



Shared Opportunity: Water

## Replenishing Cape Town in a Time of Drought

As Cape Town faced the impending threat of “Day Zero”—the day its water reserves would run dry—an innovative ecological intervention to improve how fast and fully the upstream Atlantis aquifer could replenish itself began in early 2018. Funded by the Greater Cape Town Water Fund and implemented by The Nature Conservancy with support from RAIN, the Replenish Africa Initiative of The Coca-Cola Foundation, the program is improving the lives of local residents while increasing water security across Cape Town’s water supply system. The program is also creating economic opportunities for women on the front lines of the restoration effort.

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### PLANNED IMPACT

**8 million liters**

of water replenished per year

**60,000 residents**

of the Atlantis area positively impacted

**4 million people**

in greater Cape Town area gaining increased water security

By removing invasive species from an aquifer’s primary recharge zone and restoring local vegetation, more water can be made available to communities downstream. This nature-based, restorative approach is the first project being funded by the Greater Cape Town Water Fund, which was funded through RAIN. The guiding principle of such public-private water funds is that it costs less to prevent water problems at the source than to address them downstream.

**This innovative funding mechanism aims to improve long-term water security in the Greater Cape Town area.**

Tapping into municipal jobs listing services, the project hired a team of women from the local communities of Atlantis, Mamre and Pella, bringing welcome opportunities to a region where unemployment is high. Preparation for the work of clearing and restoring the vegetation included handtool and chainsaw training, and a mentorship contractor provided skilled workers to work side-by-side

with the local team. The women take pride in their new skills and in helping to address this widely shared need of freshwater replenishment.

### Partnering to Prevent Crisis

In the face of ongoing water stress and droughts, large cities like Cape Town need long-term solutions to climatic variability. RAIN invested \$150,000 in the Greater Cape Town Water Fund to catalyze its formation and pilot project. To ensure transparency and sensitivity to community needs, the project engages with government officials for the City of Cape Town and the National Department of Environmental Affairs, environmental specialists from Cape Nature and other local stakeholders. Furthermore, The Coca-Cola Foundation also plays a strategic role as a member of the fund’s steering committee. The foundation of FEMSA, our largest independent bottling company, has also partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create similar water funds supporting 24 projects in eight Latin American countries.



**Alien plant invasions in the Greater Cape Town region’s catchments are responsible for the loss of 38 million liters of water each year, equivalent to meeting the water requirements of Cape Town for two months. The Greater Cape Town Water Fund is committed to working with partners to control thirsty invader plants, restore strategic wetlands and riverine areas, and thereby address these water losses.”**

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