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THE WATER STEWARDSHIP APPROACH TOWARDS RESILIENT WATER USE

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Abstract

Climate change is altering patterns of weather and water all around the world and, uneven water distribution is amongst the most compromising aspects. Water-related challenges may have serious impacts on a country in terms of economic losses, livelihoods, and political stability. The need to safeguard the water resource is becoming a growing necessity for many multinational companies which often operate in vulnerable and water-stressed environments.

The water stewardship approach and the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Certification is offering a standardized solution to sustainable water management by implementing a 360-degree approach that acts both in local and territorial contexts and it is applicable to all organization and industrial sectors. AWS is the first internationally recognized Standard for sustainable and resilient water use: the certification allows companies to reduce their water footprint, through external engagement and synergic cooperation between parties. Consequently, issues are address not only inside the site’s physical boundaries but also directly on and with the catchment context through a stakeholder inclusive process. In the following article, we aim to illustrate the benefits and mitigation actions implemented by a multi-national company following the water stewardship approach and the standardized framework given by the AWS Standard. By implementing the AWS Standard, it is possible for companies to safeguard their surrounding territories and communities, formalize and optimize their commitment into water saving and increase the environmental international awareness through mitigation actions recognized and adopted by AWS.

Key words: catchment, multi-stakeholder governance, stewardship, sustainability, water security

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