



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



National Designated Authority:	Ministry of Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Green Climate Fund Grant amount:	USD 31 million
Project Title :	Uganda REDD+ Result Based Payments for Results for period 2016-2017
Project Symbol :	GCP/UGA/077/GCF
Project duration:	7 years
Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in REDD+ results between 2016 and 2017:	8,070,694 tCO ₂ e
GCF results areas:	Mitigation

Project summary

Between 2016 and 2017, Uganda achieved a major climate milestone by reducing over 8 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through targeted efforts to combat deforestation. These results were reported in Uganda's Biennial Update Report (BUR) and validated through the UNFCCC's technical assessment and analysis processes.

At the 43rd Meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board (27–30 October 2025, Songdo, Republic of Korea), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will present the project "Uganda REDD+ Results-Based Payment for Emission Reductions (2016–2017)". The proposal seeks a USD 31 million GCF grant to reward Uganda's verified emission reductions and support continued efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation.

This is the first REDD+ Results-Based Payment project in Africa to be presented to the GCF Board, positioning Uganda as a regional leader in climate mitigation and forest conservation.

Forests under pressure

Uganda's forests are facing increasing threats from agricultural and settlement expansion, grazing, and unsustainable wood harvesting for charcoal and timber. These proximate drivers are underpinned by broader socio-economic factors, including, limited economic alternatives, weak governance, insecure land tenure, and rapid population growth.

Agricultural conversion for commodities, such as cassava and cattle, is responsible for over 90 percent of forest loss.

These pressures are eroding vital ecosystems and accelerating emissions, underscoring the urgent need for policies and measures that both sustain existing forests and expand forest cover while safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. This project will build on Uganda's REDD+ Strategy and address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through:

- Sustainable land management and agroforestry;
- Climate-smart agriculture and sustainable woodfuel production;
- Community-based pole and timber plantations; and
- Restoration of natural forests.

These strategies aim to relieve pressure on natural ecosystems while promoting carbon removal and long-term sustainability. Agroforestry systems will generate benefits from several sources, including crop yields, timber, firewood, carbon, and watershed protection. Woodlots for both timber and firewood will reduce the distances rural women must walk to collect firewood.

Land rights arrangements – through collective forest management agreements – will help decrease conflicts and foster a sense of ownership of the land. And a strong Benefit Sharing System will ensure long-term sustainability and equitable access to forest resources, particularly for women, forest-dependent local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Overall, Ugandans will benefit from greater food security, employment opportunities, access to energy, and resilience to shocks and stresses.

A strategic investment in Uganda's climate future

Uganda's REDD+ journey began in 2008, when it joined the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Since then, the country has implemented a comprehensive REDD+ readiness phase, laying the foundation for a socially and environmentally viable national strategy.

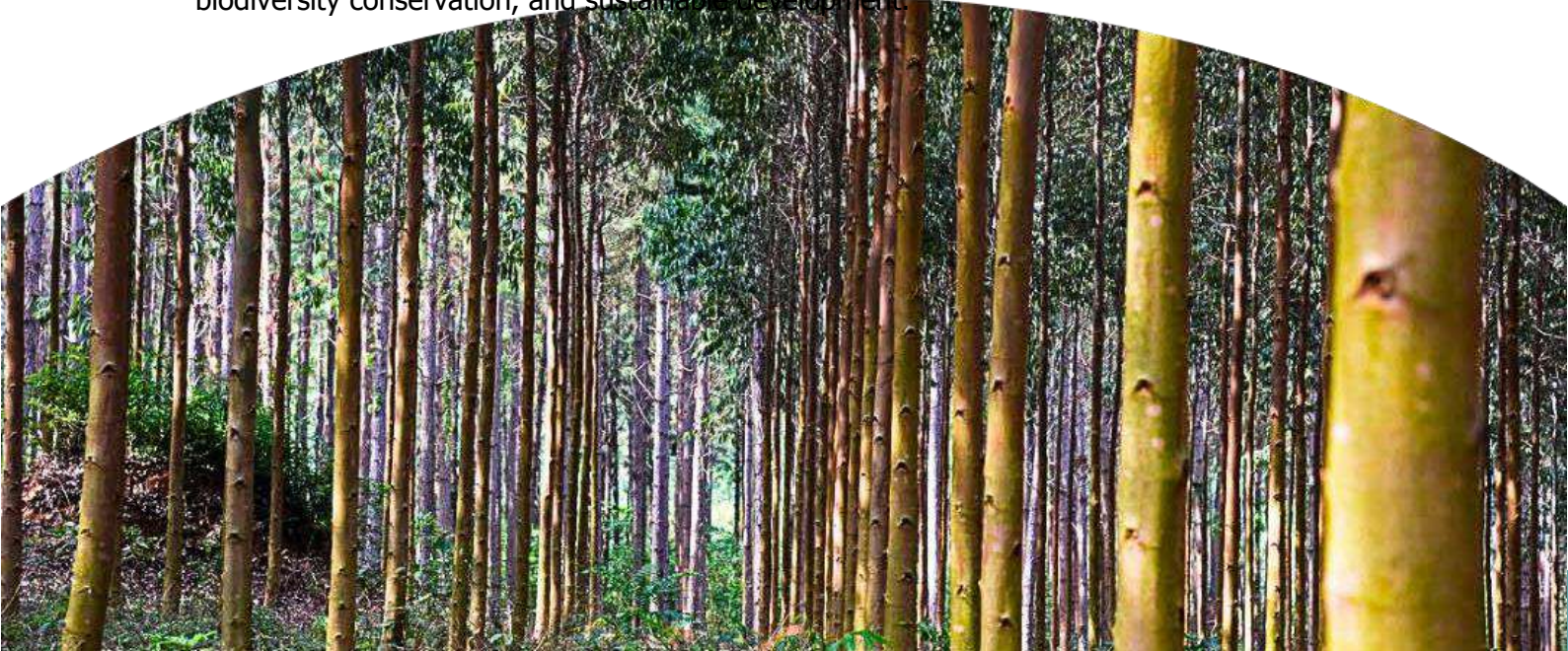
This project builds on over a decade of national commitment and international collaboration. It will promote sustainable forest management through climate-smart agriculture, improved access to forest resources, forest restoration, and inclusive land tenure reforms. These efforts will help conserve biodiversity, strengthen community resilience, and support Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

The project is fully aligned with Uganda's National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan (2017), and reflects strong country ownership and a clear vision for sustainable development. FAO, as the Accredited Entity, will work closely with the Government of Uganda – in particular the Ministry of Water and Environment which is also a Direct Access Entity for the GCF – to deliver impactful, inclusive, and transformative climate action.

The paradigm shift potential of Uganda's REDD+ RBP project lies in its ability to transition from isolated, small-scale interventions to a nationally coordinated, scalable model for sustainable forest management and climate resilience.

Key Highlights

- **Pioneering REDD+ RBP for Africa** – This is the first REDD+ Results-Based Payment project in Africa to be presented to the GCF Board, positioning Uganda as a regional leader in climate mitigation and forest conservation.
- **Verified climate results** – Uganda achieved over 8 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent reductions between 2016–2017, validated through the UNFCCC technical assessment process – a clear demonstration of its capacity to deliver measurable climate action.
- **Strong country ownership** – The project is fully aligned with Uganda’s National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan (2017) and builds on over a decade of national commitment to sustainable forest management and climate resilience. The Ministry of Water and Environment, which is a Direct Access Entity for the GCF, will also serve as an Executing Entity for this project.
- **FAO’s proven delivery capacity** – As the Accredited Entity, FAO brings deep technical expertise and operational experience, working in close partnership with the Government of Uganda to ensure impactful and inclusive implementation.
- **Transformative climate action** – The project tackles key drivers of deforestation – agricultural expansion, unsustainable wood harvesting, and insecure land tenure – through integrated solutions such as climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and inclusive land governance.
- **Inclusive and equitable benefits** – A robust Benefit Sharing System and community-based forest management will promote gender equity, local empowerment, and long-term sustainability of forest resources.
- **UgScalable paradigm shift** – This REDD+ Results-Based Payment project consolidates Uganda’s efforts to create a nationally coordinated, scalable model for climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.



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Project components, outputs and results

Component(s)	Outputs	Key expected results
1. Strengthening of an enabling environment for the implementation of Uganda's REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan	Output 1.1: Strengthened coordination to support the REDD+ secretariat activities, including Warsaw Framework elements, monitoring and reporting, and alignment between REDD+ and NDCs (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened technical and operational support • Institutional and coordination mechanisms established • MRV system for Component 1 in place • Capacity and sustainability measures in place • Strategic communication processes established
	Output 1.2: Strengthened institutional technical capacities to generate and provide information to support MRV process, track NDC related activities, and oversee safeguards (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced NFMS • Improved FREL • Operative and integrated Safeguards Information System
	Output 1.3: Safeguards, social inclusion, and governance for the implementation of the benefit sharing system (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESMP, FDIP plan, SEP and FGRM developed and implemented at the local level • Operational aspects of the BBS refined • Interinstitutional coordination platforms implemented at the local level • Capacity building for governmental and non-governmental partners provided • Strengthened legal and policy framework for community forest management and ownership • Data management system related to field interventions in place
2. Implementation of four priority strategic options of Uganda's REDD+ Strategy	Output 2.1: Increased conserved and restored areas and areas under agroforestry by implementing priority strategic options (50%) : SO1.1: Sustainable land management and agroforestry SO2.1: Sustainable fuel wood and charcoal production SO2.2: Commercial small-holder and community pole and timber plantations SO4: Restoration of natural forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for proposals launched • Proposals selected • Intervention options define at plot level • Capacity-building, technical assistance and agricultural inputs delivered • Monitoring, verification and reporting • Co-evaluation and adaptive re-design performed