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Regenerating local water cycles

Lessons learned from implementation

Nestlé®
Waters
& Premium
Beverages



At Nestlé Waters & Premium Beverages, we know that when water is carefully protected, life can thrive.

Water is more than a natural resource. It sustains communities, supports ecosystems, enables economic development and contributes to healthier lives every day. This belief sits at the heart of our sustainability strategy. As a “nature-based” business, our future is strongly linked to the resilience of the watersheds where we operate. This is why, for decades, we have worked to protect water resources responsibly.

“Our holistic approach, combining global expertise with deep local engagement, continues to set new standards in water stewardship leadership.”

Building on this foundation, we expanded our ambition beyond water management, to help regenerate local water cycles and strengthen water resilience in the watersheds where we operate. To deliver lasting impact requires collaboration with local stakeholders including authorities, community members, and experts. We are committed to being part of these strong collaborations, which remain fundamental to improving long-term water resilience.

Our holistic approach, combining global expertise with deep local engagement, continues to set new standards in water stewardship leadership. This ambition is already translating into tangible impact. I am proud of our achievements, including the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification across all our bottling sites.

Through our portfolio of more than 30 iconic global and local water and beverage brands, we have also a unique opportunity to elevate awareness of water stewardship, inspire positive action and help consumers better understand the vital role water plays. This visibility also brings greater responsibility, reinforcing our commitment to lead by example and amplify our positive impact.

This report shares the approach we have developed, the progress we have made, and the lessons we have learned along the way. We hope it will contribute to a broader conversation on water stewardship and inspire collective action at a time when protecting and restoring water resources has never been more important.

As nature continually evolves our work will also continue, as we seek opportunities to further strengthen water resilience, scale impactful solutions and deepen collaboration with the communities and partners who share our commitment to helping build a more resilient water future for generations to come.

Muriel Lienau
CEO, Nestlé Waters & Premium Beverages



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Overview

In 2021, Nestlé Waters & Premium Beverages (NW&PB) announced our ambition to lead the regeneration of local water cycles to help nature retain more water than we use.

With around 70 projects in place, and all our bottling sites certified, our regeneration commitment has enabled us to build on our foundation of responsible water management by expanding our efforts and collaborations in local watersheds.

To date, our focus has been on:

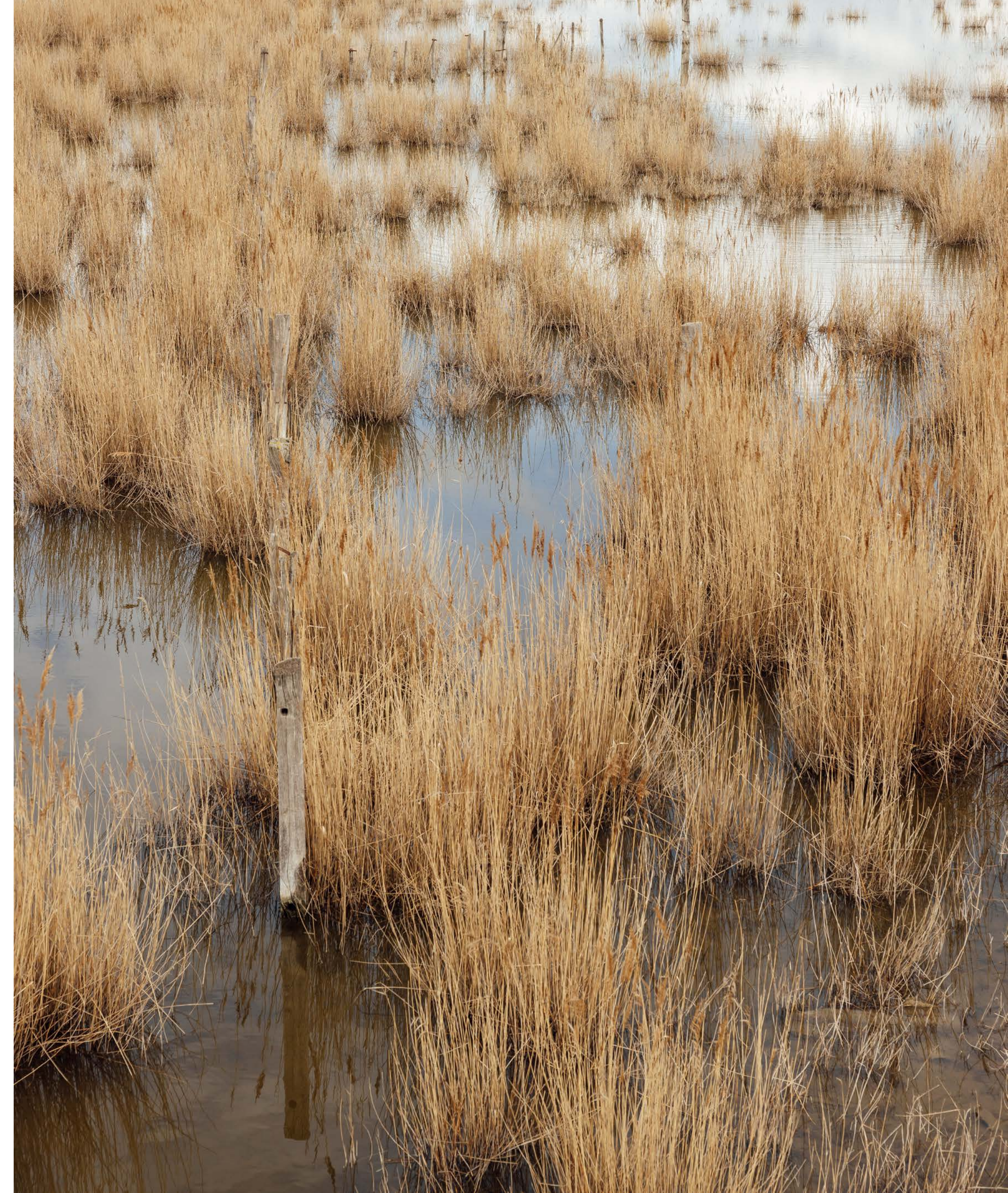
- implementing **impactful projects** that improve or restore local water cycles, and
- gaining **external validation** of our collaborative approach and water stewardship practices by certifying our bottling sites to the globally recognized Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard (AWS).

We are progressing towards our ambition, as summarised in **Page 5**.

Throughout this journey, we have taken time to understand the local context, build relationships with local stakeholders through continued engagement, and develop the robust processes required to identify and implement sustainable long-term solutions.

This document outlines our approach and our key learnings for identifying and implementing impactful projects tailored to local water contexts.

By sharing these insights, we hope to encourage and support other companies in their water stewardship efforts and collectively scale progress toward a more water-resilient future.



Snapshot of progress at the end of 2025

14 million

m³/year of water regenerated, through
nature-based and technical solutions
~70% of total annual withdrawal

~70 projects

implemented globally, each tailored
to the local water context and shared
water challenges



100 %

of sites have projects that are
delivering volumetric water benefits
(VWBs)¹ to help improve water quality,
water quantity, or biodiversity

¹ Sites that withdraw freshwater



39 sites

certified to the Alliance for Water
Stewardship (AWS) Standard
100% of sites that withdraw freshwater



Our approach

For us at NW&PB, water regeneration means implementing local practices that:

- protect or restore the physical and/or social dimensions of the local water cycle, and
- help reduce shared water challenges.

To help regenerate local water cycles, each of our NW&PB factories must engage in one or more relevant water stewardship initiatives in its local watershed. These initiatives aim to deliver a volume of water that is at least equivalent to the total volume of water withdrawn by the factory in the previous calendar year.

A range of different water stewardship activities are being implemented. As outlined in **Page 7**. These include nature-based and technical solutions that help improve water availability (quantity), quality, or ecosystem health and resilience.

However, to ensure relevance, all contributing projects must address independently defined local shared water challenges within the watershed in which the factory is situated, as assessed by an External Expert Panel. Specific examples are outlined in **Page 8**.

To maximize the impact of our efforts, we have developed a consistent, transparent and auditable process for identifying, selecting, implementing and evaluating suitable projects. As outlined in **Page 9**.

Importantly, the comprehensive process empowers local factory teams to identify and implement projects with community partners that have been through a rigorous selection process. This includes review by our External Expert Panel (of water experts, academics and NGO representatives). The review process helps us to ensure that our water stewardship activities are meaningful and credible, adequately addressing different local shared water challenges, and reflect stakeholder priorities.

For consistency, all water volumes are quantified using the World Resources Institute's Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting (VWBA) methodology; and verified by an independent consultant.

The development of this approach has been central to focusing our resources, promoting buy-in and building confidence that our efforts will deliver long-term and sustainable benefits for local water cycles.

Throughout this journey, we have taken time to understand the local context, build relationships with local stakeholders through continued engagement, and develop the robust processes required to identify and implement sustainable long-term solutions.

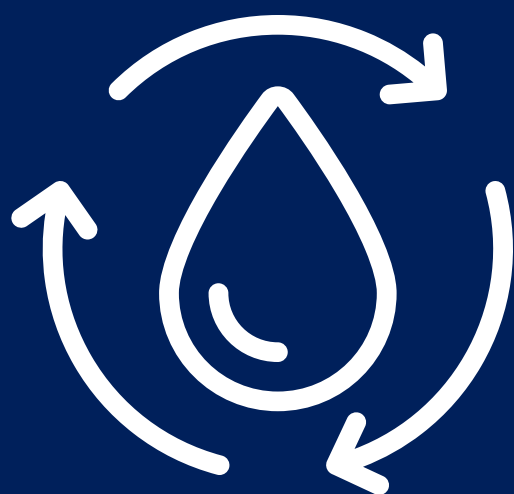
This document outlines our approach and our key learnings for identifying and implementing impactful projects tailored to local water contexts.

By sharing these insights, we hope to encourage and support others in their water stewardship efforts, long-term water resilience, and collectively scale progress toward a more water-resilient future.



Regenerating local water cycles

Examples of how we are addressing shared water challenges and creating measurable local improvements in water availability (quantity), quality or accessibility, and water-related ecosystem health.



Regenerate the water cycle

Wetland restoration

Maintain recharge to protect water availability



Waste water treatment

Improve environmental effluents to improve water quality



Drip irrigation

Reduce withdrawals to improve water availability



Ecological continuity restoration

Improve river flow to strengthen aquatic habitat



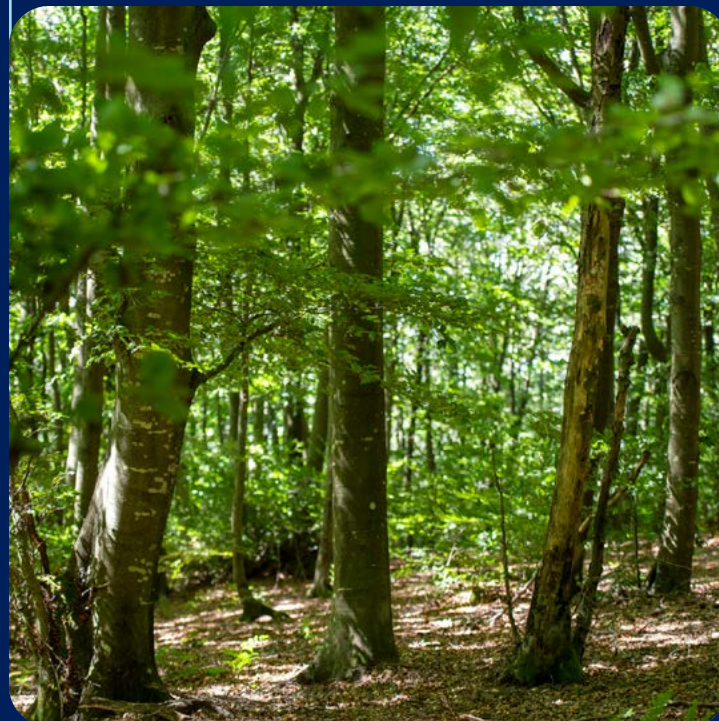
Water access

Increase access to support reliable supplies



Reforestation

Reduce runoff to improve water quality and/or reduce flooding



All Our Water Regeneration Projects Globally



Our approach to selecting and implementing impactful projects

Step 1 Select		☐ Identify relevant projects	Factory teams and regional water resources managers engage with local communities to identify potential opportunities and implementing partners within the local watershed
		☐ Calculate potential VWBs	Water resources managers calculate the potential VWBs associated with the project
		☐ Review by external panel	A panel of external experts, convened by the corporate sustainability team, review and score the relevance and creditability of each potential project and provide feedback
		☐ Review by internal teams	Central sustainability and finance teams review the technical and financial feasibility of the project and confirm sign-off by the factory manager
Step 2 Approve and Implement		☐ Approve project	The internal ESG Steering Committee and regional water resources managers formally approve the project
		☐ Implement project	Factory teams implement the project, with support from regional water resources managers, corporate sustainability teams, and implementing partners
Step 3 Evaluate and Sustain		☐ Validate VWBs delivered	An external consultant reviews the volumetric water benefits (VWBs) calculated for the project (by the regional water resources manager) to ensure that the volumes delivered are relevant, additive, attributable, quantifiable, and timely
		☐ Monitor and sustain	Factory teams undertake ongoing monitoring and support to sustain long-term benefits
Regenerating: water quantity, water quality & biodiversity Measurable on the ground outcomes			

Feedback from stakeholders

“I have observed meaningful progress in NW&PB’s program over the past five years, and it’s been positive to see a growing portfolio of projects that demonstrates an evolution toward locally relevant solutions that directly reflect the priorities of the communities where Nestlé Waters operates.”

Todd Reeve
CEO, Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF)
(External Expert Panel Member)



“It’s clear that NW&PB is committed to hitting its target of creating a positive water impact everywhere it operates. Projects have evolved to become more holistic and showcase an understanding of the complexities of water. More recent projects also address biodiversity and some factor in climate implications, which will amplify impact.”

Dawn McGregor
Business Engagement Lead, formerly CWR
(External Expert Panel Member)



“The NW&PB commitment set out an ambitious vision for the company vis-à-vis creating a positive impact on water and strengthening resilience in catchments of operation. Meaningful progress is visible, demonstrated through freshwater regeneration actions at site and catchment level, AWS Standard implementation and engaging local stakeholders.”

Maria Ana Borges
Water for Landscapes Manager,
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Our key learnings

Develop a robust process to scale impact.



Embed water commitments in business processes.

Provide a common goal and mandate for the business (e.g., in planning, finance, governance, and performance metrics).

Learn by doing.

Start with what you have, and using early projects to pilot ideas, develop processes, gain experience, and build relationships.

Build resources and capacity.

So that the right people are in the right places with the right responsibilities, resources, and support tools. This is critical for success.

Leverage external expertise.

Engaging outside experts in project selection and evaluation processes. This has been invaluable for building credibility and knowledge and for scaling success. The experts' feedback and recommendations have enabled us to mature our understanding to the point where, during the latest external review, all of the projects proposed were endorsed and recognized as being strongly relevant in the local watershed context.



Our key learnings

Engage extensively to build trust, capacity, and credibility.



Engage early and widely.

Wide and continuous engagement with external stakeholders brings the ability to understand their challenges, priorities, and values; to build relationships; and to maintain alignment throughout the process.

Focus on a common objective.

Projects that address a common objective provide a good starting point for developing meaningful collaborations with external stakeholders.

Respect different positions.

Work together with all the different water users. Recognize the views of all external stakeholders.

Cascade learnings internally.

Build internal capacity and alignment by developing platforms to share knowledge and key experiences and learnings.



Our key learnings

Address real local challenges and priorities to create a lasting positive impact.



Empower and support local teams.

Local teams can identify and implement effective projects and collaborations as they are often part of the local community and understand the local water context, challenges, and stakeholders. They are also deeply invested in delivering positive outcomes.

Tailor your support.

Recognize that different geographies present different types of implementation challenges and barriers that may require additional technical or financial support from corporate teams.

Recognize that it takes a lot of time.

to identify, select, and implement meaningful projects that address the root causes of local shared water challenges, deliver positive impacts, and have the governance structure required to sustain successful efforts over the long term. This is especially true of nature-based solutions.

Invest for the long term.

Provide ongoing monitoring and support to maintain projects over the long term and to sustain lasting benefits.



Our key learnings

Go beyond volumes to make it relevant and emphasize all project benefits.



Make it relevant.

When engaging external stakeholders (e.g., communities and farmers), focus on the positive impact of the project and its added value to the local community (e.g., to reduce flooding or improve wider water quality).

Embrace multiple benefits.

Focus on the full suite of societal benefits (e.g., employment, human health) and environmental benefits (e.g., carbon, biodiversity).

Promote water as an enabler.

Recognize the invaluable role of a water stewardship project in creating positive impacts and driving business strategies in which climate–nature–social considerations are better integrated.



What next?

Regenerating local water cycles is a long-term journey. We are proud of the approach that we have developed, the authentic collaborations that this has enabled, and the early progress that we have made. We are on track to regenerate local water cycles equivalent to 100% of our abstracted volumes in the local watersheds where we operate.

Our challenge now is to maintain this progress by continually strengthening our processes, sustaining our collective actions and partnerships, and scaling our efforts to deliver sustained benefits over the long-term.



Nestlé® Waters & Premium Beverages

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Disclaimer

Opinions or points of view expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the experts providing feedback, or the organizations they represent.

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Bluerisk