



International Water
Management Institute

Statement from Mark Smith, Director General

To our stakeholders:

At the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), we remain resolutely committed to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and its Ten Principles, especially after nearly two years of the unprecedented global challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. With offices in 13 countries and scientists working in more than 30 countries, our research focuses on science for a transformative agenda. With this in mind, we address three high priority water challenges: food security, resilience to climate change and water-related disasters and disruption, and poverty reduction through economic and social inclusion. We also emphasize gender equality in each of these three challenges.

IWMI, as a member of One CGIAR, supports the mission to deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. IWMI's efforts to meet the demand for innovative, scientifically-tested water management solutions and to bring about broad systemic change align directly with the UNGC's commitments to equity, empowerment, and environmental responsibility.

The following pages detail our work. As we continue our efforts to meet the challenges of a changing climate, I look forward to continuing our collaboration with the UNGC.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Smith', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Mark Smith

About IWMI and the United Nations Global Compact

IWMI works to ensure global water security through diverse projects and research, from finance for agriculture to groundwater monitoring. IWMI's mission directly relates to the UNGC's drive towards environmental responsibility. Access to water increases capacity for securing economic stability, physical wellness, and human rights. Water is, therefore, critical to achieving the Ten Principles of UNGC. Several IWMI projects, detailed on the following pages, exemplify our commitment to the Ten Principles.

MENA Regional Innovation Hub

Together with investors and partners, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Innovative Hub (RIH) works to scale mid- to late-stage enterprises with an environmental impact on the food and water sector throughout the MENA region.

Innovators, who work with consortia of local organizations, have access to financial support, technical support, and investment matching.

Work of the MENA RIH directly translates to UNGC Principles 7, 8, and 9 due to the Hub's work in promoting environmentally friendly conduct and innovation, as well as to Principle 1 through the enterprises' commitment to human rights.



Resource Recovery and Reuse



This ambitious project aims to enhance the safe utilization of municipal solid waste, excreta, and wastewater in agriculture.

Through the project, four public-private partnerships (two co-composting plants, one waste to fuel plant, and one wastewater treatment pond) are at various stages of development in Ghana under IWMI.

With its commitments to waste reduction and community health, this IWMI project considers UNGC Principles 5, 8, and 9.

SoLAR-SA

This group of projects promotes Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs) to manage water, energy, and climate linkages in South Asia. Ideally, these linkages inform the countries' nationally determined contributions to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, studies conducted under this project generate empirical evidence supporting the development of climate-resilient, gender-equitable, socially inclusive, and groundwater-sustainable solar irrigation policies and data-driven toolkits.

Between the labor dimensions in gender equity and social mobility and climate science-driven innovation, the SoLAR-SA project promotes UNGC Principles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.



Mekong Groundwater



This project consists of research underpinning the equity and inclusion dimension of groundwater use, examining household decision-making, tenancy arrangements and informal labor.

A key focus of the project is identifying groups that can be engaged and elevated with greater agency. For this reason, the project considers UNGC Principles 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9.

CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)

Uniting 11 research centers of CGIAR, WLE addresses water scarcity, land degradation, and loss of ecosystem services. It also includes a system-wide perspective on natural resource management.

WLE research is carried out under several flagship programs, from policy advocacy to building capacity in cities and towns.

As such, WLE addresses UNGC Principles 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 through its encouragement of environmental conservation and dignified labor.



Photo: Nabin Baral/IWMI

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)



Photo: Hamish John Appleby/IWMI

This multifaceted research program envisions the future of food production with respect to anticipated climate change.

The program leverages data to quantify greenhouse gas emissions from smallholder agricultural systems, manage risks, scale climate-smart agriculture, and create enabling policy environments.

Like WLE, this wide-reaching program concerns human rights and access to work in an environmentally conscious framework. As such, it also applies UNGC Principles 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9.

Internally, IWMI is committed to creating a comprehensive sustainability strategy with the goal of reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. Current data collection efforts inform the planning process, as do reports from recent years detailing audits of energy and water usage and greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, IWMI has identified the need to reduce its consumption of electricity from the grid, particularly with respect to appliances and utilities. To this end, IWMI headquarters installed a solar thermal water heater before embarking on the development of a new sustainability strategy in 2021. Though a small step, it represents a growing movement towards powering IWMI headquarters with renewable energy; as such, plans are underway to install a rooftop solar photovoltaic power system that would potentially reduce energy consumption by 35%. Similarly, modernization of the air conditioning system at IWMI headquarters will reduce energy use and complement changing patterns of electricity consumption.

As a whole, the sustainability strategy requires data collection from across IWMI headquarters. From electricity meters to employee travel surveys, means of measuring and obtaining energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions are being collected and reviewed by the sustainability team. Ultimately, this team will produce a range of options for the management to review and activate, with science-based targets serving as a guide for the process.

Statement of Intent

Moving forward, IWMI plans to continue its commitment to sustainability and the UNGC by developing a sustainability strategy that aligns us with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C. Once we finalize a base year, we will develop targets and submit them to the Science Based Targets initiative. The sustainability plan will concern both business practices and infrastructure at headquarters, and will address monitoring practices. This will allow IWMI headquarters to reform energy consumption and use patterns in order to align our operations with not only the UNGC, but also with the priorities of our research and work, which focus on environmental action and human well-being.



IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE).

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