



Republic of Uganda

Ministry of Water and Environment

Directorate of Water Resources Management

Upper Nile Water Management Zone

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EURECCCA PROJECT IN ASWA CATCHMENT



AUGUST 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

“Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment Based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources in Uganda” (**EURECCCA**) Project. Funded by Adaptation Fund implemented by Sahara and Sahel Observatory and executed by Ministry of Water and Environment through Directorate of Water Resources Management. Launched in 2017 and officially closed in June 2023. Revolving fund component still on-going.

2.0 OVERALL GOAL

To increase the resilience of communities to the risk of floods and landslides in Awoja Catchment in Kyoga Water Management Zone, Maziba Catchment in Victoria Water Management Zone and Aswa Catchment in Upper Nile Water Management Zone, through promoting catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources.

3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Increase the resilience of ecosystems by supporting sustainable management of forests, wetlands and riverbanks
- Increase the resilience of agricultural landscapes by supporting communities to develop and implement sustainable water harvesting, soil bio-physical and flood control structures.
- Increase resilience of other community livelihood systems by supporting income generating activities with credit and market access
- Build the capacity of extension services and institutions at local, catchment, water management zone and national level to better support local stakeholders.

4.0 PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component 1 : Establishing Frameworks for Climate Resilient Catchment Management in Awoja, Aswa and Maziba catchments

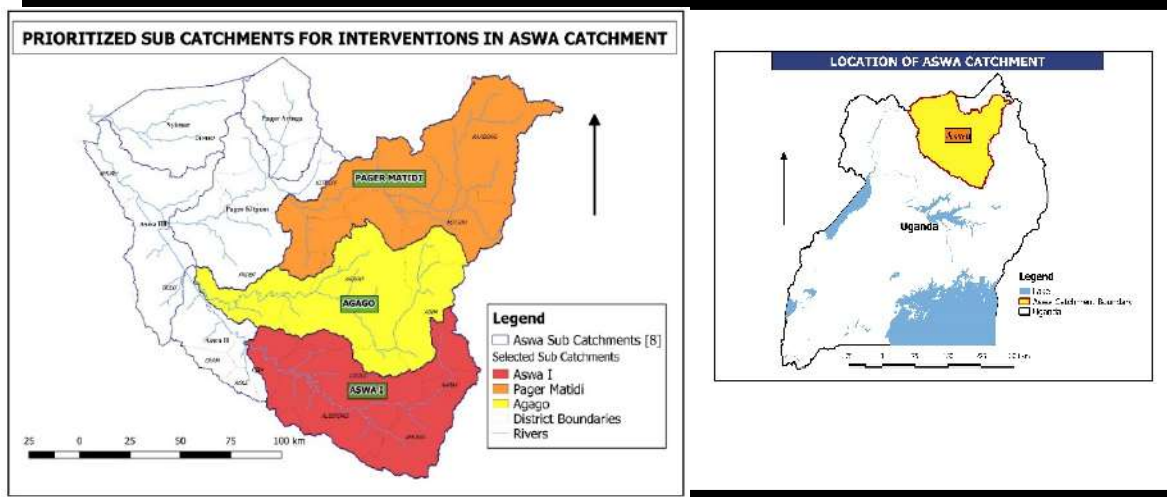
Component 2 : Implementing concrete adaptation actions for resilient and sustained ecosystems, control of floods and landslides across agricultural landscapes and diversification of livelihood strategies

Component 3 : Building capacities of extensions services and institutions at subcatchment, catchment, water management zone and nation level to support local communities and managing knowledge

5.0 PROJECT AREAS IN ASWA CATCHMENT

- Agago Sub-catchment (Agago, Abim and Pader Districts)
- Pager Matidi Sub-catchments (Kotido, Karenga, Kaabong and Kitgum Districts)
- Aswa 1 Sub-catchment (Amuria, Kapelebyong, Otuke & Alebtong Districts)

Map showing EURECCCA Project Areas in Aswa Catchment



6.0 PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

6.1 CONCRETE ADAPTATION ACTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Restoration of deforested agricultural landscape through afforestation

Achievements

The project restored **958** ha of deforested landscape by supporting communities to plant **382,694** tree Seedlings of assorted species to control floods on agricultural landscape in Aswa I Agago and Pagermatidi Sub-catchments in Aswa Catchment.

Beneficiaries

585 HHs benefitted
08 Parishes



Ojok Paul's woodlot site at Omot sub-county in Agago

Impact

Soil conservation
Biodiversity conservation
Increased income

Development Policy

Inline with the NRM Manifesto of protection and conservation of Uganda's natural environment and addressing climate change

2. Promotion of Energy Saving Technology to reduce the rate of deforestation

The project trained 6 women groups in Production, Business Planning and Marketing improved cookstoves to reduce the level of forest degradation in Aswa Catchment. The women groups cumulatively trained **3,194** HHs and produced **4,555** improved cookstoves.

- The stoves are **Hot, Fast, Clean and Smoke Free**. The groups sold the stoves between
- 18,000-35,000= generating about 80 million shs

66m generated

Impact

- Reduced energy consumption
- Reduced rate of deforestation
- Increased household incomes
- Job creation

Development Policy

Inline with the 1st Pillar of PDM that provides for production, processing and marketing of enterprises



Improved cookstove used after training

3. Supporting communities to restore degraded riverbanks

The Project restored **255 ha** of degraded riverbank by demarcating **85kms** of the riverbank boundaries in Kitgum, Agago and Kapelebyong districts in Pager matidi, Agago and Aswal respectively in Aswa catchment. 1,903 Households benefitted from 9 parishes.



Degraded Olupe riverbank before restoration



clean water & natural regeneration after restoration

Impacts

- Increased quantity of clean water
- Natural regeneration of the buffers
- Abundant fish (increased incomes)
- Reduced cases of floods

Development Policy

Inline with the NRM Manifesto of protection and conservation of Uganda's natural environment and addressing climate change

4. Supporting Communities to restore degraded wetlands

The project restored **5,589 ha** of the degraded wetlands through demarcation of **77kms** of the wetland boundaries to reduce the risk of floods in Aswa catchment



Rice cultivation in Ogwete wetland before restoration Restored status of Ogwete wetland

Impacts

Increased quantity of clean water
 Natural regeneration of the wetland
 Reduced cases of wetland conflict for grazing
 Reduced cases of floods

Development Policy

Inline with the NRM Manifesto of protection and conservation of Uganda's natural environment and addressing climate change

5. Promotion of water harvesting and flood control technologies

The project trained **4,268 out of 1,000** Households on the construction of water harvesting and flood control structures in Agago, Kitgum, Alebtong and Kapelebyong districts to mitigate floods on agricultural landscape. **210kms** of the flood control structures constructed draining **500 ha out of 100ha (target)** of agricultural landscape in Aswa catchment. The structures include water harvesting ponds, diversion channels, retention channels, elephant grass planted along the edges of the channels



School children crossing flooded path to school in Omot Water retention pond in Agago district

Impact

Reduced incidences of floods



Development Policy Objective



Inline with the NRM Manifesto of protection and conservation of Uganda's natural environment and addressing climate change

6.2 ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD


The project established six Water and Environment Co-operative Societies and disbursed UGX 827,620,260 to help 3,472 households affected by wetland and riverbank demarcation and organized into 161 IGA groups, initiate alternative IGAs. The goal is to help them diversify their livelihoods and become more resilient to climate change.

Revolving fund General Achievements




<p>Fish farming</p> <p>The project established 22 Fish ponds and stocked with 39,450 fingerlings of Tilapia and cat fish species at maturity stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefiting 550 Households with 3,850 people • 390 pcs sold in local market @ 10,000= • Minimum expected annual return is approx. 390 million shs • Located in Agago, O tuke & Kitgum 	 <p><i>Samples of fish from Olupe Opong Fish farmers in Agago</i></p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 550 HHs • Increased incomes to 550 HHs • Improved livelihood of 3,850 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Inline with the 1st Pillar of PDM that provides for production, processing and marketing of enterprises</p>
<p>Apiary</p> <p>The project established 39 Apiary sites and equipped with 838 KTB Beehives at maturity stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefitting 39 groups of 838 HHs • 235 million expected bi-annually • Located in Otuke, Agago and Kapelebyong districts 	 <p><i>Honey from Lakongera Apiary farmers in Kitgum</i></p>

<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 838 HHs • Increased incomes to 838 HHs • Improved livelihood of 4,200 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Inline with the 1st Pillar of PDM that provides for production, processing and marketing of enterprises</p>
<p>Sunflower growing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 422 kgs of improved sunflower seeds distributed to 844 HHs of 25 groups • 1st season, 19 acres planted at a cost of 10 million shs generating 20, 950kgs • Grains bulked and sold to Mukwano Seeds Company @kg at 2,000 realising 41.9 million shs • 168 acres planted in 2nd season expecting return of 168,000kgs • Monetary value of Aprox. 336 million shs expected • Located at Omot sub-county in Agago 	 <p><i>Sunflower store at Olupe Riverbank in Agago</i></p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 422 HHs • Increased incomes to 422 HHs • Improved livelihood of 4,000 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Inline with the 1st Pillar of PDM that provides for production, processing and marketing of enterprises</p>
<p>Horticulture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project supported an individual horticultural farmer in Kitgum with 6m shs to produce onions and cabbages • 9,000 heads of cabbage harvested and sold locally @ pc at 2,000 generating 18m 	 <p><i>Fig. 6 Horticultural site at Karakilet riverbank WECS in Kitgum</i></p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 10 HHs • Increased incomes to 10 HHs • Improved livelihood of 50 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Relevant to Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan III (2020-2025) which aims at transforming agricultural sector from subsistence to commercial farming</p>

<p>Shea butter value addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Oil pressing machines and 6,000 shea seeds procured for 5 groups of 125 HHs in Otuke and Kapelebyong • 200 ltrs of cold press oil processed • Sold to the shea products company at 25,000@ ltr • 5m shs generated • 60 million expected annually 	 <p><i>Shea oil processing unit at Adungo riverbank WECS Obalanga in Kapelebyong</i></p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 1000 HHs (Including shea nut collectors) • Increased incomes to 1000 HHs • Improved livelihood of 1,000 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Inline with the NDPIII 1st Objective of increasing value addition in key growth opportunities</p>
<p>Piggery</p> <p>The project supplied 116 improved piglets (29 males and 87 females) to 26 piggery groups of 650 HHs in Kitgum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 delivered 216 piglets • Expected to generate 32.4m if sold at 6 months old 	 <p><i>Fig. 8 Piggery project at karakilet riverbank WECS in Kitgum</i></p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 650 HHs • Increased incomes to 650 HHs • Improved livelihood of 2,860 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objectives</p> <p>In consonance with the NDP III that prioritises increased incomes and improved quality of life</p>

<p>Simsim Cultivation</p> <p>The project supplied 6,470 kgs of improved simsim seeds and 1,825 kgs of soybean seeds to 750 households organized in 30 IGA groups</p> <p>1st Season returns range from 3-6 bags per farmer generating 1.5m to 3m Uganda shs per farmer per season</p> <p>Located in Kotido district, Karamoja</p>	 <p>Sample of sismsim produce at Kapeta wetland in Kotido</p>
<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased jobs to 750 HHs • Increased incomes to 750 HHs • Improved livelihood of 3,750 people • Reduced cases of ecosystem degradation 	<p>Development Policy Objective</p> <p>Relevant to Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan III (2020-2025) which aims at transforming agricultural sector from subsistence to commercial farming</p>

3.0 CAPACITY BUILDING

<p>The project established one demonstration centre and 09 demo units of alternative income generating activities such as Apiary, fish farming, small scale irrigation, mushroom garden, briquette, shea butter, energy saving stove, Bamboo value addition and Soap making at Ngetta ZARDI in Lira city.</p> <p>The centre facilitates experience sharing activities and capacity building in business planning on alternative IGAs to improve livelihoods. So far 3,000 stakeholders trained consisting of mainly Students and Farmers drawn from all parts of the country.</p>	 <p><i>Renovated Conference Hall at Ngetta Zardi</i></p>
	



Apiary unit



Mushroom garden



Value addition products for shea butter at Ngetta ZARDI

LESSONS LEARNT/ BEST PRACTICES

- The Catchment Management Committees and Sub-Catchment Management Committees structures have been very supportive in community mobilization and sensitization in their respective areas of operation
- Involvement of the affected communities in restoration action planning and implementation of the plans contributed positively towards ownership and sustainability of the intervention
- Engaging local NGOs like Divine Waters Uganda, IUCN with existing interventions in the project area for preparation and implementation of the plans, has been relevant and significant towards successful implementation of the restoration activities because communities had trust in their interventions.
- Involvement of Local Government authorities at inception, contributed significantly in addressing community resistance towards restoration of the riverbanks and wetlands.
- Farmers with better sources of livelihood and active poor farmers have been able to maintain their seedlings and their field registered minimum loses
- Poor timing of the supply led to low survival of the tree seedlings
- WECS policy of compliance in protection of the demarcated zones as a condition to access revolving fund has contributed significantly in reducing the rate of re-encroachment of water resources in Aswa catchment
- Mindset change is a process. To a large extent, the majority of the community embraced the project witnessed by their rapid positive response during implementation of flood control interventions, cookstove constructions, wetland and riverbank demarcations and many others however, some communities still need further engagements to change their mindset for successful continuity of the project

IMPACTS

- Reduced cases of wetland related conflict after restoration
- Reduced incidences of floods in the flood prone areas of Alebtong and Agago districts
- Natural regeneration of the wetlands and riverbanks has reduced the rate of floods
- Reduced rate of deforestation for fuel due to improved cookstoves
- Increased level of Household income among women from sale of improved cookstoves
- Improved livelihoods due to alternative IGAs

