



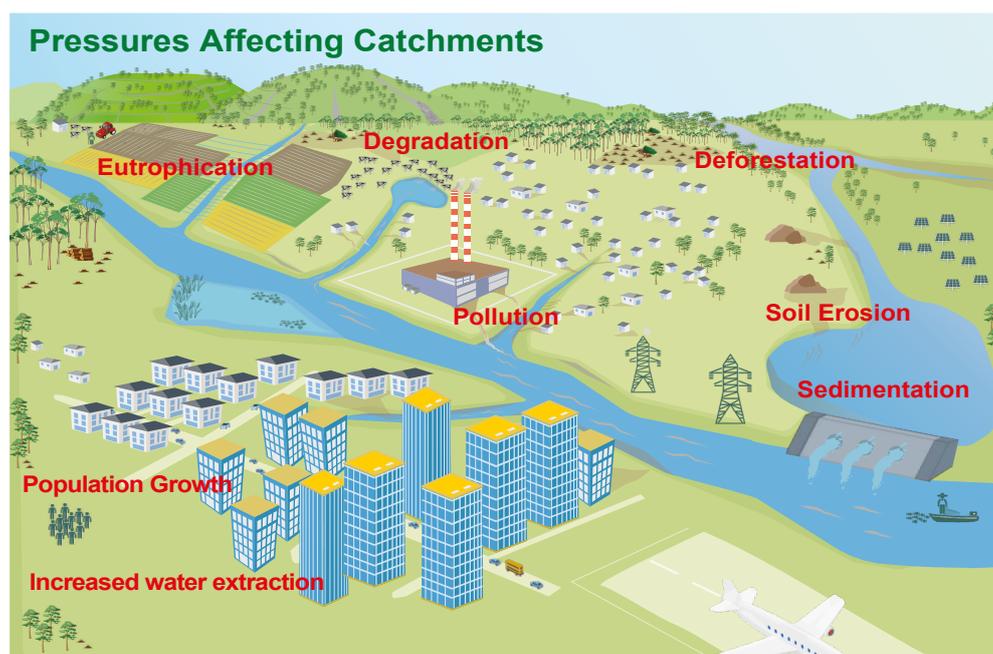
## CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIPS

A stewardship approach to promote resilient catchments

Catchments around the world are threatened by environmental degradation, often resulting from anthropogenic and governance challenges. This reduces their capacity to deliver ecosystem services, such as provision of fresh water and flood regulation. The World Economic Forum has repeatedly stated that droughts, floods and the destruction of ecosystems are the top challenges to economic development. With these issues often occurring in or affecting catchment areas, several partnerships supported by NatuReS focus on their protection.

### RISKS IN CATCHMENTS

Population growth, deforestation and unsustainable farming practices contribute to pollution, soil erosion and siltation in catchments. These pressures particularly affect downstream users, who have to deal with the accumulated impacts from upstream activities.



*Various pressures, be it from rural or urban activities, affect the health of water bodies: inadequate farming practices produce excess of nutrients; residents and industries pollute the water; logging leads to soil erosion, increasing the surface runoff; and hydroelectric dams might impede the flow of nutrients. All these pressures disturb the ecological balance of water bodies and impact the communities that depend on them.*

### NATURES' CATCHMENT STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

Water-related risks, such as soil erosion or water pollution, often have an upstream-downstream relation. The further downstream, the more sediments and pollution accumulate. Therefore, such risks are best addressed through an integrated approach, including relevant stakeholders up- and downstream and from different sectors in one partnership. Together, they can ensure environmental sustainability, while securing private sector investments and fostering social equity. NatuReS supports this process by making actors aware of their shared responsibility for natural resources and facilitating their joint management.

## IMPROVED WATER MANAGEMENT FOR BETTER LIVELIHOODS

Catchment stewardship partnerships aim at contributing to societal benefits and economic gains by mitigating environmental threats in catchment areas.

### Examples of activities include:

- Support multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing water scarcity and pollution issues
- Mobilize resources for development and implementation of catchment management plans
- Promote soil and water conservation activities on farms
- Support the development and implementation of public policy frameworks and standards, e.g. the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard

## IMPACTS OF CATCHMENT STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS

### Economic:

- Improved land use practises that generate more income while reducing water loss
- Creation and safeguarding of catchments-related jobs and investments, (e.g. in fishing, tourism, industry and agriculture)

### Environmental:

- Improved water quality and quantity as a result of regular water monitoring, including mapping water abstraction and pollution points
- Restored catchments through the establishment of buffer zones, soil and water conservation measures, flood risk mitigation etc.
- Improved environmental compliance as a result of collaboration between public and private sectors

### Social:

- Reduced water-related conflicts due to more collaboration and accountability among businesses, governments and communities
- Enhanced capacity in the management of natural resources



Country	NatuReS Catchment Partnerships
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting Lake Hawassa Partnership</li> </ul>
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nelson Mandela Bay Water &amp; Economic Resilience Partnership</li> <li>• uMhlatuze Water Stewardship Partnership</li> </ul>
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships for Sustainable Water Management – Usa River &amp; Weruweru</li> </ul>
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gulu Integrated Catchment Management Partnership</li> <li>• Commercial Flower Farms Integrated Catchment Management Partnership</li> </ul>
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chambeshi Water Security Partnership</li> </ul>

„Together with NatuRes we are working in integrated watershed management. The main activities are rehabilitating gullies, livelihood activities and afforestation. They all showed a positive outcome. Not just the experts but farmers, who initially were reluctant to cooperate, are so happy that they want to expand the activities to other areas.“

Dr. Mulugeta Dadi, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

## ABOUT NATURES

The Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) is a multi-donor programme commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). NatuReS has already created or safeguarded 40.000 jobs and investments worth EUR 178 million through 14 currently active partnerships. It is a continuation of the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), active from 2013-2019, and builds on its achievements. IWaSP reached more than 2.7 million people with more than 180 partners in 38 partnerships and leveraged private sector investments accounting to EUR 15 million.

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