

## Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) The Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework (NRAF)

Risks emerging from the scarcity and endangerment of natural resources like water, soil and biodiversity are increasing. Natural resources are too often overexploited, poorly managed or polluted. Wetland encroachment, soil erosion, unequal water allocation and pollution are just some examples. Yet, natural resources security is essential for economic and social development. It is for example estimated that globally, four out of five jobs are heavily dependent on water (UN World Water Development Report, 2019). Moreover, the acceleration of climate change will increasingly put life-supporting natural resources under pressure.



### ADDRESSING RISKS JOINTLY

Threats to natural resources pose risks to all sectors.



The **public sector** struggles with regulatory enforcement and lack of coordination due to unclear mandates. Inadequate service delivery results in governance risks.



The **private sector** is faced with operational, regulatory and reputational risks due to scarce or low-quality resources, compliance challenges and/or negative public perception



**Civil society** suffers from health risks and threats to their livelihoods due to a lack of life-sustaining resources, loss of income and exposure to diseases.

No single sector actor has the mandate nor the capacities to address the risks by itself. If the root causes of natural resources risks are to be addressed, collaboration among different actors is needed. **Natural Resources Stewardship** means bringing together the public, private sector and civil society in partnerships to manage natural resources in a way that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial.

However, multi-stakeholder stewardship partnerships are not easy to realize. Often, stakeholder groups are used to working in silos, gaps in capacity impair joint decision-making and implementation, intentions and objectives are not always easy to align and power imbalances between partners pose integrity risks.

## A POWERFUL FRAMEWORK FOR NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS

Therefore, the Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) has developed a framework, guiding the set-up of stewardship partnerships from their preparation to scaling, until partnerships are self-sustaining: the **Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework (NRAF)**.

The NRAF framework stands strong from implementation experience in more than 45 natural resources stewardship partnerships across the world. The lessons, experiences and best practices documented make the NRAF a powerful framework.



PARTNERSHIP CREATION			PARTNERSHIP EXECUTION	
Prepare	Assess	Commit	Act	Scale & Exit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify stakeholders and markets</li> <li>Share problems and recognise interests</li> <li>Prepare road map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess risks and opportunities</li> <li>Determine costs and benefits</li> <li>Shape partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop business cases</li> <li>Develop modes of delivery</li> <li>Secure commitment of actors</li> <li>Business case support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower and advise actors</li> <li>Coordinate and manage implementation</li> <li>Monitor progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate impact and lessons</li> <li>Leverage impact at scale</li> </ul>

The NRAF as a guideline to sustainable partnerships in which all stakeholders develop joint solutions on eye-level follows **five phases** and consists of **27 tools**. Over the years, the NRAF manual and tools have proven to increase participatory natural resources governance through a concrete set of steps for stakeholders to reduce the natural resources risks they are facing, together. Stakeholders are accompanied by the materials to shape, commit and act upon agreed actions which lead to increased natural resource security. NatuReS has developed online and in-person trainings which can be attended by stakeholders from any sector who want to define a way forward to address natural resources risks they are facing jointly.



By encouraging the establishment and implementation of partnerships, NatuReS contributes to the UN's effort to put partnerships at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

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