



The
Rivers
Trust



COURTAULD COMMITMENT 2025 WATER AMBITION

STEPS TO REDUCE WATER RISKS: A CHECKLIST

This document summarises steps for any business to become a good water steward and reduce exposure to water risks.

It includes a list of actions and links to further sources of guidance and support tools. It also shows a map of the Courtauld 2025 collective action project locations

Update: September 2019

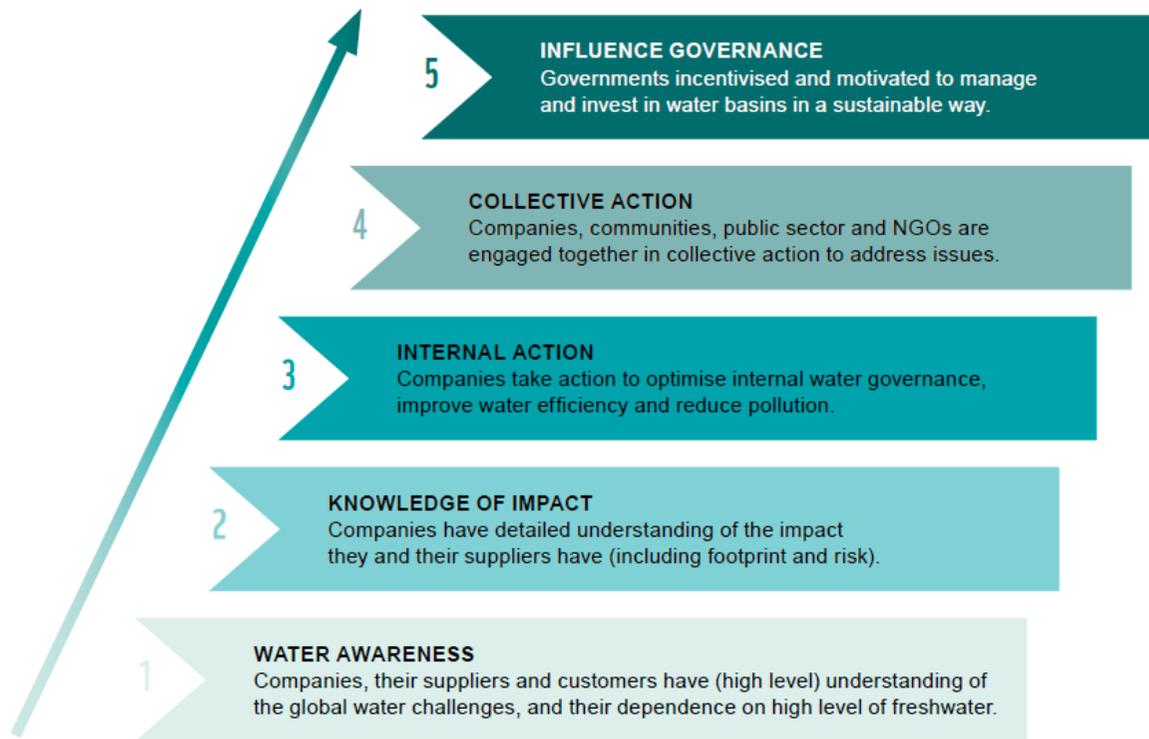


The Water Stewardship Ladder

"Good water stewards understand their own water use, the catchment context and shared risk in terms of water governance, water availability, water quality and important water-related areas; and then engage in meaningful individual and collective actions that benefit people and nature."

Alex Adam, Rivers Trust

WWF have defined a framework to guide businesses towards being a good water steward and reducing exposure to water risks.



A checklist for action

Following the WWF Water Stewardship Ladder, we are asking businesses specifically to:

	1. Water Awareness	2. Knowledge of Impact	3. Internal action	4. Collective action	5. Influence Governance
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establish a senior leadership commitment. ✓ Develop a water stewardship policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Compile a list of known sourcing locations – e.g. countries where you (or your suppliers) typically source produce from; important sourcing regions in the UK, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitor water use in your own operations and set a target to improve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Play your part to support a Courtauld 2025 collective action project if you are sourcing from one of the pilot locations overleaf. ✓ In other UK locations, support the local Catchment Partnership. ✓ In other global sourcing locations, contact AWS or SAI Platform to identify any active projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use your influence to advocate how water is governed by engaging with relevant partners (e.g. government and its agencies) and supporting good water stewardship.
LINKS TO TOOLS & RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF water stewardship for business. • Alliance for water stewardship. • BITC Smart water • CEO water mandate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the WWF Water Risk Filter to understand where the biggest risks lie across these locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterwise, FDE and WRAP web pages are great sources of information. • A detailed guide for Hospitality and Food Service businesses is available here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard • WWF-UK Risk to Resilience report • Guide to Water-Related Collective Action • SAI Platform water projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support changes suggested by WWF and the Rivers Trust – e.g. for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Droughts and unsustainable abstraction. • Sustainable use of soils and water.

Collective action project locations

These locations have been selected because they are key sourcing areas for UK food & drink.

More than 2/3 of the UK's vegetables and 1/3 of the UK's fruit are grown in these areas, and almost all food & drink businesses source produce or ingredients from here.

Figure 1: Pilot project areas - UK



Figure 2: Pilot project areas – international



"A large component of our supply base is situated in the Western Cape region of South Africa. This is a water scarce area and climate models suggest that we may experience even drier conditions in future. Our core business is the production, export and marketing of fruit. Water is a crucial resource required for sustainable fruit production and the golden thread that connects us all. Without this precious resource, the production and availability of export quality fruit would not be possible and as a result we would not have a business".

Willie Wood, Head of Technical, Worldwide Fruit

For more information on project activities and how to get involved see the [progress report](#).



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