

Water Resilience Coalition Annual Report

The Water Resilience Coalition (WRC) is a new initiative of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) CEO Water Mandate, established with the explicit mission of significantly accelerating progress against the global water crisis in stressed geographies, powered by leading corporations with the direct and the personal involvement of their senior leadership.

WHAT IS THE WRC ABOUT?

CEOs joining forces to achieve one common goal – to accelerate progress against the global water crisis through:

- Aligned, quantifiable, and time-bound enterprise-level water commitments
- Identifying, investing in, and rapidly scaling-up innovative, validated solutions to the water-climate crisis
- Partnering to build water resilience for communities and ecosystems at scale in stressed basins



OUR VISION - GLOBAL WATER RESILIENCE

Building a water resilient world for our communities, our ecosystems, our companies, and the global economy.

OUR 2050 PLEDGE: Through collective action, we will achieve the following by 2050:



Net Positive Water Impact

Achieve a measurable and net positive impact in water-stressed basins on availability, quality, and accessibility through industry-leading water operations and basin initiatives

Reach the halfway mark by 2030



Water Resilient Value Chain

Develop, implement, and enable leading impact-based water resilience practices across 100% of global value chain



Global Leadership

Raise the global ambition of water resilience through public and corporate outreach

If just 150 of the world's corporate consumers of water take this pledge, we can positively influence one third of global freshwater use

FOUNDERS/LEADERS



MEMBERS



PARTNERS



WATER RESILIENCE COALITION



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2020 RESULTS

Net Positive Water Impact - NPWI

Working with its members and partners, the WRC adopted a working definition of the NPWI concept, along with supporting principles. The core of the concept focuses on companies' contributions toward reducing water stress (in its three dimensions: quality quantity, and accessibility) in geographies with operations, and ensuring their contributions exceed impacts on water stress in that given region.

UNGC SDG 6 Ambition

Working with the UN Global Compact, the WRC helped build the SDG Ambition Benchmark for Water: companies will be considered to be accelerating progress on SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) through their efforts to advance NPWI in water-stressed regions.

Collective Action Prioritization

Beyond NPWI, the WRC's greatest impact will be directly linked to the on-the-ground collective action initiatives WRC members and partners take to scale in high-stressed basins. In determining priority regions of shared interest, WRC members considered three main factors: 1) where water challenges are most pronounced, 2) where member clusters existed (considering operations, suppliers, clients, and/or sourcing regions), and 3) where high-caliber partners and projects were present.

To identify the most suitable projects, the WRC will consider priority shared water challenges, using the Contextual Water Targets Framework, which also informs thresholds and goal setting.

Basin selection

Using the prioritization process, the WRC decided to focus on five countries in 2021: Brazil, India, Mexico, South Africa, and the United States. In these countries the WRC aims to advance collective action projects in eight basins: Piracicaba, Capivari, and Jundiai (PCJ – São Paulo) in Brazil; Cauvery (including Bangalore) and the Ganges (Udaipur + Rajasthan) in India; Rio Lerma (Santiago + Guadalajara) in Mexico; Integrated Vaal System (Johannesburg) and Berg-Breede (Cape Town + Western Cape) in South Africa; California (San Francisco + Los Angeles, including source water basins) and Mississippi in the USA. In addition to these eight basins, the WRC will also support member companies'

catalyzing projects in Krishna (Pune + Maharashtra - India), Rio Verde (Moctezuma + Mexico City) and Rio Grande/Bravo (Monterrey) in Mexico.

Tools

The WRC defined the Water Action Hub (WAH) as the tool to support the basin prioritization process. To accomplish this, the WAH team is incorporating several improvements, including adding contextual information to the platform, new basin boundaries and the opportunity for WRC members to private locations of operations and areas of potential strategic interest.

The WRC is also developing new self-assessment tools to be integrated into the Hub. With the addition of these new tools the 2021 version of the platform, Water Action Hub 4.0, will host at least three modules: 1) a water stewardship maturity self-assessment tool; 2) a solution toolbox offering solutions, cases, tools, frameworks, and guidelines based on the self-assessment; and 3) the collective action hub (i.e., all current Hub functionality as of today).

3-year Strategic Plan

During our inaugural year of 2020 we laid baseline concepts and a structure for the WRC for years to come, whereas 2021-2023 will be oriented towards action, tracking, and scale. The strategic plan is structured to support the implementation of collective actions, initially eight in 2021, then expanding year by year. It also aims to develop a tracking mechanism to chart member companies' progress towards NPWI and a resilience value chain. Another pillar of the plan is to increase the water importance in the global agenda.

COVID-19 Campaign

The WRC partnered with WaterAid to deliver a campaign focused on the importance of water and handwashing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The campaign consisted of a series of social media activations supported by the UN Global Compact Network and was also amplified through the member companies' networks. In addition to the social media activation, advocacy materials for use by companies and suppliers were developed, as well as a COVID-19 risk assessment tool.

To learn more about the WRC and its membership, contact:
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2020 RESULTS OUTREACH & EVENTS

The WRC website has had 58,800 total pageviews since the March launch. Eleven organizations, beyond the members, including smaller businesses and NGOs, signed the WRC Pledge and are now committed to resilience and a positive impact on water.

During 2020 the WRC hosted sessions and interventions at several important events, such as the UNGC Leader's Summit, the United Nations General Assembly, the UNFCCC's Race to Zero and in celebration of important dates such as the World Water Day and the World Toilet Day.

WHAT'S TO COME IN 2021?



RAISE THE AMBITION OF CORPORATE COMMITMENTS

NPWI

- Bring the NPWI Concept and Principles into Practice
- Catalogue Coalition Members' NPWI Plans
- Develop Guidance on How to Operationalize NPWI
- Establish NPWI Progress Tracking Mechanism

VALUE CHAIN

- Elucidate the Resilient Value Chain Concept
- Develop a Tracking Mechanism for the Value Chain Commitment



CATALYZE COLLECTIVE ACTION IN WATER- STRESSED BASINS

COLLECTIVE ACTION

- 2021 Basins Partners and Projects Definition
- 2021 Basins Diagnostic and Shared Targets
- 2021 Basin Action Plans
- 2021 Basins Project Implementation Report
- Basin Prioritization Process for 2022
- 2022 List of Basins Supported by the Secretariat
- Collective Action Capacity Building Program



AMPLIFY GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

COMMS + ADVOCACY

- Launch of the WRC 3-Year Communications Strategy
- Launch of the WRC Long-Term Goals
- New WRC Campaign Plan
- WRC & WaterAid COVID-19 Campaign
- Calendar of Major Events and Advocacy Opportunities
- Approve the CEO Circle Action Plan
- 1st CEO Circle Meeting

"It is absolutely urgent that companies get involved in preserving the world's water resources for future generations"
Ecolab Chairman and CEO Douglas M. Baker, Jr.

"It is time for shared goals and impactful actions."
ABInBev CEO Carlos Brito

"We need to combine our resources and efforts to ensure there are sustainable and resilient freshwater resources for all."
Dow Inc. CEO Jim Fitterling



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