WWF & MONDI PARTNERSHIP: HOW IT ALL STARTED

Mondi is an international packaging and paper group that is fully integrated across its value chain – from growing of wood, manufacturing of pulp and paper through to conversion of packaging papers into corrugated packaging.

WWF is committed to working with large companies within the pulp and paper sector in support of improving forestry practices and the footprint of paper in the sector. As such, WWF has been working with Mondi since 2014 but more specifically on water stewardship at its Pulp and Paper mills since 2018.
**WHY WATER AT PULP & PAPER MILLS?**

The pulp and paper sector is one of the largest industrial sectors globally and it has an enormous influence on global forests, local ecosystems and biodiversity.

Water is a critical input into the papermaking process and is used in all major stages of the production process. This means it is important for mills to have access to large and stable supplies of freshwater. The papermaking processes also generate waste products meaning large volumes of water that need to be treated and discharged safely. These very visible impacts have meant that mills have had to actively manage their impacts on water, and this has meant that many exhibit some of the world’s leading water management practices and technologies.

**ASSESSING WATER RISK AT GLOBAL SCALE**

Businesses around the world face diverse physical, regulatory and reputational water risks.

Corporate water risk exposure can occur due to the nature of the river basin in which their sites are located (basin risks) and/or to how these sites depend and use water for their activities (operational risks). Mondi and WWF have been using the Water Risk Filter tool to assess the unique basin and operational risks that face its 12 biggest pulp and paper mills in 9 countries across the world which produced around 6.2 million tons of paper.

The WWF Water Risk Filter’s basin risk assessment tool uses a total of 32 water risk indicators derived from a diverse range of best available and annually updated data sets to ensure a comprehensive coverage of basin risk exposure. To assess Mondi’s unique operational risks, WWF developed and used a new Pulp and Paper specific questionnaire for deeper sector-specific understanding of operational risks. The insights of the WWF Water Risk Filter water risk assessment has helped Mondi validate the unique water-related risks facing each site and begin to put mitigation plans in place to address these risks.

> “The Water Risk Filter has helped us to systematically understand the unique water-related risks facing each of our mills. The customized contextual response recommendations are also helpful to mitigate local water-related risks.”

– CHRISTIAN RAMASEDER, MONDI GROUP ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

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**WWF WATER RISK FILTER RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

**PHYSICAL RISK**
- Water scarcity
- Flooding
- Water quality
- Ecosystem service status

**REGULATORY RISK**
- Institutions & governance
- Enabling environment (law & policy)
- Management instruments
- Infrastructure & finance

**REPUTATIONAL RISK**
- Cultural importance
- Biodiversity importance
- Media scrutiny
- Conflict

**WATER SCARCITY RISK: PRESENT TO FUTURE RISKS**

WWF’s approach to water risk is rooted in the logic that water risks are multi-dimensional and will evolve over the medium to long-term.

Recognizing that there are multiple global models and approaches to assess water scarcity, the WWF Water Risk Filter integrates several well-recognized global data sets covering various dimensions of water scarcity. This diverse range of indicators ensure that a company has a comprehensive and comparative view of their unique scarcity risks. Based on Mondi’s risk assessment results, present scarcity risk could be exacerbated in the future due to projected increase in drought risks.

With water resources under increasing pressure from climate change and socio-economic factors, the WWF Water Risk Filter expanded in October 2020 to provide forward-looking scenarios of water risks, aligned with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD). Companies can now build on assessments of current water risks to explore future water risks under different scenarios over a 10- and 30-year time frame (2030 and 2050).
FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL SCALE RISK ASSESSMENT

Over 80% of Mondi’s pulp and paper operations are in Europe.

To support Mondi, and other companies, assess its basin and operational water risks using local data, Mondi is sponsoring the development of high-resolution risk data at the European level within the Water Risk Filter.

Building on comparable data available, from the EU Water Framework Directive and other data sources, WWF is working with Good Stuff International to develop and integrate Water Risk Filter high resolution data at the European level to help companies, such as Mondi, gain more detailed understanding of local basin water risks.

CONDUCTING WATER RISK ASSESSMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS HAS ENABLED MONDI’S PULP AND PAPER MILLS TO:

ESTABLISH A WATER RISK BASELINE

Establishing a baseline allows a company to understand how water risk changes over time.

ESTABLISH CONTEXTUAL ACTIONS

Contextually relevant water stewardship actions mean a company focuses on the right water issues in the right places.

IDENTIFY NEW WATER RISKS

A diverse set of indicators allows a company to ensure it understands all aspects of water risk.

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