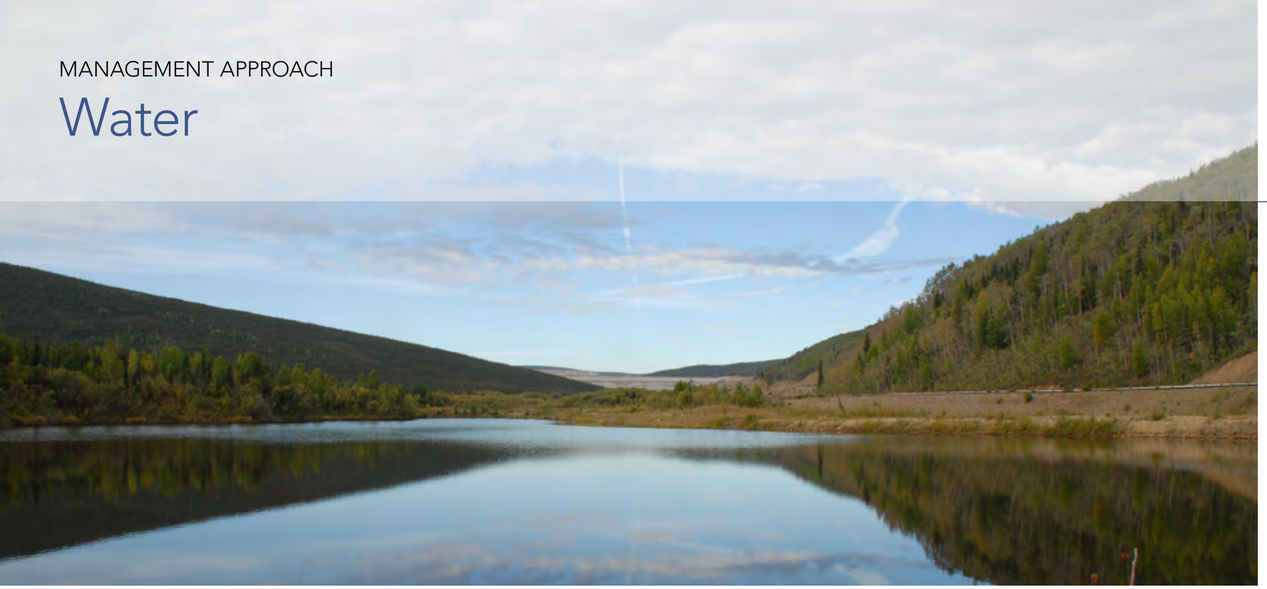
Water



Our Responsibility

Water is a critical aspect for our operations, projects, and reclamation sites and a key focus for our stakeholders. We have a responsibility to protect the quality of water and optimize water efficiency wherever Kinross has a presence and throughout all phases of mine life. The water context is unique at each of our sites, which draw upon sources of fresh and/or salt/brackish water. Each operation is responsible for meeting a broad range of environmental regulations, complex permit requirements and reporting obligations specific to their jurisdiction. In parallel, they must also meet Kinross' company-wide requirements for regulatory compliance, water efficiency and conservation, water quality, and stakeholder engagement on topics pertaining to water as a shared resource.

Our Commitment

Our Safety and Sustainability Policy embeds our commitment to environmental protection, including our focus on protecting water quality and optimizing water efficiency. Kinross is also committed to meeting the requirements of the **World Gold Council's Responsible Gold Mining Principles – Principles 2 and 10,** and conformance with those that pertain to water. Through our water strategy and water management standards, we have the guidance and tools in place to deliver on this commitment. We seek to use the minimum amount of water necessary for operations, including recycling.

To support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Kinross is focused on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), specifically sub-goals pertaining to water quality, recycling and safe reuse (6.3), water efficiency pertaining to freshwater withdrawals and water scarcity (6.4), and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems (6.6).

Responsible Gold Mining Principles			
	2.1 Risk Management 2.2 Stakeholder engagement 2.3 Due diligence 2.4 Impact Assessment 2.5 Resolving grievances		10.1 Water Efficiency 10.2 Water access and quality

Our Approach

In accordance with our corporate water management strategy and standard, our sites have water management systems in place to maintain a reliable water supply for operations and to accommodate the range of conditions they encounter, including extreme precipitation or extended drought, or water scarcity. Kinross' water strategy establishes a common framework of standards and guidance for, regardless of whether the site consumes fresh water or salt brackish water, while recognizing the unique characteristics of our sites. Additionally, through the application of our water management standards and practices, our biological resource management standard, integrated mine closure program, and commitment to reclamation and restoration, we actively work to protect, restore and enhance aquatic ecosystems including fish habitat, wetlands and aquifers.

Our sites are responsible for developing and implementing a water strategy, in accordance with the following key principles:

- Maximize the use of recycled process water while minimizing the use of surface freshwater.
- Protect water quality through treatment with technologies that ensure applicable standards are met for discharge.
- Conduct regular water quality monitoring at sites as well as in receiving waters.
- Mitigate water-related impacts from the mine on local watersheds (e.g., ensuring local stream flows are maintained)
- Offsetting impacts where possible through local measures such as protection of freshwater springs and wells.

The water strategy at each project, operation and mine site takes into consideration:

- Stakeholder locations, needs, and concerns.
- Opportunities, risks, and constraints of the available water resources, applying the mitigation hierarchy to to prevent, minimize, restore, or offset water related impacts.
- Water availability and at-risk water supplies, physical scarcity, and excess water scenarios, with considerations of how and where these characteristics may change over time.
- Appropriate operational and conservation strategies to manage fresh water, working with local communities and other partners as appropriate.
- Evaluate supply chain water footprint and risks related to local water supply insecurity.

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As part of the water strategy, each site has established a water management plan that includes:

- Establishment of water quality and quantity targets and monitoring programs relevant to the current phase of operation.
- Regular review and evaluation of water performance indicators in alignment with current and upcoming regulatory requirements.
- Assessment and mitigation of potential conflicts pertaining to fresh water access for local communities.
- Establishment and maintenance of an accurate water balance.

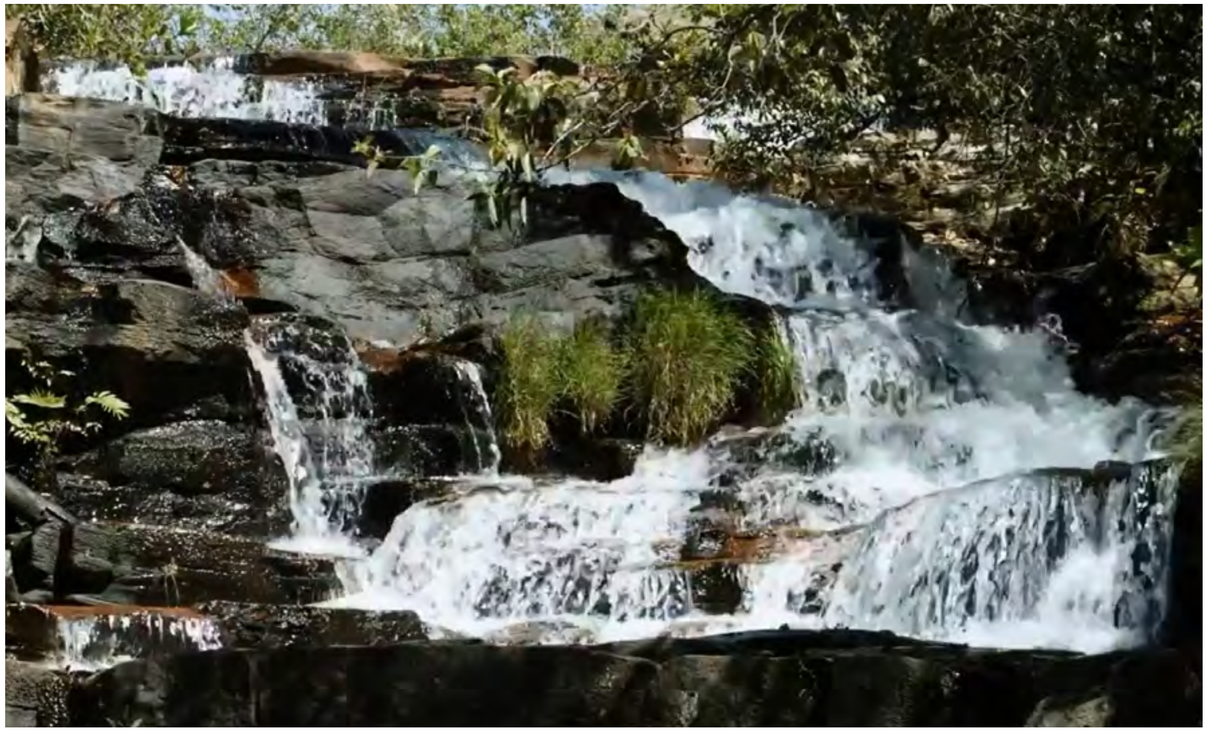
Given the diverse range of water contexts across our mine sites, we rely upon our local teams to manage water-related risks specific to each operation. To determine water stress, we use the World Resources Institute (wri.org) Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas to map and track water stress at our operations and projects. To learn more about water performance at our sites, see our most recent Sustainability and ESG Report.

At a corporate level, we have introduced a screening-level assessment of our top, large suppliers in our core direct spend categories. We identify which of these suppliers are in water-stressed areas by plotting their manufacturing facilities on the global Aqueduct Water Stress Projections by the World Resources Institute. Because this assessment does not include baseline site-specific water demand and water resource studies, we adopt the water stress status for screening level assessment only. Using publicly available data, we assess major suppliers operating in water-stressed areas to identify those that have sustainable management strategies in place and also publicly disclose the results of water management, including CDP disclosure. For suppliers providing distribution services without any manufacturing facilities, we consider the water impact negligible.

Accountability and Reporting

Matters pertaining to water fall within our Corporate Responsibility Management System and as such are the responsibility of the Senior Director, Environment, with dual reporting to both the Senior Vice-President, General Counsel, Global Legal Operations and Major Permitting, and the Chief Technical Officer. Board oversight and governance are the responsibility of the Corporate Responsibility and Technical Committee of the Board of Directors.

Kinross reports on our water management activities and performance in our annual Sustainability and ESG Report and as part of Kinross' submission to CDP Water. Achievements and initiatives pertaining to water are also publicised through our online newsletter Kinross World.



To learn more about our performance and initiatives to manage water, see our most recent Sustainability and ESG Report.