Nature’s Utility

Conservation solutions to the global water security challenge
Cities depend on their landscape for water
It is an issue of equity
The nature based solution for supply?

Source: NY DEP

Catskill watershed – upstate New York

$8-10 billion

New water filtration plant

$1.5 billion

Watershed protection

Water supply – New York City
Challenge: Maximize the social return derived from water projects, while investing in the natural capital of the watersheds
Water funds can bring scale to the answer

**Users**
- Municipalities
- Water utility Co.
- Industry
- Citizenships

**WATER FUND**
- Board
- Fiduciary Fund
- ACCOUNTABILITY Reporting

**Providers**
- Protected areas
- Farmers in watersheds

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Sao Paulo, Brazil
It can be done – Extrema Brazil
The Nairobi Upper Tana Water Fund

Targeted Investments

Targeted returns
A global opportunity

Where agriculture best practices can reduce nutrients (P) by 10% \(^1\)
(Color indicate scale of intervention required)

\(^1\) Based on draft assessment of watershed conservation opportunity, Aug. 2014. Sample size: 534 large cities (>750K)
Variation of cost to reduce nutrients across Beijing’s 5 surface water sources

Beijing watersheds, Ag. BMPs to remove 10% of P

Average cost ($/kg)

Phosphorus removed (kg)

Miyun Reservoir, Beijing water system

Percent reduction in P

Hectares of Ag. BMPs installed
TNC has already identified important areas for conservation
A suite of conservation solutions that can scale

- Forest Protection
- Reforestation
- Agricultural Best Management Practices
- Riparian Restoration
- Forest Fuel Thinning

700 million people could benefit from all conservation solutions

6.4 million hectares
Targeting 6.4 million hectares for improved farming practices could help 600 million people

1 in 4 cities would see a positive ROI from investing in conservation solutions
Explore the Data

Nature.org/waterblueprint