Watershed Management

Source Metadata

Field	Value
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sector	Water & Wastewater
subsector	Watershed Management
mitigation	Y
adaptation	Y
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CPI Definition & Scope

Watershed Management in CPI's GLCF framework tracks climate finance directed at protecting and restoring water catchment areas, river basins, and wetlands that regulate water supply and provide natural flood control. CPI captures investment in watershed reforestation, wetland conservation and restoration, natural flood management, payment for watershed services programs, and integrated water resource management (IWRM) that incorporates climate change projections into basin-level planning. This represents a nature-based solutions approach to water sector climate finance.

Subsectors & Examples

- **Watershed Reforestation** — riparian buffer zones, headwater reforestation, paramo restoration
- **Wetland Conservation** — protection and restoration of wetlands for flood regulation
- **Payment for Watershed Services** — PES programs linking downstream users to upstream stewardship
- **Integrated Water Resource Management** — basin-level climate adaptation planning
- **Natural Flood Management** — floodplain restoration, permeable surfaces, natural water retention

Mitigation & Adaptation Classification

Watershed management is classified as **dual-benefit** in CPI's framework. Adaptation benefits are primary: watershed protection maintains water supply, reduces flood risk, and improves resilience to changing precipitation patterns. Mitigation co-benefits come from carbon sequestration in restored forests and wetlands, and avoided emissions from preventing degradation of organic-rich wetland soils.

LATAM Relevance

Watershed management is critically important for Latin America where water supply, agriculture, and hydropower depend on intact Andean and tropical ecosystems. Colombia's paramo ecosystems provide water to major cities and are being targeted through PES programs by water utilities in Bogota, Medellin, and Cali. Peru's pre-Inca water infrastructure (amunas) and modern watershed management are being revived for Lima's water security. Costa Rica pioneered payments for ecosystem services in Latin America and has extensive watershed protection programs. The Natural Infrastructure for Water Security (NIWS) concept is gaining traction region-wide.

Cleantech Taxonomy Crosswalk

Maps to Cleantech Taxonomy sector **WW** (Water) for watershed management. Cross-references with **AF** (AFOLU) for reforestation and land use, and **XS** (Cross-Sectoral) for payments for ecosystem services policy frameworks.

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