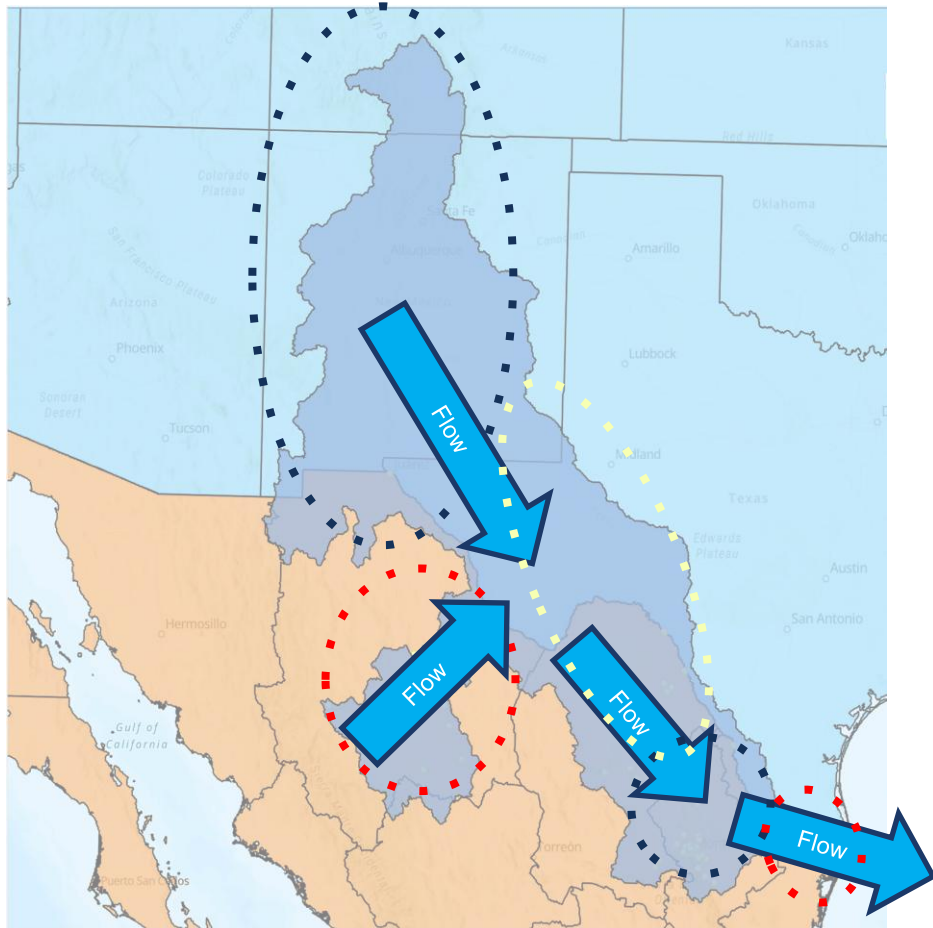
Consumption crisis leading to declining storage.

ALO
IMPACT SOLUTIONS

Collaborative governance structure

Governance Body	Participants	Role & Function	Relationship to Others
Steering Committee (voting members)	- Champions (Heineken and FEMSA Foundation) - Active Sponsors	Primary decision-making body Sets strategic direction and oversees alignment	Informed by Working Groups & Stakeholder Forum Can form or modify Working Groups Directs PMO / Facilitated by PMO
Advisory group supporting the Steering Committee (non-voting members)	- The Pacific Institute / WRC - Technical experts - Other experts	Provide support to the Steering Committee	Suggests ways of action to the Steering Committee or Working Groups Facilitated by PMO
Working Groups	- General members - Government, NGO, and technical experts	Implement specific actions or sub-basin efforts Focused on execution	Report directly to Steering Committee Do not make strategic decisions Coordinated by PMO
All Stakeholders Forum	All mailing list stakeholders (NGOs, local orgs, agencies, communities)	Annual input and updates Engages the broader community	Provides feedback to working groups and Steering Committee Supports transparency and local alignment
Project Management Office (PMO)	Project Manager	Manages day-to-day operations, coordination, and administration.	Facilitates meetings and communications Establishes and maintains standards, processes, and best practices

Basin Integration Study



Color key:

Green – Extensive decision-making info available
Yellow – Limited decision-making info available
Red – Minimal decision-making info available

1. Purpose of this study:

- Numerous fragmented data sources exist, including official agencies (CONAGUA, USGS), NGOs (WWF, FAMM), and corporations (Heineken).
- As the area of available study data expands, the focus shifts more towards hydrological descriptions rather than actionable decision-making data (deficits, risks, community, stakeholders, investments).
- Initial baseline offers higher resolution data for Monterrey and Mexico, but less detailed on the US side (defined by our Champions).

2. Study goals:

- I. Create a multi-criteria decision-making framework to ID areas with the best recharge or relief potential.
- II. Propose priority interventions corresponding to those key areas and provide preliminary cost-benefit estimates.
- III. Combine available basin data to outline the physical characteristics, water usage, social factors, and governance context.

For more information



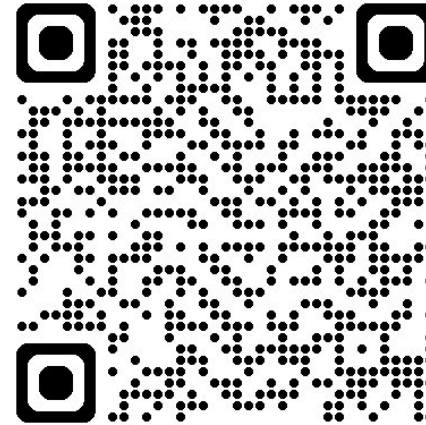
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MANDATE**

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RESILIENCE
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Water Action Hub

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WRC - Basin Collaboratives

André Ramalho

WRC Lead

Pacific Institute / CEO Water Mandate

avramalho@pacinst.org

Katherine Isaf

WRC Collective Action Manager

Pacific Institute / CEO Water Mandate

kisaf@pacinst.org

ADAPTATION THROUGH AWS WATER STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES

Maheen Malik

DEFINITION OF WATER STEWARDSHIP?



“AWS defines water stewardship as

The use of water that is

- socially and culturally equitable**
- environmentally sustainable and**
- economically beneficial**

Achieved through

- a stakeholder inclusive process that involves**
- site and catchment-based actions.”**

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP



**CONVENER &
CATALYST**

**CUSTODIAN OF
INTERNATIONAL WATER
STEWARDSHIP STANDARD**

**CREDIBLE SYSTEM
DEVELOPER**



220+
AWS MEMBERS

18k
AWS
STANDARD
DOWNLOADS

350+
CERTIFIED
SITES



220+ AWS MEMBERS GLOBALLY



- NGOs, Businesses, Public Sector, Sector Experts + other types

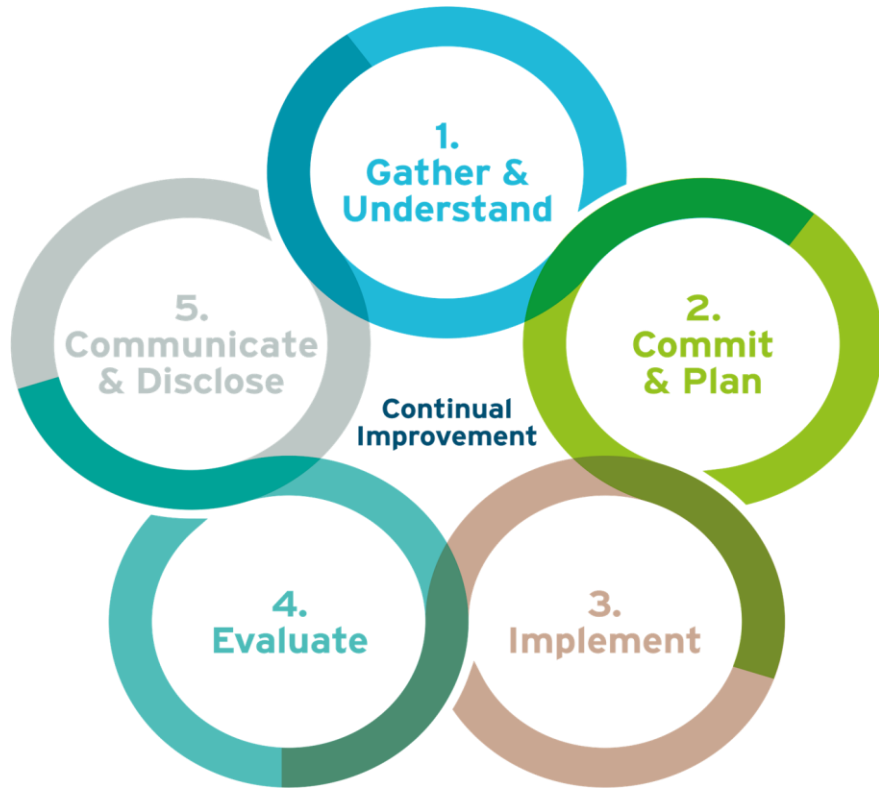
Funding Members	Water-Focussed NGOs	Water-Aware Businesses	Public Agencies	Sector Experts
 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC 	 	 Yachiyo Engineering AN ILLOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY	 中国绿化基金会 COMMITTEE OF GREEN AND LOW CARBON El regulador del agua potable DAUGHERTY GLOBAL INSTITUTE at the University of Nebraska	 Alliance for Global Water Adaptation alliance4water.org

DEFINING WATER STEWARDSHIP

THE AWS STANDARD V3.0



ALLIANCE FOR
WATER STEWARDSHIP

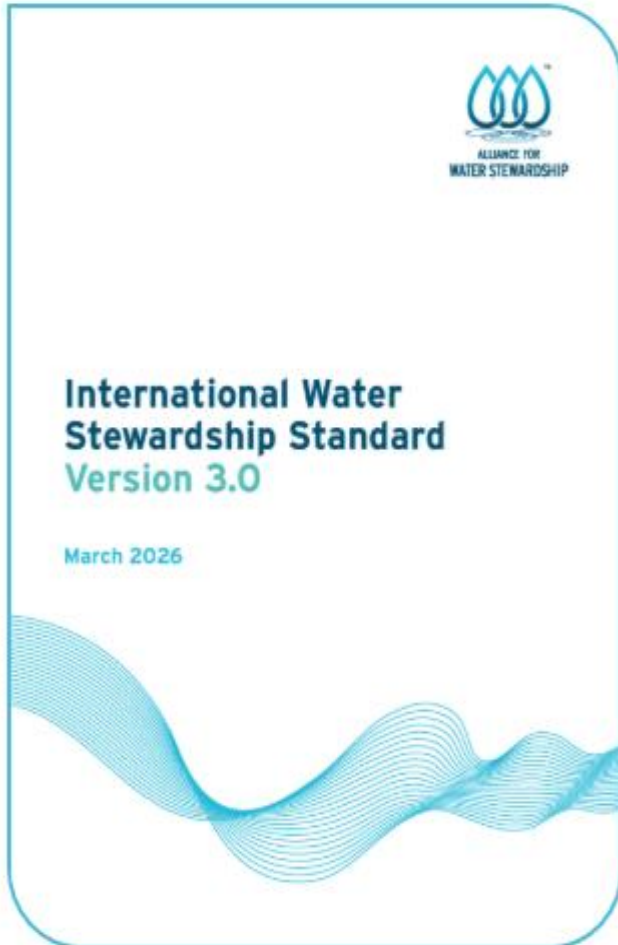


FIVE STEPS

FIVE OUTCOMES



ADDRESSING ADAPTATION IN THE AWS STANDARD



- AWS Standard offers an entry point for the private sector on better water governance.
- Structured Framework.
- Resilience building through adaptation are explicit indicators in the new version of the AWS Standard v3.0.
- Non-prescriptive nature of the Standard helps create local adaptation solutions.
- Continuous stakeholder engagement encourages collective action approach.



EXAMPLES OF ADAPTATION THROUGH THE AWS STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION



- Nature-based Solutions
- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Studies
- Supply Chain Resilience Initiatives
- Collective Action in River Basins
- Maximising Water Efficiency

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Urban Water Systems**

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 the international water association

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