



ADAPTATION FUND

# Adaptation Story

## UGANDA



**S**ubsistence agriculture employs most of the workforce in Uganda and provides livelihoods for 68% of the households. The country is also registering high poverty and population growth rates and is experiencing a number of climate change impacts such as landslides and floods. The growing pressure and demand on natural resources for agriculture exacerbates degradation of the ecosystem and weakens resilience of farmlands, as well as sources of income.

People living in rural areas used to have a hard life because of climate change effects. Scolastica, a local woman from the Rubanda district used to spend much time and effort gathering wood to prepare food. She inhaled fumes from firewood, ate cold meals and could have had serious health issues. Thankfully, her life changed after she sat in for the Mukirwa Women's group training on how to make and use clean cook stoves. Today, Scolastica enjoys hot meals whenever she desires and puts in less effort by collecting less wood and her life is no longer at risk. Plus, these stoves help decrease human pressure on forests and improve forest resilience to climate change, in addition to lowering emissions.



Turyasingura Joram

Turyasingura Joram, another local from the Rubanda district, also took advantage of the use of cook stoves and he now can warm bathing water and cook food at the same time. "I have warm bathing water and food ready at the same time. And besides, after bathing I go sit around the clean cook stove and get some warmth," said Joram.

Like many other beneficiaries, the training Scolastica and Joram had is part of the climate adaptation project titled "Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment Based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources in Uganda (EURECCCA), which is funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and implemented by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). This US\$ 7.75 million project is aimed at increasing the resilience of communities to the risk of floods and landslides in Awoja, Maziba and Aswa catchments through promoting catchment-based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources.

The project puts special emphasis on women's empowerment and provides support and training to local women in manufacturing and marketing cook stoves through the establishment of stove producing micro-enterprises. Since the project's inception, over 7,500 stoves have been produced and 6,500 households have saved fuel wood. "The EURECCCA project plays a major role in Uganda especially in the involvement of women and youth in the project implementation. The impacts recorded in the project sites have been felt and now due to the project, a ripple effect of the positive results are being replicated all over Uganda," said Mrs. Khaoula Jaoui, coordinator of the climate department of the OSS.

### PROJECT details

AF Funding: US\$ 7.75 million

### 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



Left and Right: Women being trained by women's group on how to use a clean cook stove (Maziba catchment, 2019) All photos courtesy of OSS



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Left: A girl using a Rocket Lorena Stove (Maziba catchment, 2021). Right: A Rocket Lorena Stove which has an efficient conversion chamber that saves up to 50 – 60% of firewood compared to 3 stone fireplace. (Maziba catchment, 2021).



***"If I start talking about the improved energy saving stove I might not finish because I have received only goodness out of it. It has relieved me from smoke inhalation which might have caused me cancer or eye disease. When I cook millet, I get relief from pouring it in fire. Whenever I am preparing it, I no longer eat cold food. I eat whenever I feel like because food is always warm, I get food and sauce ready at the same time."***

– Scolastica, Rubanda District trained by the Mukirwa Women's group.

The project also introduced revolving fund schemes that use alternative Income Generating Activities (IGAs). These activities have provided local populations with new and alternative income opportunities such as bee keeping, ecotourism and handicrafts

and further enhanced their resilience to climate change impacts.

The fund is maintained by Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOs), which are structures owned, governed and managed by their own members who live in the same community or area. Community members who benefit from the revolving fund are trained in IGAs for business planning, value addition and marketing, in order to help them ensure the fund's sustainability.

The project created a demonstration centre in each of the three catchments to facilitate experience-sharing and capacity building activities in ecosystem conservation, flood and landslide control as well as IGAs through training of trainers).

The project has further brought positive impacts on the community's environment through the creation of protected buffer zones and flood control structures (that also provide off-season agricultural or livestock production, including improved fisheries) and

the establishment of tree nurseries for afforestation. This improved forests and wetlands' resilience to climate change and decreased landslide and flood risk in case of heavy rains, thus increasing local populations' safety.

"The project according to our evidence-based reporting has great impact especially with the expected results," said Mrs. Jaoui. "In fact, there is a growing demand for the upscaling and replication of the project in other areas of the country as well as the neighbouring countries expressing the need to have such a project."

## BY THE NUMBERS

INTEGRITY OF TARGETED  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
IMPROVED BY AT LEAST

50%

AT LEAST

3,600

HOUSEHOLDS  
TRAINED IN THE  
INSTALLATION  
AND USE OF  
IMPROVED  
COOKING  
STOVES.

2,400

VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE  
IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

AT LEAST

400 HA

OF AGRICULTURAL LAND  
WITH BIOPHYSICAL AND  
WATER HARVESTING  
STRUCTURES IN PLACE.

1,800

HOUSEHOLDS  
(50% WOMEN)  
TRAINED IN  
REHABILITATING  
DEGRADED  
WETLANDS

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF AT LEAST

60%

TARGET COMMUNITIES TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS  
STRENGTHENED.



Left: A wetland and riverbank buffer zone (Maziba catchment, 2021). Right: One of the tree nurseries that are used for afforestation (Awoja catchment, 2019)