



Essential Criteria for WWQA and UNEP GEMS/Water-Branded Training Products

The objective of the World Water Quality Alliance Capacity Development Consortium is to **bring together the world's leading ambient water quality monitoring experts and the people around the world who need training and assistance in water quality monitoring**. We aim to develop and deliver the highest-quality training products to the widest possible audience, and only products that have gone through our rigorous process of review and co-development receive our full endorsement, signified by the WWQA and UNEP GEMS/Water logos. You can find these products under our **'Products Developed in Partnership with the WWQA CDCm'** heading on our website.

Products submitted for review to the CDCm are evaluated according to **scope, relevance, quality, and availability**. The essential criteria below articulate precisely how we define those categories and what we strive for.

Essential criteria

Scope and relevance

- **Focus:** CDCm-endorsed training products must be focused on training in ambient water quality monitoring. Research-focused products are not suitable for this purpose.
- **Capacity:** They must actively increase human capacity to monitor and assess ambient water quality.
- **Consistency:** They do not need to be comprehensive, but the scope of a given product must be clearly defined and consistent throughout.

Quality

- **Clarity:** CDCm-endorsed products must be clear and well-organized, with lessons proceeding through a logical progression and development of cumulative knowledge. Key concepts must be clearly defined, even in training products intended for more advanced learners.
- **Transparency:** Their learning objectives must be clearly stated and adhered to throughout the training programme.
- **Pedagogy:** Assignments and assessments must be relevant to the product content and its learning objectives, and must reflect the current state of the art in pedagogy.
- **Integrity:** The content must be fully cited, with robust support from peer-reviewed and industry-leading research.
- **Currency:** The knowledge and techniques taught must address current problems in ambient water monitoring and be up-to-date with the current state of the art in ambient water quality monitoring.
- **Practicality:** They must include practical application of knowledge.

Availability

- **Accessibility:** CDCm-endorsed products must be accessible to all, including learners with disabilities.
- **Sensitivity:** They must be sensitive to cultural diversity and free of political agendas outside the scope of the topic.
- **Adaptability:** They must be amenable to the possibility of translation, adaptation, and revision to meet the needs of future learners, technical developments, and changing practical contexts.

Beyond these essential criteria, there are other criteria that are **highly desired**.

Desirable criteria

- **Scalability:** It is highly desirable that CDCm-endorsed products have the potential to expand to include larger numbers of learners, broader contexts, and additional content as needs arise.
- **Sustainability:** It is highly desirable that CDCm-endorsed products can be sustained over long time scales so that learners may benefit over time scales of decades or generations.
- **Activity:** It is highly desirable that CDCm-endorsed products feature active instruction and/or support for learners.

Global opportunities

We understand that not every training product can meet these standards, and that not every learner requires these standards. That is why the CDCm also features a collection of non-endorsed products under our '**Other Global Opportunities**' heading. These are products that are relevant to ambient water quality monitoring, but that have not been fully reviewed and endorsed by the Consortium.

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