

AWARE

Accelerate Water and Agricultural Resources Efficiency

The challenge

Zambia has abundant water resources. However, due to population and economic growth there has been an increase in demand for the resource. At the same time, climate change, droughts and shifting rainfall patterns heavily impact on the availability and supply of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use nationwide.

The Lower Kafue Sub-Catchment, administratively spanning across parts of Southern, Central and Western Province, is particularly affected by climate variability in this regard.



Smallholder farmers are particularly hard hit. While they produce over 80% of Zambia's crops, they are dependent on the rains and highly vulnerable to climate change. For smallholders to commercialise and improve their livelihoods, water is a key priority. This calls for the sustainable management of water from national to decentralised level as well as agricultural resources efficiency.

Our approach

To support water resources being sustainably used for the benefit of all water users and for smallholder farmers to develop towards commercialisation, effective integrated water resources management is key as much as efficient water harvesting and irrigation practices.

Building on the successes and lessons learnt from previous activities, the **Accelerate Water and Agricultural Resources Efficiency (AWARE*) Programme** was launched in February 2019. Its objective is to enhance climate-smart water resources management and efficient agricultural water use for smallholders in the Lower Kafue Sub-Catchment, ensuring a gender sensitive approach. To achieve the objective, AWARE works on the national as well as decentralised level on water resources management, and supports more than 11,000 smallholders in the sub-catchment to improve their agricultural water management practices.

Funded by	European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Lower Kafue Sub-Catchment, Zambia
Partners	Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection (MWDSEP) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Duration	2019 until 2022
Overall financial volume	EUR 15.7 mln (EUR 12 mln EU, EUR 3.7 mln BMZ)



Left: The Kafue River near Mazabuka

Right: Installed drip irrigation system in a maize field



Left: Farmers playing the river basin game

Right: Woman using an efficient agricultural method to water her crops

Building on successes of the past...





Under earlier support our partners made significant achievements at various fronts. Examples include:

- Establishment and decentralisation of water resources governance structures
- Development of the Kafue Catchment and Lower Kafue Sub-Catchment Management and Water Allocation Plan
- Establishment of two Water Users Associations
- Establishment of demonstration sites for supplementary irrigation, storage and rainwater harvesting.
- 1,200 smallholders trained on climate-smart water use and irrigation





...up-scaling impact in the future

AWARE will further consolidate achievements made and broaden its support towards agricultural water use:

Water Resources Management

-  **1** National WRM strategy
-  **1** Register for water abstraction permits
-  **4** Water User Associations (WUAs)
-  **8** Catchment protection measures
-  **10** Designated areas for sustainable irrigation

Efficient agricultural water use

-  **11,000** Smallholder trained in efficient agricultural water use
-  **32** Demonstration sites for water harvesting and irrigation
-  **1** Innovative financing approach for smallholders
-  **1,650** Beneficiaries report significant increase in productivity

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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As at May 2019

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In cooperation with Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection (MWDSEP), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA).

(AWARE*): Official title of AWARE in EU Action Document is "Enhanced sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural water management and irrigation systems for smallholder farmers in selected districts of the Lower Kafue sub-catchment".