

Water recharge areas

They're the parts of a river basin or catchment area where rain and surface waters collect.

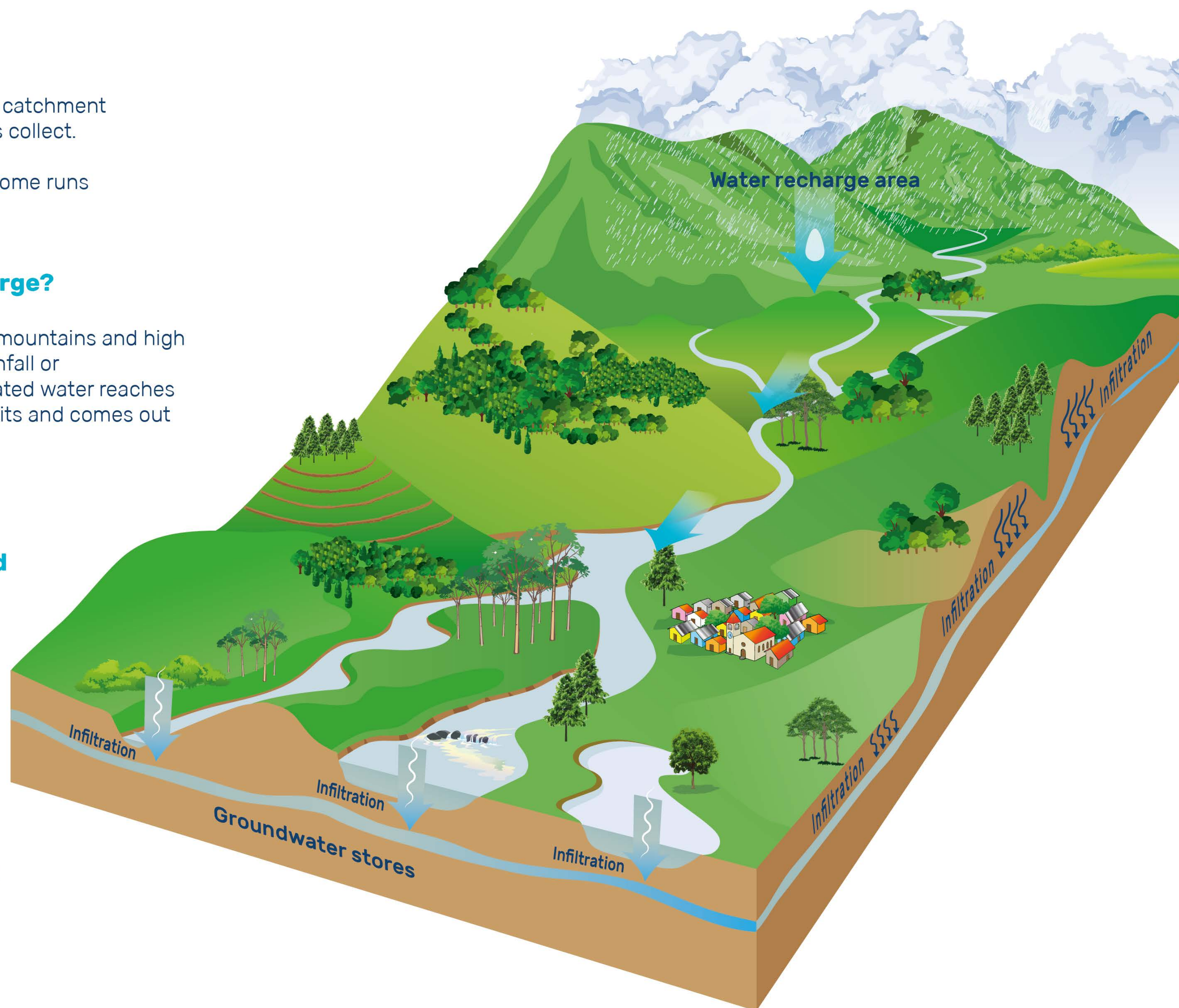
Some seeps into the ground, and some runs off into streams and rivers.

How does the aquifer recharge?

The greatest recharge happens in mountains and high places because there is greater rainfall or precipitation. In this way, the infiltrated water reaches the aquifers or underground deposits and comes out in springs.

What does the water infiltration capacity depend on?

- The **amount** of rainfall.
- The type of forest or **vegetation**. A reforested area infiltrates more water than a barren one.
- **Destruction of the soil and natural resources** due to deforestation, burning, type of agriculture, or extensive livestock farming.



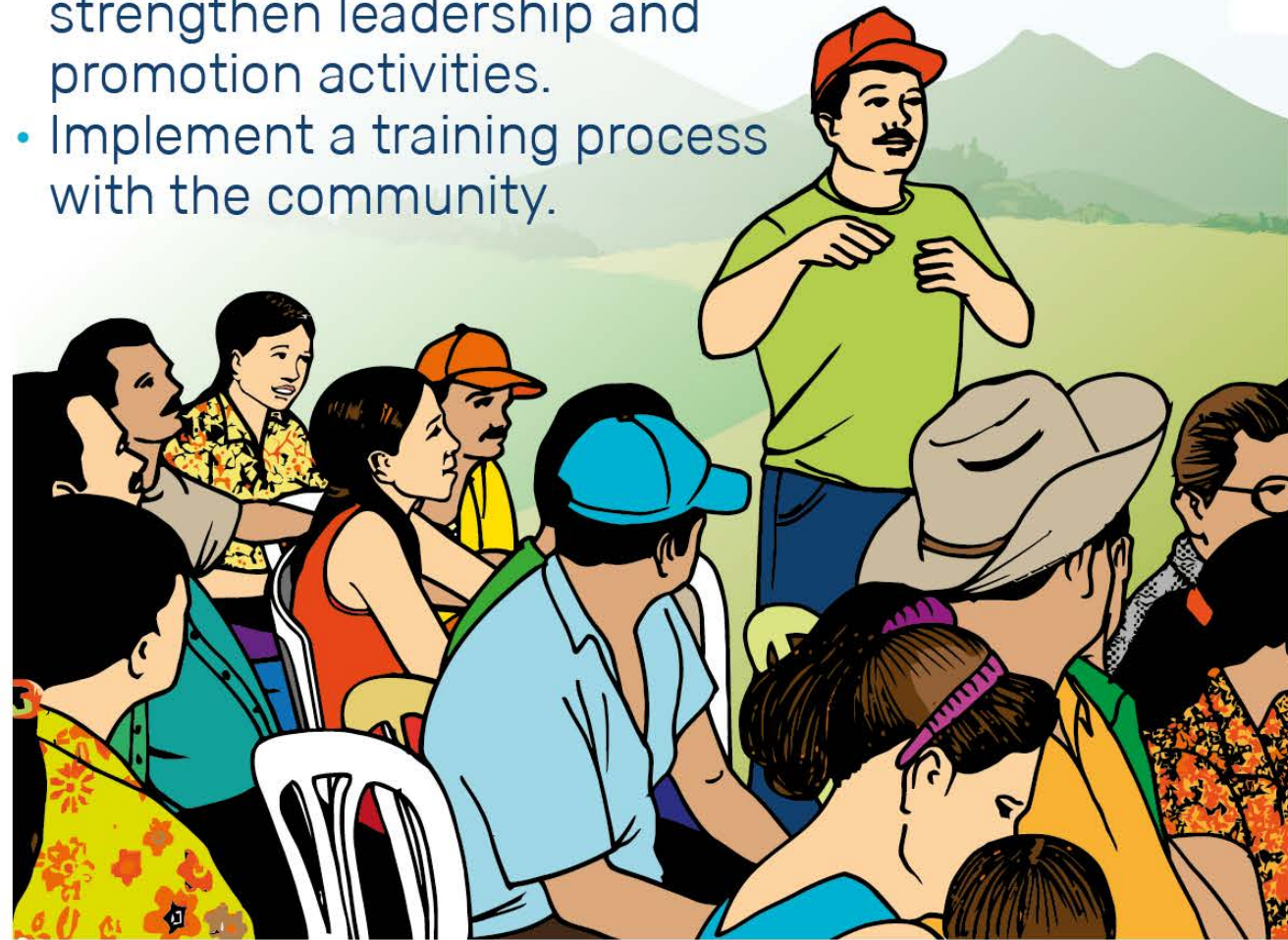
Step by step: Reforestation of water recharge areas

Taking steps to protect, preserve and reforest requires coordinated management and vision among municipal governments, financing NGO's, local development and farmer organisations, community promoters, leaders and citizens, as well as training, planning and investment.

Step 1

Organise the community

- Create Environmental Committees and strengthen leadership and promotion activities.
- Implement a training process with the community.



Step 2

Identify springs or watersheds in the area with the Environmental Committee and people from the community.



- Pinpoint the most deteriorated areas.
- Fence the area in and take advantage of natural regeneration.

Step 3

Choose which species to reforest the area with. Keep in mind:

- They must be native to the area.
- They must be species that do not shed their leaves.
- They must retain moisture in their roots.
- It's best if they produce food and are useful for the communities and wild animals, as well as all other plants and organisms that live in the recharge area.



Step 4

Create an annual native seed collection plan in order to establish a community seedbed and nursery.



Step 5

Agree on the most convenient type of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems for the farms in the water recharge area.



Step 6

Make a census of the families in the water recharge areas with number of members, area, crop management and types, in order to facilitate the plant allocation to reforest their property. Organise annual reforestation days at the beginning of the rainy season.

