



Eni's position on water

Water is a vital resource for our planet and for humankind.

The conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, human health, food security, urban and rural settlements, energy production, industrial development and economic growth are all dependent on water. Although it is an abundant resource, only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater and less than 1% is available for human consumption¹. Moreover, its availability is not uniform across the world.

Currently, **more than two billion people suffer water scarcity** and it is estimated that this could increase to more than 52% of the world's population by 2050².

This scenario complicates the path to sustainable development outlined in the UN 2030 Agenda and in particular UN **Sustainable Development Goal No. 6** "Clean water and sanitation", which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Social development can only be achieved in a balanced and sustainable way if we take into account the complex relationships between the respect for human rights such as access to water, the right to health and the availability of food, and the pursuit of economic development objectives, all of which are closely linked to the availability of water. Safeguarding a limited and more and more exploited resource is therefore central to the path of sustainable development, through specific solutions for each context.



Climate change is leading to an increase in the frequency and intensity of water crises, making water availability uncertain, impacting ecosystems, as well as human health and activities. The protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as forest conservation, are closely linked to water resources. In fact, 75% of usable freshwater depends on forests, as they retain air humidity, contribute to the formation of clouds, rain and to the recharge of groundwater³.

For the tenth consecutive year, the **World Economic Forum** has identified water crises as one of the top five global risks in terms of impact and stressed the need for action in this area⁴.

Efficient and forward-looking water management, to reduce water crises and their impact, is a key action in adapting to climate change. It contributes to environmental protection and social development and, at the same time, is indispensable for economic and industrial activities, including those in the energy sector. Water management needs energy and, vice versa, energy production needs water. Globally, the water-energy nexus is set to intensify, with water management becoming increasingly energy-intensive and energy production increasingly water-intensive. Today, around 10% of global fresh water withdrawals are associated with the energy sector⁵.

¹ Source: <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/toolkits/freshwater-availability>

² Source: UN-Water

³ Source: FAO 2019, Advancing the forest and water nexus

⁴ Source: Global Risks Report 2021

⁵ Source: IEA, WEO 2016



Eni operates in countries with varying ecological, social and geopolitical contexts and, having identified water as a strategic resource, it adopts sustainable water management during all stages of its activities. It is committed to:

- continuing to pursue the commitment to the **CEO Water Mandate**, an initiative of the United Nations Secretariat, joined by Eni in 2019
- periodically carrying out a **water risk assessment**, analysing the specific areas where its operational assets are located, to identify possible criticalities or areas for improvement. In doing so, Eni adopts an integrated and cross-cutting approach, involving specialist functions and business lines.
- **setting targets to minimise its fresh water withdrawals in water-stressed areas** by seeking improved solutions, for example, the use of low quality water for its operations, such as wastewater, that from remediation, rainwater or produced water, or by reducing consumption through efficiency activities and looking for solutions outside the company and its operational perimeter. In defining optimisation measures, priority will be given to solutions such as making use of produced water, above all to reduce potential negative impact on the environment
Defining targets in the short, medium and long term, and the related priorities to achieve them, will be based on assessing the stress conditions of the catchment areas, those sites with the greatest potential impact (top consumer sites) and the opportunities to contribute to local management activities, in synergy with the authorities and working together with local stakeholders.



Identifying and developing **innovative technologies** will be a key lever to support its objectives of safeguarding water resources. Measures will also be defined taking into account overall economic and environmental sustainability assessments, such as greenhouse gas emissions

- identifying **partnerships** for optimal water management in line with local needs and sustainable development objectives to reduce water risk, promote social development and safeguard ecosystems
- continuing to **communicate** information about its initiatives and progress towards achieving its objectives, and to sharing good practice.

Eni provides for the active involvement of stakeholders in its procedures and acts with transparency towards them to build knowledge, awareness and consensus in civil society. Eni identifies the best management options for its activities through consultation and collaboration with local communities and governments.

Furthermore, Eni believes in the importance of establishing long-term partnerships with international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientific institutes, bodies and institutions specialized in water-related topics.