



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Update/Draft standards for Treated Wastewater Reuse and Blended Water Use and conduct stakeholder consultations to ensure broad support and compliance.

Activity Code: C1_N-PS-2

July 2025

COMPONENT I (Water, Biodiversity and Environment)	
SCOPE OF ACTIVITY	National (Palestine)
WES-BCA TOPIC:	Topic 5: Climate Change mitigation and adaptation actions, including Water Scarcity and Biodiversity protection as priorities
WES-BCA SUBTOPIC	Sub-Topic 5.1: Promoting the use of Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR) (in combination with renewable energies):

Version	Document Title	Author	Review and Clearance
v.0	Draft standards for Treated Wastewater Reuse and Blended Water Use	Suzan TAHA	Prof. Michael SCOULLOS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BMPs	Best Management Practices
BPA	Bisphenol A
CB	Capacity Building
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EC	European Commission
EDCs	Endocrine-Disrupting Compounds
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EPoC	Emerging Pollutants of Concern
EQA	Environment Quality Authority
EU	European Union
H2020 CB/MEP	Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme
LDK	LDK Consultants S.A. (implementing partner)
LOE	Level of Effort
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
NCWR	Non-Conventional Water Resources
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NKE	Non-Key Expert
OC	Outcome Component
PFAS	Per- and poly Fluoroalkyl Substances,
PSI	Palestinian Standards Institute
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
RAED	Regional Arab Network for Environment and Development
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management
SWIM-H2020 SM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 – Support Mechanism
SWIM SM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism
TA	Technical Assistance
TL	Team Leader
ToR	Terms of Reference
TWW	Treated Wastewater
TWWR	Treated Wastewater Reuse

UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
WEFE	Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (Nexus)
WES	Water and Environment Support
WES-BCA	Water and Environment Support – Biodiversity and Climate Action
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

1 BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

The "Water and Environment Support - Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) in the ENI Neighbourhood South Region" project is a regional project funded by the European Union. Implemented in eight Countries in North Africa and the Middle East, WES-BCA aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the Partner Countries and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.

The project will build on the experience and achievements of its predecessor projects (WES, SWIM-H2020 SM, SWIM SM, Horizon 2020 CB/MEP) and provide continuity, further integrating new elements and institutional, scientific and technical developments. The "integration" concept will be coupled with regional exchanges of good practices and lessons learned (regional activities) and the adapted, more focused, continuation of the WES work at the national level (country-specific activities).

1.2 GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

Palestine is among the most water-scarce regions in the world, facing chronic deficits that constrain agricultural production, limit economic development, and pose risks to public health and environmental sustainability. In response, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), as the national entity responsible for the regulation and management of water resources, has prioritized the strategic expansion of non-conventional water resources, especially Treated Wastewater (TWW), as a cornerstone of its long-term water security strategy.

The reuse of treated wastewater is already integrated into national water and agricultural planning frameworks. Nineteen medium- and large-scale wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are operational, with several others—such as North East Ramallah, Ein Jariut, and Tulkarem WWTPs—in design or under construction (Nablus East and Hebron WWTP). These facilities are increasingly designed with integrated reuse components. However, the existing technical standards and guidelines, particularly those governing TWW reuse in agriculture (last updated in 2012), and the Palestinian Treated Wastewater Specification, (PS) 742-2015 and all related technical instructions require comprehensive revision to reflect advances in treatment technologies, new reuse applications (e.g., irrigation, recreation, industry, landscaping,...), and evolving international best practices.

Additionally, there is a pressing need to develop pioneering standards for blended water—the mixture of treated wastewater with stormwater, runoff, or spring water. This practice is gaining importance in the West Bank, especially in areas like the proposed Jesr Al-Malaqy Dam catchment, where blending is being considered to optimize water quality for multiple uses. However, the absence of national technical standards for blended water presents regulatory, operational, and public health risks.

This activity is therefore designed to respond to two core national needs: (1) the revision and updating of technical standards and specifications and related instructions for TWW reuse across multiple sectors (agriculture, industry, landscape irrigation); and (2) the development of new standards for

blended water, including blending ratios, monitoring regimes, and institutional responsibilities. The activity supports the implementation of Palestine's updated Water Policy and Strategy (2022–2042) and the Agricultural Sector Strategy (2025–2027), and contributes directly to enhancing water reuse governance, improving safety and performance, and increasing stakeholder ownership and compliance.

This activity is aligned with Topic 5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, with a focus on Water Scarcity and Biodiversity Protection. Specifically, it contributes to Sub-Topic 5.1: Promoting the Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR). It is also strongly connected to Topic 3: Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Topic 4: Water Efficiency, reflecting the cross-sectoral nature of treated wastewater reuse (TWWr) and blended water applications.

In addition, the activity supports the following horizontal linkages:

- Promotion of Circular and Green Economy
- Improvement of Environmental Governance
- Legal and Regulatory Framework Development
- Dissemination of Information and Knowledge Sharing

These Terms of Reference (ToR) present the tasks proposed in this activity.

2 OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY

2.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVE(S)

The general objective of this activity is to support Palestine in improving the safe and sustainable use of non-conventional water resources by updating the national standard for treated wastewater reuse (TWWr) and developing a new draft standard for blended water use, in alignment with international good practices and national strategic priorities.

Specific Objectives

- Review existing national standards, draft specifications, and related technical regulations on treated wastewater reuse (TWWr) and identify key gaps, overlaps, and areas for improvement.
- Update and align the TWWr standard with international benchmarks (e.g., EU Regulation 2020/741, WHO Guidelines and neighbouring countries including, where feasible, considerations for emerging pollutants of concern (EpoC), while ensuring adaptation to local conditions, implementation capacities, and reuse applications.
- Provide recommendations for aligning related technical regulations with the updated standard and identify potential follow-up actions that could support future implementation and piloting.
- Develop a draft standard for blended water use, including quality parameters, blending ratios, usage protocols, monitoring and storage provisions, and institutional responsibilities.
- Facilitate structured consultations with the Environmental Committee under the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI) and organise a stakeholder workshop to validate the revised/developed drafts and promote institutional alignment.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the WES-BCA project is planning to use the knowledge and services of LDK Consultants SA (hereinafter referred to as the Consultant). All the subtasks assigned to the Consultants will be undertaken in consultation with the key experts of the WES-BCA project, Ms Suzan Taha, the Water Key Expert and the Project's Team Leader, Professor Michael Scoullas.

2.2 TARGET GROUP AND AREA

2.2.1 TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The main partners and beneficiaries of the project are:

Partner (Main Beneficiary)	Name of Institution: Palestinian Water Authority Contact person's First Name: Rehab Contact person's Last Name: Thaher Title and position: Strategic Planning / Director Email: rehabthaher@gmail.com, rthaher@pwa.ps Mobile: 972599702041 Focal Point Name of Institution: Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) Contact person's First Name: Rehab Contact person's Last Name: Thaher Title and position: Strategic Planning / Director Email: rthaher@pwa.ps, rehabthaher@gmail.com Mobile: 972- 599702041
Other beneficiaries	Names of institutions: Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Standards Institute, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Health, Environment Quality Authority,

2.2.2 STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The key stakeholder body for this activity is the Environmental Committee under the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI), which will lead, together with Palestinian Water Authority, the technical review and coordination of the draft standards. This committee includes representatives from:

1. Government ministries (e.g., Palestinian Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG));
2. Environmental and water service regulators (e.g., Environment Quality Authority (EQA), utilities)
3. User groups or representatives (e.g. agricultural unions, industry bodies, consumer organizations) who are impacted by or can contribute to the activity.
4. Academia and research institutions; and
5. Private sector entities and water service providers."

Additional stakeholders may be invited to the consultation workshop, including representatives of municipalities, user groups (e.g. agricultural unions, water user associations, industry bodies), other technical bodies relevant to the implementation and uptake of the standards, and local professionals and consultants (with a focus on young engineers or urban planners).

Other actors may include:

- Research and academic institutions known for their contributions to WEF-related knowledge and applied research (Water and Environment institutions in the National Universities,, Najah University, Beir Zeit University, Arij, etc.);
- Local government representatives or planning authorities involved in translating the master plan into regional or municipal programs;
- Non-governmental organizations engaged in water, climate, or environment;
- Other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) , including women's and youth organizations;
- Local professionals and consultants (with a focus on young engineers or environment engineers)

2.2.3 TARGET AREA (NATIONAL, SUBNATIONAL, LOCAL)

This is a national-level activity focused on supporting the development and update of standards and technical regulations for the safe reuse of treated wastewater and blended water in Palestine, in alignment with national strategies and under the coordination of the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI) and the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA). It may, however, be useful for other PCs and regional WES-BCA activities.

3 SCOPE OF WORK, DELIVERABLES & LEVEL OF EFFORT

3.1 TASKS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Task 1 – Review and Gap Assessment of Existing Standards and Practices

Description

The objective of this task is to review and assess existing national regulations and draft specifications related to treated wastewater (TWW) and blended water reuse, in order to identify key gaps (technical, regulatory, and operational) that will guide the formulation of updated and new standards.. To this effect the consultant will undertake the following:

1. Hold a kick-off meeting to present the overall objectives and the work plan. The meeting will be held remotely between the WES-BCA team and the national authorities, during which they will confirm the general methodology, identify/confirm the key stakeholders involved, and agree on the modalities and timeline for the various tasks
2. Conduct **Targeted Desk Review of Existing National Materials**. Analyse key regulatory texts and draft specifications provided by PWA, including - but not limited to - the following provided by Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) :

- Mandatory Technical Instructions No. 34–2012 – *Technical requirements for treated wastewater in irrigated agriculture*,
 - Technical Standard No. 742–2015 – *Treated wastewater effluent for restricted irrigation*.
 - Technical Standard No. 227–2010 – Treated Industrial Wastewater.
 - Final Draft of the Specification for Treated Wastewater Effluent for Restricted Agricultural Use (2015),
 - The Sixth Draft of the Specification for Treated Industrial Wastewater.Draft Specification for Treated Industrial Wastewater (1 April 2019),
3. Compare national standards/specifications with selected international benchmarks, notably **EU Regulation 2020/741** on minimum requirements for water reuse, **WHO Guidelines** (2006 and updates) and eventually known national ones of neighbouring countries on the safe use of wastewater and greywater in agriculture.
 4. **Identify** overlaps, inconsistencies, or outdated content, gaps in sector-specific reuse provisions (e.g., for industry or landscape), or missing or weak provisions for blended water regulation, storage, or quality monitoring.
 5. Conduct consultations with PWA and the existing Environmental Committee established under the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI),, which has the mandate and expertise for standardization across the water and sanitation domains, including wastewater treatment, on-site sanitation, and environmental performance metrics. The committee comprises representatives from Government ministries (e.g., Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government); NGOs and civil society organizations; academia and research institutions; and private sector entities and water service providers, (via PSI/PWA). To this effect, the expert will:
 - a. Prepare and share a draft technical input section of the Gap Assessment Report summarizing the main findings of the national review and benchmarking exercise (e.g., EU Regulation 2020/741, WHO Guidelines), highlighting identified gaps, inconsistencies, and areas requiring update or new development. This draft will also include key assumptions and technical questions for validation. It will be shared 2 weeks in advance of the meeting with the committee.
 - b. Present and discuss the above during an online technical session with the Environmental Committee¹ (via PSI).
 6. Based on the a/m consultation, the expert will identify and request any essential data needed to support the drafting process—such as recent WWTP water quality reports, examples of reuse or blended water initiatives and known implementation or compliance challenges.
 7. Finalise the Gap Assessment Report integrating committee feedback and providing preliminary recommendations to guide the drafting of revised and new standards under Tasks 2 and 3, including a proposed outline or structure for each.

¹ This committee replaces broader stakeholder mapping by directly engaging with the existing institutional coordination platform

Expected Results:

A short Gap Assessment Note (approximately 7–10 pages) that includes:

- A summary of the current regulatory and technical landscape for treated wastewater reuse and blended water use in Palestine;
- An assessment of existing national standards and draft specifications, identifying gaps, inconsistencies, and areas requiring update or new development;
- Key findings from the comparison with relevant international standards and neighbouring countries' standards and best practices (e.g., EU, WHO);
- A synthesis of initial feedback received from the national standardisation committee;
- Preliminary recommendations to guide the drafting of revised and new standards under Tasks 2 and 3, including a proposed outline or structure for each.

Task 2 – Drafting of Updated Standards and Proposed Revisions to the Technical Regulation for Treated Wastewater Reuse

Description:

This task aims to prepare a clear, practical, and locally suitable draft of an updated national standard for the reuse of treated wastewater (TWW), primarily in agriculture, and—where feasible—extendable to other sectors such as industry, landscaping, and recreational use.

Based on the findings and outline developed under Task 1, **prepare a first draft of the updated standard** for treated wastewater reuse, which will serve as the basis for streamlining the associated technical regulation (e.g., Technical Regulation No. 34–2012) to ensure consistency and enforceability. The draft will include updated water quality parameters, classifications of reuse (e.g. restricted or unrestricted), treatment levels, monitoring requirements, and health/environmental safety conditions, any other potential reuse purposes identified during consultations.

To ensure the long-term relevance and sustainability of the updated standard, Emerging Pollutants of Concern (EpoC) should be taken into consideration. This refers to substances such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products (e.g. antibiotics, painkillers, shampoos, sunscreens), endocrine-disrupting compounds (EDCs) (e.g. hormones, Bisphenol A (BPA)), microplastics and nanoplastics, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which may not yet be adequately addressed under existing regulations. Where feasible, the expert should refer to international best practices regarding threshold values, treatment technologies, and risk management approaches for EpoC in water reuse applications.

While drawing on international reference frameworks such as the EU Regulation 2020/741 and the WHO Guidelines, the expert will ensure that the content is adapted to local technical, institutional, and environmental realities.

Existing national drafts, such as the Draft Specification for Restricted Agricultural Use and the Draft Specification for Treated Industrial Wastewater, will also be considered to avoid duplication and build on already available work.

Efforts will be made to expand the scope beyond agriculture to include reuse in:

- a. Industrial cooling or processes,
- b. Landscape and public space irrigation,

- c. Environmental or recharge applications where applicable based on national priorities or stakeholder interest.

Based on the scope of the updated standard, the expert will identify implications for the associated technical regulation (e.g., Technical Regulation No. 34–2012) and propose revisions or adjustments to ensure alignment with the standard. This will include streamlining implementation provisions, updating monitoring protocols, and clarifying institutional responsibilities. The revisions will reflect any expanded reuse applications and may be addressed in full in a follow-up phase, as appropriate.

The draft standard and recommended adjustments will be shared with the Environmental Committee established under PSI for review and initial feedback in preparation for broader stakeholder validation in Task 4.

Expected Results:

1. A draft of the updated national standard for the reuse of treated wastewater, structured according to the format required by the PSI, and adapted to national conditions. The draft will reflect updated technical parameters and classifications, incorporate relevant elements from existing national drafts and international references, and provide a basis for review by the environmental committee under the PSI and subsequent stakeholder validation under Task 4.
2. A set of proposed revisions to the associated technical regulation (e.g., Technical Regulation No. 34–2012), identifying areas that may require adjustment to ensure consistency with the standard and its expanded scope (as applicable). These recommendations are intended to inform potential future actions, beyond the scope of the current activity, should further support be deemed necessary.

Task 3 – Development of Draft Standards for Blended Water Use

Description:

This task focuses on preparing a draft standard for the safe and effective use of blended water, defined as a mixture of treated wastewater with runoff, spring water, or other freshwater sources. The purpose is to address a growing national interest in blending practices, as exemplified in strategic infrastructure projects such as the proposed Jesr Al-Malaqy Dam in the North Eastern part of the West Bank, where blending is being actively considered as a pragmatic solution to optimize water quality for diverse applications.

The expert will build on the findings and recommendations of Task 1 and relevant international guidance (e.g., WHO, FAO, and EU technical documents) and eventual known national standards of other neighbouring countries to draft a standard that defines acceptable blending ratios and application-specific water quality thresholds for this emerging practice in Palestine. The standard will also establish safe use protocols, storage requirements, basic monitoring provisions, and clearly defined institutional responsibilities. It will cover key elements, including:

- Water quality criteria and acceptable blending ratios based on the intended use;
- Safe use protocols, including potential restrictions based on crop type, irrigation method, location, or end-user;
- Monitoring and control mechanisms, including basic sampling frequency, responsibilities, and quality assurance;
- Clearly defined institutional roles for implementation, oversight, and coordination.

The standard will be adapted to local capacities and evolving national practices (e.g., the Jesr Al-Malaqy Dam). Given the limited field experience in this area, the document will serve as a preliminary technical specification, intended for piloting and future refinement. The draft will be submitted to the Environmental Committee under PSI for review and feedback, in preparation for broader discussion in Task 4.

Expected Results:

1. A first draft standard for the safe use of blended water, covering water quality criteria including blending ratios, usage protocols, monitoring provisions, and institutional responsibilities. The draft will reflect international best practices adapted to the Palestinian context and will serve as a basis for technical review by the Environmental Committee under PSI and future piloting or refinement.

Task 4 – Stakeholder Consultation and Finalisation of Draft Standards (2days)

Description:

This task focuses on presenting and validating the revised draft standards developed under Tasks 2 and 3, following their initial technical review by the Environmental Committee under the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI). The objective is to consolidate stakeholder support and promote institutional ownership and alignment across relevant actors, ensure transparency, and prepare the drafts for submission into PSI's internal endorsement process.

Organize and facilitate dedicated stakeholder consultation session (of 2 days), to present and validate the revised draft standard for treated wastewater reuse and the draft standard for blended water.

The sessions will be organised in collaboration with PSI and PWA, and will target key institutional stakeholders, including line ministries, service providers, relevant agencies, as well as research and civil society representatives.

Subtasks related to the workshop include:

- Preparation of a **one-page information note** outlining the workshop purpose, structure workshop and agenda (to accompany the draft standards (D2.2 and D3.1));
- Preparation of the **required presentations**;
- **Distribution of revised deliverable (D2.2 and D3.1) 2 weeks in advance of the workshop** to allow ample time for stakeholder review;
- **Documentation of the event** in a workshop report (following the WES-BCA template)

Following the workshop, the expert will **finalise** draft standards, incorporating any final comments and a brief consultation summary to accompany the final submission.

Expected Results:

1. The revised draft standards for treated wastewater reuse and blended water use are validated through structured stakeholder consultation, with broad institutional support confirmed. Final versions are submitted, incorporating any final comments, along with a summary of the consultation outcomes to support further steps within PSI's endorsement process.

3.1.1 DELIVERABLES

The table below lists all the expected deliverables.

Tasks	Deliverables
Task 1 – Review and Gap Assessment of Existing Standards and Practices	D1.1: Draft technical input section of the Gap Assessment Report as per task 1.4.a submitted 2 weeks in advance of the meeting with the committee. D1.2 Gap Assessment Report integrating committee feedback and providing preliminary recommendations to guide the drafting of revised and new standards under Tasks 2 and 3, including a proposed outline or structure for each..
Task 2 – Drafting of Updated Standards and Proposed Revisions to the Technical Regulation for Treated Wastewater Reuse	D2.1 A draft updated standard for treated wastewater reuse, aligned with PSI format and national context, accompanied by a set of proposed revisions to the associated technical regulation to ensure consistency with the scope of reuse D2.2. A revised updated standard for the reuse of treated wastewater incorporating the comments of the Environmental Committee under PSI
Task 3 – Development of Draft Standards for Blended Water Use	D3.1 A first draft standard for blended water use, including key parameters for quality including blending ratios, use, monitoring, and institutional roles, incorporating the comments of the environmental committee
Task 4 – Stakeholder Consultation and Finalisation of Draft Standards (2days)	D4.1 Final version of the draft standard (in both languages English and Arabic) for treated wastewater reuse, revised based on stakeholder input, and accompanied by a short summary of the consultation process and key feedback received. D4.2. Final version of the draft standard blended water use (in both languages English and Arabic), revised based on stakeholder input, and accompanied by a short summary of the consultation process and key feedback received. D4.3 Workshop report as per WES-BCA template

The project's **Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment Non Key Expert, Dr. Emad Adly (wes.gc@raednetwork.org)** will be contacted during the design phase of the activity, to ensure that the right trainees and stakeholders are invited and can benefit from the project and that the activity's impact is properly assessed.

3.2 LEVEL OF EFFORT (LOE)

The **total** input of the Consultants for all Consortium Members is expected to be in the order of **56 expert days**; as per the following table. The expert days (On-site and at the Experts' Home Base) presented in the following table are indicative, not to exceed the total expert days.

Task	LOE required by each expert (expert-days) including travel			
	International Expert – NKE1		Local Expert - NKE2	
	Home base	On-site	Home base	On-site
Task 1 – Review and Gap Assessment of Existing Standards and Practices	14.5		2.25	5
Kick off meeting	0.5		0.5	

Task	LOE required by each expert (expert-days) including travel			
	International Expert – NKE1		Local Expert - NKE2	
	Home base	On-site	Home base	On-site
1. Desk Review of National Materials	4		1	1
2. Comparison with International Benchmarks (EU/WHO)	2		0	
3. Identification of Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Overlaps	2		0.75	
4a. Preparation of Technical Input Note	2			1
4b. Participation in Online Technical Session(s) with PSI Committee	1			1
4c. Information Request (WWTP data, reuse/blending practices, etc.)	1			1
Finalisation of gap assessment report	2			1
Task 2 – Drafting of Updated Standards for Treated Wastewater Reuse	9		1.5	2.5
Drafting the updated standard (based on Task 1 outline and inputs)	5		1	1
Integration of national drafts and international references	1		0	
Preparation of the proposed revisions to the technical regulation	1			
Coordination with PSI and final adjustments before final submission	2		0.5	1.5
Task 3: Development of Draft Standards for Blended Water Use	6		0.5	3.5
Drafting the blended water standard	4			2
Review of international references and alignment with Task 1 findings	1		0	
Coordination with PSI and adjustments before final submission	1		0.5	1.5
Task 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Finalisation	7		3.25	1.0
Prepare Information note and agenda	0.5			
Preparation of presentation materials and coordination with PSI/PWA	2		0.5	
Participation in stakeholder consultation session(s)	2		2	0.5
Finalisation of both draft standards based on feedback	1			0.5
Preparation of consultation summary note	0.5		0.25	
Prepare workshop report	1		0.5	
Subtotal	36.5		7.5	12

Task	LOE required by each expert (expert-days) including travel			
	International Expert – NKE1		Local Expert - NKE2	
	Home base	On-site	Home base	On-site
	36.5		19.5	
Grand Total	56			

3.3 LINKAGE WITH WES-BCA PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The activity will contribute to the achievement of the expected objectives and expected results of the WES-BCA project indicated below:

How does the proposed activity address the WES-BCA objectives and expected results (tick the appropriate ones)	
The relevant national regulatory frameworks in the field of pollution prevention and reduction are enhanced;	✓
Innovative approaches and successful practices in terms of pollution prevention and reduction, biodiversity protection and restoration are identified and promoted;	✓
Regional, sub-regional and cross-regional collaborations on enhanced environmental and biodiversity resources' protection and management, are multiplied and strengthened;	
The relevant national regulatory frameworks in the field of efficient water management are enhanced and enforced;	✓
The efficient and sustainable use of water in urban and rural areas through capacity building are strengthened;	✓
Innovative approaches for efficient use of water are identified and promoted	✓
Other (please specify)	

Specify what areas are addressed/covered by the proposed activity (tick the appropriate ones)	
- contribution to the development of policies and reforms	✓
- strengthening of institutions	
- promotion of technical aspects	✓
- reinforcement of capacities	✓
- study and/or assessment	✓
- communication and awareness raising	✓
Other (please specify) WEF related workshops and interventions	✓

4 LOGISTICS AND TIME

4.1 LOCATION

All experts will operate from their home base. However, depending on the location of Non-Key Expert (NKE) 2, he/she may undertake on-site consultation missions in Palestine, as deemed necessary for effective coordination and stakeholder engagement.

4.2 COMMENCEMENT DATE AND TIME

The implementation will be carried out in agreement with the Contracting Authority for a period of Eleven months from the signature of the contract, tentatively between September 2025 to July 2026.

4.3 SCHEDULE

A time table for the duration of the intended activities is shown below.

	2025						2026							
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
TOR preparation and FP review														
TOR approval by EC (up to 3 weeks)														
Contracting														
Task 1 – Review and Gap Assessment of Existing Standards and Practices														
1. Desk Review of National Materials														
2. Comparison with International Benchmarks (EU/WHO)														
3. Identification of Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Overlaps														
4a. Preparation of Technical Input Note														
4b. Participation in Online Technical Session(s) with PSI Committee														
5. Information Request (WWTP data, reuse/blending practices, etc.)														
6. Finalisation of gap assessment report														
Task 2 – Drafting of Updated Standards for Treated Wastewater Reuse														
Drafting the updated standard (based on Task 1 outline and inputs)														
Integration of national drafts and international references														
Preparation of the proposed revisions to the technical regulation														
Coordination with PSI and final adjustments before final submission														
Task 3: Development of Draft Standards for Blended Water Use														
Drafting the blended water standard														
Review of international references and alignment with Task 1 findings														

	2025						2026							
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Coordination with PSI and adjustments before final submission														
	2025						2026							
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Task 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Finalisation														
Prepare Information note and agenda														
Preparation of presentation materials and coordination with PSI/PWA														
Participation in stakeholder consultation session(s)														
Finalisation of both draft standards based on feedback														
Preparation of consultation summary note														
Prepare workshop report														

5 REQUIREMENTS

5.1 PERSONNEL

Non-Key Experts (NKEs) should have the following skills:

NKE1: International Expert - Senior Wastewater Reuse and Standards Expert

- Advanced academic background (e.g. MSc or PhD) in water resources management, environmental engineering, public health, or a related field.
- Minimum 15 years of experience in water reuse, wastewater regulation, or development of environmental or agricultural water quality standards.
- Proven experience in drafting or advising on treated wastewater and/or blended water standards at national or regional level (preferably in Mediterranean or semi-arid countries).
- Familiarity with international benchmarks such as the EU Regulation 2020/741 and WHO Guidelines for wastewater reuse.
- Demonstrated ability to analyse and align technical standards with regulatory and institutional frameworks.
- Experience working with national standardisation bodies, water authorities, or ministries of health/agriculture.
- Strong skills in report drafting, technical consultation, and adaptation of international best practices to local conditions.
- Perfect command of English, both written and spoken.

NKE2: Local Expert - Water Quality and Institutional Liaison Expert

- University degree in environmental sciences, water engineering, or a related discipline.
- At least 15 years of professional experience in the Palestinian water sector, preferably in areas such as treated wastewater reuse, environmental standards, or water quality monitoring.
- Good understanding of national institutions involved in water governance and standardisation (e.g. PWA, PSI, MoA, MoH, MoLG).
- Experience supporting regulatory development, stakeholder consultations, or technical working groups at the national level.
- Strong ability to gather and review local data, interpret regulatory texts, and coordinate with institutions.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to support the international expert with contextual inputs and technical drafting.
- Proficiency in Arabic and English is required.

The CVs of the experts recruited for this activity will be submitted to the European Commission for approval.

5.2 FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY WES-BCA PROJECT TO THE CONSULTANT

WES-BCA Project, through (the Consortium Member(s) LDK shall provide, as needed, the necessary administrative assistance in support of the Consultants, to enable them to carry out the assignment.

5.3 INCIDENTAL EXPENDITURE

A preliminary estimation of the incidental expenditure to be covered by the WES-BCA project is given below, covering the following:

- Cost for the organisation of a kick off meeting (online)
- Allowances for local travel of NKE2's missions outside her/his place of posting;
- Costs related to the organization of the final consultation Workshop (2 days) referred to under Task 4 (conference room, catering (coffee break and lunch), interpretation (EN-AR-EN), audio-visual equipment and online connection platform) for 40 people (indicative).
- Translation of relevant standards and regulations from Arabic to English
- Translation of documents from English to Arabic as needed

Indicatively, the budget allocated to the specific activity is estimated in the order of **€ 18.500**.

N.B. The costs related to communication actions (Annex 1) are already included in the project Communication Strategy document.

5.4 POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY TO THE ACTIVITY

The partner also undertakes to:

1. Providing relevant regulations, draft specifications, and data in a timely manner.
2. Facilitating access to the Environmental Committee under the Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI) for review of the draft standards.
3. Assisting the experts in identifying and contacting relevant institutions and stakeholders (e.g., PWA, MoA, MoH, EQA, municipalities) if further needed.
4. Facilitating expert engagement and meetings as needed during the drafting and review process.
5. Organising the stakeholder consultation session(s) (invitations).
6. Identifying potential follow-up actions to support the national adoption and implementation of the draft standards.
7. Facilitate the implementation of the communication plan proposed by the key communication expert from WES-BCA.
8. Provision of support for workshops (video projector, screen, flipchart; if applicable and if available).

6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 OUTLINES OF THE EXPECTED REPORTS

The deliverables shall be submitted in English (upon agreement with the Focal Point and according to the format provided by the WES-BCA project) in electronic form to the TL and the Water Key Expert. The deliverables will have the following main sections (content to be further defined in consultation with the Key Water Expert):

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

- 1. Background
- 2. Introduction
- 3. Methodology
- 4. Chapter 1
- 5. Chapter 2
- 6. Chapter 3
- 7. Chapter 4
- 8. Recommendations
- 9. Annexes

Any of the activity's final deliverables requiring translation must be specified in these Terms of Reference. If not indicated, translation will be subject to EC approval. Without EC approval, the document shall not be translated. Additionally, any document requiring translation must be submitted at least two weeks before the submission deadline.

6.2 OUTLINE OF THE WORKSHOP REPORT

The workshop report shall be submitted in English (according to the format provided by the WES-BCA project) in electronic form. Its outline will be the following:

- 1. General introduction
 - 1.1 Background of Activity
- 2. Objectives of Activity
- 3. Expected Results of Activity
- 4. Profile of the Participants
- 5. Evaluation of the Event
- 6. Analysis of the Results of the workshop
- 7. Conclusions & Overall Assessment
- 8. Annexes
 - 8.1 Agenda
 - 8.2 List of Participants

7 MONITORING OF PROGRESS

The activity/assignment will be managed by the TL and Water Key Expert who will have the overall coordination and management of the assignment. In order to ensure timely completion of the activity, **the Consultants will be reporting regularly on the work progress to the TL and Key Water Expert.**

7.1 PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS AND IMPACT

The proposed indicators for assessing progress and impact of activities are:

Task	Proposed indicators for monitoring progress
Task 1: Review and Gap Assessment of Existing Standards and Practices	✓ Desk review and benchmarking is completed. ✓ Draft technical input of the Gap Assessment Report is submitted for discussion with the committee. ✓ Gap Assessment Report, incorporating feedback and outlining the structure for Tasks 2 and 3 is submitted and approved.
Task 2: Drafting of Updated Standards and Proposed Revisions to the Technical Regulation for Treated Wastewater Reuse	✓ Draft of the updated standard completed and structured according to PSI format. ✓ Proposed revisions to the associated technical regulation prepared and aligned with the scope of the updated standard. ✓ The full draft package (standard + regulatory adjustment note) submitted to the PSI Environmental Committee for review is approved.
Task 3 – Development of Draft Standards for Blended Water Use	✓ Complete draft standard for the blended water standard prepared, incorporating Task 1 findings and international references is submitted to PSI Environmental Committee for internal review and is approved
Task 4: – Stakeholder Consultation and Finalisation of Draft Standards (2days)	✓ The Stakeholder Consultation workshop is carried out successfully ✓ The workshop report is submitted and approved ✓ Final version of the standards and consultation summary is submitted and approved

Proposed indicators for monitoring impact

- **OC2-1:** Successfully initiated or completed stakeholders' actions influencing / contributing to national policies and laws in the field of **sustainable use of water, WEFE Nexus or Climate Change Adaptation**
- **OC2-2:** Number of case studies/best practices updated/ adapted/ introduced/ disseminated on **the reduction the sustainable use of water, WEFE Nexus or Climate Change Adaptation)**
- **OC2-3:** Number of technical material disseminated (background documents, assessments, , guides, etc.) on the reduction the sustainable use of water, WEFE Nexus or Climate Change Adaptation

Proposed indicators for monitoring impact



- **OC2-5:** Participants strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statement that they have obtained new knowledge and skills as a result of CB and/or TA of WES-BCA related to **reduction the sustainable use of water, WEFE Nexus or Climate Change Adaptation.**

8 VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The guidelines to be followed are the “**Communicating and Raising EU Visibility Guidance for external actions, (July 2022)**”, as described [here](#).

9 COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION (COMPONENT I)

The communication, sharing and dissemination of information will be carried out in accordance with the Communication Strategy proposed by the WES-BCA project and approved by the EC. The communication actions will also take into account any particular requests raised by the Partner Country.

9.1 SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE

The specific communication objective is to raise awareness and promote institutional alignment around the updated national standard for treated wastewater reuse and the newly proposed standard for blended water use, with reference to their relevance for the safe and sustainable use of non-conventional water resources across existing and planned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Palestine.

Emphasis will be given to the stakeholders’ workshop, to be organised by the end of the activity, which will be disseminated to all communication audiences as stated below.

The workshop’s results, on the validation of the updated national standard for treated wastewater reuse (TWWR) and the newly proposed standard for blended water use, will be presented across all news items.

9.2 TARGET GROUPS

The main communication target groups are actually the activity’s participants and other key stakeholders in Palestine who are involved in WEFE Nexus implementation. In detail:

- Government Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG));
- **Palestinian Water Authority;**
- **Government agencies;**
- Palestinian Standards Institute
- Environment Quality Authority;

- Academia; water and environment research institutes, researchers
- Private sector entities and water service providers;
- Media.
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); including women's and youth organisations**

9.3 COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

In order to reach out to the various target groups, the following communication tools will be used:

- **Press Releases**

A number of press releases will be prepared describing the activity's progress to the media. These releases will be distributed to journalists of newspapers and news platforms to multiply our messages and inform readers in Palestine.

- **Social Media**

Social media is an important communication channel of the WES-BCA project. Via its social media pages (Facebook, LinkedIn, X), posts will be published on the development and achievements of this activity to disseminate information.

All the above informational material will be available via the WES-BCA website.