

OUR WATER MANIFESTO

HOW SCOTLAND CAN CHAMPION GLOBAL CHANGE



THE 2021 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE CUSP OF TRANSFORMATIONAL GLOBAL CHANGE.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT.

The climate crisis has deepened its grip on the world's most marginalised communities. Tackling the global water crisis is imperative to strengthen people's ability to withstand these crises.

You cannot wash your hands without clean water. You cannot self-isolate if water needs aren't met at home. You cannot build back better when COVID has decimated your economy, and as weather becomes more erratic you need to build flood defences, combat rising sea-levels or prepare for drought. Combating the combined crises of the pandemic, water access and climate impacts must be top of the global agenda this decade.

Scotland has its role to play in this, and as it prepares to host the vital COP26 climate conference in 2021, it can be a global leader.

By harnessing Scotland's unique expertise in water, increasing its support to communities on the frontline of crisis, and standing up for climate justice, the next Scottish Government can dramatically increase its contribution to a fair and just world.



POLICY COHERENCE

Commission a study to calculate Scotland's water footprint and establish its impacts on communities in the 'global south' - through water used to produce our clothes, food, consumer products and commodities produced there.

Commit to new action on importers of this 'embedded water' to ensure credible water stewardship in supply chains and trade which is based on fair, resilient and sustainable resource use.

Stand up as a leader in ethical finance, promoting a progressive financial system that prioritises social, environmental and economic justice.



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Champion priority issues of 'Global South' at COP26, especially finance for adaptation and loss and damage.

Convene "Glasgow Dialogues" with key global south representatives in advance of COP26, including thematic discussions on water and other priority areas.



MORE FINANCE

More and better finance for international development, significantly increasing Scotland's Climate Justice Fund to at least £10m per year.

WHY WATER?

No matter who you are or where you live in the world, we all need water to survive. Water is a great leveller. A fundamental human right. Working to become the first Hydro Nation, Scotland now has the opportunity to play an important leadership role not just as a nation but as a partner for low-income countries, sharing the value of Scotland's water resources globally.

Water is key to delivering not only Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG) on water and sanitation, but underpins almost every other SDG. It is critical in addressing the coronavirus pandemic, the climate emergency and poverty. 78% of **jobs globally** are water dependent, with 42% of these being **heavily water-dependent**¹. The provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is essential to protecting human health during all **infectious disease outbreaks**, including **COVID-19**. 63% of the urban population in Africa cannot access basic water services², and therefore can't protect **themselves or their children** from **COVID-19**, or indeed many other diseases such as typhoid and cholera.

Most of the severe impacts of the climate emergency experienced around the world are **water** related. Typically, 170 million people are severely affected by droughts and floods each year³ with a severe toll on poverty and **global ramifications** in terms of **migration** and **instability**. When water problems occur, it is consistently **poor and marginalised people** and particularly **women** who lose out first and most dramatically – and often irreversibly.

It is clear that water security⁴ is central to **so many** of our **partner-country's own prioritised needs** and essential to realising **their** national and local plans. Explicit in Scotland's role is the need to work together with others in the face of the challenges ahead, to *"leave no one behind"*, in line with the ethos of the UN SDGs.

**WE ALL NEED
WATER TO SURVIVE.
WATER IS KEY TO
SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

1 WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme) (2016). 'The United Nations World Water Development Report 2016: Water and Jobs'. Paris, UNESCO. unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243938

2 World Bank Figures 2020

3 WHO (World Health Organization). (2007). 'The World Health Report 2007 - A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century'. Available at: www.who.int/whr/2007/whr07_en.pdf

4 "The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability." UN Water Security and the Global Water Agenda. Available at: www.unwater.org/publications/water-security-global-water-agenda

WHY SCOTLAND?

- Scotland has unique skills and expertise in water management and governance, essential in tackling global water issues in an increasingly water stressed world.
- Scotland's opportunity for leadership at COP26
- Scotland has the opportunity to use its international development budget in a highly focused way, and in doing so carving out its global niche in water security

HOW?

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of this project, maximising the offer of Scotland to address global priorities. We need to work together both to share our knowledge, skills and technical expertise with our partner countries and learn from theirs. Ways to achieve this are through:

MORE AND BETTER FINANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Significantly increase Scotland's Climate Justice Fund to at least £10m per year

If we are **really serious** about impacting on water security through **forward-thinking partnerships that foster joint learning**, Scotland **must** allocate significantly more resources, **and encourage** others to do the same. The Scottish Government's innovative **Climate Justice Fund (CJF)**, which aims to

WHY NOW?

We are standing in the face of the climate crisis **and** the global pandemic, both of which are pushing people deeper into poverty around the world. The time for taking a leadership role and drawing our efforts together with others across the world could not be more critical.

TIME FOR TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE AND DRAWING OUR EFFORTS TOGETHER.

"share the benefits of equitable global development and the burdens of climate change fairly", is an excellent example to other states and regions of subnational support to climate finance. However, it has remained frozen at £3m a year since 2016, a net decrease over time. Now is the time to demonstrate our genuine commitment to tackling the climate crisis, start by increasing the Climate Justice Fund. This should be accompanied by a detailed review of the fund, which draws upon Scotland's expertise in climate adaptation to ensure the projects its funds overseas prioritise interventions which build sustainable resilience to future crises, such as the provision of WASH.

By doing this and using its platform at COP26 to champion more finance for climate adaptation, Scotland can stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are most affected by this crisis but who have done the least to cause it.

POLICY COHERENCE FOR WATER

-  Commission a study to calculate Scotland's water footprint and establish its impacts on communities in the 'Global South' - through water used to produce our clothes, food, consumer products and commodities produced there.
-  Commit to new action on importers of this 'embedded water' to ensure credible water stewardship in supply chains and trade which is based on fair, resilient and sustainable resource use.
-  Stand up as a leader in ethical finance, promoting a progressive financial system that prioritises social, environmental and economic justice.

Using our position as the **first Hydro Nation**, we can work to **transform global business and investment** so that Scotland is clean as well as green. We need to understand the **global impacts of our domestic policies** - especially when these are expected to have **potential negative consequences** for people in countries most impacted by climate change.

**WE CAN WORK
TO TRANSFORM
GLOBAL BUSINESS
AND INVESTMENT
SO THAT SCOTLAND
IS CLEAN AS WELL
AS GREEN.**

Concretely, by mapping the **water footprint for Scotland**, we could better understand the impact of our water footprint on the water security of others on the planet. 62% of UK's total water demand lies outside the UK - through water embedded in clothes, food and commodities produced elsewhere.

What is this figure for Scotland? Where this happens, is it associated with **ethical investment, trade and jobs**? Or are we blindly trampling on other people, through, for example, **pollution, degraded ecosystems and water grabs**.

No-one should be pushed deeper into poverty, or made more vulnerable to pandemics or to climate shocks by our ignorance. In an interdependent world, as **good citizens**, we need to **know** that we are acting responsibly.

We need to insist that all importers of embedded water commit to a sustainable and equitable water footprint through credible water stewardship in their supply chains¹. Looking beyond official development assistance, the need has never been greater for a **better financial system** that supports a **resilient economy** and **safeguards social and environmental wellbeing**.

Can Scotland lead the way in ethical finance, insisting on a responsible financial sector that operates on a transparent and ethical basis?

1 a4ws.org

THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE TO DO MORE. TO DO MORE - AND TO DO BETTER.

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

- Champion priority issues of 'Global South' boldly at COP26, especially finance for adaptation and loss and damage.
- Convene "Glasgow Dialogues" with key global south representatives in advance of COP26, including thematic discussions on water and other priority areas.

Scotland's updated **Climate Change Act**, which aligns with the SDGs, commits to support the people who are "*most affected by climate change but who have done the least to cause it and are the least equipped to adapt to its effects*". Scotland's **strong** record of climate action can be **even stronger** and can be **strategically harnessed** to have an influence over COP26 next year.

A 1.5°C increase in global temperature puts **hundreds of millions fewer people** in climate-related poverty and water stress than a 2°C increase. Harnessing its soft-power at COP26, Scotland can push for **accelerated action on water and climate change** and to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges on nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and those needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Without this, water challenges of the future will be simply impossible to overcome.

By getting on track to rapid emissions reductions in Scotland, and sharing this example globally at COP26, Scotland can make a significant contribution to efforts to ramp up ambition on mitigation.

However, tackling climate change is not just about reducing emissions - it's late in the day. Already, millions of people in low-income countries are exposed to some of the **most severe climate impacts** including floods, droughts, heatwaves, changing rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels.

It is therefore critical that COP26 also delivers commitments to **new and additional climate finance** to help communities **adapt** to the impacts of climate change, and to **protect them from the existing impacts** which they already suffer from. You cannot be resilient to anything if you do not have access to water. When COP26 comes to Glasgow in 2021, it is vital that communities access to water is supported as part of global efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In summary, water is important, it is critical - unequivocally so in the face of COVID19 and climate change, exacerbating poverty.

Scotland is already playing an important leadership role in water but there are **great opportunities** out there to do more. To do **more** - and to do **better**.