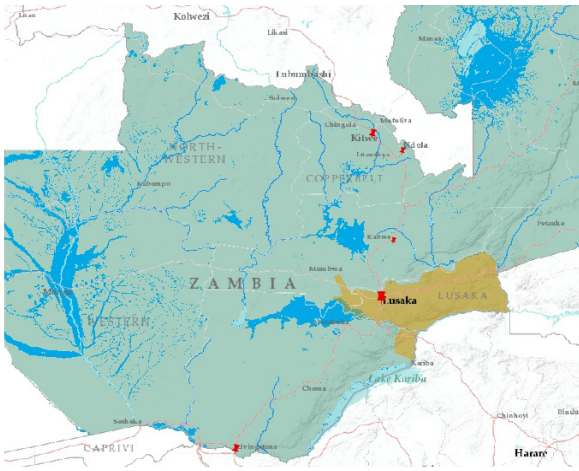


# The Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI)

A case study on natural resources stewardship





## Risks affecting Lusaka

Lusaka is Zambia’s capital, the country’s economic centre and its fastest growing city, with more than three million inhabitants. However, the city increasingly suffers from water insecurity. Public water supply only covers around 50% of the demand and many water sources are contaminated with chemicals and fecals because of poorly constructed latrines, septic tanks and unchecked waste disposal. Additionally, the Kafue River, from which 40% of public water supply is sourced, is threatened by industrial and mining activities, poorly conducted waste management in the Kafue Basin, as well as pressure due to climate change. Lusaka also endures persistent flooding due to unchecked urban development, the destruction of recharge and drainage areas, forests, and green spaces, and finally the blockage of drainage channels with waste.

These problems are aggravated by an ineffective management of natural resources in the city, including a lack of collaboration between sectors and uncoordinated urban planning. Unsustainable investments, poor governance structures and systems, inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations, powerless citizens, low accountability and pervasive corruption have resulted in an accelerating deterioration of natural resources in and around the city.

All this resulted in an increase of diseases across the city, with Lusaka being the epicentre of cholera in the sub-region. Moreover, flood-related destruction of property regularly leads to disruptions of economic activity and the displacement of people. Especially water-dependent industries are constrained in their productivity and investments, and employees suffer from a decrease in job security in turn. Currently, a vicious cycle of persistent poverty, poor health conditions, compromised livelihoods, environmental degradation, and an inability to mitigate and adapt to climate change is the consequence for Lusaka.



A storm water drain in Lusaka blocked with waste.

## Joining forces for Lusaka’s water security

In the past, various stakeholders recognised these risks and were ready to act. However, individual actions were often limited in their effectiveness due to the scale and complexity of the city’s environmental challenges. Recognising the need for cross-sectoral efforts, actors like **Zambian Breweries** and the **Water Resources Management Authority** requested support from the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** in the development of a multi-stakeholder partnership to address ground water pollution in Lusaka.

Stakeholders from various sectors took part in a series of workshops to scope out the issues around water security in the city in 2014. Over 70 participants identified major causes for pollution, concluding that the major issue for Lusaka was a lack of effective collaboration between sectors in achieving water security for the city.

In July 2015, the leadership of key public institutions with mandates for the protection of water resources agreed to form the **Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI)**, with the main objective to jointly improve Lusaka’s water security across sectors. During the partnership’s initial development, GIZ was tasked to host the secretariat, facilitating an inclusive and participatory decision-making process.



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

## Laying a foundation for joint action



In tandem with joint stakeholder discussions, a situational analysis of current and potential threats to Lusaka's water security was developed. Partners identified root causes and created a 'Water Risks and Solutions Assessment'. The analysis focused on four action areas prioritized by LuWSI's core partners:

- 1.) Groundwater quantity
- 2.) Groundwater quality
- 3.) Kafue River flows (quantity and quality)
- 4.) Water and sanitation services and access

This assessment included both a stakeholder and an institutional analysis around the four action areas. The assessment helped the partners to better understand shared risks and impacts of water insecurity, the interaction between different risks, as well as the various affected stakeholders and institutions.



Joint analyses of risks affecting Lusaka's water security helped partners set up LuWSI as a cross-sectoral partnership to tackle these risks.



*"LuWSI is not something that you can say started off with one person's brainstorming. It was collectively done. It wasn't led by one person, but there was this recognition that each person had a stake in it, something to lose and something to gain from it."*

Brenda Mwalukanga  
1st LuWSI Coordinator

*"What has worked for LuWSI is the fact that it's a multi-stakeholder partnership. It's rare that you see the private sector on the same table as civil society, on the same table as the government organization, on the same table with funders speaking to each other. And the coordination, the bringing in of projects, whereby we have different partners with one agenda: implementing and knowing their mandates, but with one agenda, for me, that, I think, has worked well."*

Bwalya Funga  
Senior Settlements Officer  
Lusaka City Council



## Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI)



### Committing to a common goal

The Lusaka Water Security Initiative was officially launched on December 2nd, 2016. This was accompanied by the signing of the LuWSI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is a non-legally binding document that articulates LuWSI's objectives and approach. It also outlines the partnership phases, its governance and resourcing arrangement and partner exit formalities. The MOU was signed by 16 public, private, civil society and international development organizations. The transparency and accountability it provides is particularly important in the collaboration across sectors LuWSI promotes.



### Objective

Strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration to safeguard Lusaka's water resources while enhancing the sustainable and timely access to water and sanitation for all



### Partners

33 partners from public, private sector, civil society, as well as international organizations



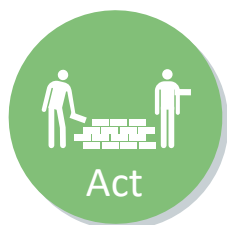
### Partner contributions

- Civil society: € 32.619
- Public sector: € 153.618
- Private sector: € 93.479



Partners of the Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI).

### Joining action across sectors

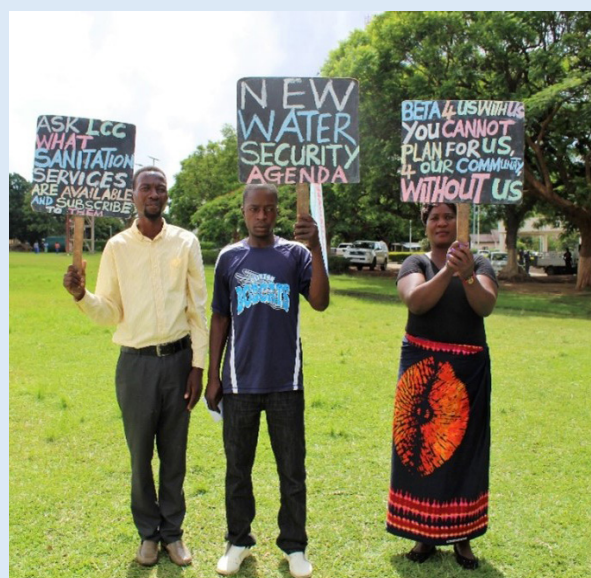


The LuWSI partnership has implemented an array of activities linked to its action areas since 2016. All activities are informed by the LuWSI strategy and contribute to the LuWSI Logframe which is the overall monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the partnership. Partners also utilize various modes of communication such as newsletters, the [LuWSI website](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and WhatsApp to ensure both external and internal audiences know what is being implemented and how they can collaborate.

## BUILDING A RESILIENT CITY THE WATER SECURITY ACTION AND INVESTMENT PLANNING (WSAIP) PROCESS

### A strategy towards a water secure city

LuWSI undertook a planning process to develop an integrated strategy for a water secure city. Designed as a highly participatory stakeholder empowerment process, the [Water Security Action and Investment Planning \(WSAIP\)](#) process engaged various stakeholders from government, businesses and communities. A key output from this process was the development of a Water Security Strategic Framework that sets a coherent and systematic framework for action and investment into water security in Lusaka. Other outputs include the development of a portfolio of over 27 jointly developed project and investment ideas to address water security challenges, the strengthening of community control and participation, and the development of [knowledge and information products](#) about water security to inform everybody, including the most marginalized, about necessary actions to make Lusaka more water secure.



Community members at the launch of the city-wide Water Security Agenda.

## Increasing community power

The partnership consists of a diverse group of stakeholders, but to further enhance the inclusivity of the initiative, a city-wide community empowerment process under the WSAIP began to ensure that communities participate in planning and decision-making processes. The strengthening of community control and local governance using the Human Rights Based Approach of programming as a development framework supported the establishment of 12 Ward Development Committees (WDC) and the development of five community development plans. 460 community representatives, of which 59% women, were trained to facilitate local planning in communities and supported in gaining a better understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities. They reached a total of around 23,000 households, collecting their ideas for improved living conditions in Lusaka, and fed them into the city planning at City Council level. Since then, all wards in Lusaka have established WDCs, using the human rights framework, and more community development plans have been developed.

*"It was part of the training to help us set up [city development] plans. Once we collected information [from the communities], instead of dumping it with the City Council, we had the right to actually put the information together. They taught us: How do we plan? How do we prioritize from peoples' perception? And they also taught us about resource mobilization."*

*Fatima Nkhuwa,  
former Ward Development  
Committee Member,  
Kamulanga Ward*



## BUILDING RESILIENT SCHOOLS THE GREEN SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (GSPP)

The programme focuses on improving and enhancing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in all schools across Lusaka and specifically targets public and community schools in Lusaka's most vulnerable (peri-urban) communities. Activities include the "Safe back to School" Campaign, which ensured children return to school under safe conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic and trained teachers and school staff on necessary safety measures. Additionally, the programme improves water access and quality, conducts awareness raising about environmental education and recycling and promotes menstrual health and hygiene safety. So far, WASH services have been improved in 180 schools, benefiting over 259,000 pupils, as well as teachers and community members, located in the city's most vulnerable communities.



*Increased access to water sanitation and hygiene facilities at Mumana Primary School.*



*Women are trained in the fabrication of handwashing stations at the University of Zambia.*

The need for handwashing stations to be installed in schools has significantly increased due to the pandemic. To be able to produce and maintain them locally, partners have trained and certified twenty women-led community enterprises from low-income communities of Lusaka in the fabrication of handwashing stations. Since many people's livelihoods, especially those of women, have been adversely affected by the pandemic, alternative income sources were urgently needed. The technical capacity to produce and maintain handwashing stations empowers the 20 women entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 45 to meet the community's sanitation needs by offering a Jumbo Hand Wash fabrication and maintenance service. At the same time, it improves their economic opportunities to access new sources of income.

## GROUND WATER PROTECTION THE WELLFIELD PROTECTION PROJECT (WFPP)

The project protects Lusaka's most strategic groundwater wellfields by preventing encroachment. Measures include the participatory development of inclusive recreation eco-parks around the wellfields, empowering communities in wards around wellfields and improving the management of groundwater, waste and sanitation within wellfields and surrounding wards. So far, engineering designs for eco-parks have been developed for two major wellfields in Lusaka. Communities in these areas have also been empowered to protect these areas from encroachment and vandalism. During the Covid-19 pandemic, partners improved and secured water supply services in wellfields located in Lusaka's most vulnerable communities. In total, 32 boreholes have been rehabilitated, servicing over 743.000 people in marginalized communities.



*Preventing the encroachment of the Wellfield Shaft 5 in Lusaka by protecting it through a fence.*

## PROMOTION OF CORPORATE WATER STEWARDSHIP WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARDS



*The 2021 Water Stewardship Award award ceremony led by the Guest of Honour, Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Hon. Mike Elton Mposha.*

By granting water stewardship awards to companies, LuWSI encourages them to align their production processes to good water stewardship practices. The Corporate Water Stewardship Awards are given every year to the best performing companies and utility companies. Evaluations are focused on water conservation and efficiency in business and industry as a main criteria. 2022 winners were the Southern Water and Sanitation Company, followed by the Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LWSC).



*"For us, water stewardship is important because we think that there are many stakeholders and many users of water. And it's not only during this era of time, but also in the future that generations are going to rely on that water, because water is the basis of all life. Therefore, we need to have a good structure to ensure that water is conserved."*

*Stewart Simpson  
Managing Director, Natural Valley Ltd*



*"We need to continue improving our agenda focusing on the big things. And the big things for me are three: Governance - we continue to strengthen it; Membership - we continue to serve our members in a manner that will build value for them; and thirdly the sustainability of LuWSI"*

*Ezekiel Sekele  
Former Sustainability Manager  
Zambian Breweries Plc*



## Ensuring sustainability

In 2021, the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO), Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company, Zambian Breweries and Coca-Cola Beverages Zambia renewed previous efforts to formalize the partnership legally. They conducted a detailed analysis about implications this would have, which alleviated concerns among partners. The option of ‘a company limited by guarantee’ was deemed the most suitable for LuWSI, as it enables the partnership to subsist as a well-defined independent legal entity that operates in the best interests of its objectives. It entails stringent fiduciary reporting requirements that are beneficial for accountability, is tax exempt, allows for ease of entry and exit of new members without property transfer, and is not affected by changes in membership, guarantors, and directors. The LuWSI Steering Board reached consensus on this option, and since December 2022, LuWSI is officially its own legal entity. To ensure the partnership’s long-term sustainability, GIZ handed over the coordination and secretariat function to NWASCO, as agreed by partners. NWASCO hosted the secretariat already since 2018 and now employs two full time staff members for the partnership. This sends a strong message: LuWSI is here to stay!



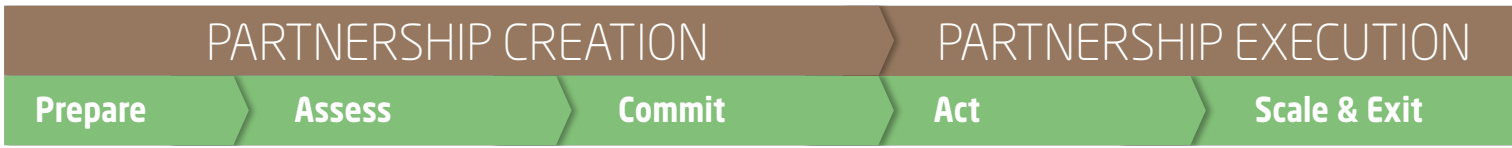
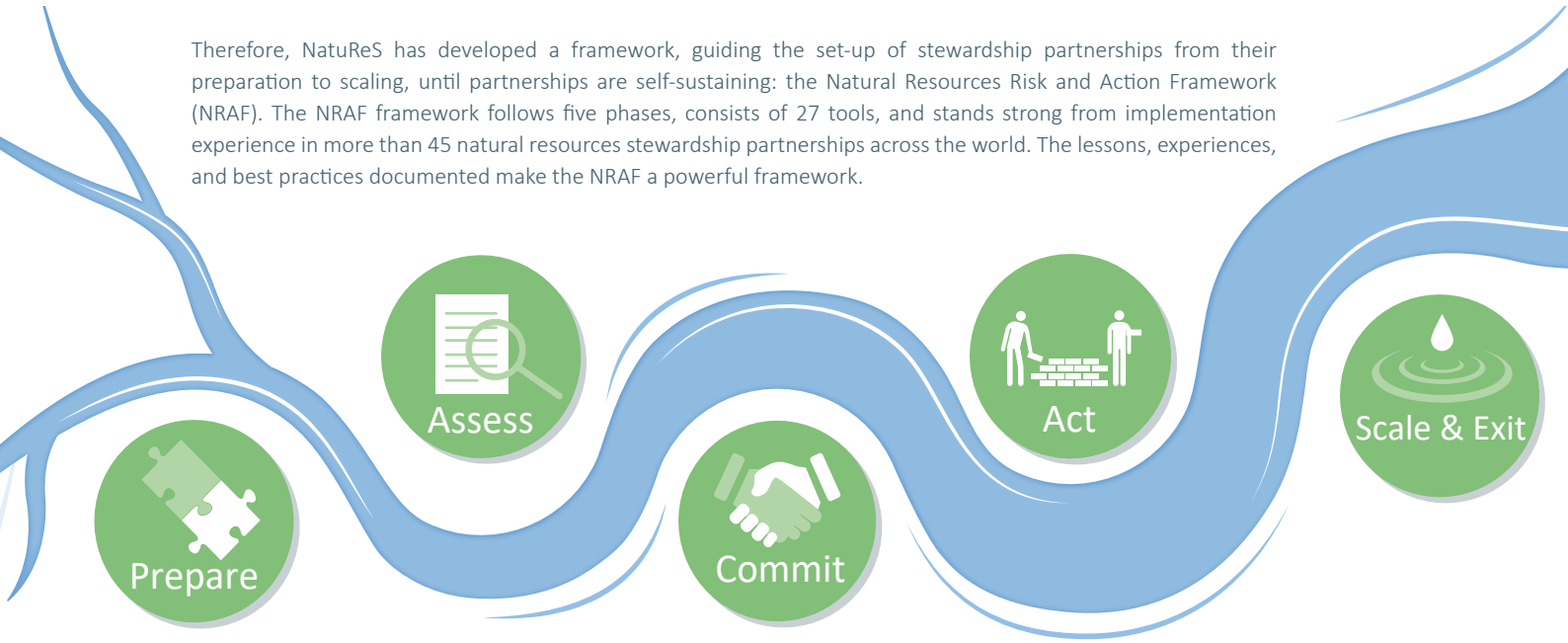
LuWSI partners during a workshop in July 2022.

## The Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework

GIZ supported the Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI) throughout the whole process from its initiation to the joint implementation of activities, facilitating a participatory approach to natural resources governance. This is essential, as no single sector actor has the mandate nor the capacity to address natural resources risks by itself. If the root causes of natural resource risks are to be addressed, collaboration among different sectors is needed.

However, multi-stakeholder stewardship partnerships are not easy to realise. 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 pose integrity risks.

Therefore, NatuReS has developed a framework, guiding the set-up of stewardship partnerships from their preparation to scaling, until partnerships are self-sustaining: the Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework (NRAF). The NRAF framework follows five phases, consists of 27 tools, and stands strong from implementation experience in more than 45 natural resources stewardship partnerships across the world. The lessons, experiences, and best practices documented make the NRAF a powerful framework.



- Prepare**
- Identify stakeholders and markets
  - Share problems and recognise interests
  - Prepare road map

- Assess**
- Assess risks and opportunities
  - Determine costs and benefits
  - Shape partnership
  - Socio-economic analysis

- Commit**
- Develop business cases
  - Develop modes of delivery
  - Secure commitment of actors
  - Business case support

- Act**
- Empower and advise actors
  - Coordinate and manage implementation
  - Monitor progress

- Scale & Exit**
- Evaluate impact and lessons
  - Leverage impact at scale
  - Phase out

## About NatuReS

The partnership is supported by the Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) in Zambia. NatuReS is a multi-donor programme commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is currently active in Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

In Zambia, the NatuReS programme aims to reduce water and environmental threats that pose significant social and economic risks to sustainable economic growth.

NatuReS has so far contributed to creating or safeguarding more than 72.000 jobs and investments worth more than EUR 232 million through 14 currently active partnerships across the five countries of implementation.

**LuWSi**  
Lusaka Water Security Initiative

Scan to find out more:



### Published by:

Natural Resources Stewardship Programme  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany

### Contact:

Dr. Faith Lawrence  
NatuReS Country Coordinator in Zambia  
[faith.lawrence@giz.de](mailto:faith.lawrence@giz.de)  
[www.nature-stewardship.org](http://www.nature-stewardship.org)  
<https://luwsi.org>

### Date of publication: October 2023

Photos: © GIZ/Sonile Mutafya, Lawrence  
Kumwenda; LuWSi; Ulendo Creative Media  
Designed by: Consultea Ltd  
Content: Sonile Mutafya, David Mwamba  
Nonde, Wyness Zimba, Felix Chabala  
Editing: Maria-Therese Eiblmeier, Francesca  
Fassbender

### supported by:



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