



BRAZILIAN  
BUSINESS COMMITMENT TO  
**Water Security**

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# Brazilian Business Commitment for Water Security

Understanding the urgent need to address the critical scenario of Brazilian water security, the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS) and its associates have jointly drafted the **Brazilian Business Commitment for Water Security** in 2018, a document designed to *consolidate the active contribution of companies to the issue of water security in Brazil*.

Fully mindful of its role and as an advocate of best practices, the business sector seeks to expand actions that adopt productive processes, given that these are important drivers to effect relevant improvements in the country's macro water landscape. There are a number of shared solutions to confront the crisis and reduce consumption of large volumes of drinking water currently being carried out. These initiatives apply techniques such as reuse, managing loss, sustainable treatments for reusing industrial and domestic effluents, accumulation reservoirs, desalination solutions, use of renewable energy sources, recovery and preservation of springs and watersheds aimed at the increase of natural infrastructures, reforestation actions, and others - all of them as a response to the impact that this crisis has had on companies, biodiversity, the economy and, above all, the society.

We are working towards making our Commitment a national benchmark for the effective contribution of companies to water security in Brazil, providing transparency and visibility to data and information on initiatives, projects and goals that have been adopted, thereby permitting greater engagement and promotion of experiences, learning and information.

Each signatory company backs the initiative and pledges to contribute to at least 2 of the 6 goals in this Commitment by 2025:

## 1. INCREASE THE INCLUSION OF THE WATER ISSUE IN BUSINESS STRATEGIES

- Look for opportunities related to water management in business (reduction of consumption, reuse, renewable energy sources and efficiency), and define strategies to implement them in direct operations and in the value chain to reduce dependence on the resource and /or increase efficiency in its use.
- Annual identification of opportunities, setting goals and action plans to address them.

## 2. MITIGATE THE RISKS OF WATER FOR THE BUSINESS

- Include an analysis of the social, environmental and financial risks of the business in the company's risk assessment procedures that are directly or indirectly related to water.
- Create a yearly mapping of the direct and indirect risks to the business and value chain related to water, and create an action plan that addresses each of them through mitigation measures, as well as adaptation to deal with climate change.

## 3. MEASURE WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE COMPANY AND ANNOUNCE IT PUBLICLY

- Measure and disclose water management data using the CDP's water questionnaire, annual sustainability reports, communication on participation in national and global water initiatives, website or other media outlets open to the public.
- Measure and publicly announce the company-related actions in official and recognized media

#### **4. ENCOURAGE SHARED PROJECTS DEALING WITH WATER**

- Present one (1) project and/or action per year, new or ongoing, individually or collectively, with one (1) project related to the protection of springs and watersheds. The project and/or action presented must be active and include reports, monitoring and outcomes with indicators showing the impact caused on water security. For companies that are developing projects in the 1st year, results will not be required for the goals, but the creation and presentation of the action plan to achieve them;
- Promote outreach programs and partnerships with academia, NGOs, the public sector, the local community and civil society in projects related to conservation, protection, reducing consumption, access to/availability of water, environmental services and reforestation, involving as many stakeholders as possible in a major network for an effective awareness of the water issue, promoting nature-based solutions as effective solutions applied to business.

#### **5. PROMOTE THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE CHAIN**

- Make a positive influence on the activities in the company's value chain and its impacts on processes that are directly and/or indirectly related to water, including awareness-raising actions, involvement in water projects, and exchange of experience on best practices in the chain.
- Submit the criteria and indicators for monitoring the company's value chain operations on an annual basis, including water consumption per production unit.

#### **6. CONTRIBUTE WITH TECHNOLOGIES, KNOWLEDGE, PROCESSES AND HUMAN RESOURCES,**

physical and material, supporting large, medium and small-sized Brazilian companies in structuring and developing better water management in their production processes, value chain and surroundings.

- Take part in at least one (1) collaborative initiative, action or project each year that promotes the exchange of technologies, knowledge, experiences and best practices between the signatory companies.

The signatory companies pledge to make the actions and projects referring to the goals chosen in the Platform / HUB of the Brazilian Business Commitment for Water Security publicly available in a transparent, clear and open way, so that the greatest number of Brazilian companies committed to water security in Brazil can become engaged, offering a lively, dynamic environment shared by companies and the society.

By declaring our commitments to sustainable water management and the country's water security, we believe that we will be making a positive contribution with solutions that tackle the water crisis. Our commitment is with the effectiveness of the accomplishment of the goals and with the union of efforts and experiences in favor of a common objective, which is the maximum use of water with the minimum waste.

The future is now under construction.

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