



## The International Water Stewardship Programme

**Project Summary** The International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP) is an international programme for water security that combines global best practices in water stewardship with local know-how. The six-year programme (2013-2018) is currently active in five African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa) and is expanding to the Caribbean. It supports partnerships between public authorities, private companies and civil society to address shared threats to water security while improving stakeholders' use and management of water, and building their capacity to jointly develop their own solutions.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH manages IWaSP on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Over the six-year period, BMZ committed 6,000,000 EUR, and DfID 11,375,000 EUR. Coca-Cola through the Global Environment and Technology Fund provides 216,860 EUR to support partnerships in Tanzania and Uganda.

IWaSP currently supports nine partnerships involving 23 public institutions, 22 companies, three associations, seven NGOs and numerous community representatives. Through improved management of water security risks, IWaSP aims to benefit one million people directly and six million indirectly by 2018.

**The Water Security Challenge** As the economies of developing and emerging countries surge, demand for water is progressively outstripping available supply. This situation is further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, and results in nearly eighty percent of the world's population living in areas with high risk to water security. More than seventy-five percent of the world's abstracted fresh water is used in corporate value chains.

It is therefore hardly surprising that water crises were ranked as the number one risk facing countries and industries (2015 World Economic Forum Global Risk Report). In particular floods, shortages and pollution in many developing and emerging economies are creating a rising tide of water related risks for companies, threatening their supply chains, investments and profits.

### Water Stewardship around River Rwizi in Western Uganda

The River Rwizi catchment in Western Uganda runs the risk of seasonally insufficient water supply, especially for the population in Mbarara Town, local communities, and water dependent businesses. As a result, water shortages and floods are increasingly frequent hazards affecting the companies and residents of Mbarara, one of the fastest growing Ugandan towns of nearly 200,000 inhabitants, and create a compelling case for collective action. IWaSP's partnership between Coca-Cola Sabco, the Ministry of Water and Environment, GIZ and civil society stakeholders is set up to restore and protect critical wetlands in the catchment, increasing water storage capacity to improve supply in the dry season, and reducing flood risk during the rainy season. It also strengthens catchment management authorities for better regulation and planning. Since the project's late implementation, the IWaSP partnership has protected 160 ha of wetland, set up community funds for more sustainable and less impactful livelihoods for 1,600 people and trained 220 farmers on better practices. The partnership is currently installing improved water supply for 3,200 people.

These water-related hazards also affect local communities and governments. To overcome these challenges society, as a whole, depends heavily on the resilience of the environment, infrastructure and public water management institutions. However, public authorities in these economies often lack the capacity to properly plan, regulate and finance water resources and infrastructure.

As a result, infrastructure is rarely sufficient and the environment's ability to store, purify and release water is being diminished. Individual water users are often forced to fend for themselves, with severe consequences arising for the most vulnerable. Inevitably, the increasing competition for water resources is leading to a rise in conflict for water between companies, farmers and communities.

Companies increasingly recognise the risks they are facing and the need to work in partnership with public authorities and other water users to overcome them.

**IWaSP's Objectives** IWaSP's main objective is to engage and enable public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholders to work collectively in watersheds for improved water security.

IWaSP focuses on concrete joint action and improved water governance which leads to tangible improvements to people's water security, the environment and infrastructure.

To this end, the programme engages all key stakeholders in water stewardship partnerships customised to the respective local context. Building resilience to the very present threat of climate change, as well as ensuring sustainability and equity in all water stewardship activities, are the main underlying principles of the Programme.

To improve the management of shared threats to water security, IWaSP focuses on five key areas:

1. improving the cooperation between public sector, private sector and civil society
2. strengthening public sector institutions and policies
3. implementing scalable projects that measurably reduce water risk

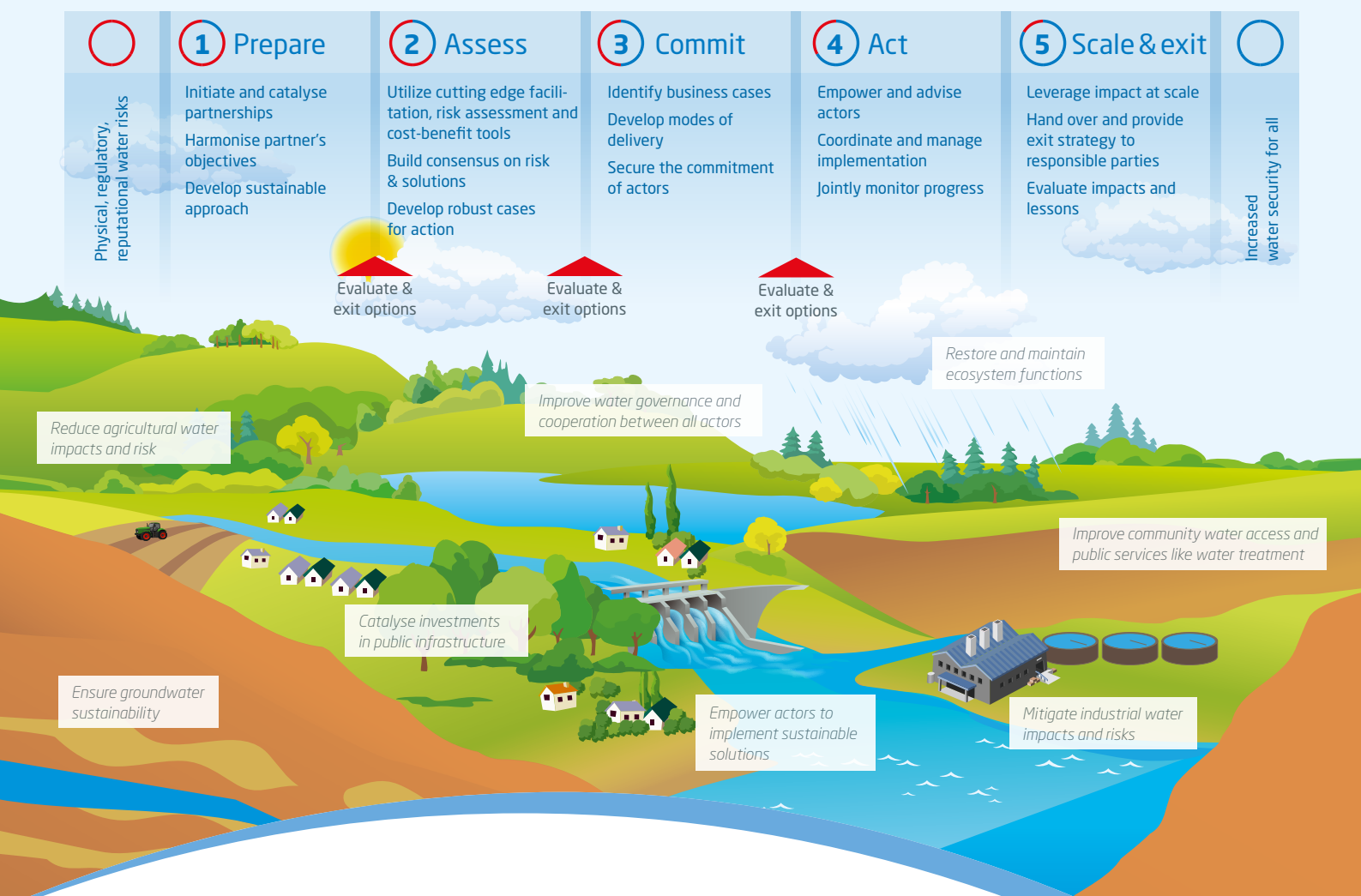
4. maximizing impact by leveraging financial and technical resources
5. promoting best practice Water Stewardship approaches on national, regional and international levels.

**How the IWaSP Partnership Approach Works** IWaSP deploys a tried-and-tested approach to support multi-stakeholder partnerships that jointly work to tackle water risks. IWaSP acts as

- ≈ an enabler, catalysing others to partner and act to manage shared water risks
- ≈ an advisor and honest partnership broker for public and private organisations and communities
- ≈ an implementer, coordinating partners and securing follow through on commitments.

IWaSP's Water Risk and Action Framework fosters effective collective action, while in parallel building stakeholder capacity and ensuring high transparency and accountability.

## Water Risk and Action Framework



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