

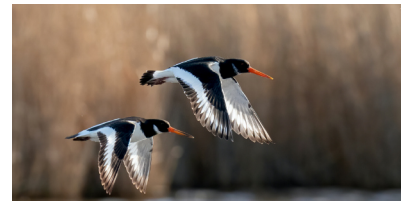
# SCOTCH WHISKY WATER STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

**Goal: The Scotch Whisky sector will implement effective water stewardship practices enabling shared benefits and security of supply.**

Water is a shared and finite resource, with high social, cultural, environmental and economic value. It is a basic human right and fundamental ecosystem requirement. In the production of whisky, it is both a key ingredient, and essential in the cooling and cleaning stages of the manufacturing process.

However, the quality and quantity of our water is becoming increasingly affected by the changing climate and it is widely recognised that a holistic approach to water management is required to achieve resource sustainability and secure future access. As a highly regulated sector, the industry's aspiration is to move beyond compliance, proactively managing our risks to protect our water sources which are critical to the industry, as well as to the wider communities, flora and fauna located within these catchments.

SWA's water stewardship framework outlines a standardised approach to water stewardship for the whisky sector, recognising that water connects an operation to the surrounding landscape and communities. Underpinning each strategic imperative is a set of supporting activities that companies can undertake. The extent to which they are required and implemented is dependent on the level of risk and opportunity at the local level. The SWA acknowledges that each member company is at a different stage of the water stewardship journey. This framework (outlined in the table below) provides a common direction, a consistent point of reference and a shared language for member companies to continue their water stewardship journey together.



Water efficiency across the Scotch Whisky industry has improved by 22% since 2012



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## Strategic Objectives:

Responsible Consumption	Engage & Collaborate	Advocacy
Management of operational water (quantity and quality) inputs, use and outputs to maximise resource sustainability, operational flexibility and economic benefit.	Engage and collaborate with stakeholders at catchment scale to identify impacts and pressures, understand priorities, share plans and work together on solutions.	As responsible water stewards, we will seek to engage and communicate with key decision makers to ensure future policy and regulation supports best practice in water governance.
<b>Actions:</b>		
We will set a target range for average water use and aim to review every 2 years	We will work with SEPA to develop site operational plans to manage impacts in 'at risk' catchments.	We will maintain active dialogue with the Regulator and Scottish Government on water resource management in Scotland.
On an annual basis, we will report on our water management practices, activities on water stewardship, and showcase best practice/leadership in industry.	In areas of high risk or high-water use, we will participate in regular multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss catchment issues and potential initiatives/projects for collective action.	We will maintain a positive and continued engagement with SEPA to advocate for better regulation, ensuring both effective and economic water resource management.
Led by the SWA, we will develop tools and resources to support members with on-site measurement and monitoring, the identification and implementation of water efficiency opportunities, and peer-to-peer learning.	We will work with stakeholders in priority water catchments to improve availability and quality and contribute to a net positive water impact	In areas of key risk, we will facilitate catchment- scale action to mitigate and adapt for future climate change risks.
We will work with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to identify at risk catchments, subject to supply and quality issues.	We will seek to engage and collaborate with research institutes and other relevant bodies to identify and test opportunities for improvements in process efficiency and treatment and reuse technologies.	
We will identify water risk hotspots within the supply chain, focussing on water-intensive raw materials.	We will engage with suppliers in water risk hotspots to identify local water stewardship opportunities	