

# UGANDA

Ecosystem-based Adaptation  
2020-2025



Supported by the  
Least Developed Countries Fund



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Increasing the food security of communities through the adoption of climate-resilient agriculture techniques, including a shift to agroforestry on 800 hectares of farmland.



Raising the awareness of climate change among 100% of district government officials within the district technical planning committees, as well as 50% of the local population at each project site.



Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems by developing and/or updating 4 wetland and forest management plans for each project intervention site.

## PROJECT TITLE:

REDUCING THE CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA THROUGH ECOSYSTEMS BASED ADAPTATION (EBA) IN FOREST AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

## EXECUTING ENTITY:



Ministry of Water and Environment,  
Government of Uganda

## KEY TARGETS:

**1,440**

Hectares of ecosystems restored

**100%**

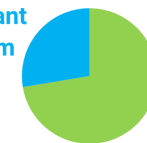
District government officials within the district technical planning committee with increased awareness of climate change

**4+**

Community-specific alternative livelihoods plans developed

## FUNDING:

GEF Grant  
\$4.35m



Cofinance  
\$16.6m

## PROJECT PARTNERS:

District local governments of Sironko, Bulambuli, Arua, Arua City, Kitagwenda, Kamwenge, Ibanda, Mbarara, Mbarara City, and Isingiro



## INTRODUCTION

- Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa with a population of around 48 million that is currently expanding at around 3.2% per year.
- Natural ecosystems, such as forests and wetlands contribute considerably to livelihoods and the economy in Uganda. Forests contribute ~6% of the country's GDP, while natural resources from wetlands provide \$432 per year on average to each Ugandan household.
- A project is aiming to increase the climate resilience of communities in Uganda through **ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)**, an approach of using nature and healthy ecosystems as part of an overall adaptation strategy to reduce the impacts of climate change on people.
- In addition to restoring damaged ecosystems, the project is promoting alternative climate-resilient livelihoods to reduce pressure on nature and biodiversity.

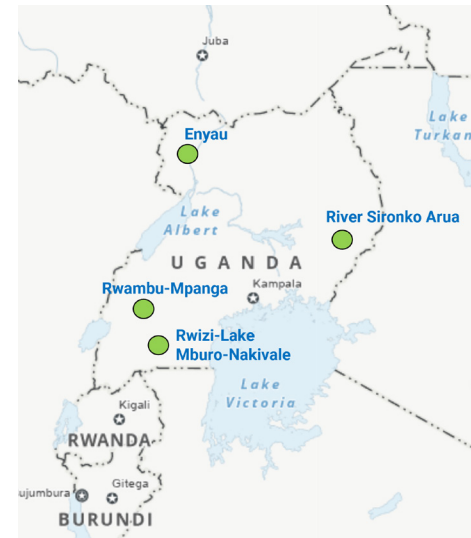
## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

- The central objective of the project is to use an **ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)** approach to build the climate resilience of local communities living near Uganda's wetland ecosystems.
- This involves demonstrating the efficacy of on-the-ground EbA interventions in the four pilot sites, including the restoration of 400ha of **degraded wetlands** and 240ha of **riparian forests**, the reforestation of 800ha of upper slopes, as well as the adoption of **agroforestry practices** in 800ha of farmland.
- Civil society organizations or community groups are supporting the implementation of these EbA interventions, and the project is demarcating the boundaries of wetlands using a combination of **climate-resilient and multi-use tree species** and boundary markers.

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Climate change has a significant impact on Uganda, manifested through more frequent occurrences of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts.
- These events are causing socioeconomic impacts that significantly harm vulnerable communities, including damage to infrastructure, the deterioration of pastures, and food insecurity.
- The agricultural sector, which employs a majority of Ugandans, will likely face reduced crop yields and increased susceptibility to pests and diseases, putting livelihoods and food supplies at risk.
- The unsustainable use of natural resources (e.g. demand for firewood and farmland), combined with rapid population growth, and the resulting degradation of ecosystems compounds the climate change challenge due to the ways in which ecosystems provide adaptation benefits for local communities.

## PROJECT LOCATION



The project will improve the livelihoods of communities living within the; 1) Rwizi-Mburo and Nakivale wetlands (Mbara District, Mbara City District and Isingiro District); 2) Rwambu-Mpanga wetland (Ibanda District, Kamwenge District, and Kitagwenda District); 3) the Enyau wetland (Arua City District and Arua District); and 4) the River Sironko wetland (Sironko District and Bulambuli District).

- Trainings are being conducted with local and national governments, and **awareness-raising campaigns** are being carried out to increase knowledge and awareness of EbA as a tool to adapt to climate change.
- The project is disseminating knowledge and lessons learned on the benefits of the EbA interventions throughout the pilot sites and through an online platform to **promote South-South knowledge exchange**. Awareness of the importance of forest and wetland ecosystems, along with the valuable goods and services they provide, is being strengthened to promote sustainable environmental management.
- The project is establishing a long-term **EbA research programme** with relevant national research institutions to assess the long-term biological, physical, and socio-economic impacts of forest and wetland restoration.
- To strengthen the capacity of communities to adopt alternative climate-resilient livelihoods, 4 **community-specific alternative livelihood plans** are being developed, including income-generating activities such as weaving and livestock production.
- Finally, the project is planning to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of local and national governments to plan and implement EbA in forest and wetland ecosystems through the development of 4 **wetland and forest management plans** that include the integration of EbA.

## RESOURCES

- [UNEP project page](#)
- [Global Environment Facility project page](#)
- [Press release: Ugandan wetlands protect communities from climate change, says government](#)

## CONTACTS

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