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Environmental Sustainability Principles

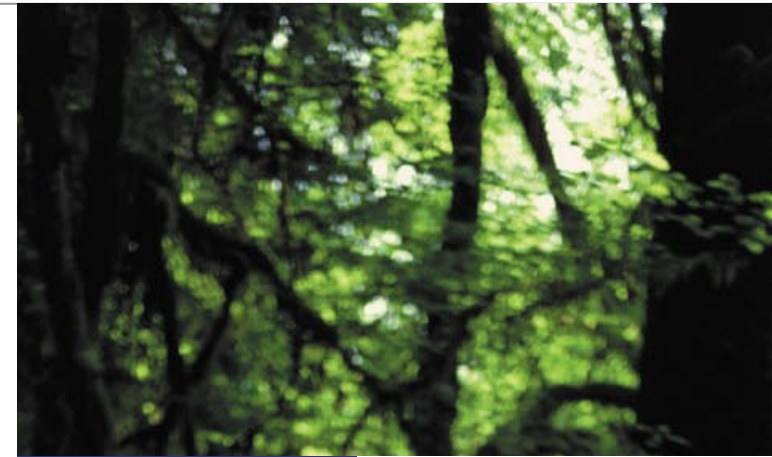
Under the GWSESP, the international wine industry supports the following principles:

- The selection of appropriate environmental sustainability programs based on the program's ability to satisfy the triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social sustainability. It is acknowledged that the triple bottom line threshold will vary between individual enterprises, and that enterprises will require flexibility in establishing programs that enhance sustainability in their individual operating environments.
- The identification of environmental sustainability activities using an environmental risk assessment. Priority should be given to risks of significance in individual geographic regions where wineries and vineyards are located.
- Environmental risk assessment should consider but not be limited to:
 - > Site selection (for new vineyards/wineries)
 - > Variety selection (for new vineyards)
 - > Soil condition
 - > Water use efficiency
 - > Wastewater
 - > Human Resource Management
 - > Biodiversity
 - > Solid waste
 - > Energy use
 - > Air quality
 - > Neighbouring land use
 - > Agrochemical use.

- A process of planning for environmental sustainability activities, implementation of the activities, assessment of their effectiveness and modification of the activity for application into the future. This process will be ongoing as a means of continuous improvement.
- Wine sector environmental sustainability programs should incorporate 'self-assessment' and other forms of evaluation to gauge environmental performance.
- The improvement of extension and education opportunities about sustainability issues and to build awareness within the global wine sector.
- The global wine sector 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.

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Contact details to go here
National Wine Centre, Botanic Road, Adelaide SA 5000
(PO Box 2414, Kent Town SA 5071)
Telephone: +61 8 8222 9255
Mobile: 0400 160 442
Facsimile: +61 8 8222 9250



Global Wine Sector
Environmental
Sustainability
Principles

Project Overview





The Global Wine Sector Environmental Sustainability Principles Project (GWSESP) is an international strategy that recognises that solid environmental credentials are essential to the industry's survival and success.

This strategy has been developed by the International Federation of Wine and Spirits (FIVS – Fédération Internationale des Vins et Spiritueux).

Central to the GWSESP initiative is recognition that the wine industry is entirely dependent on natural resources: solar energy, suitable climate, clean water, healthy soils and the successful integration of these elements with ecological processes. Therefore, protection and enhancement of these natural assets through sustainable practices are an imperative.

GWSESP also acknowledges that the global wine sector faces increasing expectations and scrutiny from government, regulators, customers and consumers about responsible environmental performance.

The international wine industry's focus on environmental sustainability is not a new development. It has a sound record over a long period of encouraging adoption of meaningful environmental sustainability programs, based on the ability of these initiatives to satisfy the triple bottom line concept of combining financial viability with the requirements of social and environmental sustainability.

The GWSESP provides a framework to build on this foundation and ensure that there is a coordinated, efficient and results-driven approach to the international wine industry's commitment to environmental sustainability.

A key consideration is the integration of wine sector environmental strategies that have been developed or are being developed by FIVS members. These programs need to be incorporated under the GWSESP while retaining their ability to operate within their countries' regulatory, social, natural resource and biophysical conditions.

A challenge exists in the alignment of environmentally sustainable objectives with the needs of the global wine industry. The number and varied nature of environmental strategies throughout the world reinforces the need for recognition of the special requirements imposed by the wine sector's geographically diverse production regions.

Development of the GWSESP has considered efforts by the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group, which administers EUREPGAP, the International Committee of Food Retail Chains (CIES – Comité International d'Enterprises à Succursales), which has established the Global Food Safety Initiative, and the Durable Production initiative of OIV-ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN.

Objectives

The GWSESP aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Develop a unifying set of environmental sustainability principles for adoption by FIVS members.
- Assist FIVS members to apply environmental sustainability principles through programs 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.
- Devise a framework of principles which can be presented to the world as a symbol of FIVS and its members commitment to the environment and the communities in which they operate.

Existing Sustainability Programs

Several wine producing countries have sector-wide environmental stewardship programs in place or under development. These include:

- Integrated Production of Wine, South Africa
- Sustainable Winegrowing Practices, California USA
- Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand
- Australian Wine Industry Stewardship

These programs, which either address or will eventually address both vineyard and winery operations, underline a widespread awareness of environmental sustainability and a commitment to its implementation. Each scheme is administered by a single organisation that is able to allocate resources to coordinate the schemes.

The programs are considered flexible enough to have clear principles that address overarching environmental sustainability objectives, while preserving the individual program's ability to achieve success within its particular operating environment.

Importantly, the programs recognise the importance of being attuned to change. This means they are responsive to industry, regulator and market feedback to ensure that they continue to provide a working solution to environmental sustainability in the context of their operating environment.

Further scrutiny is provided through self-assessment, with some also including independent auditing. Training and communication play an important role in each scheme and is fundamental to the achievement of continuous improvement in environmental sustainability.