



Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) Tanzania

Partnerships for the sustainable use of natural resources

CONTEXT

Tanzania is one of the fastest-growing economies in East Africa. The country aims to achieve middle-income status through industrialization and economic transformation. With a population of over 65 million, continued population growth and expanding urban and industrial activities are placing increasing pressure on water and other natural resources. This growth is also contributing to rising energy demand, waste generation, and environmental pollution. This highlights the need for more sustainable resource management to support long-term development.

Public sector, private sector and civil society actors have made significant efforts to address these challenges, but increased collaboration across sectors is required to achieve a sustainable impact. The Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II (NatuReS II) facilitates and supports these public-private-civil society partnerships using the stewardship approach. Through collaborative action, the partnerships contribute to a more sustainable use and management of natural resources and advance a socio-ecological transformation towards more sustainable economic development in Tanzania.

PROMOTING NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

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.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Develop stewardship multi-stakeholder partnerships (SMSPs) for effective and sustainable management of life supporting natural resources.

- Strengthen institutional, human, and technical capacities of public, private and civil society actors for natural resources stewardship.
- Embed lessons learned and best practices into policies, regulations and practices of public, private and civil stakeholders.
- Establish stewardship partnerships as an instrument for consensus-building in Just Transition processes, particularly including women and marginalized groups in decision-making.

NatuReS' implementation focus are economic zones or areas with extreme resource use pressure, including zones with water and soil scarcity and/or very resource-intensive production processes. These economic areas can be any part of a city or rural area with a significant concentration of economic activity. In Tanzania, NatuReS facilitates stewardship multi-stakeholder partnerships in Catchments and Industrial Zones.

STEWARDSHIP FOR RESILIENT CATCHMENTS

Threatened or degraded natural resources often lead to negative impacts on economic development – both within and beyond a catchment area. As such, some risks are best handled through an integrated approach involving both upstream and downstream water users.

STEWARDSHIP FOR RESILIENT ECONOMIC ZONES AND INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Many developing countries are expanding industrial zones to boost growth, but heavy water use and pollution pose risks to communities and businesses. NatuReS addresses this by promoting water and natural resource stewardship in policies and on-site practices, helping improve resilience, protect health, and support sustainable economic development.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT (SUWAMA) IN USA RIVER AND WERUWERU

Objective: To improve water security in the Usa River and Weruweru sub-catchments by collectively addressing water resource management challenges and implementing mitigation measures that reduce water scarcity and water quality risks.

Identified Risks: The Usa River and Weruweru sub-catchments face growing pressure on their water resources due to inefficient water use, pollution, and competing demands among users.

Working Areas:

- Inclusive Water Resources Governance and Planning.
- Water for Agriculture.
- Water for Human Consumption.
- Water for Environment
- Water for Industry



Kijani Pamoja tree planting activity in the Weruweru. Copyright: GIZ/Adelaide Mkwawa

Selected Achievements - Weruweru:

- Transitioning from pump-based to gravity-fed piped irrigation reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 75%, saving an estimated 12.8 tonnes of CO₂e per hectare per year, or about 5,760 tonnes annually across APK's 450 ha Lambo Estate. Piped irrigation also reduces the amount of water abstracted from the river by around 60% with further savings through the use of sprinklers and drip irrigation.
- 7,204 trees were planted along the Weruweru River riparian zone to improve water quality, reduce erosion, and enhance biodiversity.
- Through the Pay-to-Grow model, TZS 19.9 million was paid to smallholder farmers in the Machame region between May 2023 and June 2025 to support tree planting.



Usa river WUA training. Copyright: GIZ/Ebrania Mlimbila

Selected Achievements - Usa River:

- Guidelines for the management of Empty Pesticide Containers has been developed. This resulted from trainings to 1026 small-scale farmers in the DOMIKWA furrow on the safe use of fertilizer, pesticides and disposal of containers.
- As of June 2025, 5 simu (phone) solar-powered irrigation demonstration plots have been established, and 30 solar irrigation kits have been adopted by farmers in the Usa River area.
- Roughly 324 beneficiaries from the water use efficiency trainings on sustainable water management practices, solar water pump operation, irrigation system operation and rainwater harvesting.
- A Gender Action Plan with four focus areas (inclusive leadership, equitable climate adaptation, fair water allocation, and green jobs) is being implemented by a 6-member task force representing Usa River and Weruweru.



"Among the benefits we are seeing through the partnership are the additional resources to implement activities. Stakeholders on their own agree to contribute in-cash and in-kind to address their shared challenges, rather than seeing it exclusively as a government responsibility."

- Segule Segule, Basin Director, Pangani Basin Water Board.

STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL ZONES (STEP-SIZ)

Duration: since 2025

Objective: To see the natural resources in the sub-basin developed and managed in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner by 2035 through the implementation of collective actions.

Identified Risks: Industries in Dar es Salaam face growing water risks from unreliable supply, flooding, pollution, and weak infrastructure. These risks are compounded by limited wastewater management and gaps in regulatory enforcement.

Working Areas:

- Water and Wastewater Management.
- Managing Solid Waste.
- Partnership Governance and Innovation.
- Linkage to Policy and Regulation.



STEP-SIZ partnership signing at the EPZA. Copyright: GIZ NatuReS Tanzania

Selected Achievements:

- A strategic collaboration with the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) in 2019 initiated a water stewardship partnership in the Benjamin William Mkapa Special Economic Zone (BWM-SEZ). This paved the way for STEP-SIZ to be established, which focuses on BWM-SEZ and the Chang'ombe Industrial Area.

- The Water User Management Information System (WUMIS) was developed as an online permitting system for water abstractions, wastewater discharge and drilling of boreholes. The wastewater discharge function was piloted with industries in the BWM-SEZ. In July 3 2024, WUMIS was declared a national system by the Ministry of Water for all 9 Basin Water Boards in Tanzania and is linked to the Ministry's Maji Information System (Maji-IS).
- Wastewater Management Guidelines for industries were developed for EPZA to provide regulatory clarity for industries and investors. These guidelines are currently being used to develop new guidelines for use by the Basin Water Boards and Water Utilities in Tanzania for the respective regulator depending on where they operate. The aim is to strengthen industrial wastewater management and support improved water quality across Tanzania.



"Through this partnership, we have established a platform where regulators come together to discuss shared challenges, particularly in effluent management. As a result, we have increased the number of water users on our system and improved compliance by issuing more discharge permits."
- Miriam Esanju, Engineer, Wami Ruvu Basin Water Board.



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