SOUTH SUDAN

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation
2023-2028

PROJECT TITLE:
STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

EXECUTING ENTITIES:
Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of South Sudan

KEY TARGETS:
51,100
Individuals benefiting directly from project activities

30,000
Pastoralists benefitting from water supply and harvesting infrastructure

200
Hectares of degraded watersheds restored and protected

FUNDING:
USD 9,032,420
From the Global Environment Facility

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Increasing food security of communities through climate-resilient agriculture practices and distributing 1,000 efficient cooking stoves.
- Enhancing water security in two main project sites through water harvesting and supply infrastructure.
- Training over 300 government staff and 100 primary school teachers on the impacts of climate change and the possible adaptation solutions.
- Protecting and restoring 200 hectares of degraded watersheds and demonstrating the benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation.

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Global Environment Facility $9m
Cofinance $25.6m
INTRODUCTION

- South Sudan in eastern Central Africa is one of the world’s most fragile states and one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world.
- Communities in South Sudan are particularly reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods, and approximately 86% of rural households rely on rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry as their main source of livelihood.
- Despite providing key services to local communities, including water supply and fuelwood, vital ecosystems are being degraded from a combination of population growth and an over-reliance on natural resources.
- A major project is increasing the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in two states by focusing on the priority areas identified within South Sudan’s National Adaptation Programme of Action - namely agriculture, disaster risk reduction, water resources, policy, and institutional frameworks.

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- The people of South Sudan are extremely vulnerable to rising temperatures, droughts, floods, and other impacts of climate change.
- While the country possesses abundant natural resources and a predominantly agricultural economy, the country’s food security is highly sensitive to these changes, resulting in crop failures, livestock losses, and water scarcity. These challenges lead to serious socioeconomic conflicts as a result of human competition for scarce resources.
- Deforestation and ecosystem degradation exacerbate the vulnerability of communities due to the way in which ecosystem services provide a buffer and defence against erratic rainfall, floods, and other climate impacts.
- South Sudan’s ability to anticipate and adapt to climate impacts is hindered by weak hydro-meteorological monitoring networks, which was significantly damaged during the civil war.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

- The project aims to transfer ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches to local communities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. EbA is the tactic of using ecosystem services as part of an overall holistic strategy to build climate resilience.
- This involves demonstrating the benefits of EbA interventions in two pilot sites, including the restoration of 200 hectares of degraded watershed areas to protect markets against floods in the Terekeka, and the creation of green ‘shelterbelts’ in Kapoeta to protect cattle markets from fierce winds and extreme temperatures.
- The project aims to boost the institutional and technical capacity of the government to implement climate adaptation by creating national and local flood and drought risk maps, drafting policies for climate-sensitive sectors, and offering training to over 300 staff.
- To inform evidence-based decision-making, the project will create policy briefs on climate change impacts and adaptation solutions; organize awareness campaigns, establish a small grants program for research; and form an informal contact group on climate change at the national level.
- Finally, to reinforce the transfer of knowledge, the project also involves educational activities, including the development of a climate change Master’s Program at the University of Juba and the training of 100 primary school teachers on climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities.

CONTACTS

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RESOURCES

- Climate adaptation resources & multimedia
- Adaptation Gap Report 2023
- Global EbA Fund
- Press Release: South Sudan Adapts to Climate Change By Restoring Its Ecosystems

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is being implemented in two states in South Sudan – Eastern Equatoria state (yellow) and Central Equatoria State (blue).