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# GLOBAL WINE PRODUCERS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

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## VISION

The Global Wine Producers Environmental Sustainability Principles (GWPESP) provide a framework to promote a coordinated, efficient and results-driven approach for the international wine industry's environmental sustainability efforts. It offers strategies to guide those in the industry in integrating sustainability principles.

Developed by FIVS, the GWPESP initiative recognises that the wine industry is entirely dependent on natural resources, solar energy, suitable climate, clean water, healthy soils, and must successfully integrate these elements in an ecologically sound manner. The protection and the enhancement of these natural assets through sustainable practices are an imperative.

## STRATEGIES

The Global Wine Producers Environmental Sustainability Principles (GWPESP) aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Offer a unifying set of environmental sustainability principles for adoption by FIVS members.
  - Assist FIVS members in applying environmental sustainability principles through programmes considered appropriate by individual FIVS members.
  - Recognise the need for flexibility to enable FIVS members to give priority to addressing significant environmental issues in their winery/vineyard locations and to allocate resources according to those priorities.
  - Demonstrate FIVS' commitment and that of its members in fostering a sound environment and in enriching the communities in which they operate.
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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

Under the Global Wine Producers Environmental Sustainability Principles (GWPESP), the international wine industry supports the following principles:

### PARTICIPATION IN SECTOR-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES

The selection of appropriate environmental sustainability programmes is based on their ability to satisfy the triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social sustainability. Understandably, the triple bottom line threshold varies among individual enterprises, which must be flexible in establishing programmes that promote sustainability aims within individual operating environments.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

A process should be introduced to plan for and implement environmental sustainability activities, assess their effectiveness and make corrections to drive continuous improvements.

### EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Wine sector environmental sustainability programmes should incorporate "self-assessments" and other forms of evaluations of environmental performance.

### PROMOTING AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION

Integrating educational opportunities promote sustainability objectives and build awareness within the global wine sector.

### PARTNERING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Global wine producers should consider partnerships with both wine industry and natural resource management stakeholders to improve sector sustainability, including the adoption of preferential purchasing policies from suppliers able to demonstrate a similar stewardship ethic.

## PERFORMING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS

The identification of environmental sustainability activities is based on environmental risk assessments. Priority is given to significant and unique risks in individual geographical regions where wineries and vineyards are located. Environmental risk assessments cover but are not limited to the following:

- Site selection (for new vineyards/wineries)
- Variety selection (for new vineyards)
- Soil condition
- Water use efficiency
- Wastewater
- Carbon accounting
- Transportation and fossil fuels
- Biodiversity
- Solid waste
- Energy use
- Air quality
- Neighbouring land area
- Agrochemical use
- Human resource management

The global wine sector has a long-standing record of proactively implementing environmental sustainability programmes. With the heightened expectations and increased scrutiny by governmental regulators, customers and consumers, the GWPESP enhances a framework for responsible environmental stewardship programmes that have been or are being developed by FIVS members. Wine sector programmes need to be based on the GWPESP while retaining their ability to operate within countries' unique regulatory social, natural resource and biophysical conditions.

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# THE GWPESP RECOGNISES THAT ROBUST ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE INDUSTRY'S SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES

Several wine producing countries have sector-wide environmental stewardship programmes in place. These include:

- [Integrated Production of Wine](#), South Africa
- [California Sustainable Winegrowing Programme](#), USA
- [Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand](#), New Zealand
- [Entwine Australia](#), Australia
- [Sustainability Code of the Chilean Wine Industry](#), Chile

These programmes, which either cover or will eventually address both vineyard and winery operations, suggest a widespread awareness of environmental sustainability aims and a commitment to their viability. Typically, each scheme is administered by a single organisation that is able to allocate the necessary resources to ensure effective implementation.

These programmes are flexible enough to be based on clear principles that address overarching environmental sustainability objectives, while preserving the ability to achieve success within their particular operating environment.

These programmes recognise the importance of being open to change. This means they are responsive to industry, regulator and market feedback to incorporate novel practical solutions to meet shifting environmental sustainability aims.

Scrutiny is integrated by means of self-assessments, with some programmes also incorporating independent auditing.

Training and communication play important roles in each scheme and are fundamental to achieving continuous improvements in the environmental sustainability area.

To view a more detailed treatment of programmes, visit the FIVS website: [www.fivs.org](http://www.fivs.org).

## BACKGROUND

The GWPESP is a project of FIVS, a not-for-profit trade association serving all sectors of the alcohol beverage industry, including producers, distributors, importers, exporters, and national associations from around the world.

A challenge existed in aligning environmentally sustainable objectives with the needs of the global wine industry. The number and varied nature of environmental strategies throughout the world reinforced the need for recognising the special character of the wine sector's geographically diverse production regions.

FIVS formulated the GWPESP by taking into account concepts in the Consumer Goods Forum's Global Food Safety Initiative as well as in the International Organisation of Vine and Wine's (OIV) Guidelines for Sustainable Vitiviniculture.

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