

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP



AWS at World Water Week

The Alliance for Water Stewardship was strongly represented at this month's World Water Week in Stockholm, during which The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Institute and Water Stewardship Initiative were formally joined by WWF as a new Alliance partner. Together we actively engaged as many organisations as possible about the idea of freshwater stewardship standards, certification and labelling.

There was strong interest across the board of water practitioners and others represented at World WaterWeek, and growing support for more collaboration between the Alliance partners and other organisations working towards complementary goals, including the Water Footprinting Working Group and the UN CEO Water Mandate.

The Alliance is now being further extended and developed as a working framework to engage the full spectrum of interests with a stake in developing the water stewardship concept.

AWS at World Water Congress

The Alliance for Water Stewardship was also represented at this month's World Water Congress in Vienna. The Nature Conservancy shared news of the Alliance's work and progress, and articulated the Alliance's position that "environmental sustainability" be built into any definition of overall sustainability currently being developed by World Water Congress delegates. A number of World Water Congress delegates, including the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association (the World Water Congress organizer), expressed keen interest in working closely with and possibly joining the Alliance.

Water Stewardship Forum, Melbourne

The WSI will host its third Forum of mainly Australian water stewardship stakeholders in Melbourne at the start of October. This Forum will be used to review basic principles and technical options for the pilot stage of a Water Stewardship program. Alliance members will also attend the Forum along with interested parties from Kenya, China, UK and the Netherlands to provide an international perspective. Much more international interest has been generated by the WSI Forum and the AWS hopes to build on this effort to engage stakeholders in other countries.

Water Footprinting

A great deal of work has already been done by the Water Footprint Working Group to track and measure the water 'embodied' in a wide range of everyday products. The AWS recognises the potential for Water Footprinting to serve as a key component of water stewardship standard definition, and is now beginning to work with the Water Footprinting team to work out how this concept could fit into the wider stewardship model.

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