



## COURTAULD COMMITMENT 2025 WATER AMBITION

# COLLECTIVE ACTION WATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

This document summarises the collective action projects currently underway, or in development, as part of the Courtauld Commitment 2025 water ambition.

All projects are open to new project partners.

Contact details and upcoming meeting dates are provided.

**Update: January 2019**



# Overview

No single company acting alone can address all the water risks that they face - but working collectively can leverage individual efforts to safeguard future resources. This is why we have established a series of collective action projects in key sourcing areas for UK food and drink.

There is an expectation that all Courtauld Commitment 2025 (C2025) signatory business (and many other businesses) will be supporting the collective effort in a least one location (e.g. for a key growing area for a critical raw material). There are various types of support needed – from financial support, to project steer, to supporting calls for better governance, to engaging suppliers. All of the projects are focused on local action / meeting local needs - providing opportunities for staff and community engagement.

A group of C2025 signatories, water industry experts and NGOs are governing the project development process – ensuring they meet criteria for ‘good water stewardship’, established by WWF, Rivers Trust and others. This Oversight Panel will also be monitoring project progress.

The Panel recently reviewed the projects summarised in the table overleaf – all of which are active, have strong support from food and drink businesses, water companies and local partners working on the ground. All are open to new project partners.

Initially we are focusing collective efforts on a number of locations across:

- UK (see map)
- South Africa
- Kenya

We will expand this programme of work over time, once we’ve demonstrated the best way to meaningful outcomes.

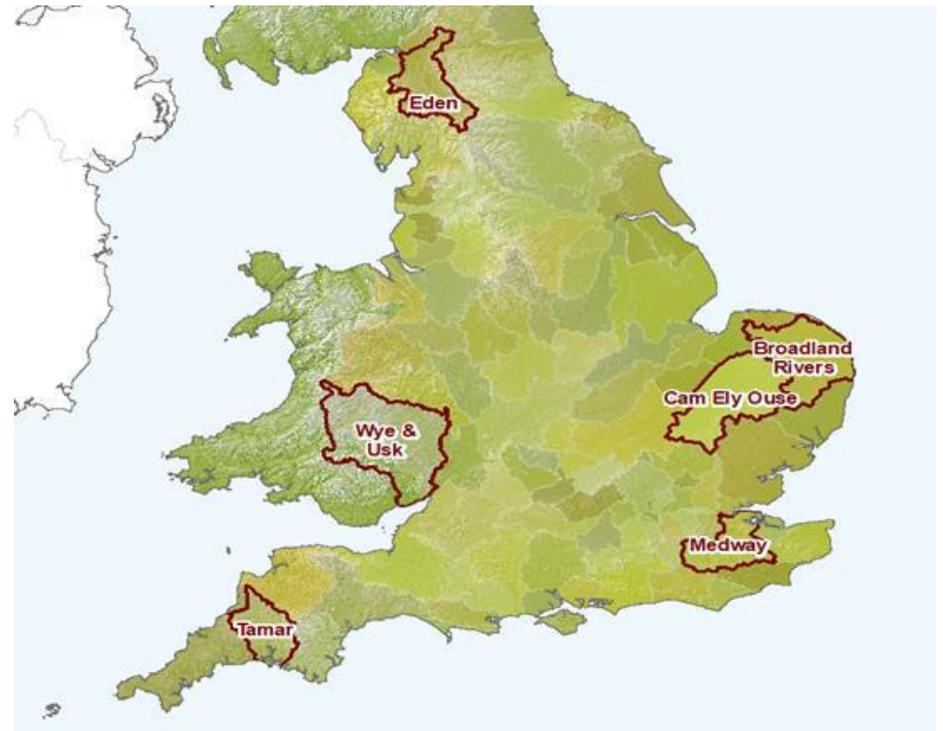
## What if I’m not sourcing from one of these project locations?

In other locations in the UK, we are encouraging businesses to support their local [Catchment Partnership](#).

Overseas, there are a number of other project opportunities underway, or emerging, in the following locations:

- Spain - For more info contact Jenny Edwards: [JEdwards@saipatform.org](mailto:JEdwards@saipatform.org)
- Morocco – For more info contact Conor Linstead: [CLinstead@wwf.org.uk](mailto:CLinstead@wwf.org.uk)
- Latin America – For more info contact Sarah Wade: [sarah@a4ws.org](mailto:sarah@a4ws.org)

## Map of UK-project locations



## Courtauld 2025 Collective Action Water Stewardship Projects - SUMMARY

Project location	Key products	Project Aims	Targeted outcomes	How to get involved
UK – East Anglia  (CamEO / Broadlands catchment)	Arable, fresh produce, livestock (particularly pigs)	This project aims to scale up the water sensitive farming work that is already supported in this region to address the farming and land use priorities in the catchment partnership plans for <a href="#">Broadlands</a> and <a href="#">CamEO</a> . There is a specific focus on; <b>(i)</b> reducing the impact of diffuse water pollution from agriculture in vulnerable and protected areas of the catchment; <b>(ii)</b> reducing the level of nutrients in water courses; and <b>(iii)</b> increasing water capture and water efficiency in this region of severe water deficit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of farm management plans and adoption of interventions</li> <li>• Reduction in sediment and nutrients in watercourses</li> <li>• Litres of water replenished back to the natural environment</li> </ul>	<p>If you are sourcing from East Anglia and would like to find out more about how to get involved / benefits for your business, please contact Alex Adam at the Rivers Trust: <a href="mailto:alex@theriverstrust.org">alex@theriverstrust.org</a></p> <p>A project initiation meeting is being held on <b>19th March 2019</b></p> <p>A full Project Plan is available on request.</p>
UK – Kent  (Medway catchment)	Polytunnel-based soft fruit	The project will develop measures that sustainably manage water around polytunnel systems to produce multiple benefits to farmers and other stakeholders in the catchment. This project will test new water retention methods then combine and demonstrate combinations of nature-based water capture and retention features, wetland water treatment, silt traps and biodiverse ponds to deliver multiple benefits. The project aims to return excess water more slowly through the soil to groundwater and provide multiple benefits such as <b>(i)</b> improved water security for soft fruit growers, <b>(ii)</b> fewer environmental impacts that result in fewer muddy floods, <b>(iii)</b> higher local levels of biodiversity and; <b>(iv)</b> locally enhanced provision of ecosystem services such as water quality and crop protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water security for soft fruit growers</li> <li>• Fewer or no muddy floods episodes emanating from polytunnel horticultural areas</li> <li>• Higher levels of biodiversity in soft fruit polytunnel areas</li> <li>• Ensure that only “good quality” water leaves polytunnel sites</li> <li>• Implement an effective demonstration programme</li> </ul>	<p>If polytunnel soft fruit is important to your business, please contact Alex Adam at the Rivers Trust: <a href="mailto:alex@theriverstrust.org">alex@theriverstrust.org</a> to find out more about how to get involved.</p> <p>A project initiation meeting is being held on <b>1st May 2019</b>.</p> <p>A full Project Plan is also available on request.</p>
UK – Herefordshire/ South Wales  (Wye and Usk catchment)	Arable, fresh produce, potatoes, livestock including poultry	This project seeks to reduce phosphate and sediment losses from agriculture which are currently impacting on the health of the River Wye SAC. It will support and enhance the existing farm advice and water protection work within the Wye and Usk catchments, providing best practice advice to farmers on soil, water and nutrient management. A business board of key agri-businesses will be established to enable a better understanding of the risks and opportunities for reducing diffuse pollution, improve the long-term sustainability and resilience of the supply chains within the catchment whilst addressing key water related risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of farm management plans and adoption of interventions</li> <li>• Reduction in sediment and nutrients in watercourses</li> <li>• Litres of water replenished back to the natural environment</li> </ul>	<p>If you are sourcing from the Wye and Usk region and would like to find out more about how to get involved / benefits for your business, please contact Alex Adam at the Rivers Trust: <a href="mailto:alex@theriverstrust.org">alex@theriverstrust.org</a></p> <p>A project initiation meeting is being held on <b>5th March 2019</b>.</p> <p>A full Project Plan is also available on request</p>

## Courtauld 2025 Collective Action Water Stewardship Projects - SUMMARY

Project location	Key products	Project Aims	Targeted outcomes	How to get involved
UK – South West (Tamar catchment)	Livestock (Beef and Lamb), Dairy, Arable	An initial step in this catchment has been to form a business board, with representatives from major food and drink companies, SW Water and the Westcountry Rivers Trust with other local interests. Through this, businesses are working to align supplier messaging / production standards - to enable consistent communications to producers in the region on priority actions for each sector. They will also work together to support best practice sharing for farm and business resilience. A full project plan with targeted outcomes for the region is being finalised.	To be confirmed - project plan in final stages of development - to be signed off end Feb 2019.	To get involved in the Tamar Water Stewardship Business Board for Cornwall and Devon, please contact Roxarne Owen at Business in the Community: <a href="mailto:Roxarne.owen@bitc.org.uk">Roxarne.owen@bitc.org.uk</a>  The next Business Board meeting will be held on: <b>April 9th 2019</b> .
UK – Cumbria (Eden catchment)	Dairy Beef Sheep	The project is developing a practical network, building on the findings from a Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) review. LENs identifies businesses with overlapping interests in a landscape, the assets they rely on (e.g. clean water, healthy soils) and identifies shared actions to protect those assets (e.g. investments, market opportunities, or agreements). Nestle has already used, and is benefiting from, the LENs approach in the Eden catchment in Cumbria. This project will support wider LENs analyses with businesses in the catchment and help implement the shared actions identified.	To be confirmed - project plan in final stages of development - to be signed off end Feb 2019.  As well as specific outcomes to reduce water impacts, a key objective will be to demonstrate the value of co-investing in landscape management to protect joint natural assets.	If you are sourcing from Cumbria, or would like to learn more about the LENs approach, please contact Amanda Skeldon at Business in the Community: <a href="mailto:Amanda.skeldon@bitc.org.uk">Amanda.skeldon@bitc.org.uk</a>
South Africa (Western Cape)	Fresh produce (grapes, citrus, stone fruit, apples, etc.) – e.g. South Africa produces 20% of the UK's imported citrus fruit	The initial focus of this project will be in the Western Cape: a high water risk sourcing area, where much of UK's fresh produce comes from. The work will build on WWF's existing work in the region, filling gaps in strategic activity and funding a local coordinator to help prioritise and deliver interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and testing a common sustainable production standard for growers (through SIZA);</li> <li>• Developing collective groundwater monitoring and management in key areas; and</li> <li>• Co-ordination of alien invasive species clearing.</li> </ul>	To be confirmed – dependent on project finalisation and priorities agreed.  A major issue in the area is water scarcity, and so project objectives will focus on reducing this risk and improving resilience for local growers and communities.	If you are sourcing from the Western Cape and would like to find out more about how to get involved / benefits for your business, please contact Conor Linstead at the WWF: <a href="mailto:CLinstead@wwf.org.uk">CLinstead@wwf.org.uk</a> .  A full Project Plan is also available on request.

## Courtauld 2025 Collective Action Water Stewardship Projects - SUMMARY

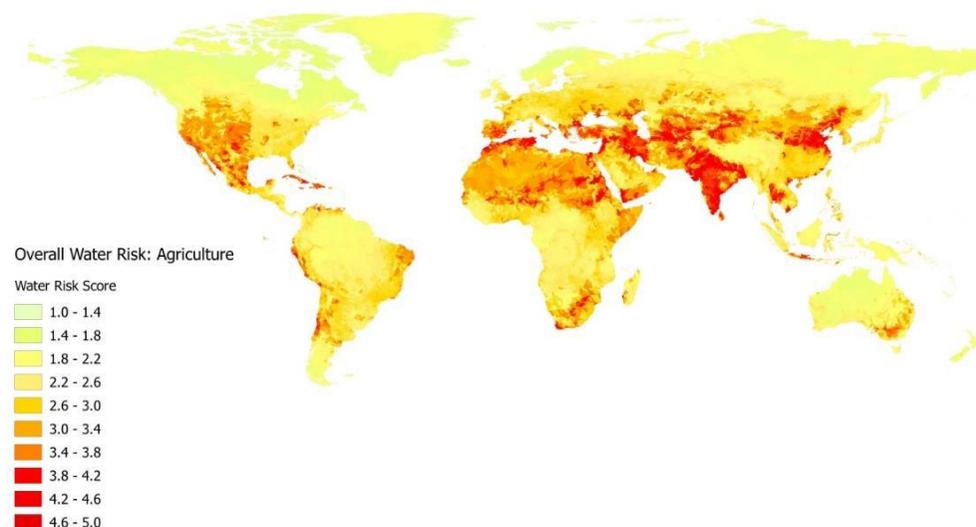
Project location	Key products	Project Aims	Targeted outcomes	How to get involved
Kenya (Lake Naivasha and Upper Ewaso Ng'iro)	Fresh produce – e.g. Kenya produces 36% of the UK's imports of green beans	<p>The focus of the this project is to strengthen collective action in two key production areas for export horticulture - in order to ensure healthy catchments and sustainable water management for all water users and ecosystems. The specific objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the implementation of best practices amongst suppliers within the target catchments.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the effectiveness of on-farm practices to reverse land degradation in priority catchment areas.</li> <li>• Strengthen local water governance and water management institutions.</li> </ul>	To be confirmed – dependent on project finalisation and priorities agreed.	<p>If you are sourcing from the regions of Kenya and would like to find out more about how to get involved / benefits for your business, please contact Conor Linstead at the WWF: <a href="mailto:CLinstead@wwf.org.uk">CLinstead@wwf.org.uk</a>.</p> <p>A full Project Plan is also available on request.</p>

### UK Freshwater Status

The UK's water catchment areas are delicate environments. Despite water quality in UK rivers having improved since the 1950s, latest figures show that 86% of river water bodies in England fail to reach *Good Ecological Status*. In 2017, WWF found that 14% of UK rivers were 'over-abstracted' – meaning that water removal causes the rivers to drop below levels required to sustain wildlife.

### Water Risks outside of the UK

With around two thirds of the UK's food water footprint located outside of the UK, businesses face water-related risks when sourcing from overseas. The map alongside shows the overall water risk score for agricultural crops globally. The [WWF Water Risk Filter](#) contains detailed global and UK risk maps.





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