



# Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) Zambia

## Partnerships for the sustainable use of natural resources

Despite being one of Africa’s most water-rich nations, Zambia’s water resources are increasingly threatened by the effects of climate change. The country in the center of Southern Africa ranks among those most exposed to climate-driven disruption on the continent. Significant dry spells in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2024 have resulted in low water levels in Lake Kariba, one of the country’s important strategic freshwater resources, and dried up wells – a disruption to the livelihoods of many Zambians. In contrast, recent years have also brought increased flooding, especially affecting communities in Zambia’s Northern and Eastern regions. Additionally, rapid urbanisation, poor governance of natural resources and unchecked development especially in urban centers pose an increasing risk to the health of Zambia’s natural resources.

### PROTECTING ZAMBIA’S NATURAL RESOURCES REQUIRES STEWARDSHIP

Water and other life-supporting natural resources are critical for the health and prosperity of Zambia’s people, as well as for the country’s ecosystems and economy. However, the protection of natural resources is highly complex and requires holistic, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approaches. No single actor can address risks to natural resources on its own. Stewardship is an approach to participatory governance, establishing dialogue between public, private sector partners and civil society to manage their shared natural resources risks.

### NATURES’ APPROACH

The Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II (NatuReS II) enables private-public-civil society partnerships to sustainably manage natural resources using the stewardship approach. The programme promotes collective action to jointly develop solutions for the protection and management of natural resources. The partnerships aim at a use of natural resources that is environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial and societally equitable. Measures implemented by the partnerships therefore foster a socio-ecological transformation process. Through the participatory stewardship approach, the stewardship multi-stakeholder partnerships (SMSPs) especially include women and marginalised groups into decision-making processes and thus contribute to a Just Transition.

<b>Duration</b>	2023 - 2026
<b>NatuReS partner countries</b>	Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa
<b>Funding parties</b>	NatuReS II is funded by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



*Zambia’s life-supporting natural resources such as catchments and rivers are increasingly at risks.*

## NATURES IN ZAMBIA

In Zambia, NatuReS supports the **Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI)** and the **Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LSMFEZ)** to strengthen collective governance and deliver holistic solutions, tangibly protecting and enhancing life-supporting natural resources.

The LuWSI Partnership focuses on improving water security, while creating more resilient communities, cities and catchments. It was established in 2016 with a growing membership of currently 40 partners. The new LSMFEZ partnership was formed in 2024 and focuses on transitioning towards an ecological economic zone, prioritising efficient and sustainable use of natural resources for resilience, economic development and sustainability.

## FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Learning from each other, sharing key lessons, and replicating successful approaches across partner countries are integral components of the NatuReS programme. This commitment to cross-country knowledge exchange adds significant value to our partners in Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa, and Zambia, empowering them to tackle shared challenges and adopt proven strategies for sustainable natural resource management.

To further facilitate dialogue and networking opportunities, NatuReS Zambia hosts regional exchange events and collaborative formats. These



Installation of a 3.4 km pipeline to improve water access in a peri-urban community of 200,000 residents in Western Lusaka.

platforms provide opportunities for stakeholders from diverse sectors and countries to connect, share experiences, and co-develop innovative solutions tailored to their unique contexts. By fostering a culture of collaboration, NatuReS enhances the impact and scalability of its initiatives across the region.

Such regional exchanges not only strengthen partnerships but also inspire transformative actions, ensuring sustainable development goals are met through collective learning and cooperation.



### Published by:

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

Registered offices in Bonn & Eschborn, Germany

<https://giz.de>

### Contact:

Adjoa Parker  
Country Coordinator Zambia  
Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II

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

Date of publication: September 2025

Photos: © GIZ/ NatuReS Zambia

Designed by: Natural Resources Stewardship  
Programme II

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union, 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.