



Gina Tricot Water Strategy

Water is critical for life on the planet we all live in. Access to clean water and sanitation is a human right, despite this the world's poorest are still suffering from contaminated water and lack of basic sanitation. Water is fundamental to all socio-economic development as well as healthy ecosystems. It is needed to produce food, energy and other basic goods and services. With world's demand for water increasing, many basins now find themselves in a situation where water withdrawals are far beyond sustainable limits. The water crisis is exacerbated by pollution and the degradation of important freshwater habitats.

Water is also crucial to our business. Water impacts occur at all stages of the value chain. Suppliers are dependent on water to grow fibers, dye and wash garments, impacting on water availability. Toxic chemicals, particularly used in processing, result in severe damage to water basins, soil and biodiversity. Water impacts also occur at the consumer stage through laundering of garments which requires water, energy and releases micro-fibres and other harmful substances into the environment.

Most of the water consumption in a garment's life-cycle takes place in the production of raw materials such as cotton which makes up 87% of total water impact from Swedish clothing consumption, followed by wet treatment which makes up 3%.¹

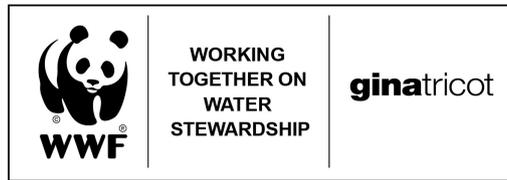
While the water challenge is truly global, it also demands solutions that are tailored to local conditions as water availability, use and quality of water vary from place to place.

For example, water consumption across different types of fiber varies considerably (even across fibers of the same type) and is directly linked to factors such as type of fiber and how and where fibers are produced.

The water impact from textile manufacturing will depend on what techniques and practices are applied for water use and treatment.

Due to these differences, responses and targets will need to be designed based on a contextual approach. Implementing contextual relevant water stewardship actions that respond to the local water-related challenges and are appropriate for sites based on the current level of water stewardship sophistication and capacity at each site to steward scarce internal resources will be a main focus for us the next-coming years. Our priority is to reduce our water footprint from fiber production and wet processing as this is where we have our biggest impact, as well as educating consumers on better garment care and washing practices.

¹ [G.Sandin-Environmental-assessment-of-Swedish-clothing-consumption.MistraFutureFashionReport-2019.05.pdf](#)



What have we done so far?

We have started our journey in transitioning away from a management approach towards a stewardship approach, together with WWF.

We are committed to work in line with water stewardship and will set targets in relation to the five steps within the stewardship framework.

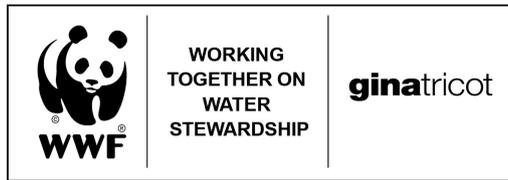


So far, we have collected data on wet processing units water use through the WWF's Water Risk Filter, by mapping our biggest suppliers and the wet processing units they use. These suppliers are located in Turkey, China, Bangladesh and India.

Gina Tricot only sells products made with more sustainable cotton, by that we mean cotton coming from the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Organic Cotton or Recycled Cotton. Cotton grown according to these standards uses less water and chemicals compared to conventional cotton. We are constantly finding new fibers to replace cotton with, primarily this is done with hemp or regenerated fibers. The regenerated fibers have substantial lower use of water in the fiber production stage, and much of the water and chemicals used can be recycled. We nominate, and only accept regenerated fibers from producers with green ranking in Canopy's Hot Button report. We also aim to increase the amount bought of circular regenerated fibers coming from post-consumer textile waste, as well as recycled fibers in general to lower our water footprint. 2028 all products shall be made of 100% more sustainable fibers.

We are constantly working on new business models linked to sustainability and primarily circularity. We are collecting textiles in stores (for reuse, remake or recycling), increasing product quality, re-making garments of deadstock, leftover fabrics or customer claims, renting garments, as well as selling vintage garments in store. All these business models help avoid water use in the first place and we plan to expand all of them as well as include new models challenging both our own traditional way of "selling" fashion as well as customers way of consuming it. We believe that the future of fashion is circular.

Through our partnership with UNICEF we are supporting their work in Bangladesh focusing on improved access to water and sanitation. Through the programs, children and their parents or caregivers are given access to safely managed sanitation facilities with clean water and sanitation through WASH blocks, as well as receive training in hand washing, the use of safe water and clean toilets.



Water stewardship goals

1. Water awareness
 - Water stewardship trainings targeting direct operations, production and suppliers
2. Knowledge of impact
 - **Actively** choose fibers with less negative water impact
 - Complement and extend water data collection from wet processing units
3. Internal action
 - By 2021 all denims are produced in wet processing units that uses less water, chemicals and energy (cleaner production program).
 - Partner up with suitable NGO to increase implementation of WASH
 - By 2028 we will only provide products designed for a circular economy
4. Collective action
 - Engage in collective action in basins with high water risk (1-2 basins)
 - Increase customers knowledge around water use linked to washing garments
5. Influencing governance
 - Demonstrate and communicate best practice in public arenas
 - Publicly disclose water results
 - Join call for action with other brands with aim to get more companies commit to water stewardship