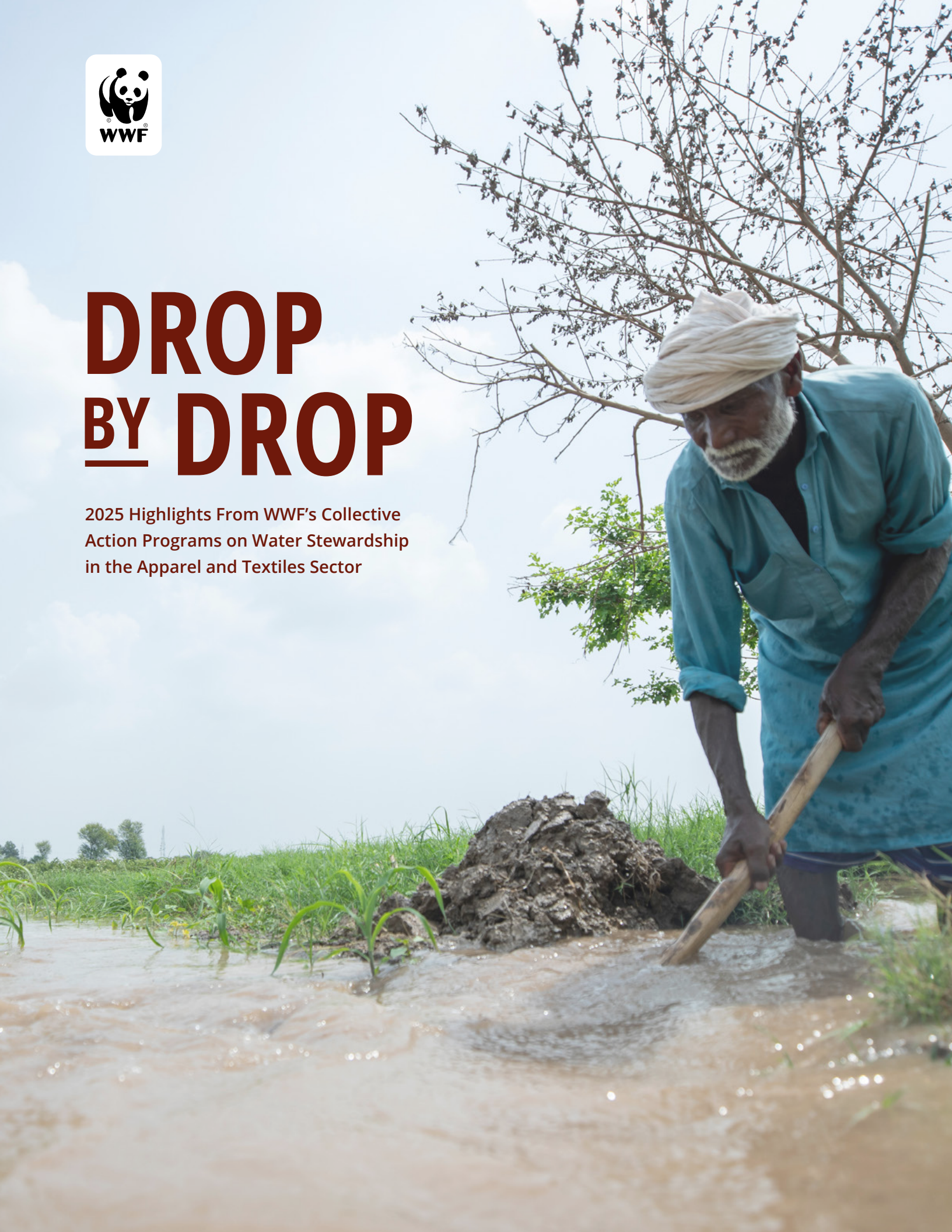




DROP BY DROP

2025 Highlights From WWF's Collective
Action Programs on Water Stewardship
in the Apparel and Textiles Sector



WWF's Collective Action Programs on Water Stewardship

are gaining momentum in ecologically significant river basins that support some of the world's most important textile clusters, including the Büyük Menderes, Indus, Mekong Delta, Noyyal-Bhavani, and Taihu basins. The overarching goal of these programs is to mitigate the adverse impacts of the textile sector and to restore freshwater habitats and biodiversity. WWF's offices in China, India, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Viet Nam are mobilizing local and global stakeholders to drive action at the basin level and secure sustainable management of freshwater resources. ►



While water has many direct use benefits, its indirect benefits remain grossly unacknowledged and undervalued. The ecosystem benefits provided by water resources, such as lakes, wetlands, rivers, and aquifers, include water purification, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of communities against droughts and floods. WWF’s report *High Cost of Cheap Water* estimated that the economic value of ecosystem services of water amounted to approximately **US\$50 trillion annually**.¹ If the water resources continue to degrade at the existing scale, it is estimated that the GDP in some of the world’s areas may fall as much as 6% by 2050.²

Global water use has increased by 25% since 2000, and we **are losing 324 billion m³ of freshwater** every year (enough to fulfill water demands of 280 million people). The increase in water use is impacting areas such as Central America, Eastern Europe, and northern India, which are already water scarce. The water losses are mainly a result of recurring droughts, as well as unsustainable practices, such as wetland degradation, overexploitation of aquifers, and deforestation.³ These losses are also having a direct impact on global supply chains. A Carbon Disclosure Project’s (CDP) report, published in 2024, indicated that approximately **US\$77 billion** is under threat due to **increasing water risks in the world’s supply chains**. The data was based on 3,163 large companies, with an annual revenue of more than EUR/US\$250 million, which was disclosed in CDP’s annual water security questionnaire.⁴

The year 2025 was the third warmest year on record, with the global average temperature around 0.59°C above the 1991–2020 average. More than 48% of the planet experienced above-average temperatures resulting in extreme heat. This resulted in accelerated glacier melt, particularly in Iceland, where the loss of glacier mass was the second largest on record. At the same time, the significant loss of ice sheet in Greenland resulted in increasing global sea levels by approximately half a millimeter.⁵

In 2025, over 200 climate-related disasters occurred globally, which included floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires, impacting more than **87 million people**, claiming over **8,000 lives**, and causing more than **US\$224 billion** in damages.⁶

Climate change continues to exacerbate water crises in the world’s most vulnerable places. Pakistan, one of the worst-hit countries by climate change globally, yet again witnessed a series of catastrophic flash and riverine floods in 2025, which claimed the lives of over 1,000 people and affected over 4 million people. In the province of Punjab alone, around 2.2 million hectares of agricultural land were submerged by floodwater.⁷ On the other hand, due to a combination of dramatically lower rates of rainfall, intense

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US\$77 billion

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disasters in 2025

heat, and climate change, Türkiye witnessed the worst drought in 50 years, which converted more than 70% of the country’s area to a drought belt.⁸ According to a **USDA FAS** report, cotton production in Türkiye was projected to decrease by 700,000 metric tons (around 14% to 16% less) due to drought conditions.

The textile supply chain across South and Southeast Asia also experienced disruptions to their supply chains due to climate-related factors. Extreme temperatures and humidity in Bangladesh resulted in high heat stress for textile workers, which not only slowed down productivity but also resulted in frequent fainting, serious illnesses, and heat strain on poorly ventilated factory floors.⁹ Meanwhile, between May and October 2025, Viet Nam experienced 11 typhoons and tropical depressions, which heavily impacted urban industrial areas, affecting worker attendance and causing operational disruptions.¹⁰

The frequent occurrence of climate-related disasters paints a gloomy picture of one of the world’s most key resources, "water." If we fail to conserve water resources, we fail to protect nature, and all that is within the planet. At this point, there is an urgent need to scale and strengthen collective action across global river basins to conserve freshwater services, restore freshwater biodiversity, and protect water resources. Every year, we are inching toward a future that is full of chaos and destruction, and the only way to avert this future is by investing in actions that build resilient river systems, economies, and societies.

¹ assets.worldwildlife.org/www-prd/documents/1o94sii9nx_WWF_High_Cost_of_Cheap_Water_FINAL_LR_.pdf

² World Bank Group, "High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy," May 3, 2016, <https://doi.org/10.1596/K8517>.

³ worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/11/04/world-annual-fresh-water-losses-could-supply-280-million-people

⁴ cdp.net/en/press-releases/water-now-a-major-risk-for-worlds-supply-chains-reports-cdp

⁵ climate.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/custom-uploads/GCH-2025/GCH2025-full-report.pdf

⁶ asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/latest-news/today-in-security/2026/january/natural-disaster-costs-2025/

⁷ ndma.gov.pk/sitrep

⁸ aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkiye-faces-one-of-worst-droughts-in-50-years-warns-expert/3824943

⁹ cri.org/reports/my-body-is-burning-extreme-heat-and-labor-rights-in-bangladesh/

¹⁰ vietnam.un.org/en/304102-viet-nam-joint-response-plan-multiple-typhoons-and-floods-2025

WWF Water Stewardship Collective Action Programs





Büyük Menderes Basin, Türkiye

BASIN IMPORTANCE

The Büyük Menderes River basin is a critical economic and ecological hub, supporting the daily needs of 2.5 million people and generating 60% of Türkiye’s home textile exports. As the country’s second-largest cotton producer, it faces severe water stress, with projections indicating a 50% decrease in water availability by the end of the century. Environmentally, it hosts three globally important wetlands and provides vital habitats for endangered species like the European eel and Dalmatian pelican.

WWF WATER STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

Basin project overview

Launched in 2018, the Water Stewardship program utilizes a landscape approach to establish a sustainable water management system through multi-stakeholder collaboration. The project’s mission is to ensure enhanced soil and water health for ecosystems and businesses while mitigating operational risks in industrial and agricultural production. It focuses on three pillars: *green transformation in textiles, regenerative agriculture in cotton, and ecosystem restoration.*

Country risk profile based on WWF’s Water Risk Filter

INDICATOR	RISK SCALE
Drought risk	2.13
Flood risk	2.6
Water quality	3.37
Flagship species	European eel: Endangered species

**WWF WATER RISK FILTER**

In the WWF Water Risk Filter tool, the basin risk scale grades local water challenges from 1 to 5. 1 is the lowest risk (very low risk) and 5 is the highest risk (very high risk). The tool standardizes different environmental, social, and governance metrics into this simple five-tier index. It evaluates natural river basins across physical, regulatory, and reputational factors.

2025 Activities

In 2025, the program achieved significant milestones by completing the fifth year of its regenerative cotton pilot, successfully scaling one area from 15.5 hectares to 850 hectares and engaging 16 farmers. To support local capacity, key farming equipment was donated to the Priene Cooperative, a key agricultural co-op located in Söke, Aydın Province, for training purposes.

WWF-Türkiye also launched **The Water and Soil Management in Cotton Production Guide and Farmers’ Toolboxes** in English and Turkish.

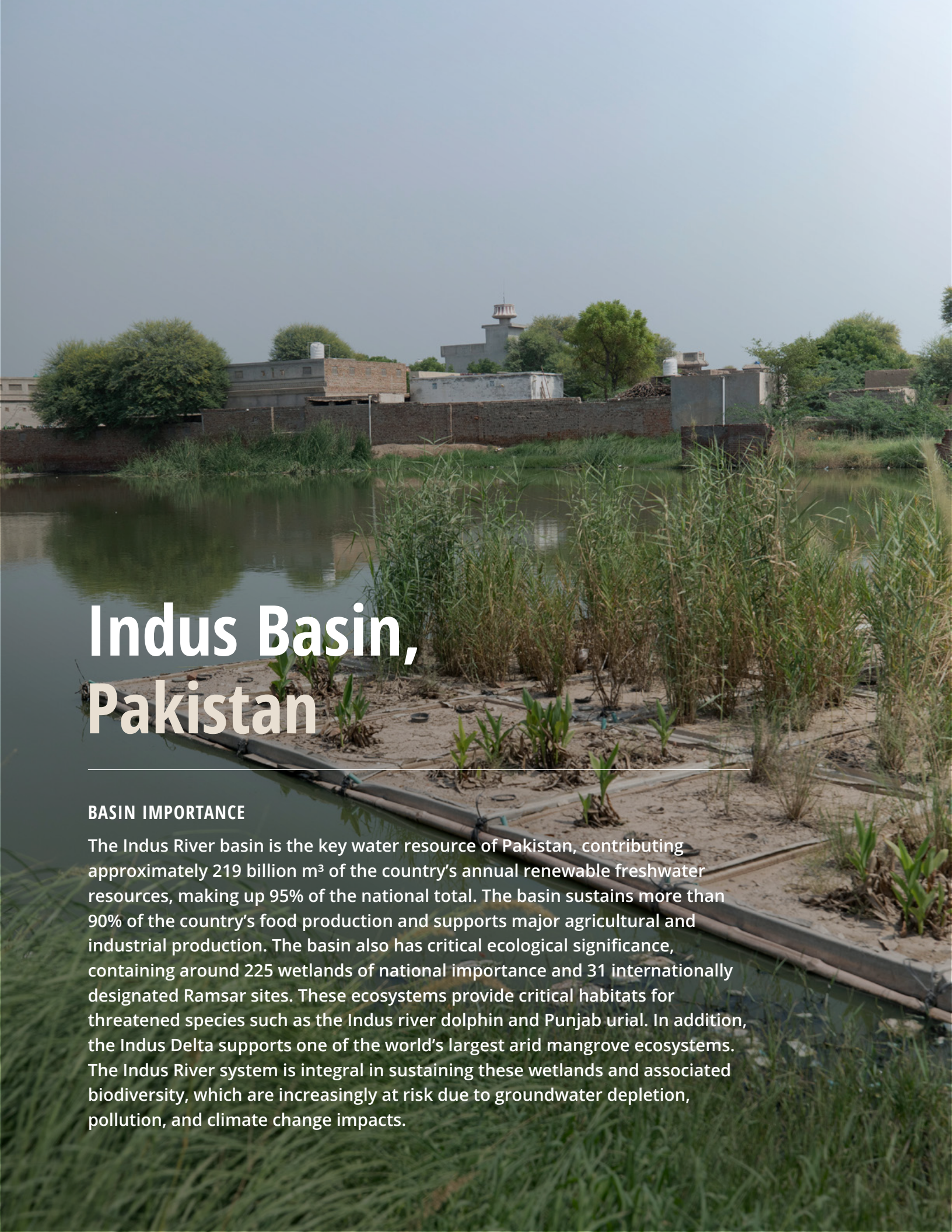
On the industrial side, WWF-Türkiye collaborated with the Denizli Chamber of Industry to design sector-specific financial instruments for cleaner production and initiated a comprehensive case study to document financing barriers and lessons learned from the basin.

Restoration efforts in the Büyük Menderes basin were advanced through a technical workshop (third in the series), which brought together 45 institutions to coordinate sub-working groups on habitat restoration, monitoring, and evaluation of the European eel migration and sustainable fisheries of the species. A second-year hydrological analysis was conducted across 39 measurement points to set a baseline for these restoration activities.

The project’s multi-stakeholder approach was also presented to over 250 professionals at the Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS), highlighting the basin’s stepwise solutions to an international audience.

Key Achievements:

- **Successful scaling of sustainable agriculture:** Expanded regenerative cotton farming practices from 17.9 hectares to 850 hectares, with a long-term goal of reaching 2,000 hectares by 2029.
- **Policy and infrastructure commitment:** Secured an agreement from the water authority to design a fish passage in the Büyük Menderes Delta to facilitate the migration of the European eel.
- **Financial instruments for cleaner production:** WWF-Türkiye collaborated with the Denizli Chamber of Industry to develop financial instruments for cleaner production in the textile sector.



Indus Basin, Pakistan

BASIN IMPORTANCE

The Indus River basin is the key water resource of Pakistan, contributing approximately 219 billion m³ of the country’s annual renewable freshwater resources, making up 95% of the national total. The basin sustains more than 90% of the country’s food production and supports major agricultural and industrial production. The basin also has critical ecological significance, containing around 225 wetlands of national importance and 31 internationally designated Ramsar sites. These ecosystems provide critical habitats for threatened species such as the Indus river dolphin and Punjab ural. In addition, the Indus Delta supports one of the world’s largest arid mangrove ecosystems. The Indus River system is integral in sustaining these wetlands and associated biodiversity, which are increasingly at risk due to groundwater depletion, pollution, and climate change impacts.

WWF WATER STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

Basin project overview

WWF-Pakistan aims to address growing water security and climate resilience challenges through an integrated approach that combines sustainable water resource management, nature-based solutions, and community engagement in the Indus Basin. By working in partnership with government institutions, the private sector, academia, and local communities, WWF-Pakistan’s initiatives promote collaborative action to improve water availability, quality, and long-term resilience.

WWF-Pakistan’s initiatives deliver practical interventions such as groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse, rainwater harvesting, ecosystem restoration, and water-efficient agricultural practices, complemented by scientific assessments, policy engagement, and capacity-building. Through awareness campaigns and knowledge-sharing, these strengthen institutional capacity and encourage responsible water stewardship across multiple sectors.



A 200 m watercourse lining project implemented by WWF at a farm in Multan, Punjab, Pakistan.

2025 Activities

Through the City-Wide Partnership Platforms established in Faisalabad, Lahore, and Rahim Yar Khan, WWF-Pakistan successfully mobilized diverse stakeholders to develop and implement collective actions addressing water management and environmental challenges.

In Faisalabad, a collective action featuring gravity-assisted aeration of wastewater for the textile recycling unit as an implementation package was approved by KnowTex Solutions under the UN Trade and Development Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme. This intervention provides textile recycling units in Faisalabad, creating a low-cost opportunity to reduce the pollution load associated with recycling: an important component to advance in the circularity of textiles.

In Rahim Yar Khan, watercourse lining and laser land leveling were implemented in collaboration with Artistic Milliners, a global denim and apparel producer benefiting tail-end farmers.

Artistic Milliners implemented Alliance for Water Stewardship standards in the Rahim Yar Khan and Sadiqabad regions, where they source cotton.

The watercourse lining was implemented within the catchment area, benefiting both direct and indirect beneficiaries, including the farms of their suppliers as well as neighboring farms, helping improve water conveyance efficiency, reduced irrigation time, and enhance water productivity. The intervention was implemented through a **collective action approach** and was jointly funded by **Artistic Milliners and a partner global apparel company**.

In Lahore, an innovative phytoremediation initiative in Hudaira Drain was implemented in collaboration with Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company, the University of Lahore, National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, and other partners. To date, 760 floating treatment wetland sheets covering approximately 18,240 sq. ft. have been installed, demonstrating the potential of collective action and nature-based solutions to improve water quality at scale.



Muhammad Usmany is a farmer and a beneficiary of the Laser Land Leveling project (LLL) implemented by WWF on a section of his farm in Multan, Punjab, Pakistan.

Key Achievements:

- Advanced sustainable textile manufacturing in Faisalabad by supporting the approval of a low-cost wastewater pollution reduction intervention (gravity-assisted aeration) for a textile recycling unit.
- Improved agricultural water efficiency in Rahim Yar Khan through the implementation of watercourse lining and laser land leveling benefiting tail-end farmers.
- Installed 760 floating treatment wetland sheets covering approximately 18,240 sq. ft. in Hudiara Drain to improve water quality of the drain.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration for water stewardship by enabling partnerships between industries, government institutions, academia, and communities to codevelop practical solutions for water security and environmental sustainability.



IMPACTS IN 2025

65

Sites engaged

118,645 m³

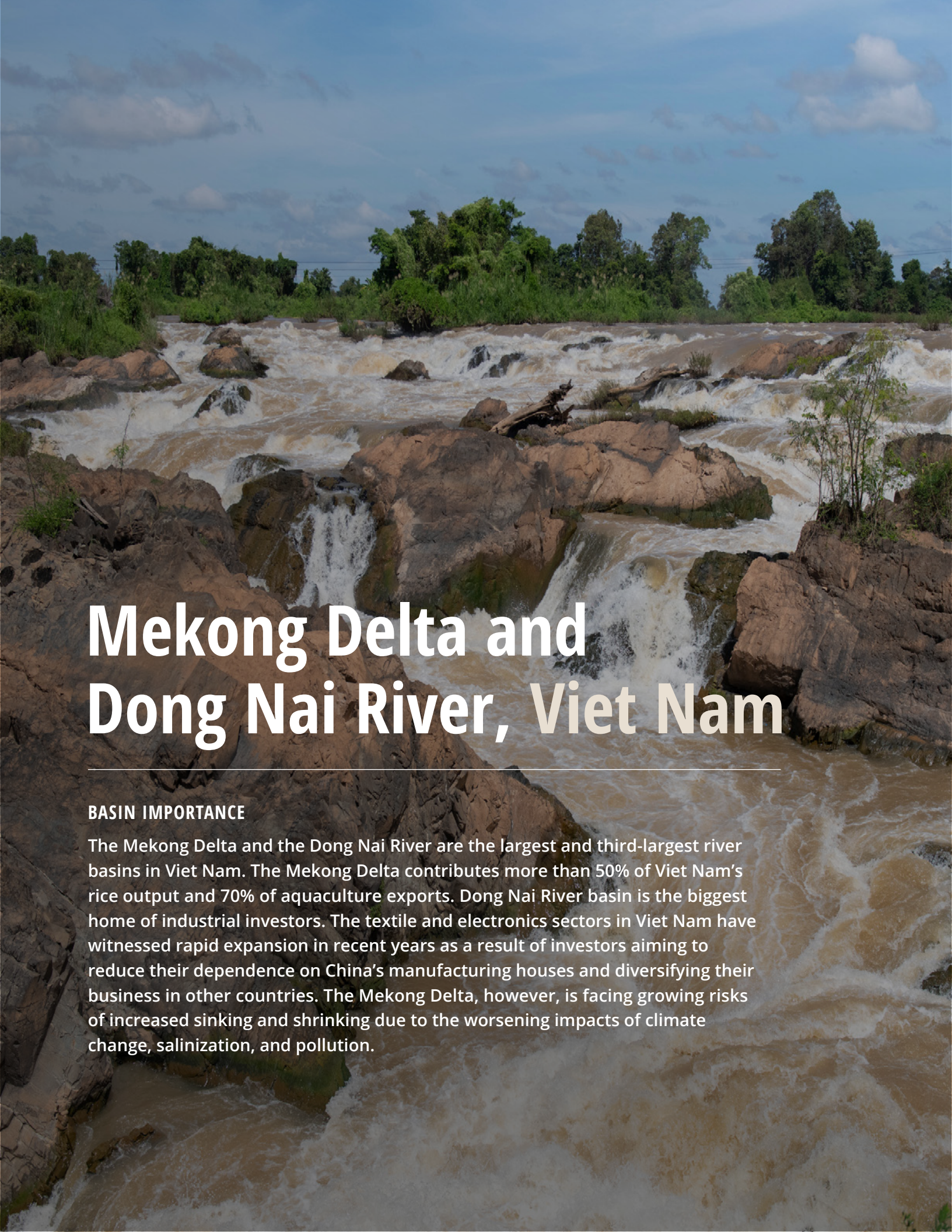
Wastewater reduced

11

Number of multistakeholder platforms established to implement water stewardship

106

Number of sites engaged for training and capacity-building workshops



Mekong Delta and Dong Nai River, Viet Nam

BASIN IMPORTANCE

The Mekong Delta and the Dong Nai River are the largest and third-largest river basins in Viet Nam. The Mekong Delta contributes more than 50% of Viet Nam’s rice output and 70% of aquaculture exports. Dong Nai River basin is the biggest home of industrial investors. The textile and electronics sectors in Viet Nam have witnessed rapid expansion in recent years as a result of investors aiming to reduce their dependence on China’s manufacturing houses and diversifying their business in other countries. The Mekong Delta, however, is facing growing risks of increased sinking and shrinking due to the worsening impacts of climate change, salinization, and pollution.

Basin project overview

The vision of the Water Stewardship program in Viet Nam is to “support the regional development objective of creating an economically prosperous, socially equitable, and environmentally sound Greater Mekong region, and to work toward the vision of maintaining and improving river basin health.”

Country risk profile based on WWF’s Water Risk Filter

INDICATOR	RISK SCALE
Drought risk	1.11
Flood risk	3.86
Water quality	2.75

2025 Activities

Phase II of WWF-Viet Nam’s Water Stewardship project was approved by the Government of Viet Nam at the end of February 2025. It is a four-year project focused on the Mekong Delta and Dong Nai River. Following the approval, WWF-Viet Nam completed work plans and an inception consultation to identify targeted sites of the textile facilities, industrial parks, and watersheds for the baseline study.

From June to December, baseline assessments and research studies were conducted, including water audits of 12 fabric mills and baseline water assessment of the entire pangasius production, two industrial parks, and two sub-watersheds. These audits and assessments identified water footprint and efficiency solutions, providing next steps of water stewardship actions for the textile and aquaculture producers, industrial park operators, and public stakeholders managing the sub-watersheds. Out of 12 fabric mills that were audited in May 2025, seven have improved their wastewater treatment units and five have taken water-saving actions in production and domestic water use. As of December 2025, 178,600 m³ water savings have been reported by these facilities.

In addition, WWF-Viet Nam is cultivating a textile sustainability learning community by providing technical knowledge about water management and efficiency solutions. In May and October 2025, two modules—*Watermark Cuu Long* and *Watermark Dong Nai*—provided practical guidance on water stewardship for textile companies. Six training webinars, each lasting 2.5 hours, hosted the To the Finish Line learning community of over 700 employees from 400 textile factories.

The program has also improved clean water access to the local community in the Mekong Delta, which is facing water scarcity due to drought and salination. WWF-Viet Nam partnered with local authorities and public utilities to coinvest in a water pipeline, 6 km long, which has provided 300 households with a reliable source of water and reduced their dependency on groundwater. WWF covered the cost of labor and machinery, whereas the companies invested in the pipeline. In addition to water infrastructure extension, the project enhanced awareness of the local community on clean water supply and sanitation practices by organizing a Training of Trainers course for 15 communal staff, followed by cascading sessions for 200 local households.

Key Achievements:

- Four hundred textile factories with approximately 700 persons participated in the online Watermark Cuu Long and Dong Nai training modules held in May and October 2025 (vietnam.panda.org/en/our_news/latest_updates/?392358/Chng-trinh-Watermark-Cu-Long-T-nhn-thc-n-chung-tay-hanh-ng).
- Two communities, Can Duoc and Can Giuoc in Long An, that did not have access to clean water were supported with the program’s funding that extended the water supply pipeline. Three hundred households are now subscribed to the reliable water source from the river, moving away from the untreated groundwater source (wwf-vietnam-english.exposure.co/a-pipeline-of-hope).
- The baseline studies helped identify water-efficient and circular solutions for 12 textile mills, two industrial parks (Phuoc Dong and Long Giang), six manufacturing enterprises, and pangasius farms and factories. Seven fabric mills have improved their wastewater treatment units, and five have taken water-saving actions in production and domestic water use. As of December 2025, 178,600 m³ of water savings have been reported by these facilities. The project will continue working with each enterprise to agree on water stewardship action plans and design water technical trainings for enterprises in the textile and aquaculture sectors.



Aerial view of Mekong River.



IMPACTS IN 2025

200

Sites engaged

27,953 m³

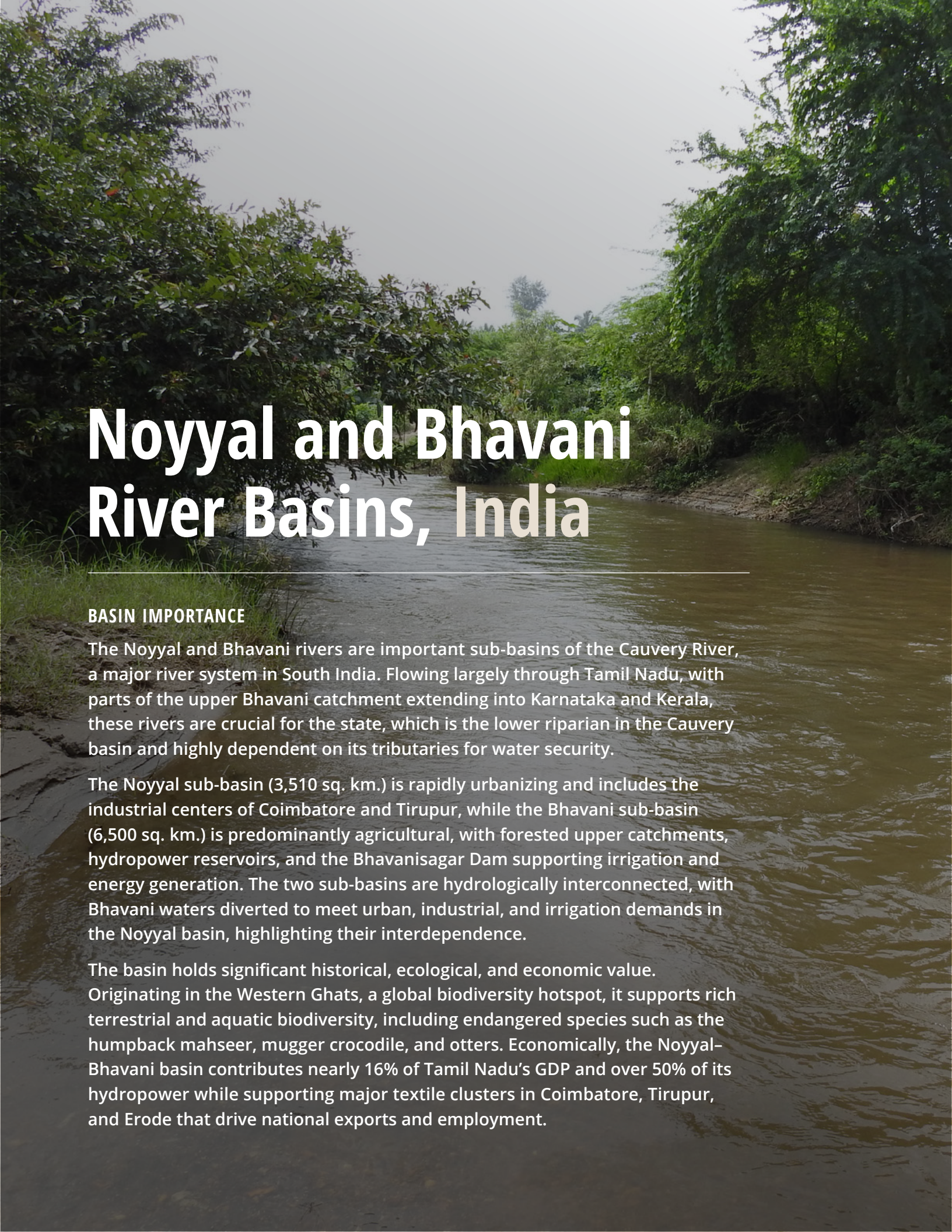
Wastewater reduced

150,652 m³

Volume of water saved by the sites engaged

520

Number of sites engaged for training and capacity-building workshops



Noyyal and Bhavani River Basins, India

BASIN IMPORTANCE

The Noyyal and Bhavani rivers are important sub-basins of the Cauvery River, a major river system in South India. Flowing largely through Tamil Nadu, with parts of the upper Bhavani catchment extending into Karnataka and Kerala, these rivers are crucial for the state, which is the lower riparian in the Cauvery basin and highly dependent on its tributaries for water security.

The Noyyal sub-basin (3,510 sq. km.) is rapidly urbanizing and includes the industrial centers of Coimbatore and Tirupur, while the Bhavani sub-basin (6,500 sq. km.) is predominantly agricultural, with forested upper catchments, hydropower reservoirs, and the Bhavanisagar Dam supporting irrigation and energy generation. The two sub-basins are hydrologically interconnected, with Bhavani waters diverted to meet urban, industrial, and irrigation demands in the Noyyal basin, highlighting their interdependence.

The basin holds significant historical, ecological, and economic value. Originating in the Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot, it supports rich terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, including endangered species such as the humpback mahseer, mugger crocodile, and otters. Economically, the Noyyal-Bhavani basin contributes nearly 16% of Tamil Nadu’s GDP and over 50% of its hydropower while supporting major textile clusters in Coimbatore, Tirupur, and Erode that drive national exports and employment.

Basin project overview

The Collective Actions in the Noyyal–Bhavani Basin Programme, led by WWF-India, is a basin-scale initiative to protect and restore the Noyyal and Bhavani rivers—key tributaries of the Cauvery system. Anchored in WWF-India’s long-standing work in the Western Ghats Nilgiris Landscape, the program focuses on river systems originating in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and global biodiversity hotspot that supports endangered terrestrial and aquatic species while sustaining millions of people and economic activities downstream in western Tamil Nadu.

Escalating pressures from urbanization, industrial growth, groundwater overextraction, pollution, land-use change, and competing water demands have severely stressed these rivers. In response, WWF-India launched the Noyyal–Bhavani Programme to address these challenges through a coordinated, evidence-led, and multi-stakeholder basin approach.

The vision of the program is to build *“healthy and resilient river ecosystems that ensure long-term water security for people and nature,”* and the goal is to enhance the ecological health, connectivity, and integrity of key river systems in the Western Ghats–Nilgiris Landscape.

Guided by the twin pillars of Living Rivers for Nature and Living Rivers for People, the program works across ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, urban and industrial water management, and governance strengthening, demonstrating scalable solutions for long-term river and water security.

Country risk profile based on WWF’s Water Risk Filter

INDICATOR	RISK SCALE
Drought risk	1.18
Flood risk	3.64
Water quality	3.57
Flagship species	Orange-finned mahseer: Critically Endangered

2025 Activities

Building on engaging 30 new textile facilities in 2024, WWF-India conducted detailed scoping assessments that identified 231 opportunities to implement cleaner technology interventions. In 2025, WWF-India carried out post-implementation review assessments in 29 textile facilities to quantify the impacts of adopting recommended CleanTech (CT) measures. These assessments documented measurable benefits, including energy and water savings, increased wastewater recycling, fuel savings, and the number of environmental certifications obtained through the engagement.

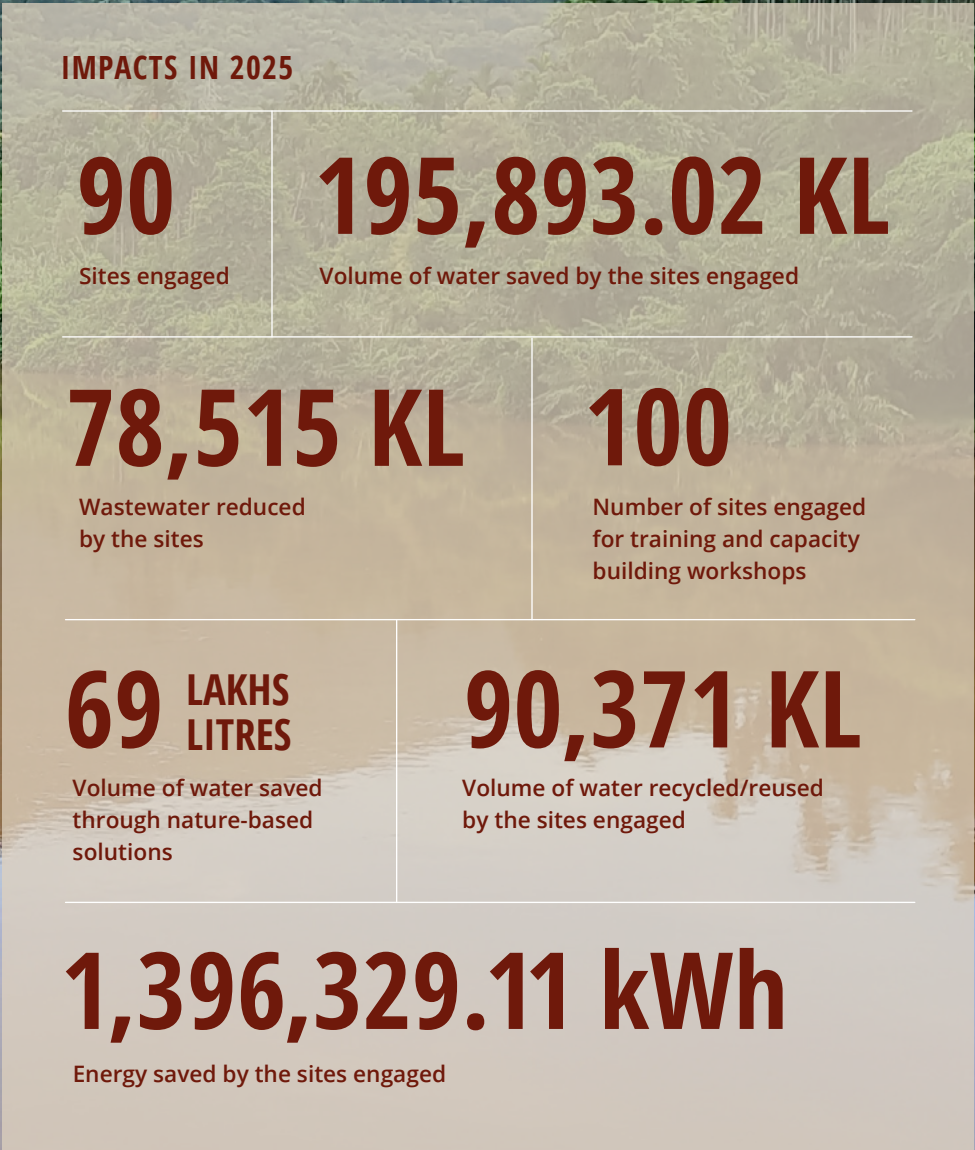
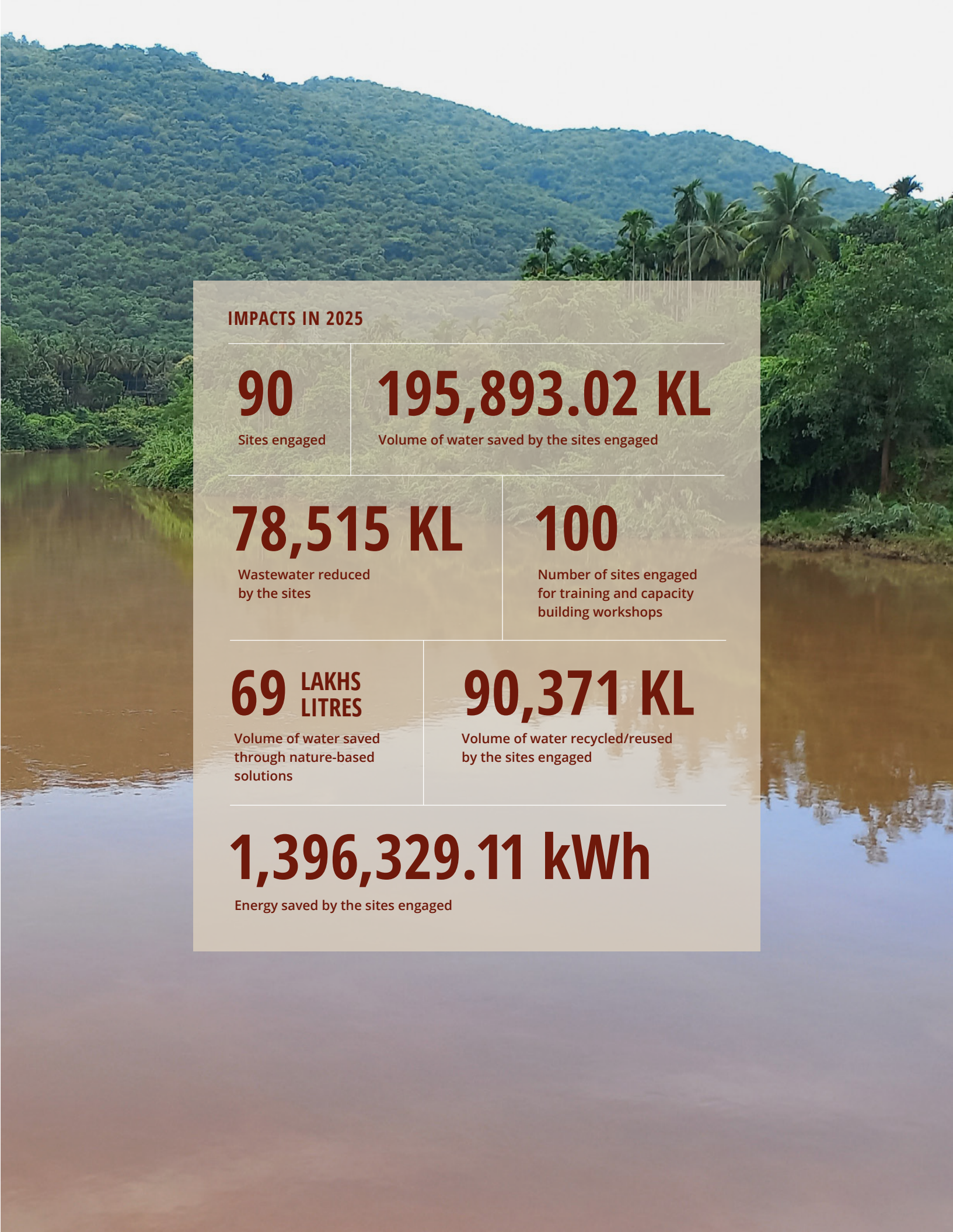
To strengthen access to advanced and sustainable waste management solutions, WWF-India signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)–Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI). Under this partnership, CSIR-CLRI committed to demonstrate electrocoagulation technology for textile effluent treatment in 10 industrial units and develop feasibility reports to support wider adoption. In addition, CSIR-CLRI also committed to preparing a management plan for accumulated mixed salts generated by textile units in Tirupur and conducting laboratory-scale experiments using synthetic waste to explore its potential reuse within textile applications.

To scale up CT engagement across the textile cluster, WWF-India developed a web-based self-assessment **CleanTech Tool** (CT Tool). This platform enables industrial units to independently identify CT opportunities within their facilities and proactively adopt technologies and practices to improve operational efficiency and environmental performance.

During the year, WWF-India also collaborated with the Dyers Association of Tirupur to promote the CT Tool among its member units, including 18 Common Effluent Treatment Plants, and to engage wet-processing units for electrocoagulation technology demonstrations. In parallel, WWF-India engaged with the director of the Department of Textiles for the Government of Tamil Nadu to explore opportunities for scaling up CT interventions across the Tirupur textile cluster.

Key Achievements:

- A total of 90 textile sites were engaged during the reporting year with 30 sites participating in CleanTech assessments and 60 sites onboarded through the CT Tool training program, significantly expanding outreach across the Tirupur textile cluster.
- Review assessments in 29 facilities were completed to evaluate improvements in water and energy performance following the implementation of recommended CT interventions, enabling robust quantification of environmental benefits. Cumulatively, 112 recommendations were implemented by 29 facilities.
- Five textile facilities improved their wastewater treatment practices, resulting in a cumulative reduction of 78,515 kilolitres (KL) of wastewater, demonstrating tangible pollution reduction outcomes. Four facilities enhanced internal water recycling and reuse systems, collectively recycling 90,371 KL of water, reducing dependence on freshwater sources. Overall, total water savings of 195,893.02 KL was achieved, comprising process water savings of 74,539.80 KL, domestic water savings of 60,244.62 KL, and 61,108.60 KL collected through rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Twelve units improved energy efficiency while maintaining production volumes, resulting in energy savings of 139,632.71 kWh, contributing to reduced operational costs and lower carbon footprints.
- Four CT training workshops were conducted, reaching 60 industrial sites and 80 participants, strengthening technical understanding of water and energy efficiency measures.
- WWF-India supported three units in achieving sustainability certifications and recognitions, including GreenCo, Higg Index, and buyer recognitions, enhancing credibility with global brands.
- The CT Tool enabled self-assessment and proactive CT adoption by industries, serving as a scalable mechanism to mainstream water and energy stewardship beyond direct project support.





Taihu Basin, China

BASIN IMPORTANCE

The Taihu River Basin serves as a vital source of water for people and nature, supporting a rich diversity of aquatic life and providing essential ecosystem services. The region is also a hub of industrial activity and agricultural production, contributing significantly to the national economy. The Taihu River Basin is part of the Yangtze River Delta in eastern China and is one of China’s most economically developed areas.

WWF WATER STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

Basin project overview

In 2025, governance efforts in the Taihu Basin entered a phase of deeper implementation of the Taihu Basin Governance 2.0 framework. This stage is characterized by joint actions led by enterprises, academic institutions, and local governments to advance practical basin-level interventions. Building on WWF’s water stewardship methodology, initial explorations and baseline assessments have been conducted at both the industrial park level and the sub-basin level.

Country risk profile based on WWF’s Water Risk Filter

INDICATOR	RISK SCALE
Drought risk	1.78
Flood risk	2.79
Water quality	2.92

2025 Activities

In 2025, WWF-China collaborated with a global brand to implement Basin Collective Action work, providing an important foundation for advancing supply chain water stewardship in China. In December 2025, WWF-China, together with the School of Environment at Tsinghua University and the Tianjin TEDA Eco Center, co-organized the Industrial Water Management Exchange & Discussion Meeting. Over 100 suppliers from the partner brand participated both online and offline, jointly exploring industrial water stewardship from multiple perspectives, including policy, methodology, standards, and corporate water-saving practices.

Under this collaboration, WWF-China has further refined the mapping of the partner brand’s supply chain, particularly in the Taihu Basin. Efforts have been made to cluster suppliers located within the same industrial parks to foster collective action and amplify the impact of water management initiatives. In parallel, WWF-China has been identifying and engaging with wetlands located within the same sub-basins as these industrial parks, exploring potential synergies between industrial water management and ecosystem conservation.

To date, WWF China has initiated engagement with two industrial parks and three wetlands. At the industrial park level, discussions have focused on implementing practical and scalable water management measures, including:

- baseline assessments, such as water balance analysis and water–energy–carbon nexus mapping
- capacity building through targeted training based on identified gaps
- infrastructure and management improvements, such as pipeline upgrades and water reuse systems

These efforts are expected to be scaled up across more enterprises within the parks to enhance overall impact.

Key Achievements:

- WWF-China co-organized the Industrial Water Management Exchange & Discussion Meeting, which explored industrial water stewardship from the perspectives of policy, methodology, standards, and corporate water-saving practices.
- WWF-China initiated engagement with two industrial parks on baseline assessments, capacity-building, and infrastructure improvements, as well as with three wetlands for restoration activities.

Water is fundamental to the apparel and textiles sectors,

but safeguarding this shared resource for the future requires us to look beyond the walls of any one factory or the boundaries of any one farm. Water challenges are shared challenges, and they must be addressed collectively at the scale of the river basins we all depend on. The progress captured in this report shows that when brands, suppliers, farmers, communities, civil society organizations, and governments act together, we can build a more resilient industry while restoring the freshwater ecosystems that sustain people and nature. The opportunity now is to take that collective action to scale.

—PAYAL LUTHRA

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