

What Could Standards Look Like?



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Why International Water Stewardship Standard(s)?

Change behavior: create sustainable water use and management

- Facilitate, supplement, complement regulatory processes
- Incentivize private sector and water service provider action
- Minimize the adverse impacts of water use and management on watersheds

Establish a voluntary program for water users and managers

- Create baseline requirements for being “sustainable water user or manager”
- Objective, performance-based assessment of compliance with standards
- Communicate about and reward work of sustainable water user or manager

Create a global framework

- Connect and integrate global and regional standards development work
- Provide easy and open setting for discussions and decisions of stakeholders

Water Stewardship Standard(s): Major Specifications

Holistic approach in objectives

- Social, environmental, economic

Multi-stakeholder process

- ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards
- Proactive involvement of stakeholders in development process

Application level

- Global and regional
- Across sectors

Alignment with other sustainability standards and systems

Water Stewardship Standard(s): General Approach

Scope

- Applicable to private sector and water service provider sector

Focus on

- Impacts of water use and management
- Watersheds as key level for assessment of impacts and benefits of stewardship
- Process and performance, rather than product characteristics

Water Stewardship Standard(s): Structure

Hierarchical framework

- Principles (impact based)
- Criteria (core or sector specific)
- Indicators (core or sector specific)

Decision-making framework

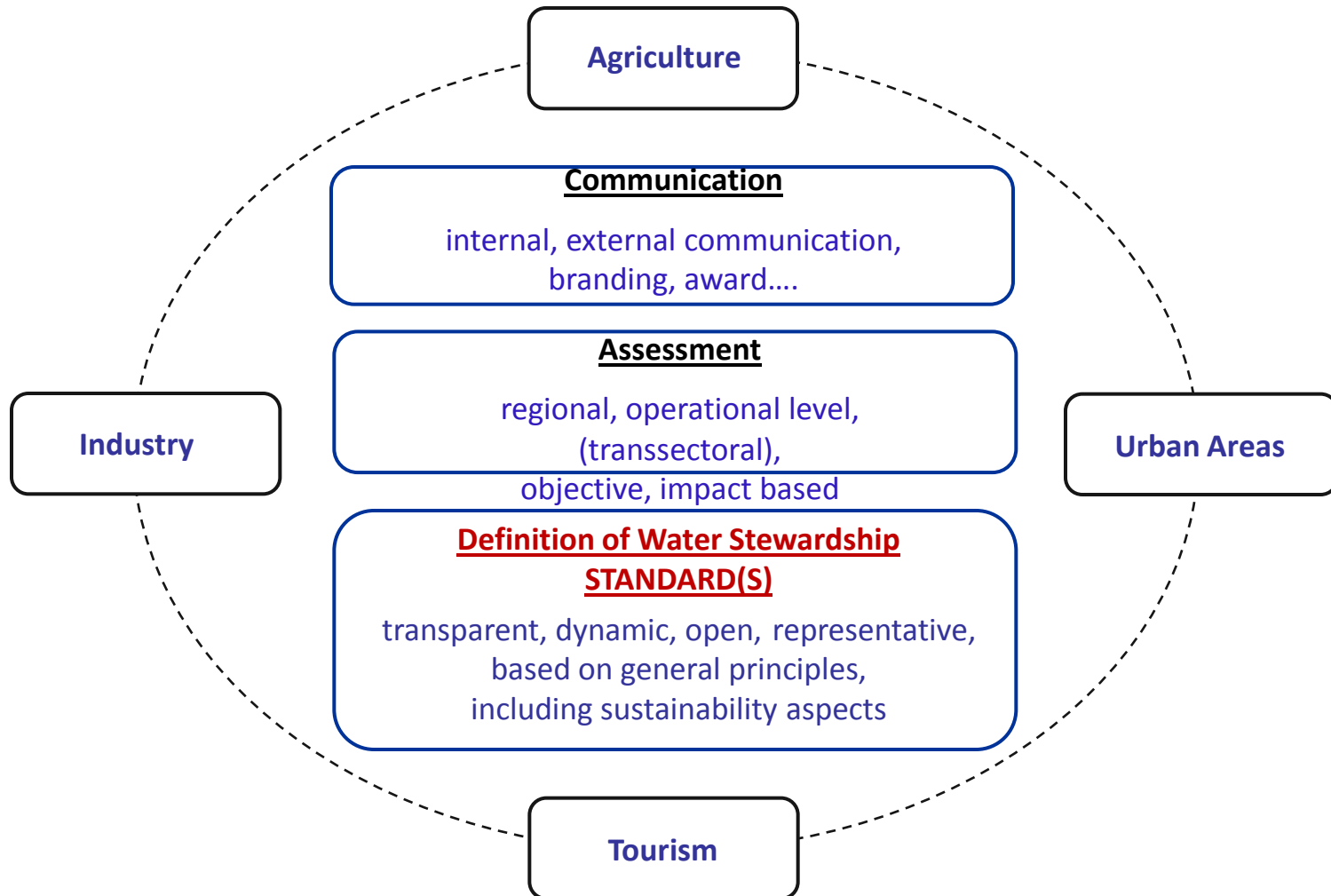
- Basic water stewardship standard requirements
- “Going beyond basic” requirements
- Recommendations

Global framework with regional and sectoral tailoring

Water Stewardship Standard(s): Structure

	Definition	Water example
<i>Impact</i>	The problem to be addressed	Water Abstraction
<i>Principle</i>	Overarching statement related to addressing the impact	Achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction in terms of water quantity
<i>Criteria</i>	The factor(s) on which to focus to address the impact	Evaluate water abstraction from all sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volume - Location - Timing - Effect
<i>Indicator</i>	What to measure in order to determine the extent of the impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> Classification of sources - > Measuring water abstraction - Effect of water abstraction on source - Water source flow regime issues

European Model for Voluntary Water Stewardship



Principle 1 and Accompanying Criteria (EWP)

Principle 1: Achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction in terms of water quantity

Criteria:

- 1.1 Evaluate water abstraction from all sources
- 1.2 Evaluate the effect of water abstraction on sources

Guidance:

Sustainable Water Management shall achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction from all sources, and maintain or restore environmental flow regime in all catchments where it has a significant influence. Therefore, the abstraction and use of water from all sources shall be evaluated by the water manager.

Model Water Stewardship Standards: State of Play

European Water Stewardship Standard

- General Principles, Criteria + Indicators
At Operational level In Pilot Testing
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Urban Areas



Australian WSI Standard

- General Principles, Management System, Requirements
At Operational level In Pilot Testing
 - Agriculture
 - Industry



Model Water Stewardship Standard(s): Comparison of Principles

	EWP	WSI
<i>Principle 1</i>	Achieve and maintain sustainable water abstraction in terms of water quantity	Environmental flow regime
<i>Principle 2</i>	Ensure the achievement and maintenance of good status in terms of chemical quality and biological elements	Water quality
<i>Principle 3</i>	Achieve equitable and transparent water governance	Equitable governance
<i>Principle 4 (under consideration)</i>	Restore and preserve water-cycle related high conservation value ecosystems.	Protection of valuable wetland, lake or riparian areas

Comparison EWP / WSA Standard(s)

	EWP	WSA
<i>Organization based on key principles?</i>	Yes, four principles	Yes, four principles
<i>Criteria and indicators?</i>	Yes	Requirements not formatted as criteria, but cover similar aspects
<i>Catchment/ River basin objectives?</i>	Yes, based on European Water Framework Directive	Yes, based on system of 'catchment sustainability' indicators
<i>Direct and Indirect water use considered?</i>	Yes, in principle	Yes
<i>Excludes participation by businesses in water-stressed catchments?</i>	No	No
<i>Quality management system (QMS) framework?</i>	No, but could be built on to a QMS framework where these are in place	Yes
<i>Target Groups</i>	Emphasis on needs of small and medium-scale water users	Explicit focus on large water users
<i>Scoring system?</i>	System of 'minor' and 'major' requirements under discussion	Scores assigned for "catchment sustainability" and "Direct Water Use"

Discussion questions

Your thoughts on the proposed overall structure for developing an international standard?

What elements from existing draft standards would be useful in your/other regions?

How should social and economic criteria/indicators be expressed through water stewardship standard(s)?

Other considerations?