



STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL ZONES (STEP-SIZ)

Maji hujaza shing kwa kushirikiana

As Tanzania advances toward its vision of attaining middle-income status through industrialization, it is vital that business operations in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) continue to thrive – while ensuring community access to clean water and public health. Industries in Dar es Salaam and the Coast regions rely heavily on the Ruvu Catchment, where declining rainfall and falling river levels are already straining supply. If industrial wastewater is poorly treated or water resources are overexploited, companies face not only physical risks such as water scarcity and disrupted production, but also regulatory risks as environmental controls tighten, and reputational risks that can damage investor confidence and public trust. Sustaining growth therefore requires that industrial operations safeguard water quality, quantity and equity in access, ensuring that Tanzania’s development goals are achieved without compromising the wellbeing of its people or ecosystems.

GLOBAL APPROACH, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

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



A section of Benjamin William Mkapa SEZ, Dar es Salaam. Copyright: EPZA

Effective management of water-related challenges requires collective and coordinated action beyond the capacity of individual institutions. Building on the 2019–2022 collaboration between the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) and the GIZ NatuReS II Programme, the new STEP-SIZ partnership adopts a multi-stakeholder approach to strengthen corporate water stewardship and water security, with activities centered in the Benjamin William Mkapa Special Economic Zone (BWM-SEZ). The partnership focuses on two key areas: Catchment Stewardship, promoting sustainable water use for people, agriculture, industry and the environment within the Wami-Ruvu Basin, and City and Industrial Zones, ensuring reliable water supply and quality to support industrial and urban growth. Together, these interventions aim to balance economic development with sustainable water and natural resources management.



Duration	January 2019 - ongoing
Partners	<p>Government institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEMC, EPZA, WRBWB, LGA, Ministry of Investment and Planning, Ministry of Water, DAWASA, VPO, MoF, MoTI, MoA, COSTECH, SIDO, UNIDO, EU ProWas SASA <p>Private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTI, Zaidi Recyclers, Tooku, TPSF, TAM, TIC, Other BWM SEZ Tennants, Industries <p>Civil Society Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nipe Fagio, AWS, GWP-TZ, Shahidi wa Maji, Waste Recyclers Association, Community Based Organizations
Partner contributions	in-kind contributions

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE

To collectively achieve sustainable water and natural resource management and utilization in industrial zones, fostering healthier industries and communities through the effective management of water resources (ensuring right quality and quantity), the treatment and reduction of industrial wastewater, the responsible management of solid waste, and active community engagement in environmental stewardship.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING AREAS

- **Improvements in Water and Wastewater Management:** Enhancing the management of water and wastewater in one industrial zone (to be defined) and BWM-SEZ by the end of 2026, through the completion of comprehensive studies, including AWS Standard assessments, water balance analysis, and the implementation of a water use permit system, ultimately improving water use efficiency.
- **Solid Waste Management:** By June 2026, to implement sustainable resource management plans within the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 1 Industrial Zone (to be defined) to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency (e.g. through reuse) fostering healthier industries and communities.
- **Partnership Governance and Innovation:** Sufficient human and financial resources are mobilized to implement stewardship measures.
- **Linkage to Policy and Innovation:** By 2026, the partnership will have successfully aligned with local and international policy and sustainability frameworks, fostering stronger regulatory linkages and ensuring that industrial zone developments are guided by best stewardship practices and socio-economic resilience.

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

- By early 2024, WRBWB secured strong interest in WUMIS from other Basin Water Boards and the Ministry of Water. WUMIS was integrated into the Ministry's main IT system (MAJIS). The Ministry listed WUMIS as one of the ten key digital solutions for the water sector in 2024 and, on July 3, 2024, declared it the national permitting system for all nine Basin Water Boards.
- STEP SIZ partners agreed to expand the partnership to include the Changombe Industrial Area in Dar es Salaam. This brings several hundred industries into scope, many of them CTI members. The expansion boosts industry participation and creates new opportunities for WRBWB to increase permit coverage for water abstraction and wastewater discharge.

ABOUT NATURES

The partnership is supported by the Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II (NatuReS II), commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

It enables private-public-civil society partnerships to sustainably manage natural resources using the stewardship approach. Through this participatory approach, the partnerships contribute to consensus-building in Just Transition processes, particularly including women and marginalised groups in decision-making. NatuReS is currently active in Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

Published by:

Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II
c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für
internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices in Bonn & Eschborn, Germany

Contact:

Fridtjof Behnsen
Country Coordinator Tanzania
Natural Resources Stewardship Programme

E fridtjof.behnsen@giz.de
I www.giz.de
W <https://nature-stewardship.org/>

Date of publication: November 2025

Photos: © GIZ/ Jesper Anhede

Designed by: Natural Resources Stewardship
Programme II

This publication was produced with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its contents are the sole responsibility of GIZ and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BMZ.

