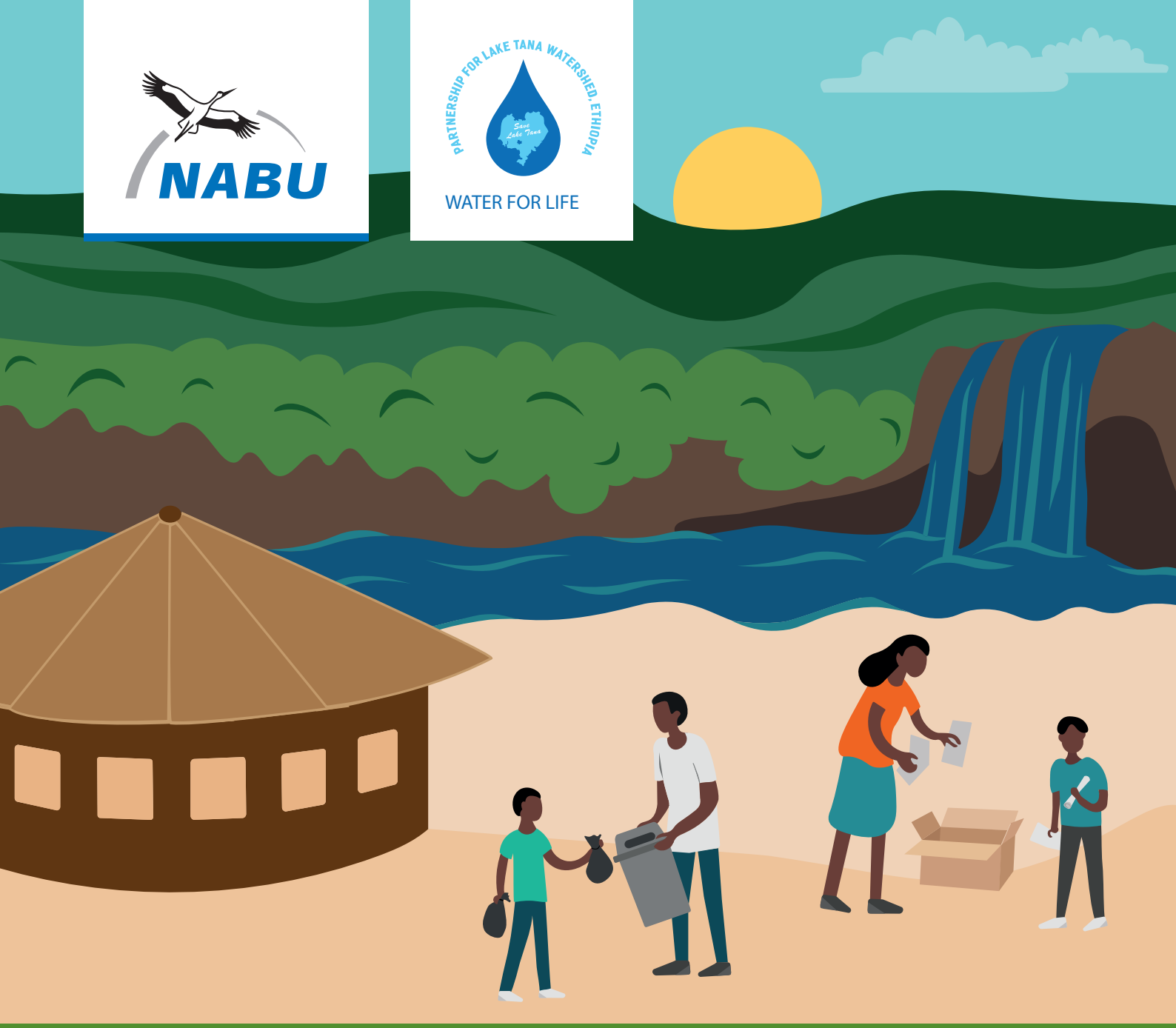
NABU

PARTNERSHIP FOR LAKE TANA WATERSHED, ETHIOPIA

WATER FOR LIFE



Waste management and recycling in the Lake Tana Watershed



The importance of segregating waste

Waste is becoming one of the most important agenda when people are discussing about environment protection. Ideally, the solution would be to minimize the waste at almost zero; but where waste cannot be avoided, the recovery of materials and production of energy should be the second option. The need to separate the waste at its source arises from the difficulty to recycle materials once different types of wastes have been mixed together. Not only segregating the waste is important for recycling and protecting the environment, but also for the public health. Once the waste gets all mixed up in landfills, the chances of producing harmful gases and contaminating natural resources such as waster are much higher.

What to throw in the bins?



Organic waste

Food waste, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, fruit peel, nut shells, yard trimmings, grass clippings, houseplants, hay and straw, leaves, sawdust, wood chips, cotton and wool rags, hair and fur, fireplace ashes.

Please do not throw in this bin: meat, fish, egg or pultry scraps, dairy products, fats, grease, lard or oils, coal or charcoal ash, diseased or insect-ridden plants, animal wastes and yard trimmings treated with agrochemicals.



Paper waste

Clean and dry paper, white office paper, newspaper, colored office paper, cardboard, white computer paper, magazines, catalogs, and phone books.

Please do not throw in this bin: coated and treated paper, paper with food waste, juice and cereal boxes, paper cups, paper towels, paper or magazine laminated with plastic.



Other domestic waste

All other sorts of waste that do not fit in any of the categories above mentioned shall be thrown in the second waste bin.

Please do not throw in this bin: Organic waste, paper waste.

Recycling

Recycling waste means that the material is reprocessed, before being used to make new products. They become once again raw material, and can be reused mainly by the industry. Recycling means treating the waste materials as valuable resources. This is also a conscious thought, once those materials were made out of the region's treasured natural resources.

What happens with the waste?

Compost preparation

The organic waste will be decayed under control, where they will break down naturally into a nutrient-rich fertilizer that helps gardens and crops grow. Not only it is important to transform this waste matter into a useful matter, but the organic fertilizer can replace chemical agricultural inputs, and therefore also preserve the public health.

New paper/handcrafts

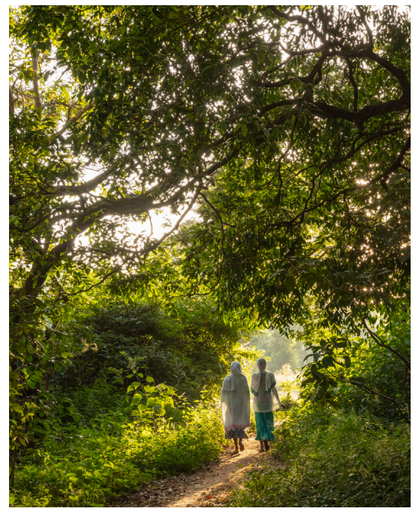
Paper is just as valuable as trees. The paper that will be collected from the households will be processed into new products, such as bags, book markers, notebooks, etc. This activity will support the creation of additional jobs in collection, separation and processing of recycled paper, and will priorities the participation of women in the whole system

Landfill

The waste of this bin will be taken to the landfill by the municipal waste collection system.



Plastic bottles and other sorts of waste can be found anywhere – from the middle of the city to the nature – and pose a big threat to animals, nature and to the public health.



People are deeply connected to the environment. A healthy and functional ecosystem guarantees the livelihood for future generations.

Long-term goals

We currently live in a world where consumption of resources is beyond control. The call for sustainable development is clear, and there is no better moment to act than right now! The current and future generations must ensure that all resources shall be preserved, fully utilized and well managed.

The activities here presented are part of the Water for Life project, but the lessons learned from them shall enrich the knowledge of the communities not only in the present, but hopefully for many generations. The main goal behind this action is to show how valuable waste can be, and to provide knowledge and tools to turn something undesirable into a new source of income – while protecting the environment.

By working together, we will be able to reach remarkable goals such as increasing public health and life quality, guaranteeing the integrity of ecosystems services in the future and preserving biodiversity. Let us respect and preserve nature, starting from our own households!

www.en.nabu.de/water-for-life









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