

Project overview:

The impact of climate change, coupled with other human and environmental stressors, is increasing degradation of wetlands and their associated ecosystem services in Uganda. This is negatively affecting the livelihoods of approximately 4 million people living in and around wetland areas. Over 80% of the people living adjacent to wetland areas in Uganda directly use wetland resources for their household food security needs. Given that wetlands are highly vulnerable to changes in the quantity and quality of their water supply, climate change will most likely substantially alter ecologically important attributes of wetlands and will exacerbate the impacts from human activity. The barriers that prevent Uganda from sustaining resilient wetland ecosystems and associated livelihoods include:

- i. Limited technical knowledge on the agro-ecological and hydrological systems of the wetlands;
- ii. Insufficient extension services for resilient agriculture and livelihoods, and
- iii. Inadequate climate information and early warning systems. This project seeks to support the Government of Uganda to take climate change issues into account when managing critical wetland areas.

The project will restore wetlands and their eco-system services, based on wise-use principles and guidelines as outlined by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands including sustainable land management practices support to resilient agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods for communities living in these areas to reduce the pressures on the wetlands, and finally strengthen the climate information and early warning systems to support these communities to make climate-resilient decisions.

The project is being implemented in the two regions of South Western Uganda and Eastern Uganda (refer to map for details) with a total population of 3,946,366 people and land area of 13,000 Km². At least 680,000 people in and around the wetlands will directly benefit from this investment. This initiative will improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Uganda, dependent on subsistence agriculture and wetlands for their livelihoods. The cost-benefit analysis for the project has shown positive returns on the investments. The project is aligned with Government strategies such as the National Adaptation Programme of Action, the National Climate Change Policy. The total project cost is 44,262,160\$; broken down as follows: (1) Government of Uganda 18,122,000\$ (2) Green Climate Fund 24,140,160 \$ and (3) UNDP 2,000,000\$

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1.1 Main objective

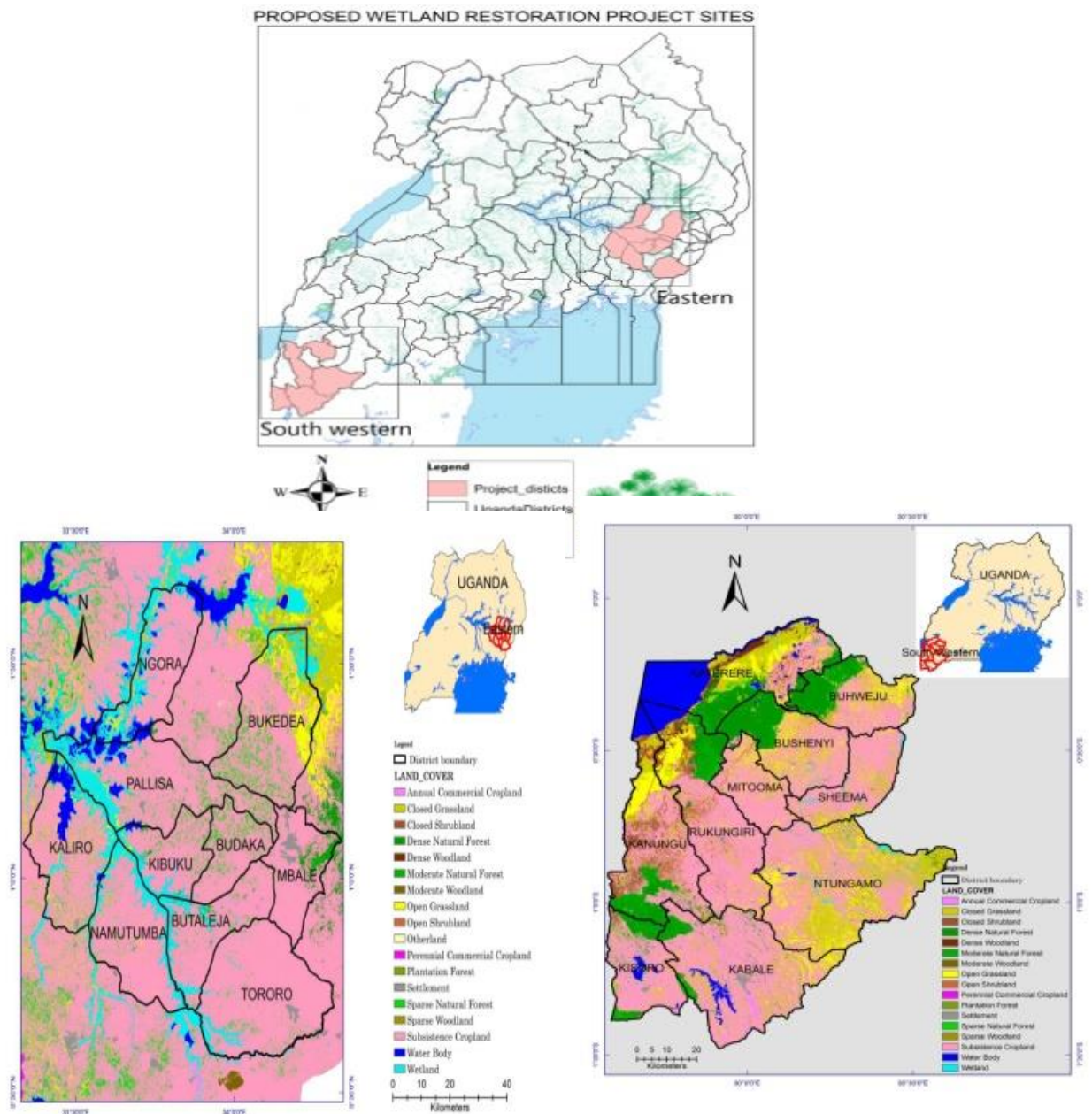
To address the increasing wetland degradation which has resulted into negative consequences including floods, rising temperatures, loss of biodiversity, prolonged drought and deteriorating water quality among other effects.

I.2 Specific objectives

- To restore critical wetlands to improve ecosystem services such as ground water recharge, flood control, fishing and agriculture for enhanced livelihoods to the most vulnerable subsistence farming communities.
- To diversify livelihoods and agriculture to make it more resilient to climate shocks, by enhancing the skills of beneficiaries for adaptation.
- To empower communities in sensitive wetland areas in risk reduction and preparedness to climate-related disasters. This will be done through participatory and decentralized early warning systems and capacity development for implementing disaster risk reduction measures.

PROJECT LOCATION

While the results and impacts of this initiative are expected to eventually spread countrywide, the project currently is targeting two regions and selected districts. The area targeted is South Western Uganda (10 districts of Kabale, Rukiga , Rubanda, Buhweju, Mitooma, Rubirizi, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Bushenyi and Ntungamo) and Eastern Uganda (10 districts of Pallisa, Kumi, Ngora, Butebo, Kibuku, Bukedea, Namutumba, Butaleja, Budaka, Tororo, Kaliro, Ngora and Mbale) with a total population of 3,946,366 people and land area of 13,000 Km².



Project Outputs/Targets

- i. 64,370 hectares of degraded wetlands in Eastern and South Western Uganda will be restored to enhance the ability of wetlands to store and supply sufficient amounts of water that can be used for increased production through irrigation, livestock and hydropower generation.
- ii. 11,630 hectares of catchment areas adjacent to wetlands restored and rehabilitated to reduce loss of top soil, siltation of water bodies, and improve water infiltration.
- iii. 50,000 households of wetland dependent communities will have their income from agriculture increased through provision of income generating activities including;

fish farming, apiary, ecotourism and provision of small scale irrigation to support horticulture.

- iv. 85% of households within the project area will have access to climate and early warning information on floods, drought and severe weather conditions.
- v. 41 meteorological and hydrological systems installed to provide climate and early warning information to farmers and other target communities.

Expected outcomes

- a. Increased wetland coverage with ability to store and provide water for production including irrigation, animal watering, domestic use and hydropower generation
- b. Increased and sustainable production in the catchments
- c. Increased incomes from diversified agricultural enterprises and value addition
- d. Resilient communities and ecosystems capable of withstanding climate variability and related shocks such as floods and drought.

Project financing and duration

The Project is jointly financed by a grant of \$ 24.1M from the Green Climate Fund and co-financing of \$18.1M from the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment and \$2M from the United Nations. The Project duration is 8 years running from 2017 to 2025.

Fund accessibility

1. The funds from the Green Climate Fund will be disbursed in 8 tranches.
2. This is the first project to be funded by the Green Climate Fund in Uganda.
3. Funds from GCF can only be accessed through an Accredited Entity. At the time of approval of the project by the GCF Board, the Ministry of Water and Environment was not yet accredited to GCF. Hence UNDP was requested to serve as the Accredited Entity.
4. The Ministry of Water and Environment has applied to GCF for accreditation and the review process is in final stages

2. TARGET BENEFICIARIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

The Project is expected to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Uganda who are dependent on subsistence agriculture and wetlands for their livelihoods. At least 50,000 households in and around the wetlands will directly benefit from this investment.

Primary beneficiaries: At least 800,000 people in and around wetlands will directly benefit from the planned livelihoods including women (adult), youth (young females and males) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

3. ROJECT STRATEGY AND APPROACH

The project strategy and intervention logic is that if wetlands are restored, water storage and supply will increase hence, water availability and enhanced community resilience to climate change related impacts. If this water is provided closer to people (through micro and mini irrigation schemes using solar and other appropriate technologies); and necessary nutrients added to the soils, production enterprises developed that add monetary value, and early warning systems are in place to guide proper planning of these alternative livelihood activities, then the need, and pressure to encroach on wetlands will reduce and wetland adaptation related benefits will increase.

This will eventually result into water security, food security, and improved livelihoods thereby enhancing resilience of communities, wetlands and associated catchments.

The project seeks to support the Government of Uganda to take into account climate change issues (increased climate variability and extreme weather events such as drought, floods, high temperature, violent storms) in the management of critical wetlands.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project is implemented through a multipronged approach, spearheaded by responsible sector institutions and Civil Society Organizations. The responsible institutions include;

- a. Ministry of Water and Environment which provides overall coordination for the project and takes lead on Component 1 – which is spearheading the physical restoration of wetlands and associated catchments.
- b. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries leads on Component 2 which is responsible for providing economically viable alternative livelihoods to communities living around wetlands and improvement of farming practices in areas adjacent to wetlands.
- c. Uganda National Meteorology Authority leads on Component 3 - Improving the dissemination of climate information for early warning and better planning for farmers and other target communities.
- d. In addition, other relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies as well as District Local Governments, the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are currently playing a significant role in project implementation.
- e. The Project oversight role is provided by a Project Steering Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment and comprises all key institutions with a direct stake in wetland management in Uganda.
- f. The United Nations Development Programme Uganda Country Office provides quality assurance to the project.