

G4-EN9

WATER SOURCES SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY WITHDRAWAL OF WATER

- a. Report the total number of water sources significantly affected by withdrawal by type:
 - Size of water source
 - Whether or not the source is designated as a protected area (nationally or internationally)
 - Biodiversity value (such as species diversity and endemism, total number of protected species)
 - Value or importance of water source to local communities and indigenous peoples
- b. Report standards, methodologies, and assumptions used.

GUIDANCE**Relevance**

Withdrawals from a water system can affect the environment by lowering the water table, reducing the volume of water available for use, or otherwise altering the ability of an ecosystem to perform its functions. Such changes have wider impacts on the quality of life in the area, including economic and social consequences.

This Indicator measures the scale of impacts associated with the organization's water use. In terms of relations with other users of the same water sources, this Indicator also enables an assessment of specific areas of risk or improvement, as well as the stability of the organization's own water sources.

Compilation

Identify water sources significantly affected by water withdrawal by the organization. Significant withdrawals meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Withdrawals that account for an average of 5% or more of the annual average volume of a given water body
- Withdrawals from water bodies that are recognized by professionals to be particularly sensitive due to their relative size, function, or status as a rare, threatened, or endangered system or to their support of a particular endangered species of plant or animal

- Any withdrawal from a wetland listed in the Ramsar Convention⁷⁸ or any other nationally or internationally proclaimed conservation area regardless of the rate of withdrawal
- The water source has been identified as having high biodiversity value (such as species diversity and endemism, total number of protected species)
- The water source has been identified as having a high value or importance to local communities and indigenous peoples

If the water is provided by a public or private water supplier, the original water body or source is identified and reported.

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information for the characteristics of a water source or protected area can be obtained from local or national water-related ministries or government departments, or research such as environmental impact assessments.

References

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>, accessed on 1 May 2013.