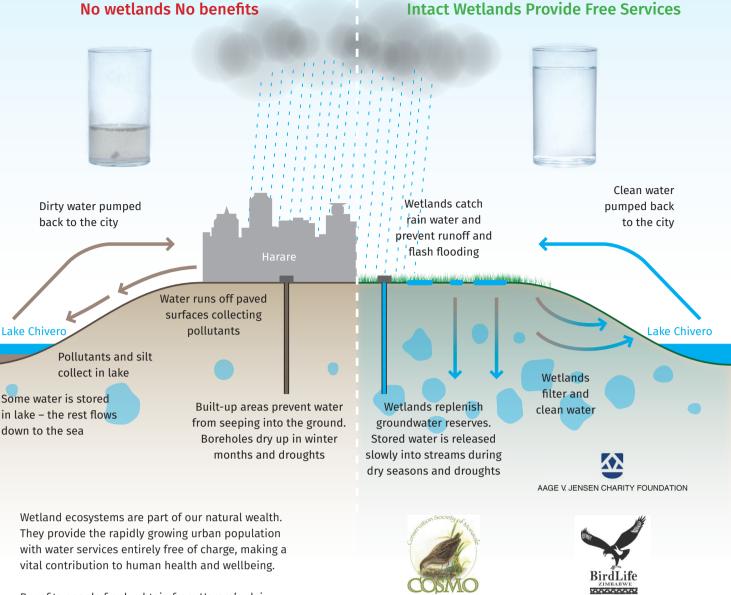


## Where does Harare's water come from?



## Harare is situated on top of the watershed in the headwaters of its river systems



Benefits people freely obtain from Harare's vlei ecosystems are: flood control and water flow regulation, groundwater replenishment and water storage, sediment and nutrient retention and export, water purification, reservoirs of biodiversity, cultural values, recreation and tourism, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Design: Graham van de Ruit

## Did you know that most of Harare's open spaces are wetlands and are our primary water source?

Our water comes from these wetlands, which provide many free benefits to residents.

Wetlands act as natural heat sinks, helping to cool the city

Sherwood Golf Course

Rain water seeps from the small hills in the city into the wetlands



Wetlands store water underground, cleaning it as it passes Monavale

Monavale Vlei

Commercial water abstraction draws water faster than it is replenished

**Conservation Society** 

www.monavalevlei.com

cosmo@yoafrica.com

of Monavale Trust

Tel: 0772 376 506

Built-up areas in wetlands prevent water from seeping into the ground. Rain water runs off quickly, causing flash floods, and all the other benefits of wetlands are lost.

BirdLife Zimbabwe

birds@zol.co.zw

Tel: (04) 481 496

Fax: (04) 490 208

www.birdlifezimbabwe.org

through the plants and sol

Meyrick Park

Wetlands are the main source of water for the streams and rivers feeding water into the lakes downstream of the city ↓ ↓ 3

there is no surface water

3 Ramsar Site Wetlands release water slowly into rivers and streams, even in the dry months when

> Agriculture/monoculture releases silt and chemicals into the water system and results in the total loss of wetland biodiversity

To Lake Chivero supply dam downstream New Milton Park-

**Photo: David Brazier**