WAF AWARD
SHARE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

For the Humanitarian Air, Water and Food Award – WAF Award, http://wafaward.org

From: 01 January 2014 To: 31 December 2015

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

January 6, 2015

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that The Humanitarian Water, Air, and Food Award – WAF Award reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Tina Lindgreen

President and Founder

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Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found here.*

The Humanitarian Water, Air & Food Award (http://wafaward.org/) promotes global best practice in water, air and food security initiatives. As illustrated below, its vision and mission are in line with the UN Global Compact and its activities do generally promote the principles UN Global Compact strive to implement.

As a major and essential part of its activities, WAFA holds on an annual basis, a Forum and Award Ceremony, where best practice among initiatives for food, air and water security for people in most need are promoted such as:

In 2014:

On June 18, 2014, The Humanitarian Water and Food Award held its WAF Award event in London, United Kingdom (more info.) to award and thus promote global best practice as regards water and food security initiatives.

The best practice shortlisted were:

- Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM), Reversing Desertification (Africa, Zimbabwe) addressing the challenge of overgrazing that has caused desertification of grasslands ecosystems. As a solution, ACHM's approach is to mimic the behaviour of wild savannah herbivores. Livestock is penned briefly in a compound. The herd breaks up hard soil, allowing air and water to penetrate. It also tramples down old grass while fertilizing the soil with dung and urine. After a time, the herd is relocated to another compound. On the herd's departure, the compound regenerates "naturally" .For more information, see: www.achmonline.org
  ➔ This best practice was selected as the 2014 Award winner.

- MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Community Managed Bioindustrial Watersheds (India), addressing the challenge of the five regions in India that suffered food shortages because of soil erosion and degradation. Lowered production, crop diversity and employment led to emigration.

As a solution, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation mobilized 5,000 locals: water users, paddy and pulse farmers, and women's self-help networks. The groups shared knowledge and skills to develop a holistic farming system. For more information, see: www.mssrf.org

- Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Restoration, Living Lands (South Africa) addressing the challenge of the flow diversion and drainage in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve led to degraded water retention in the 1980's, a lowered water table and increased stream bank erosion. As a solution, Living Lands brought together 27 major landowners, three subsistence communities, and relevant experts. People worked together to identify the problem, share knowledge, create a holistic and collective understanding of the area as a living landscape and introduce restoration activities. For more information, see: www.livinglands.co.za

- From Malnutrition to Healthy Eating, Growing Power (USA), addressing the challenge of the "Food deserts" that are growing in developed economies where young people have little knowledge of or access to healthy, fresh food. As a solution, Growing Power has developed unused or abandoned urban lots into innovative food centres. The centres include greenhouses, apiaries, fish farming, and small livestock rearing. Composting regenerates the soil, and solar power generates energy. Local cooperatives provide baskets and fruit stands to distribute food within the neighbourhood. The centres also offer training and employment for local youth. For more information, see: www.growingpower.org

- e-Gardening, SEANET education (Kenya), addressing the challenge of limited food and clean water caused hunger and sickness among schoolchildren. The problem impacted school attendance, creating an atmosphere of despair. As a solution, with just 20 laptops, students engaged in elearning programmes on water harvesting, micro livestock raising, cottage food industries, group dynamics, and leadership skills. Among other initiatives, 21 water tanks were built to hold 168,000 litres and 15 micro livestock houses were erected. An 11,600 square foot area became a greenhouse and demonstration plot to promote community self-sufficiency. See: www.seanetkenya.org

- Incredible Edible, Todmorden, (UK), shows that kindness grows as people connect through food. Food is shared fairly, and general vandalism is decreasing. Hundreds of townspeople who began by helping themselves are well on the way to self-sufficiency. Local food sales are up 46%. Two social enterprises have started: Incredible Food Hub raises fish, fruit and vegetables at a school; Incredible Edible Growing Ltd. provides horticulture training. This wave has spread to some 33 towns across the UK.

- Rainwater Harvesting, Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) (Uganda) addressing the challenge of women being particularly affected by drought in rain-fed agriculture areas. The need to fetch water from distant, often contaminated sources reduces productive time and

compromises their health. As a solution, KWDT trained women in building water tanks, harvesting rainwater and growing kitchen gardens. By 2012, they had constructed rainwater-harvesting tanks in 204 households, with more under way.

- ZABU (Uganda) addressing the challenge of the increase of droughts in East Africa because of climate change. Adopting sustainable farming practices requires community solidarity; however, youth prefer white-collar occupations. ZABU proposes a solution to apply sustainable agricultural practices, so local farmer uses the output of one sector to help another, thereby creating a virtuous self-sustaining agricultural cycle. The manure from dairy cattle, pigs and poultry enabled biogas production, which in turn provided energy for cooking and lightening. It also returned to the fields for mulching.

- Single Mothers' Agriculture Project, The Christian Development Organisation, Guyana addressing the challenge of Block 22, Wismar Linden, a squatter community of card and plastic shelters on condemned land. Many single mothers were forced to do odd jobs or sex work. Their malnourished children were frequently absent from school. As a solution, the Christian Development Organisation carried out a needs assessment with community women. Together they planted plantains and bananas, using simple techniques of quick replication.

- Un Tech mi para país (UTPMP), San José barrio, Santiago, Chile addressing the challenge of slum dwellers' water supply that is more expensive and more contaminated. They spend heavily on boiling water, and their children miss schooling due to sickness. As a solution, UTPMP introduced the Plasma Water Sanitation System (PWSS), developed by the Advanced Innovation Center of Chile. The system pipes clean water from a central purification plant. This high-tech approach is energy-efficient and low maintenance, requiring no expensive filter changes, for example. Armed forces volunteers worked with residents and researchers to install the system in the San José barrio of Santiago, Chile.

In 2015:

On October 22, WAFA successfully held its Award event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. On this occasion, the WAF Youth Award was inaugurated and its first award given. Also, during this event, it was decided to include Air as a new best practice category as from 2016.

The best practice shortlisted for 2015 were:

ENPHO: Strengthening innovative Biosand Filter (BSF) local entrepreneurship model in providing safe drinking water in Nepal, (Nepal), ENPHO develops community-based sustainable

health strategies: safe water, sustainable sanitation, solid waste management, hygienic behaviour, indoor air quality, and environmental monitoring. The Nepal government has found that more than 80% of rural drinking water is severely contaminated, contributing annually to the deaths of 8,000 children under the age of five. In response, ENPHO has partnered with the Canadian Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) to develop sanitation technologies, including Bio-Sand Filters (BSF), an adaptation of the traditional slow sand filter. In 2008, ENPHO established a centre to train local entrepreneurs to manufacture BSFs, which are not capital or resource-intensive. To date, 20 entrepreneurs have manufactured and installed over 28,000 BSFs to serve a population of 112,000. Over 95% of users report satisfaction with the treated water, and 90% plan to recommend the BSF system. In response to their growing success, the manufacturers have founded BiFEAN (Bio-Sand Filter Entrepreneur Association Nepal) to develop and regulate their growing industry. For more info.
➔ This best practice was selected as one of the 3 Award winners.

- TURENSCAPE: Slow Down – Liupanshui Minghu Wetland Park (China), Turenscape has initiated Slow Down, (Liupanshui Minghu Wetland Park). Slowing hillside runoff, the project has created a water-based ecological infrastructure to retain and to remediate storm water. As a result, water becomes the active agent in regenerating a healthy ecosystem needed to transform an industrial city into a liveable human habitat. Solutions like Minghu Wetland Park are vital for China's future. China has only 7% of the world's farmland, but has to feed the 20% of the world's population. Aggravating the challenge is a growing water shortage. 75% of surface water has been polluted, and 50% of wetlands have succumbed to urban development, affecting over 400 cities throughout the country. For more info.
➔ This best practice was selected as one of the 3 Award winners.

- SOIL Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (Haití), SOIL focuses on promoting ecological sanitation (EcoSan): converting human waste into valuable compost. EcoSan meets the dual challenge of providing sanitation to people without access to toilets and producing a constant supply of rich, organic compost agriculture and reforestation. Over 1,000 persons from 96 countries have downloaded the SOIL "Guide to EcoSan." For more than a third of the world still lacks access to a toilet; more than half has its waste dumped without treatment.For more info.
➔ This best practice was selected as one of the 3 Award winners.

- Bafut Permaculture Ecovillage (Cameroon), Better World Cameroon has trained unemployed local youth to construct Ndanifor Permaculture Ecovillage. The site demonstrates ecosystem enhancement: climate-smart agriculture, water catchment protection, land restoration, and income stabilization.

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- Better Globe Forestry, (Kenya), BGF empowers small farming communities in sustainable agriculture. It is the only forestry company in Kenya, and perhaps in Africa, that undertakes massive forestation of dry lands.

- Global Women's Water Initiative, (United States), GWWI's multi-year training transforms community women into water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) providers. They access resources to find sustainable solutions that also address related community issues of health, peace, education and income.

- LifeStraw® Follow the Liters (Kenya), Lifestraw® provides access to safe water for students in four counties of western Kenya. This ongoing, sustainable program is funded by retail sales of LifeStraw products in developed markets.

- Momentum Trust, (Kenya), a social business in western Kenya, Momentum Trust works with small farmers to ensure food security and income stability. Momentum provides seeds and fertilizers, as well as agricultural, business and financial training to groups of 10-20 farmers.

- The Plantagon Vertical Greenhouse for Urban Agriculture (Sweden), Plantagon has developed a vertical space-efficient greenhouse for the urban environment. The simple concept provides fresh vegetables daily for local consumers.

- SCOPE: Provision of clean drinking water through Bio Sand Filters (BSF) in Tharparkar (Pakistan), SCOPE staff trained with CAWST in Canada to build Bio Sand Filters that provide communities with safe drinking water. SCOPE has also provided countrywide training to other NGOs and community organizations.

- Seeds of Life (France), Seeds of Life rehabilitates and distributes endangered vegetable, fruit and cereal seeds. It also trains growers in their traditional use and propagation.

- INNOAID DK: Street Food Project (India), Innoaid's Street Food Project works to support Kolkata street food vendors, key players in sustaining the urban poor.

- OACK 'Vision for Innovative Social Change: Using less water to produce more food' (Kenya), OACK's mission is to develop sustainable organic agriculture in small farming communities, particularly in Kenya's Eastern Aberdare Agro Ecosystem. One of their initiatives prevents tree tomatoes drying from drought, disease, pests and infestations.

In Kuala Lumpur, the WAF Youth Award was given for the first time and the best practice shortlisted were:

- "WYEBANK WATER WARRIORS" - SCHOOL: WYEBANK SECONDARY SCHOOL (Durban, South Africa), whose objectives have been to establish school leakage controls, saving thousands of litres every month, to launch the "Bring a Bottle" campaign, reducing tap wastage by an estimated 720 l. monthly, to removed water-intensive invasive plants from the school grounds, to launch an eye-catching neighborhood poster campaign to save water and to donate 15 bags of clothes to the *Zimbambeleni Old Age Home* and *Katsi Youth In Action*
  ➔ This best practice was awarded.

- "CEIP REMEDIOS" - SCHOOL: CEIP NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS REMEDIOS, (Ambroz, Spain), whose objectives have been to create a blog to publicize sustainability commitments by students, to launch a campaign to recycle used oil instead of throwing it down the drain and to design sustainability posters and leaflets for public buildings, in cooperation with local authorities.

- DAÇKAŞIF - SCHOOL: DARÜŞŞAFAKA ORTAOKULU, (Istanbul, Turkey), whose objectives have been to carry out an neighbourhood poster campaign and canvass, informing residents of water issues and asking them to commit to reducing consumption and to invite elementary students from a nearby disadvantaged area to bring old clothes to a "Water Festival." After the students learned about water issues, they got to "up-cycle" the clothes with new designs.

- "BAU BAU" - SCHOOL: ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO LEONARDO DA VINCI PISTOIA, (Pistoia, Italy) whose objective has been to reduce community water consumption by thousands of litres by writing and delivering a letter to the Mayor of Pistoia about Water Explorer during their holidays; producing the "Bau Bau Manifesto: 10 Water-saving Tips" and organizing three travelling water festivals in their region.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

Since 2014, WAFA has been well developing and has increased its positioning and visibility at an international level. Indicators to measure the outcomes of the work of the association cannot be simply listed but the increase of its activities definitely show a growing interest and need for WAFA to continue.

As recent development, we should highlight that WAFA has now an Asia chapter, based in Malaysia since the holding of the 2015 Award event in Kuala Lumpur. This clearly illustrates the need and interest to promote and encourage sustainable practice in the fields of water, air and food security in this part of the world.

Another major outcome of WAFA work to promote best practice is the creation of the WAF Youth Award, which was inaugurated in Malaysia as described above. Including the young generation into the work of WAFA surely does expand and multiplies the potential of the association's actions. By engaging the younger generation, this also gives prospect for a more sustainable future for WAFA and consequently also for the UN Global Compact.

Lastly, the mission of WAFA became more global when it added Air as a new category in 2015 and this change will be effective as from 2016. This addition clearly answers today's need to improve air quality, notably when thinking of the situation in Indonesia, Malaysia, Beijing, New Delhi and several other major cities.

WAFA is now looking at increasing its visibility and action in China as the next WAFA 2016 Award Event is foreseen in Beijing, in conjunction with internationally renowned The Beijing Forum 4-6 November at Peking University.

Other indicators of the outcomes of the activities of the Association is the active participation of WAFA at several international events such as in 2015:

- China: WAFA was represented at The Beijing Forum 2015 in November 2015 at the invitation of Dr. Yu Kongjian, founder of Turenscape, a WAFA 2015 winner.
- China: At the invitation of Professor Virginia Li, co-funder of School Sanitation in Rural Yunnan, WAFA will visit their work, which is likely to be nominated for WAF Award 2016

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- Vietnam: WAFA has been invited to give a presentation at Viet Water 2016, an international conference in Hanoi in late November 2015
- Paris: WAFA was represented at COP21 at Paris in December 2015