

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

Risks to natural resources like e.g. water, soil or 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 of the risks natural resources face. Yet, natural resources security is essential for economic and social development. It is e.g. estimated that four out of five jobs are heavily dependent on water (UN World Water Development Report- 2019). With climate change accelerating, droughts, floods and environmental degradation will increasingly put life-supporting natural resources under pressure.



## ADDRESSING RISKS JOINTLY

Threats to natural resources pose risks to all.



**Public sector:** governmental and reputational risks due to loss of support if public services cannot be adequately provided



**Private sector:** Physical, regulatory and reputational risks due to scarce or low-quality resources, compliance issues or negative public perception



**Civil society:** Livelihood and health risks due to exposure to diseases, loss of income etc.

No single sector actor has the mandate nor the capacities to address the risks by itself. If the root causes of risks to natural resources are to be addressed, collaboration among different actors needs to take place. **Natural Resources Stewardship** brings together the public, private sector and civil society 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 represent 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 until the scale and exit phase: the **Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework (NRAF)**.

Both NatuReS and its predecessor, the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), have applied and refined this framework drawing on experiences from more than 45 natural resources stewardship partnerships.



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> <li>Socio-economic analysis</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> <li>Phase out</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**.

A user manual contains both the toolbox as well as explanatory context on risks impacting natural resources and why tackling them jointly is the most promising approach to tackle them sustainably.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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

#### Published by:

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

Registered offices in Bonn & Eschborn, Germany

<https://giz.de>

#### Contact:

Sarah Beerhalter  
Head of Programme  
Natural Resources Stewardship Programme

E [NaturalResourcesStewardship@giz.de](mailto:NaturalResourcesStewardship@giz.de)  
W <https://nature-stewardship.org/>

Date of publication: October 2021

Photos: © GIZ/Jesper Anhede

Designed by: Natural Resources Stewardship Programme

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Foreign, Common-wealth & Development Office (FCDO). Its contents are the sole responsibility of GIZ and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, BMZ or FCDO.

