



CHAMBESHI WATER SECURITY PARTNERSHIP Building a water-secure Chambeshi together

Despite its comparatively small economy, the Chambeshi catchment in Northern Zambia is facing increasing competition and conflict over water resources, triggered by new agricultural and hydropower investments. Deforestation, the encroachment of marshlands and the expansion of human settlements into formerly wooded areas are adding to the pressure on the basin. These developments are likely to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which are already putting Zambia’s natural resources under considerable stress. In particular, agriculture and food security, wildlife, forestry, water availability and quality, energy and human health are threatened in the catchment area.

A catchment is an area of land where water collects when it rains. As this water drains into the soil, it feeds rivers, streams and lakes and recharges ground water.

STEWARDSHIP TO ADDRESS COMMON RISKS

Natural resources stewardship means that all users of natural resources take responsibility for the shared resources nobody owns but everybody relies on. By forming partnerships, public sector, private companies and civil society work together on eye-level to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

The Chambeshi Water Security Partnership was initiated by the Water Resources Management Authority, the agri-business company OLAM and supported by GIZ. Using the stewardship approach, the partnership mobilised the private sector, civil society organisations and local communities to support this critical governance strengthening process.

The partnership was based on the premise that while water insecurity, in the form of shortages, flooding or deteriorating water quality, has the potential to affect everyone, no single actor can improve water security alone. Through the stewardship approach of bringing together private, public sector and civil society stakeholders in the basin, the Partnership addressed common threats together by pooling resources and developing long-term solutions.



Under the partnership, a multi-purpose dam has been constructed in line with interests of local communities by OLAM.

Duration	2016 - 2023
Partners	Government institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources - Forestry Department Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs Kasama Municipal Council Private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLAM Chambeshi Water and Sewerage Company Civil society organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNV Netherlands Development Organisation World Vision Zambia
Objective	Govern, protect and develop Chambeshi’s water resources in a participatory manner, contributing to water security for sustainable social and economic development
Partner contributions (financial or in-kind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector: € 241.929 Private sector: € 289.747 Civil Society: € 578.915

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen multi stakeholder collaboration to improve water security and access
- Support water users to implement “no regret” voluntary measures to improve water security in a participatory manner, improving water storage and access, watershed protection and pollution reduction
- Pilot and disseminate best practice in water stewardship by promoting the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard

A „no regret“ measure is an adaptive measure that is worth implementing and delivering net socio-economic benefits, whatever the extent of climate change consequences is.

Increase water security and access

Water users in the Chambeshi catchment face immediate water risks that need to be addressed without compromising water security for others. There was an urgent need for improved water storage at OLAM’s Kateshi Estate and improved water access for the surrounding communities. OLAM/NCCL, with support from the Partnership, constructed a multi-purpose dam at Kateshi to improve water storage for the purpose of irrigating its coffee fields, while ensuring that adequate water was available for other uses such as livestock and domestic consumption by the surrounding community.

In addition to the construction of the dam, OLAM/NCCL has developed a Livelihoods Improvement Plan to ensure that stakeholders around the dam benefit socially and economically from it. This plan was translated into a programme that will run for the life of the dam and will benefit surrounding communities.



Farmers set up a beehive in a forest within the Chambeshi catchment. The partnership supports farmers in diversifying their activities so they are less dependent on traditional practices like making charcoal, which negatively impact the ecosystem.

Corporate Water Stewardship

The partnership promotes the Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard), an international, ISEAL-compliant standard that defines a set of water stewardship criteria and indicators for how water should be managed at a site and catchment level in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically beneficial. The standard provides water stewards with a six-step framework for continuous improvement that enables sites to commit to, understand, plan, implement, evaluate and communicate water stewardship activities.



Women are empowered as water stewards. Here they maintain furrows of the Milundu stream, which serve the irrigation of crops that sustain the people of Lukupa Village.

Strengthen catchment governance

The partnership supported the establishment of the Water Resources Management Catchment Office in Kasama. This has paved the way for improved water resources management, monitoring and planning to avoid conflicts between different stakeholders within the catchment area. It has also promoted fair and open participatory processes for allocating water to different sectors and, in particular, to vulnerable water users.

Empowering Communities

The Chambeshi Water Security Partnership has promoted women’s participation in water stewardship beyond water supply and sanitation in their homes. Instead, the partnership supports women to become more involved in the management of their natural resources. It enables them to engage in diverse economic activities such as beekeeping, aquaculture, agriculture, tree planting and seedling sales. Diversified income opportunities make them less dependent on traditional practices such as charcoal production, which damages the forest and the entire ecosystem, thereby affecting the quality and quantity of water in the catchment area.

KEY PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved water storage and access: Construction of a multi-purpose dam to supply water to both OLAM's Kateshi site and the local community.
- 165 new jobs created, and 2.276 jobs safeguarded through improved water storage and access
- New investment of €174,341 for the construction of the multipurpose dam and investments of over €40 million secured through the sustainable improvement of water security
- Improved corporate governance through the implementation of the AWS standard at OLAM
- Improved watershed governance through the establishment of the Catchment Governance Office - The Water Resources Management Authority
- Community empowerment: Increased community participation and input in catchment planning and protection
- Increased private sector investment and leadership in watershed protection

LESSONS LEARNED

Engaging multiple partners

- Collaboration between companies in the same catchment area (OLAM & Kasama Sugar case) not only helps everyone meet their legal obligations, but also harmonises understanding and management of shared risks.

Working with the private sector

- The Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard is an important motivator for companies to engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships. Companies such as OLAM have recognised that the AWS helps them to use water and other resources efficiently, thereby improving their cost-effectiveness, leadership and competitiveness in their markets. In short, AWS has a positive impact on their bottom line.

Addressing private sector value is important in leveraging resources for basin resilience. This is shown through the case of the multipurpose dam.

The AWS Standard certifies good corporate stewardship at site or catchment level.



Empowering communities

- Be aware of policy incoherence, such as sectoral and administrative policies in community engagement, and consider mitigation options when designing and developing multi-stakeholder partnerships, e.g. the Water Users Association under the Water Resources Management Act
- Contributions from partners based on their programme activities are one way of achieving joint results. For example, under the CWSP, the partnership action plan was based on individual partner implementation plans.

ABOUT NATURES

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NatuReS has so far contributed to creating or safeguarding more than 72.000 jobs and investments worth EUR 232 million through 14 currently active partnerships.

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