

# Enhancing collaborative research and development capacities of German and Sub-Saharan partners on Integrated Watershed Management

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## Introduction

The current situation in Africa shows the urgent need to improve management and development capacities towards sustainable management of watersheds for keeping and increasing of livelihood level. One major bottleneck of increasing management and development capacities is the communication gap between different stakeholder groups which are involved in integrated watershed management (IWM) (see figure 1) activities.

## Project goals

This project aims at bridging the communication gap between the different stakeholder groups which are operating integrated watershed management concepts:

- scientists/researchers
- practitioners/decisions makers (e.g. regulatory authorities, extensionists, etc.)
- local population living in the watersheds

## Project concept

The project is addressing these communication gaps through the conduction of research and development activities on IWM among all stakeholders in the three partner countries (see figure 2). Joint activities will be conducted in defined watersheds in close cooperation with existing water resources users associations. Thus, all stakeholders learn and practice the concept and implementation of IWM on the spot. The defined watershed serve as 'living laboratories': teaching, learning, research and result implementation of real living challenges of rural communities.

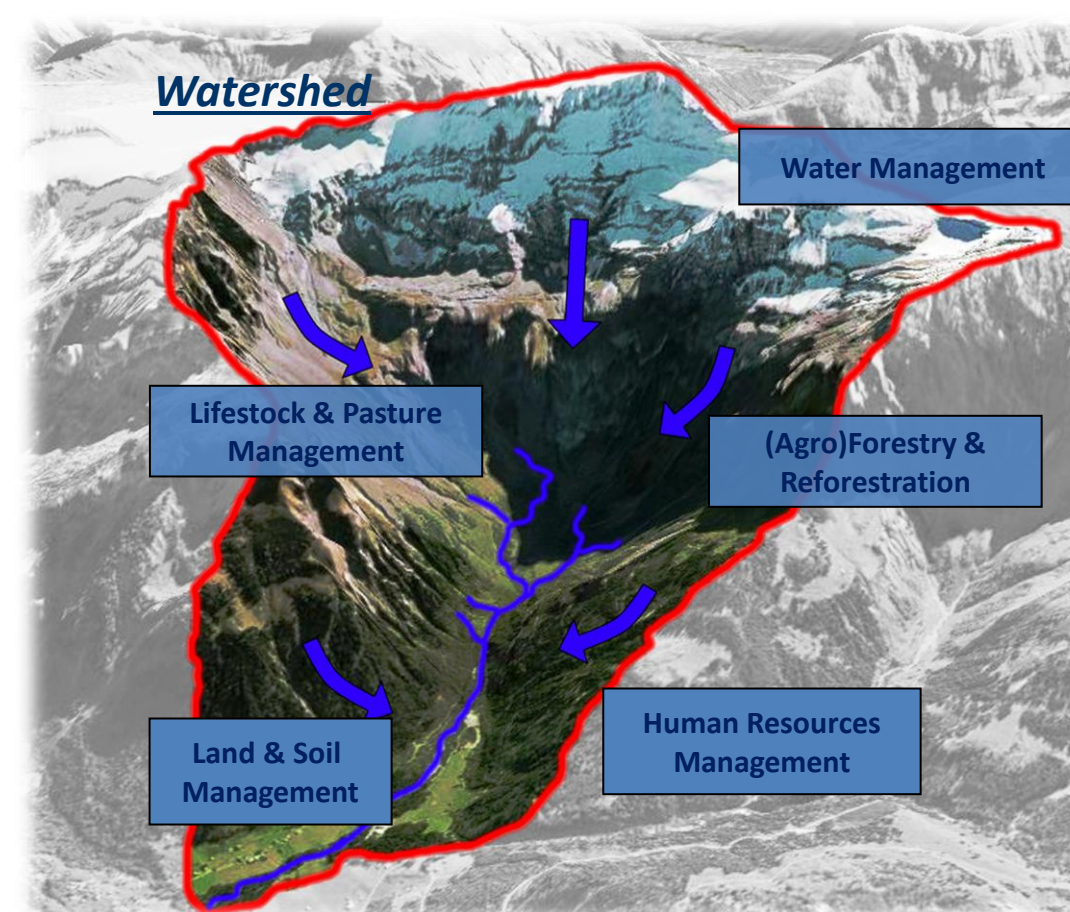


Figure 1: Model of a watershed (modified after Google 2009)

IWM organizes and guides the use of natural and human resources on a watershed to provide the goods and services demanded by the society, while ensuring the sustainability of the natural resources (Folliott *et al.*, 2003).

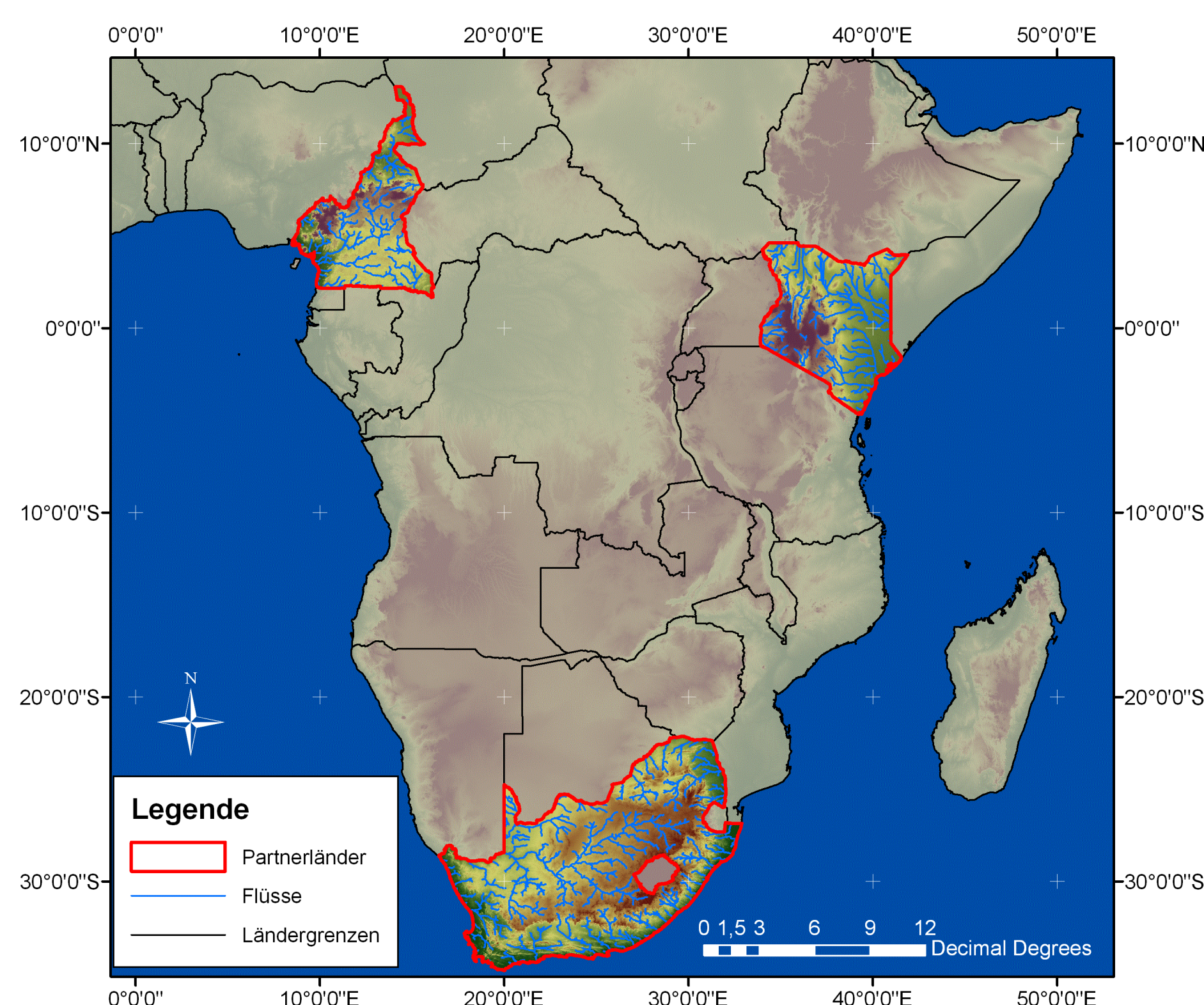


Figure 2: The African partner countries where knowledge exchange about IWM and activities on IWM are carried out (adapted from: <http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home>, <http://glcf.umi.acs.umd.edu>, [http://www.vdstech.com/map\\_data\\_world.htm](http://www.vdstech.com/map_data_world.htm))

## Project activities

Several activities shall be conducted to reach the project goals:

- Set-up of living laboratories
- Collation of relevant government processes and mechanisms
- Design of interactive e-learning environment IWM
- Conduction of short courses and applied research on IWM in the living laboratories

## Project partners

Partner universities of the project are:

- Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
- University Yaounde I, Yaounde, Cameroon
- University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- United Nations University, Bonn, Germany

## Project funding

This project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service and Freie Universität Berlin