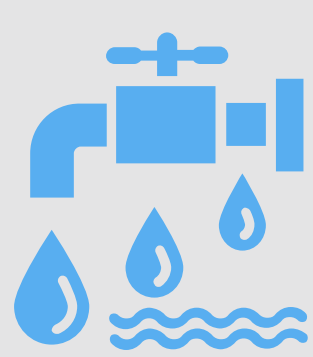


A JOURNEY TOWARDS ACHIEVING FAIR WATER FOOTPRINT IN TANZANIA



Background

Fair Water Footprint (FWF) is increasingly important in Tanzania as population growth, climate variability, pollution, ecosystem degradation, and rising water demand place growing pressure on water resources.



126
billion M3
annually

Tanzania currently has approximately 126 billion cubic meters of renewable water resources annually, with per capita water availability estimated at about 2,105 cubic meters per year, above the international water stress threshold of 1,700 cubic meters.

Projected growing population



However, a growing population projected to reach about 89.2 million by 2035 and over 130 million by 2050 combined with increasing agricultural, industrial, energy, and domestic demand, is expected to reduce per capita water availability to approximately 1,412 cubic meters by 2035, placing Tanzania within the water stress category.

By 2050, per capita renewable water availability is projected to decline further to approximately 900–1,000 cubic meters per person per year, moving the country closer to water scarcity conditions and increasing risks to water security, ecosystems, livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth.

Fair Water Footprints in Brief

Water Footprints

Measures the total volume of water required to produce the goods and services consumed by individuals, communities, organizations, or economies, including both direct and indirect water use.

Fair Water Footprint (FWF)

A collaborative initiative that seeks to transform how the global economy values, manages, and interacts with water. It promotes shared responsibility among consumers, businesses, governments, and civil society to ensure sustainable and equitable water stewardship.

The Fair Water Footprint framework promotes the following transformative actions:



Zero Pollution

Ensure effective wastewater management, treatment, and pollution control measures.



Sustainable Water Use and Withdrawals

Sustainable water uses and abstraction that balances human needs, livelihoods, and ecosystem health.



Protection and Restoration of Nature

Strengthen protection and restoration of ecosystems through nature-based solutions that enhance water security and climate resilience.



Universal Access to WASH Services

Ensure WASH access for workers and improve services for underserved communities.



Climate Resilience and Water Security

Strengthen resilience to droughts, floods, and water-related conflicts through effective planning, governance, collaboration, and investment.

Achieving this will require stronger water governance, investment in conservation and water-efficient technologies, catchment protection, wastewater management, and strengthened water stewardship across sectors. Progress will also depend on learning from existing and emerging good practices while promoting an inclusive approach that brings together government, businesses, civil society, communities, and water users to strengthen long-term water security and sustainable development.



? Why advocate for Fair water footprints and water stewardship in Tanzania

- i. To ensure responsible water use as key exports are all heavily water reliant.
- ii. Climate resilience strengthened in an area of high vulnerability to climate change.
- iii. Improved water and livelihood security.
- iv. Protection of Tanzania’s unique ecosystems.
- v. Timely prioritization of WASH in the workplace and communities.
- vi. Emphasizes on moral commitment of stakeholders; private sector, CSOs, and the Government.



Private Sectors Best Practices in Advancing Fair Water Foot Prints in Tanzania

Companies and social enterprises play a vital role in the country’s economic development. However, their operations rely heavily on water resources, making them particularly vulnerable to water-related risks. In response to these challenges, some companies in Tanzania have started implementing measures and strategies to promote sustainable water use within their operations, demonstrating emerging good practices in water stewardship and resource management.

For these companies, water stress represents a significant resource risk, threatening business continuity through increased operational costs and reduced production outputs. Analysis indicates that 40% of businesses face medium to very high operational risks, while 60% face low to very low risks.

There are exemplary companies in Tanzania which have started implementing strategies to ensure sustainable use of water in their operations

Fair Water Footprint Principle	Best Practices / Implementation Example	Bakhresa Group	Bagamoyo Sugar	Coca cola	MO LTD	ALAF	SBC
Sustainable Water Withdrawals	● Soil moisture monitoring to minimize water withdrawals through subsurface drip irrigation.	✓	✓				
	● Regular water-use monitoring and tracking to inform efficient water management decisions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	● Smart water monitoring technologies installed to detect leaks and regulate water consumption.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	● Capacity building and behaviour change initiatives to employees on responsible water use practices.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	● Automated deep borehole systems installed to reduce wastage and improving water-use efficiency.	✓			✓	✓	
	● Water metering and trend analysis.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WASH access	● Construction of water supply and irrigation facilities to adjacent communities to improve water access.	✓	✓		✓		
No Pollution	● Recycling and reusing water to improve water-use efficiency and reduce wastewater discharge.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	● Implementing wastewater treatment programmes.	✓			✓	✓	✓
Protection of Nature	● Applying industrial symbiosis to enhance resource efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.	✓			✓		
	● Catchment protection and conservation measures.		✓	✓	✓		
Climate Change Resilience	● Adopted atmospheric water harvesting technologies to diversify water sources.	✓					
	● Strengthen long-term sustainability planning and improve water stewardship.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Critical Challenges and Gaps in implementing FWF in Tanzania



- Inadequate knowledge and technical skills on achieving FWF.
- Lack of clear existing plans/strategies to eliminate water stress among most private sectors.
- Coordination challenge among water sector regulators.
- Perception that there is more emphasis on the private sector and less on the public sector

Recommendations

1. Integrate Water Stewardship into Core Business Operations and Risk Management



Companies should treat water as a strategic business resource by integrating water stewardship into planning, investment decisions, and enterprise risk management systems. This includes setting water efficiency targets, assessing water footprint, investing in leak detection, water reuse, rainwater harvesting, and climate resilience measures to reduce exposure to water scarcity risks.

2. Invest in Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Protection Beyond Factory Boundaries



Corporate investment should extend beyond internal compliance toward protecting shared water resources. Companies can strengthen wastewater treatment systems, adopt cleaner production approaches, support catchment restoration initiatives, promote industrial symbiosis, and participate in watershed conservation partnerships to reduce pollution and sustain ecosystem services that support long-term water availability.

3. Strengthen Collective Action on Water Governance and Community Water Security



Companies should collaborate with government institutions, water basin authorities, local communities, and civil society to strengthen water governance and improve equitable access to water resources. This includes supporting WASH initiatives, participating in catchment management efforts, sharing good practices, strengthening employee water stewardship awareness, and contributing to multi-stakeholder solutions that improve long-term water security.





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