

**INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS**

**SCIENCE BASED TARGETS FOR WATER**

**Biodiversity, water and food systems**

Biodiversity is essential to human life on Earth and is the foundation of the global economy. The World Economic Forum estimates that 44 trillion USD of value generation, representing more than 50% of global GDP, is dependent on nature, biodiversity and the services it supports.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Our freshwater environments host a rich biodiversity, including one-third of vertebrate species. Yet, the Freshwater Living Planet Index indicates that freshwater populations have declined by an average of 83%.[[2]](#footnote-3) Freshwater also provides many vital ecosystem services, and business dependencies on freshwater – and associated risks - are being increasingly understood.

Domestically, the UK’s freshwaters are in a dire state with only 16% of freshwater bodies reaching good ecological status, and none meeting the criteria for good chemical status.[[3]](#footnote-4) Diffuse pollution, largely from agriculture, is a key driver of water pollution, with a third of environmental failures attributed to agriculture and land management.

UK business is also exposed to a considerable amount of international water-related risk to operations, supply chains and investments.[[4]](#footnote-5)

It has become clear that the loss of freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem services threatens the sustainability of the food production system which underpins the business models of food businesses.

Against this background, Tesco is developing its nature strategy and looking to understand and take action to address the material water risks and dependencies in key sourcing locations.

**Science based targets for water**

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) defines science-based targets (SBTs) as measurable and actionable targets that companies can set to align their activities with Earth’s limits and societal goals.

 SBTs for nature (SBTn) build on the highly successful model of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for climate. SBTN’s eventual goal is to deliver targets and methods for companies and cities aligned with both a ‘safe’ and a ‘just’ future for nature and people, defined as zero net loss of nature from 2020, net positive nature by 2030 and full recovery by 2050.

SBTN has developed methods and resources to enable companies to set SBTns across their value chains for water, biodiversity land and the ocean.

Tesco has been accepted for an initial target validation pilot for land and water targets.

Tesco is using WWF’s risk filter suite (the Biodiversity Risk Filter (BRF) and Water Risk Filter (WRF)), designed in line with SBTN, to inform Step 1 (Assess) and Step 2 (Interpret and Prioritise) of the SBTn framework.

Once key catchments or landscapes are prioritised under SBTn overarching guidance, the next step is to use the water technical guidance to collect or analyse relevant data to conduct baselining and determine targets. To determine water targets for SBTN, companies must have baseline values for water *quality* and *quantity*, specifically:

* the aggregation of total water withdrawals from the company’s activities within a specified basin level and time period (water quantity baseline value)
* the aggregation of total present-day load of nutrients (N and P) from all company facilities / sourcing locations within a specified basin level and time period (water quality baseline value).

The guidance sets out where direct and secondary data is appropriate for baselining, suggesting that “locally developed modelling approaches” can be used for determining water quality baselines. Stakeholder consultation may be required to ensure that an appropriate local model or scientific approach is identified, and that corporate data can be combined with other local data for baselining and target setting.

The guidance then sets out a process for determining the maximum allowable levels of water withdrawals and nutrient loads, and how a company's contribution to that can be defined.

While guidance on actions companies should take to meet their targets is yet to be published, the existing guidance recognises the need for collective action in addition to individual company action to address water risks and impacts.

**PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The WWF-Tesco partnership is looking to commission a consultant to support Tesco to comply with the current SBTN technical guidance for water.

**Step 1 – determine priority catchments**

With Tesco, the consultant should work through the overarching SBTN guidance to determine target boundaries for material water pressures, as well as one or two priority catchments, using the prioritisation approach and feasibility screening. This should utilise Tesco’s existing analysis from the WWF risk filter suite, and other sources of information. Our favoured approach is to cover water quality and water use SBTns separately in two different catchments – but we are open to other proposals.

**Step 2 – collect and analyse relevant data on water quality and quantity.**

The consultant should use available data and evidence to work through the overarching SBTN technical guidance to establish baseline values for freshwater quantity and quality pressures.

As part of this, the consultant will need to support Tesco with identification and engagement of relevant local stakeholders to determine the locally relevant modelling approach.

Once the relevant models and baselines are determined, the consultant should follow SBTN guidance for determining maximum allowable level of basin/catchment withdrawals, and maximum allowable levels of river nutrient loads.

Using this information, the consultant should provide a recommendation of an appropriate target for freshwater quality and quantity in the chosen catchment(s).

Sources of data should include:

* Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies, and locally defined Environmental Flow Indicators, for water quantity
* Catchment-based modelling, data and spatial maps for water quality.

Where relevant, the consultant should highlight any key gaps in data and evidence needed to conduct robust baselining, target-setting, and determine priority on-farm measures to reduce nutrient losses to water, as well as any key challenges in using the SBTN guidance from a retailer perspective.

**Step 3 – recommendations for action**

Finally, the consultant should set out the implications of the recommended target, providing high level recommendations for action to reduce water related impacts and risks. This should take into account existing water initiatives Tesco is engaged in, such as the WRAP Courtauld Water Roadmap.

It should also draw on existing research which defines practices, and scale of implementation, needed to reduce P and N losses from land to meet the defined SBTns, for example ADAS (2019)[[5]](#footnote-6) or other appropriate research.

**KEY OUTPUTS:**

A comprehensive report for Tesco and WWF in word and pdf format containing key outputs of the SBTn water process including recommendations for target setting and priority actions. The report should be no longer than 30 pages and should include infographics. The proposal should set out if the consultant is able to design the report internally and the cost.

A short briefing comparing the outputs of the SBTN guidance with existing water initiatives such as the WRAP Courtauld Water Roadmap.

A presentation of the findings internally to the WWF/Tesco partnership team.

**TIMELINE**

**Deadline for proposals:** 27 June

**Review bids:** by 30 June

**Kick off meeting:** w/c 10 July

**Project deadline\*:** mid-October

*\*Note this is a hard deadline that must be met to comply with funding requirements. Proposals must be realistic in terms of the timelines and work that can be completed by October.*

**BUDGET**

The budget for this work is £25-30,000 **including VAT**.

**SUBMITTING PROPOSALS**

We welcome proposals from individual organisations or a consortium. Proposals will be assessed on:

* Background / experience of the consultant / team
* Fit to brief
* Credible methodology
* Value for money

**Proposals and questions should be sent to Josephine Cutfield, Senior Policy Advisor** [**jcutfield@wwf.org.uk**](mailto:jcutfield@wwf.org.uk) **and Conor Linstead [clinstead@wwf.org.uk](mailto:clinstead@wwf.org.uk)**

We recommend that proposals are limited to eight sides in length. In your proposal, please include the following:

* A method statement to explain your proposed approach to carrying out the work.
* A brief project plan, showing key milestones and any interdependencies.
* Details about similar projects you have undertaken or your relevant experience in this field, including the experience of individuals on the project team.
* A fee proposal including resource allocations and charging rates for all individuals, and any anticipated expenses, including travel.

Contracting with WWF-UK:

It is our requirement that an appointed external partner adopts our standards terms and conditions for engaging with us. These are included within the tender documents. Please confirm you are willing to accept these terms. Should you have any amends you need to make, these will need to be put in a word document and submitted for approval by the WWF-UK legal team.

WWF-UK asks all suppliers to comply with the Supplier Code of Conduct and WWF-UK 3rd Party Expenses Policy. Both documents are enclosed within the tender pack. Please confirm your acceptance of both.

All contracted suppliers are required to register on Panda Purchasing (WWF-UK’s PO and invoice system). Should you be successful in your bid, please confirm you will be willing to register on the system.

Thank you for expressing an interest in working with and supporting WWF-UK with this important piece of work.  We look forward to receiving your response.

**APPENDIX**

**RELEVANT SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter: [WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter](https://riskfilter.org/biodiversity/home)

WWF Water Risk Filter: [WWF Water Risk Filter](https://riskfilter.org/water/home)

WRAP Courtauld Water Roadmap; [A Roadmap Towards Water Security for Food and Drink Supply | WRAP](https://wrap.org.uk/resources/guide/roadmap-towards-water-security-food-and-drink-supply)

SBTN resources: [Resources – Science Based Targets Network](https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/resources/)

Technical guidance on water: [Technical-Guidance-2023-Step3-Freshwater-v1.pdf (sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org)](https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Technical-Guidance-2023-Step3-Freshwater-v1.pdf)

WWF (2022) Living Planet Report: [lpr\_2022\_full\_report.pdf (wwf.org.uk)](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/lpr_2022_full_report.pdf)

WWF (2015) From Risk to Resilience – Does your business know its water risk?: [wwf020\_from\_risk\_\_to\_resilience.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf020_from_risk__to_resilience.pdf?_ga=1.49012454.1991529649.1444910634)

1. Herweijer, C., Evison, W., Mariam, S., Khatri, A., Albani, M., Semov, A., Long, E. (2020). Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy. World Economic Forum, in collaboration with PwC [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [lpr\_2022\_full\_report.pdf (wwf.org.uk)](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/lpr_2022_full_report.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [Over £5 billion of action set out in latest plans to protect England’s waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-5-billion-of-action-set-out-in-latest-plans-to-protect-englands-waters) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [wwf020\_from\_risk\_\_to\_resilience.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf020_from_risk__to_resilience.pdf?_ga=1.49012454.1991529649.1444910634) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. ADAS 2019 Water pollution from agriculture A national scale assessment of current and future actions to reduce diffuse pollution of water by agriculture Project WT1594 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)