

Engaging industry in good water stewardship - developing a business case

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Abstract

Water stewardship has emerged over the past decade as a tool for engaging industry in responsible water management (IWRA). It has gained momentum since the release of the Alliance for Water Stewardship International Water Stewardship Standard at a meeting of the UN Global Compact CEO Water Mandate in April 2014. The Standard seeks to achieve a sustainable water balance, good water quality, healthy ecosystems and cultural places and good water governance through a stakeholder-inclusive, collaborative approach. Leading companies such as Inghams Enterprises, Ecolab, Nestle, Olam and Diageo have embraced the standard at selected sites. As a voluntary program the tool relies on industry seeing value. This presentation will review recent case studies from Australia and China to examine public and private benefits generated through application of the standard and efforts to build a strong business case for new industries to embrace the tool. The presentation will also explore the importance of strong linkages with good science in order to continue to evolve best practice by major water users.