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LGT Venture Philanthropy partners with The Nature Conservancy to launch the Nature for Water Facility with the aim to improve water security globally

San Francisco, California, United States, 11 March 2021 – LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP) is delighted to announce a new engagement with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) **Nature for Water Facility** (Facility), an initiative to support and scale TNC's successful "Water Funds" approach to protect and restore watersheds globally. By 2025, the Facility will scale up watershed Nature-based Solutions with the aim of improving the management of 4,000 km of rivers, 8,000 hectares of wetlands, 275,000 hectares of land, and supporting climate adaptation benefits for over two million people.

A proven model where downstream water users pay for upstream watershed protection to secure their future water
Water Funds are multi-stakeholder 'collective action' platforms that leverage Nature-based Solutions to improve water security by ensuring the delivery of an adequate quantity and quality of water. An example of a Nature-based Solution is the removal of invasive plant species from critical source watersheds in Cape Town, South Africa. This simple intervention is expected to free up two months of additional freshwater for the city at one-tenth of the cost of alternative, grey-infrastructure solutions. A public-private partnership of donors (governments, philanthropists) and water consumers (utilities, corporates, industrial users) typically contributes to the Water Fund model. Since TNC's involvement in the launch of the first Water Fund in Quito, Ecuador, the organization has successfully assisted with the establishment of 40+ Water Funds globally, improving the management of 530,000 hectares of land and supporting sustainable livelihoods for over 100,000 people in the process.

A solution to scale TNC's work

The Facility seeks to leverage TNC's 20+ years of practical Water Funds experience. It will accomplish this by centralizing a team of scientists and functional experts to support local champions seeking to develop and establish watershed investment programs. The Facility is co-managed by TNC and Pegasys – an Africa-based sustainable infrastructure consultancy – and will provide strategic technical advisory and operational assistance based on local needs. LGT VP endorses the Facility's focus on process efficiency, potential to scale and exploration of financial mechanisms to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability of local watershed investment programs that improve water security for key urban areas and landscapes globally.

Nature-based Solutions – an integral part of LGT VP's environment strategy

[LGT VP's environment strategy](#) is centered around the protection and regeneration of ecosystems, with a strong component of Nature-based Solutions that are embedded in the local community. To that end, LGT VP's environment portfolio supports scalable models that protect and restore terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems. With its focus

on the management of freshwater bodies like rivers and wetlands, the Facility complements LGT VP's environment strategy. Oliver Karius, CEO of LGT VP, explains: "Water is the essence of life. Given the rate of environmental destruction, we face a race against time to ensure that critical watersheds and the local communities living there are protected and that their resilience is strengthened. The Facility is an innovative and scalable solution, that elegantly aligns stakeholders towards a common goal of protecting watersheds in an integrated manner. We are excited to work with TNC and the Facility to scale this solution."

"The Facility represents a unique 'enterprise' approach for developing locally relevant conservation platforms that cost-effectively drive water security on a global basis. We are fortunate to have access to LGT VP's thoughtful guidance and established network of partners as we seek to write a new chapter in innovative and scalable environmental solutions," adds Justus Raeppele, Director and TNC program lead for the Facility.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951, is one of the largest and most wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. It is a non-profit organization, registered under Section 501(c)(3) in the United States. It impacts 80 countries with over 4,000 leading scientists, practitioners, and specialists, through direct conservation impact and through partners. For more information about TNC, please visit <https://www.nature.org/en-us/> and for the Facility, please visit: <https://nature4water.org/>.

Pegasys, founded in Southern Africa in 1999 through novel transboundary water advisory, is a strategy and management group delivering innovative and sustainable solutions in response to critical global development challenges. Pegasys is a leader on green growth focused services for a multitude of thematic areas, including water security, climate change resilience, smart cities, climate smart agriculture, and sustainable energy and mobility. For more information, please visit <https://www.pegasys.co.za/>

LGT Venture Philanthropy (LGT VP) is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with teams in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa and India. The foundation strives to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people, contribute to healthy ecosystems and build resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities. LGT VP deploys philanthropic capital to organizations with effective, innovative and scalable solutions to social and environmental challenges, thus directly contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit www.lgtvp.com.

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