ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Programme: Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation through Devolved Climate Financing for Resilient Communities in Uganda

Country: Uganda

Thematic Focal Area: Locally Led Adaptation Investments for Resilient Communities.

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Water and Environment

Executing Entities: Ministry of Water and Environment, Districts.

Amount of Financing Requested: $5,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☐☐ No X☐ ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☐ ☐ No ☐ ☐

NOTE: ***LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities***

Stage of Submission:

☐☐ This concept has been submitted before

☐☒ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

Project/Programme Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

1.1 Country Overview

Uganda is a least developed country in East Africa, covering approximately 241,038 square kilometres with a tropical climate characterized by bi-modal rainy seasons per year. As of 2024, the total population for Uganda was 45.9 million people, an increase of 11.3 million from the 2014 census, female population being 23.4 million and male 22.5 million[1]. Agriculture is one of the mainstays of Uganda's economy contributing to food security, employment (70 percent of the population), poverty reduction and livelihood source for the 36 percent population engaged in subsistence farming. It is dominated by small holder farmers operating less than 3 acres of rainfed agriculture.

Uganda's climate change profile indicated a statistically significant general decreasing trend of annual rainfall estimated at a rate of 10.3mm per decade for the periods 1951-2020. Over this period, most parts of eastern, north-eastern, and patches of the south-western regions exhibited significant increase in rainfall whilst north-western, central west, and western parts registered a decrease. Relatedly, the average temperature increased by 0.23°C/decade for the period 1950-2020, with 2018 recorded as the warmest year, averaging at 0.37°C above the long-term mean albeit 2023 surpassed the record with temperatures of 0.52°C above the long-term average. The increasing temperatures have triggered a high frequency of hot days and nights (UNMA, 2019) with western Uganda warming faster than the rest of the regions. By mid-century (2050), precipitation and temperature are both projected to increase albeit with varying spatial intensity. Mean annual temperature projections indicate an increase in of 1.5°C to 3°C for most parts of the country while mean total annual rainfall is projected to exhibit mixed trends across the country, decreasing in some regions while increasing in others within a range of 5 to 15 percent. Notably, the warming trends are projected to continue over the 21st century at a rate higher than the global average.

The projected variations in temperature and precipitation are concerning given the high dependence of the economy and population on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture which fuels exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards and disasters. Climate change is already compounding existing development challenges such as water stress, weak infrastructure and income poverty. It has also eroded livelihoods and development gains in the past through destruction of socio-economic infrastructure, human mortality and failed agriculture seasons that compound income poverty.

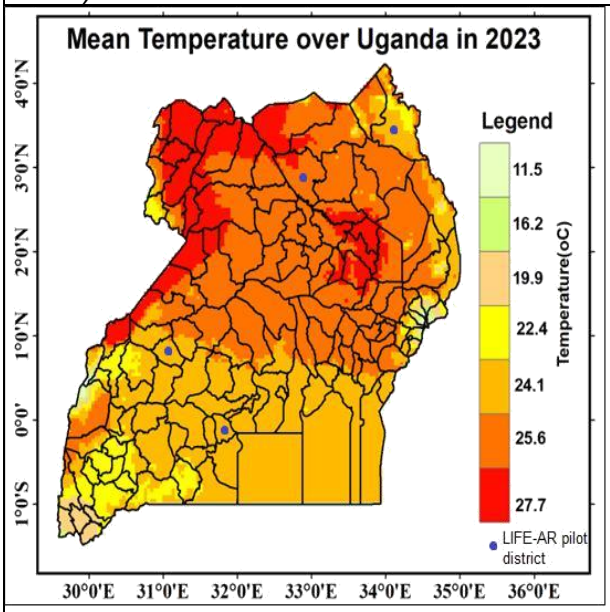
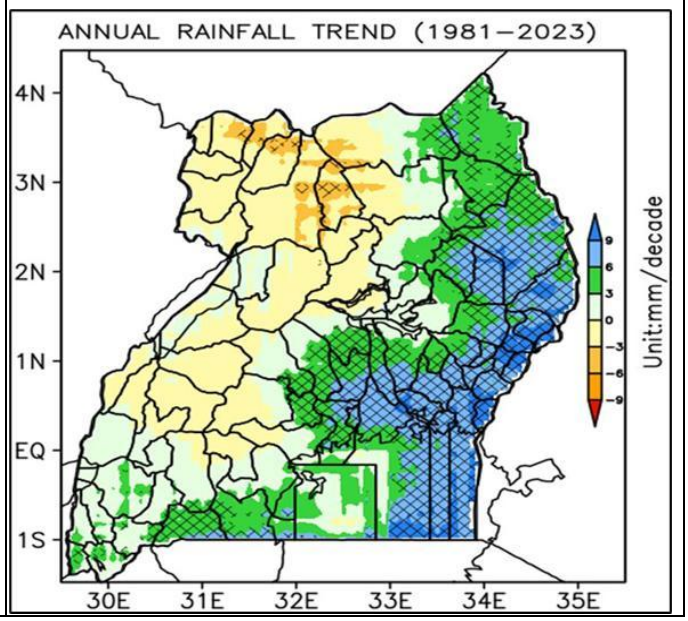
Uganda ranks 18th most vulnerable and 28th least prepared for climate change, highlighting its high exposure and limited adaptive capacity (ND-GAIN 2022). Safeguarding livelihoods and development prospects is fully hinged on accounting for current and future climate risk through building adaptive capacity and resilience of people, landscapes and economies to reduce exposure and vulnerability to current and projected extreme climate events.

1.2 Climate context for Uganda

Uganda, located on the equator, experiences a diverse climate due to its varied elevation. The average temperature is around 25°C, but it ranges from cooler conditions in the highlands to warmer temperatures in the lowland regions. The central and western highlands, with elevations above 1,500 meters, enjoy milder temperatures, while the low-lying areas, such as the northeast and southwestern

[1] Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda

valleys, can experience temperatures exceeding 30°C. In 2023, Uganda recorded its hottest year since 1950, with temperatures 0.52°C above the long-term average. Most regions saw a 1°C rise, with western Uganda, the Central region, and southern Karamoja experiencing the highest temperature anomalies of up to 2.4°C (UNMA report, 2023).

Mean temperature anomaly (UNMA report, 2023)	*Mean rainfall anomaly (UNMA report, 2023)*
	

Uganda has a bimodal rainfall pattern driven by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), with rainy seasons from March to May and September to December, separated by dry spells in June–August and January–February. The country's average annual rainfall is around 1,200 mm, but regional variations are significant. From 1981 to 2023, rainfall increased in the east and parts of the southwest, while northern Uganda saw declines (UNMA report, 2023). In 2023, Lake Victoria and Mt. Elgon recorded the highest rainfall (2,650.1 mm), whereas Karamoja had the lowest (506.6 mm). Western Uganda experienced slight reductions, while the east saw a minor increase.

Uganda's rainfall is marked by a high degree of variability, with some years experiencing above and some below-average rainfall. This variability leads to recurrent extreme weather events, including floods and droughts. Between 1900 and 2018, Uganda experienced 20 flood events and 9 drought events. In recent years, severe floods have caused widespread damage and loss of life, particularly in 2007, 2010, 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Prolonged droughts have also been recorded, notably in 1998-2000, 2005-2006, 2010-2011, and 2016-2017, severely impacting agriculture and water resources. These patterns indicate a shift in climate extremes, with recent studies suggesting that climate change is intensifying their frequency and severity[2].

Sectoral impacts

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Uganda's economy, employing approximately 70% of the workforce. Climate variability, characterized by increased frequency of droughts and floods, has led to substantial crop failures and livestock losses. In recent years, Uganda has experienced erratic rainfall patterns, leading to both floods and prolonged dry spells. These extreme weather events have resulted in substantial crop losses, particularly affecting staple foods such as maize and beans. Farmers have

[2] Uganda - Vulnerability | Climate Change Knowledge Portal

reported decreased yields with adverse impacts on income and wellbeing as most households do not have a safety net. Projections indicate that without adaptation, climate change could reduce crop yields by up to 22% by 2050, threatening food security and livelihoods both at the local and national levels[3].

Climate change has intensified the variability of **water** resources in Uganda. Increased temperatures and altered rainfall patterns have led to more frequent and severe droughts and floods. These events disrupt water supply for domestic use, agriculture and industry. The economic assessment of climate change impacts estimates that damages to water resources could cost Uganda up to 2-4% of GDP between 2010 and 2050[4].

Uganda's **energy** sector, heavily reliant on hydropower, is vulnerable to changes in water availability. Reduced water levels in rivers and reservoirs during drought periods have led to decreased hydropower generation, resulting in energy shortages and increased electricity costs. The economic costs associated with energy sector disruptions due to climate change are significant, contributing to the projected 2-4% GDP loss between 2010 and 2050[5].

Climate change has exacerbated **health** challenges in Uganda, including the spread of climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria and cholera[6]. In response, Uganda became the first African nation to develop a National Health Adaptation Plan aimed at safeguarding public health from the effects of climate change[7].

Future climate projections for Uganda indicate a decline in rainfall (5-15%) across central Uganda, in Western Uganda (Masindi, Hoima), North-eastern (Karamoja) while south-western Uganda may see a slight increase (5- 10%) under the low emission scenario, which assumes reduced greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, temperatures are expected to rise by 1.5-2.5°C across most parts of the country between 2031-2060 under the high emission scenario, which assumes continued high emissions, increasing the risk of extreme weather events (Uganda TNC, 2022).

1.3 Climate context for the AF focus areas

The AF funding support will build on the existing governance and operational set up for a coordinated and ambitious climate action put in place through LIFE-AR in Uganda, to scale the proven participatory investment prioritisation process that responds to community priorities.

Through LIFE-AR, twelve pilot districts across Uganda's four water management zones have been identified, with a phased rollout starting in four Districts - Kalungu, Kaabong, Kibaale, and Pader. Three sub-counties in each district have been selected following an eligibility criterion that prioritised the most vulnerable communities. The criteria assessed climate hazards, vulnerability, gender-based violence, population size and existing climate change initiatives. For the proposed Adaptation Fund proposal, additional sub-counties across the prioritised four Districts will be included over the next three years to deepen and consolidate the impact and enrich the learning opportunity. Additional funding resources and partnerships are being mobilised to enable expansion to the remaining 8 pilot Districts during the 10-year implementation timeframe for LIFE-AR in Uganda. A detailed description of the LIFE-AR in Uganda as well as its achievements to date are detailed in section 1.4.

An overview of the four pilot Districts is provided below. The selection of additional sub-counties to be supported by the AF application will be based on the outcomes of the 2024 Climate Risk and

[3] Climate Risk Profile: Uganda (2021): The World Bank Group
[4] ibid
[5] ibid
[6] final_chasa_report_19may2020.pdf
[7] ibid

Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) exercise and the established LIFE-AR criteria for sub-county selection. This process will be conducted in consultation with the target districts to ensure alignment and avoid overlaps with sub-counties already covered.

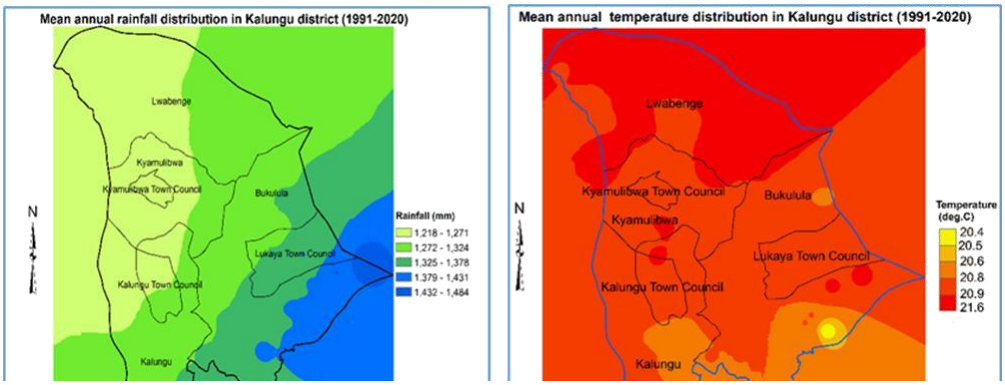
Kalungu (Victoria water management zone)

The District Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) revealed that Kalungu's annual rainfall oscillates between 1,218mm to 1,484mm with seasonal variation where the March, April and May (MAM) season is wetter than the September, October November (SON) season whilst June, July and August are the driest. The Mean Annual Temperature is 21.4ºC varied between 20.4°C and 21.6°C, with December, January and February (DJF) being the hottest season. The temperature trend indicated that the northern and central parts of the district being hotter than the south.
The main frequent hazards experienced in Kalungu district include prolonged droughts especially during the JJA, erratic rainfall which undermines agricultural planning decisions, heat stress during rising temperatures and flooding in wet years owing to increased rainfall.

The CRVA concluded that for the period 2021-2050, the district will receive an increase in annual rainfall between 1,441.7mm and 1,532.7mm with MAM and SON remaining as the main rainy seasons albeit with higher rainfall, whilst JJA as the driest season with rainfall in ranges of 99.3mm to 119.8mm. Overall, SON is projected to be the wettest season. Rising temperatures are expected to continue with seasonal variation with continued warming is expected across all seasons.

The current and projected variations in precipitation and temperature are significant since the community's livelihoods and survival is tied to climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture.

The socioeconomic context of Kalungu district and its inhabitants heightens its exposure and vulnerability to climate change and its adverse effects. With a population of approximately 221,569 people and a population density of 280.5 per square kilometer/(km^2)[8], the district struggles with high dependency on subsistence farming and poor socio-economic development. The growing severity of climate change and variability threatens water resources and water access due to prolonged dry spells, rainfed agriculture whose productivity is solely hinged on favourable weather patterns, exposure to public health risks arising from heatwaves, waterborne diseases and food insecurity, roads, schools and markets infrastructure damage from floods and heatwaves and ecosystems and biodiversity degradation from habitat disruption due to erratic climatic patterns. In terms of geographical vulnerability, western sub-counties such as Lwabenge and Kyamulibwa are more prone to drought whilst eastern sub-counties (Bukulula and Lukaya) are more exposed and vulnerable to higher flood risk due to increased rainfall. Despite fertile land and significant agricultural potential, the prevailing climate



FObserved Mean Annual Distribution of Rainfall and Temperature in Kalungu District (1991-2020)

[8] Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda

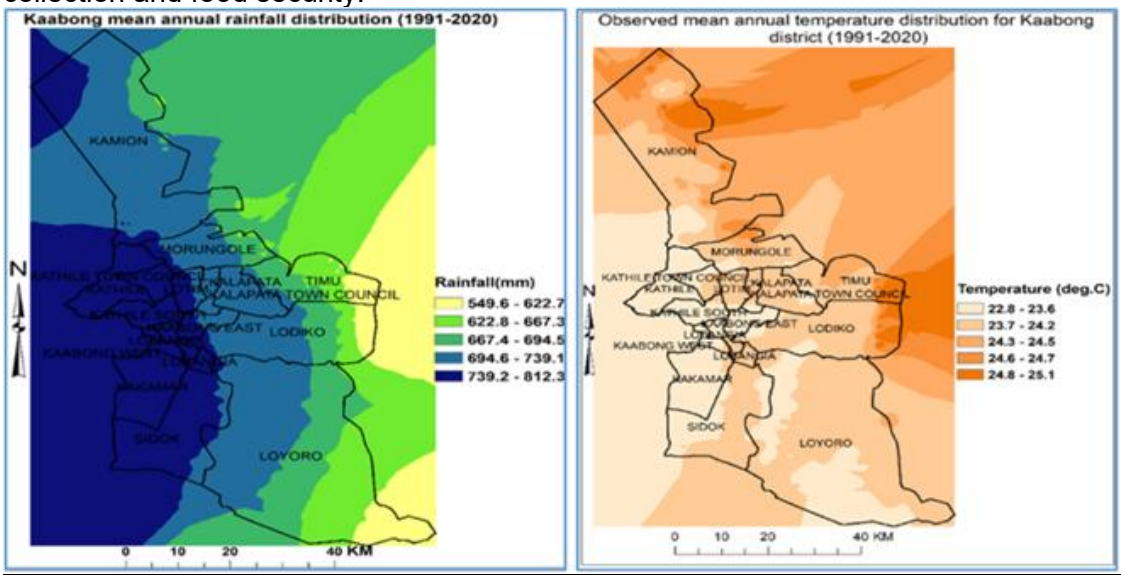
has an impact on socio-economic activities in Kalungu district.

Kaabong District (Kyoga water management zone)

Based on the District CRVA Report, Kaboong district experienced semi-arid conditions strewn with low and variable rainfall where MAM and SON are the key rainy seasons while JJA and DJF are dry for the period 1990-2020. Overall, observed rainfall varies between 549.6 to 812.3mm, while temperatures range from 22.8 to 25.1°C. The district recorded severe droughts in several years with increasing frequency and intensity. The analysis indicates scattered wetter conditions albeit overall rainfall remains highly unpredictable, with dire implications for the district's socioeconomic fabric that is defined by pastoral and agro-pastoral systems. Temperatures showed a rising trend especially in DJF and JJA triggering intense evapotranspiration and water stress. Overall, mean annual temperatures are already high and increasing, contributing to heat stress and worsening drought impacts. Climate change and variability has been accompanied by hazards such as; prolonged droughts and water scarcity, heatwaves and extreme temperature events, erratic and short rainfall seasons, delayed onset or early cessation of rains, disrupting crop cycles and livestock feeding patterns.

Projected rainfall for Kaabong District is expected to increase to 813.1 - 939.1 mm, up from the observed 549.6- 812.3 mm, marking a rise of 126.8- 263.5 mm. MAM and SON poised to remain primary rainfall seasons albeit the timing and intensity will remain unpredictable. JJA and DJF are projected to remain dry thereby compounding drought, water stress and resource scarcity.
Similarly, temperatures are projected to rise to 27.6- 28.7°C, an increase of 3.6- 4.8°C from the observed 22.8- 25.1°C especially during the hot and dry JJA and DJF periods.

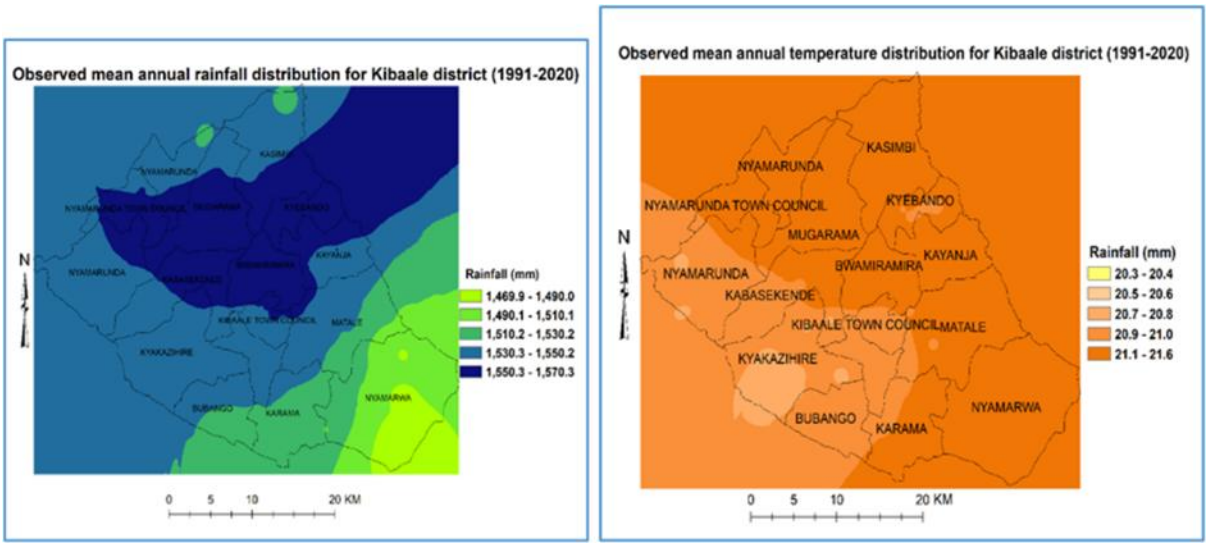
The projected climate variability threatens existing livelihood systems which are extremely exposed and vulnerable to climate shocks. The most exposed and vulnerable sectors and groups include; pastoralist and agro-pastrolist communities who are prone to drought, livestock losses and pasture degradation; water resources degradation and depletion during drought season, public health risk from water shortage and adverse effects on women and children given their gender roles in water collection and food security.



Observed Mean Annual Distribution of Rainfall and Temperature in Kaabong District (1991-2020)

Kibaale district (Albert water management zone)

In Kibaale District, observed mean annual rainfall varies across different sub-counties, ranging from 1,469.9 mm in Nyamarwa (southeast) to 1,570.3 mm in Kyebando and Mugarama (north). Rainfall distribution is generally higher in the northern and central parts of the district. SON and MAM are the wettest seasons while DJF is the driest. Mean annual temperature ranges between 20.7°C and 22.3°C, with a warming rate of +0.4°C per decade. The northern, eastern, and southeastern sub-counties, including Mugarama, Kyebando, and Nyamarwa record higher temperatures. Notable key hazards observed over the years include; flooding especially in low-lying areas, heat stress and rising temperatures particularly in the north and southeast, dry spells and delayed rainfall onset thereby disrupting agriculture activities.



Observed Mean Annual Distribution of Rainfall and Temperature in Kibaale District (1991-2020)

Projected rainfall in Kibaale is expected to increase to 1,920.1–1,965.6 mm, up from the observed 1,469.9–1,570.3 mm with the north remaining the wettest. This is projected to increase the incidence of flood and waterlogging across the district. Temperature is projected to rise, ranging from 23.9°C - 24.3°C, compared to the current 20.3°C - 21.6°C.

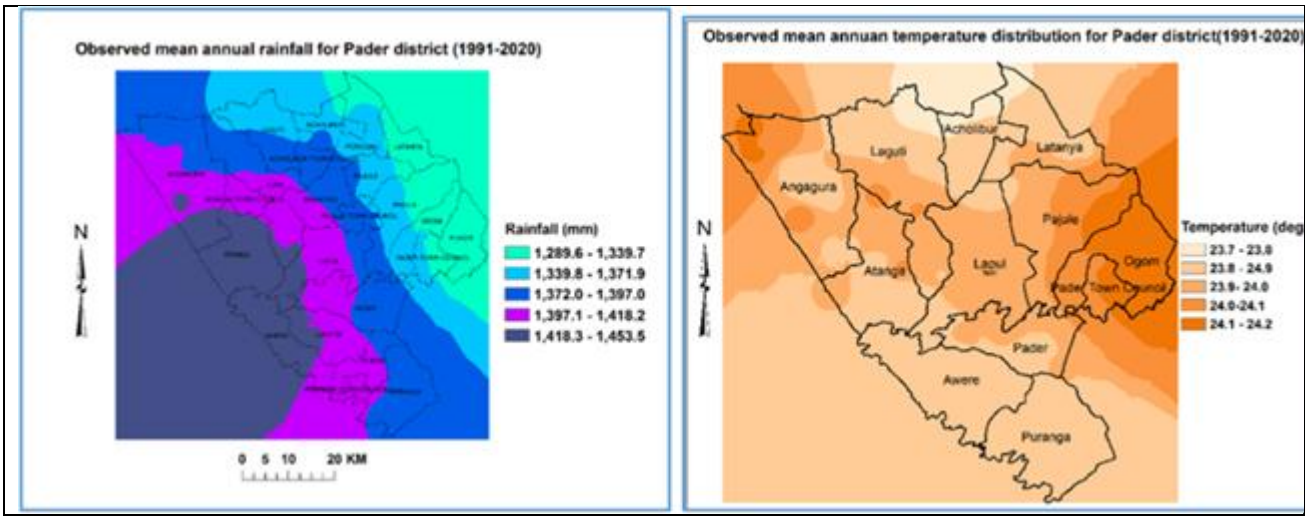
The district, with a population of 237,649 people and a growing population density of 206.1 people per km^2 is heavily reliant on agriculture with 86.2% of the population engaged in farming[9]. Farmers cultivate crops like bananas, tobacco, coffee, maize, beans, and tea. However, with agriculture being primarily dependent on rainfall, ongoing climate variability threatens livelihoods through erratic weather patterns, soil erosion and pest outbreaks, disrupting planting cycles and food security (LIFE-AR CRVA report, 2024). Environmental degradation, driven by deforestation, wetland encroachment, and land clearing, accelerates soil loss and biodiversity decline, further straining resources[10]. Limited infrastructure, healthcare, and education services deepen the district's development challenges. Increasingly drier conditions in some areas worsen agricultural productivity, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable land management to safeguard food security and economic stability.

Pader district (Upper Nile water management zone)

[9] Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda

[10] Comparison of measured multi-decadal rainfall variability with farmers' perceptions of and responses to seasonal changes in western Uganda | Request PDF

Mean annual rainfall in Pader varies from 1,289.6 mm in the east (Pajule, Pokur, and Pader Town Council) to 1,453.5 mm in the west (Atanga, Awere, and Lapul). MAM and SON are the main rainy seasons, JJA experiences moderate rainfall while DJF is the driest season.
Temperatures range from 23.7°C to 24.2°C.



Observed Mean Annual Distribution of Rainfall and Temperature in Pader District (1991-2020)

In Pader, the projected mean annual rainfall under the worst-case scenario with no or little climate change mitigation action is expected to decrease ranging between 1,196.1 mm to 1,328.6 mm from the eastern to the western sub-counties of Pokur to Angagura respectively and temperature is projected to be ranging between 26.3 to 27.2 °C.

With a total population of 240,159 and a density of 72.2 people per km^2[11], over 90% of the population in Pader district is largely dependent on crop and livestock farming. Alternative livelihoods are emerging in charcoal production, small businesses and village savings schemes. Women play a vital role in managing both farming and trade within households. However, the district faces significant environmental challenges, including deforestation and wetland encroachment driven by agricultural expansion and charcoal production (LIFE-AR CRVA, 2024). The ongoing climate variability, marked by unreliable rainfall and prolonged dry spells, directly threatens crop yields and food security. Despite post-conflict recovery from the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency, infrastructure remains limited. In the last published Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability profile, low life expectancy of 45 years and a high infant mortality rate of 165 per 1,000 were notable[12]. Addressing these socio-economic and environmental challenges through a holistic approach is essential for sustainable development and building resilience to climate impacts.

In all districts, climate variability poses a major threat to livelihoods, food security, and sustainable development necessitating urgent action for effective climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration and resilience-building measures.

1.4 Problem definition and Rationale

As mentioned above, AF support will build on the ongoing implementation of the LIFE-AR initiative in Uganda. LIFE-AR aims to enhance long-term climate resilience for Least Developed Countries investing in strengthening capabilities of institutions and systems and build the necessary track record

[11] Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda
[12] https://www.necoc.opm.go.ug/HzNorthern2/Pader%20District%20HRV%20Profile.pdf p.16

so that countries can access international climate finance directly. The initiative is reshaping how climate responses are prioritised, financed, coordinated and evaluated. LIFE-AR is a key pathway developed by the LDCs to achieve their 2050 Vision of a climate-resilient development pathway by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) comprise 46 unique countries from across diverse continents and landscapes, from land-locked regions to small island states, from the Caribbean to Africa to Asia Pacific. They are the least responsible - emitting less than 1% of the global CO2 emissions - but are most affected. Over the past fifty years, over two thirds of worldwide deaths caused by climate disasters occurred in the LDCs. Beyond climate risks that are increasingly eroding the development gains made over decades, the interconnected risks from pollution, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss further exacerbates the challenge of building sustainable development pathways for the fragile LDC economies that rely on nature.

Evidence has shown that years of implementing business-as-usual adaptation interventions are not working for LDCs. When climate action is not driven by and for LDCs, and when responses are externally driven and top-down, they fail to build long-term LDC institutional capabilities, structures and systems. LDC Vision 2050 was developed in recognition of this challenge and therefore the need for a shift in the way LDCs and the international community respond to climate change.

In addition, the climate finance architecture for adaptation and resilience is inadequate, resulting in insufficient, unpredictable funding that often takes a low-risk approach. The barriers to accessing finance are significant: only 18% of finance reaches LDCs; globally, only 10% reaches the local level. Studies show that between 2016-2021 less than 5% of total public adaptation finance reached the LDCs. Even when adaptation finance is available, it is often short-term, top-down and project or sector-specific. For instance, across Africa, half of adaptation commitments concentrate in agriculture and water, overlooking the cross-sectoral nature of climate risks at the community level and the governance systems needed to ensure effective use of the funding (Savvidou *et al.*, 2021).

But critical challenges remain in getting climate finance to local levels, as local government structures, systems and capacities are not ready to manage the volume and quality of finance flows needed. Climate finance is clearly not getting to where it is most needed. Short-term, projectized, sectoral climate responses have limited impact. Vulnerable communities are not benefiting from climate action, and gender and social inclusion factors are being ignored.

In Uganda, community climate resilience investments rely on local resources, CSOs, NGOs, and government programs. For instance, non-central government projects in Uganda accessing international climate finance secured only $0.38M compared to where the central government raised close to US$70M (Leal & Heinze, 2025). Kaabong District Approved Budget Estimates produced by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for Financial Year (FY 2023/24) show that existing government funding dispensed annually through the national budget is extremely meagre averaging at about UGX 8,000,000 (USD 2162) annually in the case of Kaboong district[13], which sharply falls short of the required financial resources.

To reshape the climate finance landscape, LIFE-AR was launched at COP 24 in 2018 by the LDC Chair to compile a robust review of evidence on adaptation and resilience interventions to date. Guided by a network of LDC Advisers, practitioners and resilience partners, the evidence review builds on ongoing initiatives and has informed the LDC Vision, the LDCs Asks and Offers, and the "Business Unusual" approach, which all defined the LIFE-AR design and principles (Table 1). The LDC Vision established a principles-based partnership between the LDCs and development partners.

[13] Kaabong District Approved Budget Estimates (FY 2023/24), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The LDCs invite the international community to collaborate in realising their vision, recognising the need for cooperation to tackle the climate crisis. The LIFE-AR Compact is the result of this vision. It is built on the five LIFE-AR principles based on the values of inclusion, participation, justice, equity and leaving no one behind. As of September 2024, it has been signed by 11 development partners and ten LDCs, including Uganda.

To realise the long-term development pathway for LDC Vision 2050, the initiative has been designed for a period of 10 years, the first 2 years are focused on the establishment phase where national platforms bring together cross-cutting government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and set out the roadmap for achieving national ambitions. The next 3-4 years are spent on implementing adaptation investments on the ground to test the climate finance delivery mechanisms built, and the last 4-5 years is the scale-up phase that allows countries to access funding from other sources. This AF investment is therefore catalytic, aimed at building systems for long-term access to climate finance.

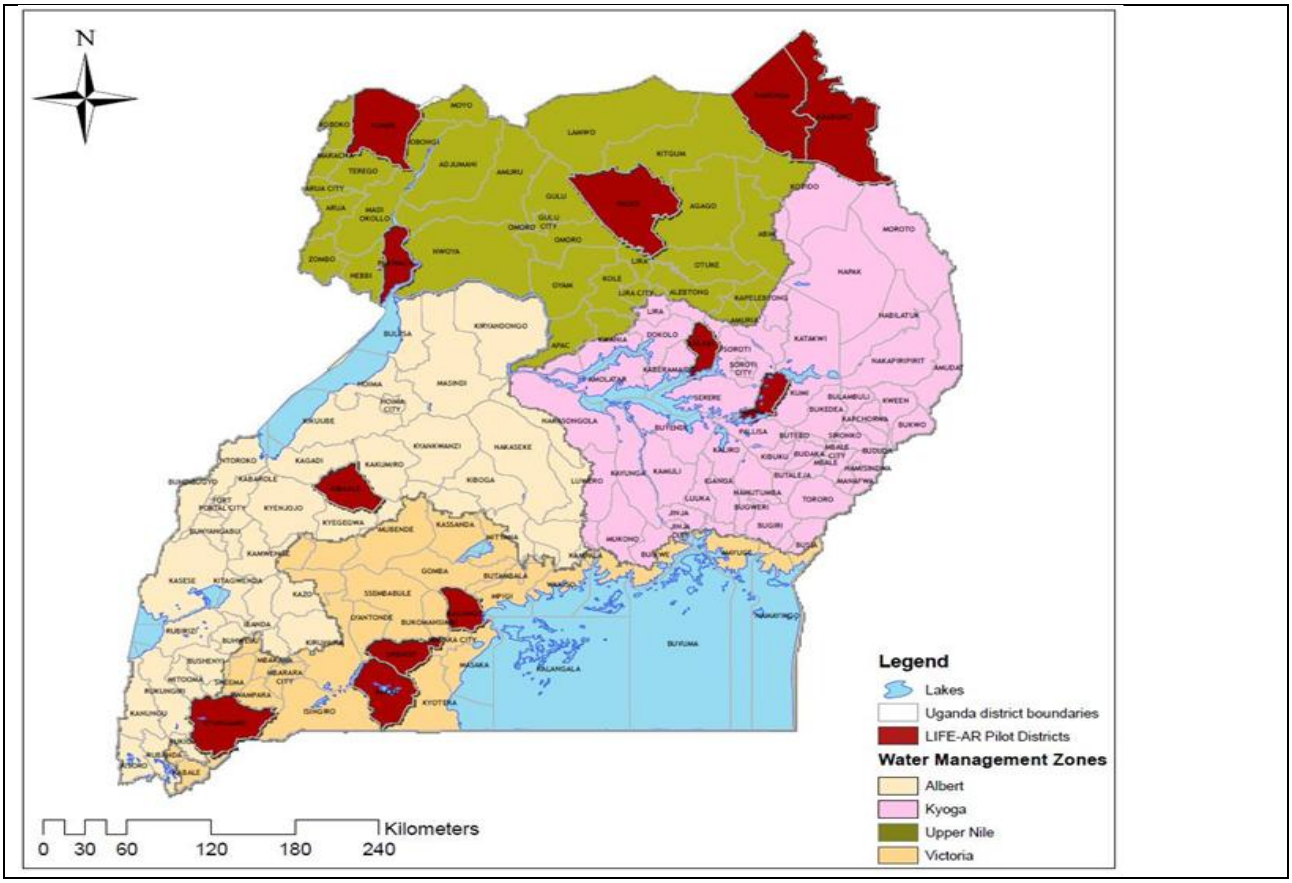
Table 1: LDC Offers and Asks

	LDC Offer from LDC Governments	LDC Ask of International Community	Joint Principles of Partnership Compact
Coordination	We will work with the whole of society to achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient future	Work together to reduce transaction costs and ensure mutual accountability behind LDC leadership	Work together jointly on a shared and equal platform
Finance	We will develop strong climate finance architecture, with at least 70% of flows supporting local-level action by 2030	Provide high-quality, predictable and accessible finance and support the LDCs' intention of at least 70% financial flows supporting local-level action by 2030	Commit to a shared goal of 70% finance flows supporting action on the ground in LDCs by 2030
Planning	We will integrate adaptation, mitigation and resilience into our national and local development objectives	Develop your own ambitious strategies for 1.5°C low-carbon climate-resilient pathways by 2020	Invest behind integrated, holistic and ambitious climate planning across whole of society
Capabilities	We will strengthen our climate capabilities, institutions, knowledge, skills and learning	Work with us in the long term to strengthen our national and local institutional capabilities	Work at the pace of individual LDCs, aiming to build long term national and local institutions, systems, structures and capabilities
Governance	We will create more inclusive governance of climate decisions that are centred on gender transformation and social justice	Invest in our inclusive climate-resilient net-zero economies and technology	Leave no country and no one behind

To finance local priorities on a long-term, programmatic basis, Uganda signed the LIFE-AR Partnership Compact, stepping up to become one of the first 6 Front Runner Countries. The country is piloting the Devolved Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism, a proven approach well-suited to the country's decentralised governance system to channel finance to local communities in line with the Offers and principles of the initiative. The key components of this mechanism include: i) a climate resilience fund (CRF), ii) participatory planning institutions, iii) climate information and resilience planning and iv) Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL). Embedded within existing institutional and financial structures, DCF enables local governments and communities to access national and global climate funds regularly and predictably. As Uganda's chosen delivery mechanism, it will deliver on the objective that 70% of climate finance reaches the local level in support of community-prioritised investments. Simultaneously, it will support stronger coordination frameworks at local government

level, building capacity among local government personnel to help communities define their priorities and formulate effective investments while generating evidence on effective Locally Led Adaptation.

The mechanism will be piloted in 12 districts across the country's four water management zones, beginning with the four districts mentioned above, with lessons from the initial phase used to refine the approach before expanding to the remaining eight districts and, ultimately, scaling up nationwide.



Map of Uganda showing 12 pilot districts and 4 engaged districts

Based on the climate analysis section above, the four LIFE-AR districts (Kaabong, Kalungu, Kibaale, and Pader), exhibit high overall vulnerability to climate change, posing significant threats to livelihoods. In similar trends across the country, climate projections indicate rising temperatures across all four districts, with increased rainfall in Kalungu, Kaabong and Kibaale, while Pader is expected to experience a decline in average rainfall exacerbating existing water stress (CRVA, 2024). Vulnerability indices across the districts indicate moderate to very high exposure to climate hazards such as droughts, heatwaves and floods, with key sectors such as agriculture, water, health, transport and education being highly sensitive to these shocks. In all cases, adaptive capacity remains lower than sensitivity[14], leaving communities unable to cope effectively. As climate risks intensify, the DCF mechanism provides a systematic, locally anchored approach that strengthens governance, fosters inclusivity, and integrates climate resilience into decision-making processes at all levels.

[14] Sensitivity being a component of the Vulnerability calculation *vulnerability = exposure * sensitivity * adaptive capacity.* Sensitivity captures "characteristics of a community that influence its likelihood to experience harm under a given stressor scenario (e.g., storm, drought, sea level rise; Marshall et al. 2010). There are many different dimensions of sensitivity including physical, economic, social, environmental, and cultural (Moss et al. 2001)." https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-016-1642-0

1.4.1 DCF as the long-term pathway to planning and managing climate risks now and into the future

With Uganda facing escalating climate risks and limited financing reaching the local level for long-term, community-led adaptation, the country's response must directly address these systemic challenges. Climate indicators are shifting across multiple sectors simultaneously, making siloed, sector-based interventions less effective. A farmer, for example, is not only constrained to the agriculture sector but also relies on water, infrastructure, healthcare and education systems. By channelling climate finance through local governments to support community-prioritised investments, Uganda can demonstrate how climate risks are effectively incorporated in development planning and implementation, ensure a more equitable distribution of funds at the Parish level. This would enable the most vulnerable communities to adapt effectively and enhance ecosystem restoration.

The DCF mechanism represents Uganda's first structured approach to channeling climate finance into local-level adaptation investments that directly respond to community needs and priorities. It combines financial support with institutional strengthening, ensuring that local capacities are built through participatory, gender-responsive climate vulnerability assessments. By prioritizing the most vulnerable communities, the mechanism enhances the effectiveness of climate finance, making it both inclusive and impactful, and empowers those on the frontlines of climate change to shape their own resilience pathways.

As climate risks intensify, the DCF mechanism offers a systematic, locally grounded approach that strengthens governance and embeds climate resilience into decision-making at all levels. It empowers local governments and communities with the skills, tools and resources to act on current climate challenges and prepare for future uncertainties. Through training and learning-by-doing, it reinforces local governance, helps identify climate priorities via participatory assessments, and aligns investments with community-identified risks and ecosystem hazards. Its inclusive investment process ensures public goods benefit all, especially marginalized groups, while robust Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategies keep communities informed and engaged in resilience-building.

Whilst also facilitating a pipeline of community adaptation investments, the mechanism strengthens the capacity of local governments in four areas:

- Finance: DCF strengthens existing financial and fiduciary frameworks by embedding climate finance within local government systems and aligning with national public finance standards. By introducing performance measures in future rounds of investment and minimum conditions to access the CRF as currently practiced, it encourages responsible financial management, transparency and accountability. This builds confidence among funders enabling sustained access to climate finance. Advance budget notifications further support planning and community oversight allowing local governments to address immediate climate risks while planning for future uncertainties. This financial decentralization empowers local governments to invest in public goods that directly benefit communities and build resilience against climate shocks.
- Community Participation and Inclusion: The DCF mechanism prioritizes meaningful community engagement through a whole of society approach, fostering a participatory approach to planning and budgeting. This ensures that the needs of vulnerable groups are integrated into local government plans and budgets. By involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and private sector entities, the DCF strengthens harmonized planning and aligns local actions with key policies, plans and strategies such as the NDP and NDC. This enhanced public participation strengthens inclusion, accountability and transparency in climate decision-making, reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience at local level.
- Climate information & Resilience Planning: DCF emphasizes the systematic use of climate information and integrates resilience planning tools into local government plans and budgets. These tools promote cross-sectoral planning at various scales, addressing current risks and

degraded ecosystems while accounting for future climate uncertainties. By implementing a training curriculum on the systematic use of the climate information system, DCF integrates resilience planning into government plans and budgets.

- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning: The DCF strengthens national and local monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of institutional arrangements for managing climate risks. It promotes learning and accountability by enabling local governments to measure the outcomes of climate-resilient investments, ensuring continuous improvement in adaptation planning and implementation

1.5 LIFE-AR progress to date and how Adaptation Fund financing will contribute to the Initiative in Uganda

With seed funding from a consortium of development partners (Ireland, UK, Canada, formerly USA[15]) that are signatory to the compact agreement for LIFE-AR, Uganda has successfully completed its "establishment phase", setting up a robust national governance platform that brings together representatives from across government and society in a combination of different bodies that are responsible for oversight, policy development, management and implementation, drawing on expertise from across government, academia and CSOs. This platform, managed by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) composed of civil servants from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) has guided the design of the country's Devolved Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism, outlined in the DCF Design Note. The design note, along with capacity needs assessment has informed development of implementation guidelines and a training curriculum to strengthen capacities at national and local levels.

LIFE-AR funding has also enabled the development of a national theory of change and MEL plan, aligning with key national reporting frameworks e.g. the NDCs, as well as the LIFE-AR principles. A communications strategy has been developed to help share these learnings and raise awareness of the initiative, and the learning Community of Practice was recently launched in April 2025.

To ensure effective programme rollout to the pilot districts, Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops were conducted to establish a pool of skilled trainers at both national and district levels. These trainers developed a strong understanding of the LIFE-AR initiative, its core principles, and the country delivery mechanism. They subsequently led sensitisation and training activities across district local governments. These sensitisation and training efforts, supported by the ToT trainers, significantly enhanced stakeholder awareness and ownership of the initiative. They also facilitated the operationalisation of Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs), which play a key role in local governance, monitoring, transparency, and accountability.

This work has taken place over several years, with communities, local government and national government working in coordination and consultation with one another to reach this point. Investments have started being selected in some sub-counties of participating districts, after the participatory selection of projects was done in accordance with the DCF model. The funding from LIFE-AR is insufficient to cover the full range of sub-counties envisaged for the "test and evolve" phase of LIFE-AR. As such, this Adaptation Fund programme will flow money through the DCF Mechanism to fund concrete adaptation activities, closing funding gaps and deepening the application of DCF in selected districts so that stakeholders can learn from the experience and enhance the scaling of DCF across

[15] In the establishment phase of LIFE-AR, Uganda received GBP 405,495 from a pooled fund managed by the LIFE-AR Secretariat (hosted by IIED), funded by the UK, USA, and Ireland (funds spent during the period 2021-2024). In the test and evolve phase of LIFE-AR where funds are predominantly dedicated for concrete adaptation activities, in 2024 Uganda has received GBP 1.75 million from the same pooled fund (with the addition of Canada as a contributor).

the country. It will strengthen the 5 focus areas of LIFE-AR around capabilities, coordination, planning, governance and finance, building on the solid foundation already in place.

LIFE-AR National Theory of Change

The Theory of Change describes and illustrates how and why the desired outcomes and impact will be achieved during the implementation of LIFE-AR Uganda. It demonstrates the overall effectiveness of LIFE-AR in tackling climate change-related risks and vulnerabilities while promoting broader development impacts.

Summary of the theory of change

If Uganda works collaboratively with other LDCs and the international community to strengthen **planning** and integration of climate change and development using a whole of government and whole of society approach, **and** at least 70% of **finance** is invested in locally led action through the **Decentralised Climate Finance mechanism**,
and climate **capabilities** are strengthened for Ugandan key institutions and people
and the established LIFE-AR Uganda **governance mechanisms** ensure transparency of climate decisions, are gender transformative, socially inclusive, and locally led,
then climate investment will reach the most vulnerable people and local governments, and climate resilience will improve. Consequently, Uganda will be on climate resilient development pathways delivering net zero emissions to ensure societies and ecosystems thrive
– **leading to** climate resilient people, economies and landscapes.

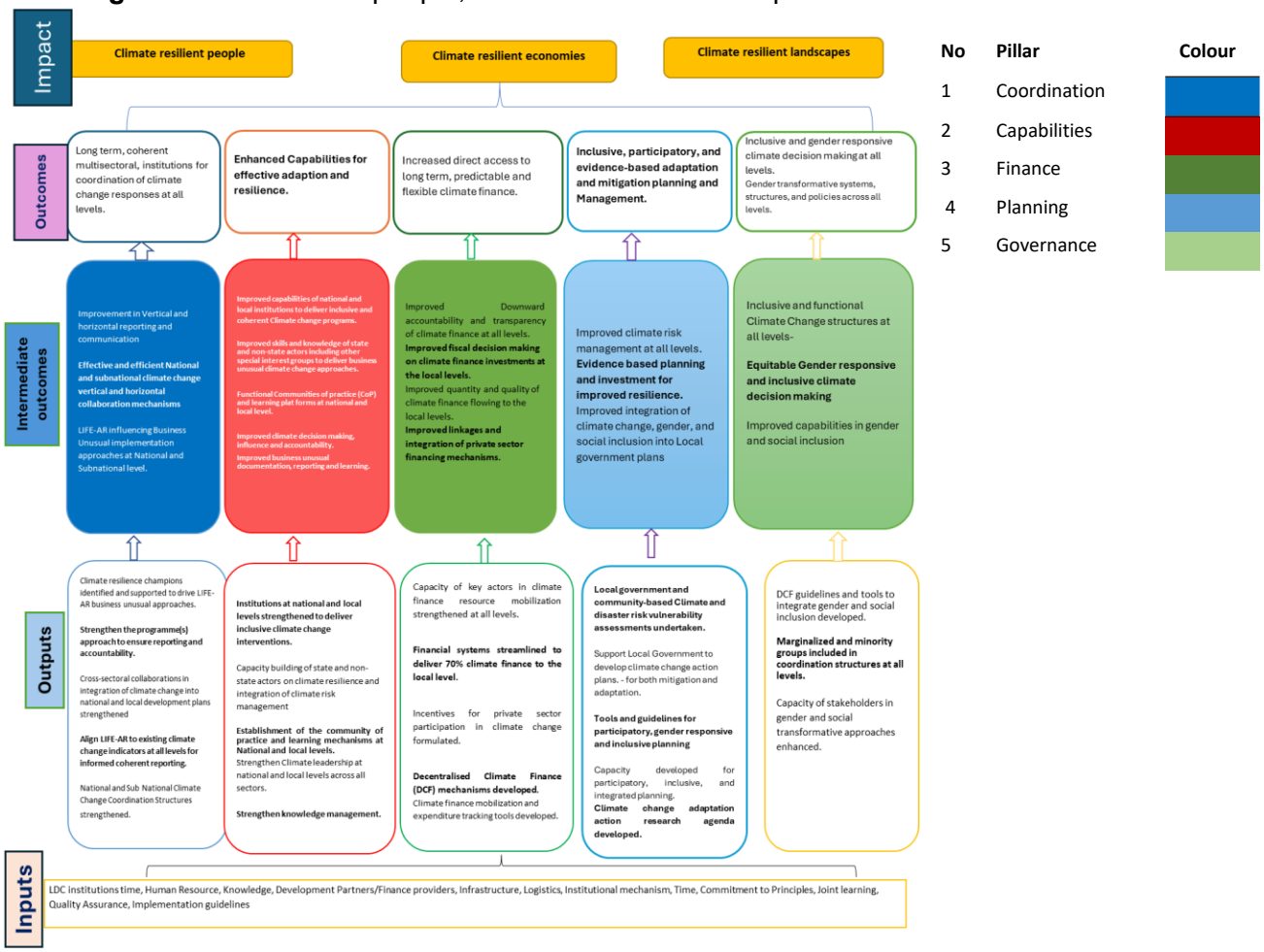


Figure LIFE-AR National Theory of Change

Figure 1: LIFE-AR National Theory of Change

1.6 Project / Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

The goal of this programme is **to finance locally identified climate investments to build resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in four districts in Uganda** in line with the DCF mechanism**.** This will be realized through the implementation of three sub-objectives aligned to the programme components. These are:

1. **to channel predictable climate finance towards community-led adaptation for resilient landscapes, people and economies.** The programme will direct funding to locally prioritized adaptation investments (also termed projects in this application) in selected districts, to build community resilience at a scale that generates meaningful impact rather than incremental changes. Funding from the Adaptation Fund will complement LIFE-AR's initial investment, bridging funding gaps and expanding community-driven action.
2. **to strengthen inclusive and participatory climate governance.** This sub-objective focuses on operationalizing the devolved climate finance mechanism, ensuring that decision-making processes are inclusive, transparent and embed accountability. It will enhance the governance and financial management of climate finance, aligning with the Offers and principles of LIFE-AR to empower local actors.
3. **to generate and apply learning from implementation, strengthening adaptive management for sustained locally led adaptation**. There is a need to learn from devolved climate adaptation decision-making to strengthen existing institutional, policy and legal frameworks for decentralization and local governance. This will position DCF as a long-term, scalable mechanism for distributing climate finance from a range of sources.

1.7 Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the attached instructions for a detailed description of each term. For the case of a programme, individual components are likely to refer to specific sub- sets of stakeholders, regions and/or sectors that can be addressed through a set of well-defined interventions / projects.

Table 2: Programme Components and Financing

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
Component 1: Implementation of Locally Led and Community Prioritized Adaptation Investments for Enhanced Resilience of people, landscapes and economies in LIFE-AR districts of Pader, Kalungu, Kibaale and Kaabong in new Sub-Counties	1. Community led adaptation investments mapped and prioritized to deliver resilient landscapes, economies, and people. 2. 12 adaptation investments implemented with 3 delivered in each of the 4 districts	Enhanced Community Adaptive Capacity and Resilience in LIFE-AR districts of Kalungu, Pader, Kibaale and Kaabong. Climate resilient landscapes owing to restored ecosystem functions and increased biodiversity	$3,500,000

Component 2: Strengthening Capacity for Inclusive and Participatory Climate Governance Structures for Effective Climate Finance Utilization	1. Improved knowledge and skills of sub-county, parish and community leaders in LIFE-AR governance and management processes for climate finance. 2. Governance and institutional capacity in adaptation planning and investment management in selected districts strengthened. **3.** Capacities of local governance structures strengthened to meaningfully engage women, youth, elderly and other marginalised groups in climate risk identification, investment planning, management and monitoring.	1. Improved effectiveness, inclusivity and transparency of local governance structures for adaptation planning and decentralized climate finance management, including operationalized tracking, accountability and reporting mechanisms. **2.** Increased meaningful participation of youth, women, PWD, the elderly and other marginalised groups in climate risk identification, planning and decision-making processes	$503,091
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning for sustainable Locally Led Adaptation Action and Adaptive Management.	1. District Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system for LIFE-AR strengthened and functional 2. Inclusive learning platforms established and facilitated at district and community levels, linking with the national community of practice. 3. Knowledge management system developed to capture, document and disseminate lessons and good practices	Enhanced Knowledge generation, management and dissemination for continuous improvement of locally led adaptation approaches and processes.	$536,909
Project/Programme Execution cost			$68,295
Tota; Project/Programme cost			$4,608,295
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity			$391,705
Amount of Financing Requested			**$5,000,000**

Projected Calendar:

Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	June 2026
Mid-term Review (if planned)	
Project/Programme Closing	June 2029
Terminal Evaluation	November 2029

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience. Specify how the project/programme enables devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and gives local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated

A.1 Background to Programme Components

This proposed Programme on Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation through Decentralized Climate Finance (DCF) for Resilient Communities in Uganda outlines planned capacity strengthening activities, how they contribute to climate resilience in the medium-term and how concrete adaptation actions are then identified following the DCF process where communities lead prioritization of adaptation investments that build their adaptive capacity and resilience of people, landscapes and economies. This approach, aligns with the broader LIFE-AR initiatives' offers and principles, anchored in the LDC 2050 Vision. **The overall goal of the programme is to finance locally identified climate investments to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the four districts in Uganda, through community led implementation of the prioritized investments**.

The Adaptation Fund will be financing the expansion of the initial work undertaken as part of LIFE-AR initiative in Uganda. As such, the process of designing the DCF approach and testing its effectiveness on the ground with communities is already ongoing and will continue during this AF programme development and application. Since the proposed AF programme builds on existing institutional arrangements, processes and systems, this section describes how the DCF mechanism has been operationalised in the 4 participating Districts. DCF enables devolved decision making to the appropriate local level, strengthening inclusive governance arrangements and institutional capabilities on climate and how progress is being measured. For the new sub-counties in the programme Districts, the application of DCF via AF funding will follow the same process, learning from experience.

The prioritized adaptation investments (community projects) have been selected through inclusive and participatory community engagement processes preceded by climate change vulnerability assessments, as guided by the DCF cycle (see stage 1 below and table 5). The entire investment selection process has been intentionally designed to ensure gender equity and social inclusion considerations across the four LIFE-AR districts of Kaabong, Kalungu, Kibaale and Pader.

For the initial round of investments funded by LIFE-AR global secretariat, the community prioritised investments that feature multi sector interventions that contribute to climate adaptation and resilience in the medium term. Specific examples from this initial round include the construction of 8 deep boreholes across 3 parishes in 3 sub-counties of Kalungu with water user committees to be established and trained to improve maintenance and governance for the water investments. An example of work in Kibaale is the restoration of wetland through indigenous tree planting and demarcation of a buffer zone to promote ecosystem services. In Pader, additions of high value drought tolerant fruit trees with training for their management are addressing variability in water access. In Kaabong infrastructure rehabilitation of washed away community access roads will improve mobility and access to essential social infrastructure such as markets, health facilities and schools; sustainable waste management. More generally, other examples of investments selected by communities include construction of integrated water for production facilities such as deep valley tanks that support climate resilient agriculture systems (crop irrigation, animal keeping and aquaculture); and nature based

solutions such as agroforestry and ecosystem restoration, generating benefits for resilient livelihoods, local economies and landscapes. While these examples reflect the types of concrete adaptation actions the AF programme might support, the actual investments will be determined by communities themselves through locally-led processes.

The programme has three components elaborated below:

A.2 Component 1: Implementation of Locally Led and Community Prioritized Adaptation Investments for Enhanced Resilience of people, landscapes and economies in LIFE-AR districts of Pader, Kalungu, Kibaale and Kaabong.

In 2022, a meticulous selection of 12 pilot districts and sub-counties for piloting the devolved climate finance (DCF) delivery mechanism in Uganda was guided by a comprehensive set of criteria outlined in the table below.

Table 3: Criteria for selection of LIFE-AR Districts and Sub-Counties

Selection of districts	Selection of Sub counties
• Occurrence of Climate Hazard • Climate Vulnerability • Gender and Equity • Equitable representation of the Water and Management Zones in the country	• Occurrence of Climate Hazard in the District Climate Vulnerability • Existing Population • Existing Climate Change-related interventions • Gender Based Violence

After assessment, the first four districts prioritised to test the DCF mechanism were **Kibaale** (Albert water catchment), **Kaboong** (Kyoga water catchment), **Pader** (Upper Nile water catchment), and **Kalungu** (Victoria water catchment). These districts have, since 2022, been implementing readiness activities under the “establishment phase” of LIFE-AR as described in section 1.6 above and formally concluded in April 2023. Subsequently, Uganda transitioned to the implementation phase or “Test and Evolve” phase where the DCF mechanism was used by the local government to facilitate selection, prioritisation and implementation of pilot investment projects. Uganda has adopted a phased approach to expanding DCF, beginning with these 4 districts before expanding the scope of the DCF mechanism across an additional eight Districts in this “test and evolve” phase. The AF Programme similarly will begin introducing sources of mainstream climate finance to the DCF mechanism in a contained number of districts before scaling with other sources.

Community investments are funded through the Climate Resilience Fund (CRF), a performance-based climate resilience grant that forms a key pillar of the DCF mechanism. In principle, the CRF is designed to be managed by district local governments and channelled to parishes as a special conditional grant from central government, structured around minimum standards that guarantee quality and incentivise application of LIFE-AR principles. However, under the current funding arrangement for the LIFE-AR initiative in Uganda, and in line with donor requirements, funds are managed by an independent fund manager who disburses them directly to service providers on behalf of district local governments. It is expected that, as Uganda builds a strong track record in fiduciary management and implementation, donors will gain the confidence to allow future CRF resources to flow directly to parishes through district local governments as originally intended.

To ensure quality and accountability, minimum standards for CRF access include:

i. completion of a Participatory Climate Risk & Vulnerability assessment
ii. the establishment of planning committees aligned with the Whole-of-Society (WOS) approach
iii. a positive auditor general's report for the 2022/23 financial year

iv. establishment of a District Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework in alignment with the national-level MEL system.

Component 1 of this AF programme will focus on the implementation of locally identified and prioritised adaptation investments, aimed at strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience of people, landscapes and economies at community level under the LIFE-AR initiative (Outputs 1.1 and 1.2). The investments will be identified, appraised and selected through community-led processes, based on established participatory mechanisms. The programme will expand coverage from 3 to an average of 9 sub-countries per district and fund projects in these localities, enabling broader geographical reach and deeper impact. Pader, Kalungu, Kibaale and Kaabong districts are, as described above, grappling with climate change effects such as severe prolonged dry spells, torrential rains accompanied by floods which all directly affect their food security, health and livelihoods options while compounding income poverty, security and internal human mobility. Districts like Kaabong lie in a semi-arid region with inherent water stress being compounded by climate change effects. Despite these life-threatening climate induced challenges, existing adaptation efforts are negligible owing to budget constraints. Existing government funding dispensed annually through the national budget is extremely meagre averaging at about UGX 8,000,000 (USD 2162) annually, which sharply falls short of the required financial resources. Against this background, LIFE-AR-facilitated inclusive processes provide a robust mechanism for delivering targeted, high-impact adaptation investments. By strengthening community agency, the program will contribute to building a strong foundation for long-term resilience, while demonstrating a scalable model for devolving climate finance.

As noted earlier, the selection of additional sub-counties for support under the AF application will be based on the 2024 CRVA outcomes and LIFE-AR criteria in Table 2, conducted in consultation with target districts to ensure alignment and avoid overlaps. The selection process for new investments in the sub-counties will follow the same participatory guidelines outlined by the DCF mechanism to ensure informed and devolved decision making by local institutions and communities. A step wise overview of the process is outlined as follows:

Stage 1: District wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment and consultations

Climate risk and vulnerability assessment: The CRVA process was undertaken across the first four districts in 2024, providing valuable insights into district climate change risks, impacts and vulnerabilities including trends and projections. District staff were supported in collating information to identify:

- areas prone to natural disasters, economic instability, or other climate change threats.
- potential risks and hazards to communities such as floods, earthquakes, economic downturns and public health crises

Additionally, resource mapping was conducted to:

- Identify and map existing community assets, including infrastructure, social networks, local organizations, and human capital.
- Determine how these assets can be leveraged for resilience-building initiatives.

The process also generated vulnerability indices of sub-counties within each district, which will be crucial in prioritizing the most vulnerable areas for future investments. This activity is complete and the results will be an input into this AF Programme. Similarly, the District task teams already exist and have been trained and so are well aware of LIFE-AR and the DCF Mechanism.

Component 1, Activity 1.1: Sub- County Technical Awareness Meetings: Technical and political actors in the new sub-counties will be introduced to LIFE-AR, its principles, and the DCF mechanism and the link with AF. They will use the same criteria as the sub-county selection process to choose

target parishes for AF investments. Additionally, they will be briefed on the DCF implementation guidelines, beginning with the criteria for electing Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs).

*The **Election and training of the PCCCs** is funded under Component 2 as it relates to capacity strengthening. However, to help understand the linear process of DCF, detail is provided here:* Operationalising the provisions of the National Climate Change Act 2021, a PCCC will be elected for each identified parish. As the DCF structure closest to the communities, the PCCC is a key governance structure responsible for coordinating and mobilizing communities for climate action and monitoring progress. It is the backbone of the DCF mechanism. The implementation guidelines specify the criteria for electing this committee, ensuring it reflects society as a whole, with at least 40% women's representation. Before the election, widespread awareness campaigns will be conducted across the sub-county to ensure fair representation from all villages and groups of people. Newly elected PCCC members will receive training based on the DCF curriculum to ensure they are well-equipped with knowledge of the program, its principles, delivery mechanism as well as their roles and responsibilities in the implementation cycle.

The role of the PCCC includes the following:

Table 4: Role of PCCCs

1. Preparing work plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities within their local jurisdictions 2. Implementing the climate change action plans 3. Mobilizing, conducting education and awareness campaigns on climate change including on the Climate Resilience Fund and the processes associated with it 4. Mobilizing the people within their local jurisdiction to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and actions 5. Monitoring and evaluating of climate change risks, adaptation and mitigation activities. 6. Reporting any events or activities which negatively affect or are likely to negatively affect the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and measures. 7. Consulting with the communities on DCF investment options 8. Identifying and prioritizing public investments/goods with communities 9. Validating investment choices with communities 10. Supervising service providers during the delivery resilience investments, and reporting to relevant sub-county and district staff 11. Participating in procurement of climate resilience investment service providers in district-led procurement processes	12. Overseeing community-based procurement where it is decided that climate resilience investments are to be procured using this method. 13. Reporting to the sub-county alongside regular reporting to the community on PCCC activities in relation to the CRF on a quarterly basis including through accountability forums at the parish level (e.g. barazas, community meetings) to report on stages in planning, prioritization and delivery of the CRF and answer questions from community members. 14. Establishing sub-committees for more effective management of investments on the condition that they ensure greater efficiency and include persons necessary for the development of the investments. 15. Ensuring there are community user committees to manage resilience investments 16. Setting up a Community Procurement Management Committee (CPMC) from their own membership. 17. Working with district or sub-county technical staff, where necessary to design investment proposals including identification of locations, make decisions on technical specifications, feedback on gendered accessibility

Component 1, Activity 1.2:

***Consultations (Output 1.1)*:** The PCCC will be responsible for organizing and inviting participants to community consultation meetings for resilience planning activities. Committee members, with district support, will facilitate these consultations using the modified Pamoja Voices toolkit for participatory resilience planning, which ensures inclusive participation by integrating GESI considerations-including deliberate engagement of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized

groups. Widespread mobilization will ensure fair representation across the target sub-county. Before the consultations, community members will be sensitized about the complementarity of AF support with LIFE-AR and the types of investments eligible for funding.

Importantly, the outcomes of the district-wide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs), conducted as part of the LIFE-AR process, will serve as a key input into these consultations. These assessments provide a foundational understanding of climate risks, vulnerabilities and impacts at district and sub-county levels. By drawing on these insights, the consultations will be more focused and evidence-informed, enabling communities to prioritise investments that directly address their most pressing climate resilience and ecosystem restoration needs.

The structured discussions, guided by the toolkit and informed by the CRVA findings, will result in a list of community prioritised investments that are both context-specific and aligned with broader district resilience planning efforts.

In total, there are 1,912 villages/cells, 277 parishes/wards and 62 sub-counties/town councils/divisions in the four districts. Their distribution is shown in the table below.

Table 5: Overview statistics of sub-county, town councils and divisions in participating Districts

District	Count of Sub-county/Town Council/Division	Count of Parish/Ward	Count of Village/Cell
Kaabong	19 (3 already involved in LIFE-AR, 6 to join with AF funding)	85	455
Kalungu	7 (3 already involved in LIFE-AR, 4 to join with AF funding)	38	268
Kibaale	14 (3 already involved in LIFE-AR, 6 to join with AF funding)	57	312
Pader	23 (3 already involved in LIFE-AR, 7 to join with AF funding)	97	877
TOTAL	62 (12 already involved in LIFE-AR, 23 to join with AF funding)	277	1,912

Table 6 Names of sub-counties benefitting from existing LIFE-AR funding and names of sub-countries from which AF programme participant SCs will be selected

A. District	B. Current Beneficiary Sub-County/Town Council under existing LIFE-AR Funding	C. Sub-counties from which additional SC will be selected to benefit from AF funding (for Numbers refer to table 5.	Notes
Kaabong	Sidok S/C, Kaabong East, Kaabong West	Kaabong T/C, , Kakamar, Lobongia, Lodiko, Lolelia, Lolelia South, Loyoro, Kalapata, Kalapata T/C, Kathile, Kathile South, Kathile Town Council, Lotim, Kamion, Morungole, Timu,	6 sub counties from Column C will be selected for AF funding
Kalungu	Bukulula, Lwabenge, Kyamulibwa	Lukaya T/C, Kalungu, Kalungu T/C, , Kyamulimbwa T/C	4 sub counties from Column C will be selected for AF funding
Kibaale	Kyakazihire, Nyamarwa, Kyebando	Bubango, Bwamiramira, Kabasekende, Kibaale T/C, , Mugarama, Nyamarunda, Nyamarunda T/C, Karama, Kasimbi, Kayanja, , Matale,	6 sub counties from Column C will be selected for AF funding
Pader	Laguti, Pajule TC, Pukor	Awere, Lunyiri, Ogom, Pader, Pukor, Puranga, Ajan, Angagura, Atanga,Atanga T/C, Bongtiko, Lapul, Latanya, Paiula, Pajule, Porogali, Te-Nam, Acholi-Bur T/C, Acholi-Bur, Pader T/C, Puranga T/C, Te-Nam	7 sub counties from Column C will be selected for AF funding

Proposal Development and Review (Stages 2 and 3 of DCF)
All potential investments proposed will be captured in the Investment Identification Form developed by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the LIFE-AR programme.

***Selection and prioritizing potential investments*:** After community-suggested climate adaptation and resilience investments are listed, the PCCC will evaluate and prioritize them using the strategic and technical criteria in the DCF implementation guidelines. This process will focus AF support on high-impact, sustainable adaptation interventions that are public goods.

Table 7: Technical and strategic criteria for investment prioritization

Strategic criteria for Climate resilience investments	**Technical Criteria for Climate Resilience Investments**
• Focus on public goods benefiting many people, with strong inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. • Must be a climate resilience building investment. • Must contribute to social cohesion and strengthen social relationships • Investments should have minimal negative environmental impact. • Clear alignment with national development priorities	• Feasible budget and work plan, including necessary technical support for implementation. • Evidence of stakeholder consultation to ensure inclusivity. • Demonstrated value for money and sustainability of outcomes. • Investment does not duplicate other planned investments by local/national governments or other actors. • A theory of change and MEL plan to track beneficiaries, targets, and impact. • Use of climate information and resilience planning tools in investment identification and assessment. • A clear sustainability plan, including incidental costs, aligned with government development plans.

***Drafting the proposals for selected investments*:** The list of the prioritised/agreed investment proposals will be submitted to the Parish Chief/CDO for further development. An appropriate template has been prepared for producing the proposal/project work plan. The proposal will undergo multiple reviews at the Parish level and successful ones compiled and submitted for review at the sub-county level. Successful sub-county proposals are compiled and submitted for review at the district level. The district will submit a compilation of the approved proposals to the PIU for review and approval. In line with the subsidiarity principle, community proposals that meet the technical and strategic criteria cannot be rejected, provided they fall within the district's allocated budget ceiling. While districts may apply technical criteria to assess viability, feasibility and ensure sustainability, they may not override community priorities that are consistent with the strategic objectives of the initiative. Involvement of the district technical staff in the proposal development process is part of the capacity building interventions under the LIFE AR principles.

***Component 1, Activity 1.3:* Procurement and payments of service providers (stage 4 & 7) (related to component 1, output 1.2)**

Procurement: All procurement under LIFE-AR follows the PPDA Act and complies with local government procurement regulations. A competitive bidding process is used to ensure equal opportunity and value for money, with PCCC representatives participating in key procurement stages as outlined in the implementation guidelines. The process aligns with LIFE-AR principles, ensuring transparency, community participation and gender considerations. Smaller, locally impactful investments may be procured directly by the PCCC, which will establish a community-level procurement committee to oversee the process.

***Payments of service provider**:* Where the PCCC has completed the project monitoring in accordance with the project proposal, the PCCC will forward documentation for payments to PIU by following these steps.

a) The Committee will request an invoice from the supplier in accordance with the next payment based on the contract terms.
b) The Committee will check the invoice to make sure it adheres to the payments outlined in the contract.
c) The Committee will send to the PIU via sub county (SC) and district the following:
    i. The supplier invoice to be paid
    ii. All monitoring progress reports in accordance with the monitoring plan in the project proposal
    iii. A written approval of the payment signed by at least two of the Committee officials
d) The SC will check the documents and forward to PIU.

PIU will review the documentation and, where the documentation is in order, process payments from Bank of Uganda. PIU will advise the LG accordingly.

Component 1, Activity 1.4: **Implementation and M&E of project activities (Stages 5, 6 and 8) (related to outputs 1.1 and 1.2):**

Implementation: Following the approval of project proposals, implementation is led at the community level by the Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs), in partnership with sub-county and district authorities. Guided by the LIFE-AR Implementation Guidelines and the terms of the MOUs signed at the different local government levels with MoWE (as detailed in Section C), the PCCCs are responsible for ensuring that approved investments are executed in line with agreed timelines, budgets, and technical specifications.

Where Service Providers are engaged to deliver specific interventions, PCCCs oversee their work and ensure that the terms of the contract are being met. Sub-counties and districts provide technical backstopping, ensure compliance with procurement and financial management procedures, and offer support where capacity gaps exist.

Each PCCC plays a direct role in ensuring that implementation is inclusive, transparent, and accountable to community members. This includes mobilising local labour where applicable, tracking progress on delivery, and engaging community feedback mechanisms.

Monitoring and evaluation: The **PCCC** will implement the monitoring plan approved in the project proposal and prepare Project Monitoring Reports from time to time using the template provided by LIFE-AR Implementation Unit. Based on the findings from the monitoring process, where a Service Provider is judged to not be meeting the conditions of the contract, the **PCCC** will:

- Advise the STPC of any suspected misappropriation or diversion of funds or possible fraud or corruption relating to projects using telephone, physical visit, email or any other available communication means
- Take measures to ensure that the Service Provider meets the terms of the contract
- If the Service Provider continues to fail to meet its obligations, terminate the contract and seek to recoup the disbursed funds.

Training on how to effectively fulfil this role is part of Component 2.

Assessment of project completion: On the completion of the project (or construction phase of the project), the PCCC will meet to discuss next steps (including establishing sustainability committees) and any immediate impact of the project, including any ongoing monitoring. The PCCC will also submit a written report to the SC, district and PIU. The PIU may request an independent evaluation of the project.

The stages are summarised in the following table:

Table 8: Overview of stages of DCF Mechanism

Steps in the Cycle	Tools and Inputs	Responsibilities	Documentation
1. Consultation at Parish level	Resilience assessments Resource mapping Climate information -	PCCC consults community,	Written record of consultations
2. Proposal Development at Parish level	Proposal guidelines Criteria for funding guidelines Support from district/subcounty technical staff and/or local NGOs	PCCC writes proposals and draw up draft budgets Parish proposals consolidated & forwarded to subcounty	Proposal, draft budget and written record of meetings including disaggregated attendance lists.
3. Proposal review and approval at Subcounty, District and national levels	STPC meeting Following up PCCC meetings as necessary DTPC meeting TWG meeting Steering committee meeting	STPC is convened PCCC reps to take part Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented SC proposals consolidated and forwarded to district DTPC is convened STPC reps to take part Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented District proposals consolidated and forwarded to PIU TWG is convened DTPC reps to take part Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented National proposals consolidated and submitted to Steering Committee	Record of meeting including disaggregated attendance lists
4. Procurement	Call for Proposals Tender documents Service Provider contract Initial payment under contract	PCCC review tenders PCCC finalize proposal budget PCCC Secretary issues contract with copy to PIU	Quotes from tenders Record of PCCC decision Final budget Quotes Written Committee recommendation Service Provider contract
5. Implementation	Work plan	Communities, including PCCC, CMOs & SPs	Record of activities undertaken
6. Monitoring of implementation	Meetings and field visits	PCCC visits & report to STPC (as appropriate). STPC & DTPC visits projects & report to PIU PIU visits projects Auditors and other independent evaluators conduct periodic visits/reviews	Record of field visits Service Provider progress report Auditors' reports
7. Payments to Service Provider	Service Provider Budget Control report Progress report Letter requesting payment to SP approved by PCCC	Service Provider sends report (plus receipts) to PCCC PCCC reviews Service providers' reports/receipts and completes Budget Control report and sends to STPC for information. PCCC approves payments to Service Provider.	Budget Control reports Invoices Progress reports

Steps in the Cycle	Tools and Inputs	Responsibilities	Documentation
		PCCC requests PIU to make payment to Service Provider, providing copies of all relevant paperwork as needed.	
8. Assessment of project completion	Fulfilment report Independent completion evaluation Letter requesting payment to SP approved by PCCC	Service provider sends completion report to PCCC. PCCC checks Service provider report and manages independent technical review and approves final payment to Service Provider. PCCC requests PIU to make final payment to Service Provider.	Fulfilment report Independent completion evaluation report

A.3 Component 2: Capacity for Inclusive and Participatory Climate Governance Structures for Effective Climate Finance Utilization.

The intended outcome of component 2 is to enhance the capacity of governance structures at sub-county and parish levels to ensure inclusive, effective and transparent climate change and climate finance. This will be achieved by **strengthening the knowledge, skills, and institutional capacity** of key actors responsible for implementing the Decentralized Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism.

Conventional approaches to building adaptive capacity and resilience have followed a linear top-down approach with high level decision makers and international consultants taking center stage as key players in adaptation planning and investment selection while the disproportionately affected communities remain in obscurity. This has proven ineffective with regards to building transformative resilience impact among the vulnerable communities demonstrated by a mismatch between deployed adaptation finance and corresponding results in terms of community resilience building.

In response, Uganda under the auspices of the LIFE-AR initiative has developed an inclusive governance structure that empowers local communities to meaningfully participate in climate vulnerability assessment, identification, appraisal and selection of adaptation investments and contract award and investment management. Building the technical and institutional capacity of district and sub-county officials, as well as community structures such as Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs), is central to this effort. By ensuring that all actors are well-equipped with the necessary skills and tools, this component will strengthen decentralized decision-making and improve the overall effectiveness of climate finance allocation. The outputs under this component will include the following:

i. Improved knowledge and skills of sub-county, parish and community leaders in LIFE-AR governance and management processes for devolved climate finance.
    a. This includes the training of sub-county technical and political actors, community mobilisation for Parish Climate Change Committee (PCCC) elections, the election of PCCCs, and training of PCCC members.
ii. Governance and institutional capacity in adaptation planning and investment management in selected districts strengthened.
    a. This includes strengthening systems, structures and processes at the district level for effective planning, coordination and oversight of climate adaptation investments under LIFE-AR.
iii. Capacities of women, youth, elderly, and other marginalised groups strengthened to meaningfully participate in climate risk identification, investment planning, management, and monitoring.
    a. This includes the delivery of specialised training on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integration and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) to Parish Climate Change Committee (PCCC) members and sub-county technical staff.

LIFE-AR is currently engaging full-time technical staff from MoWE who are part of the PIU and provide technical support to the districts, with one officer attached to each district. These officers will continue supporting the AF programme with additional staff brought on board as needed. The AF Programme will cover their marginal costs, including fuel and DSA and other equipment necessary to facilitate their work and ensure quality control and oversight for the districts, just as funding from the LIFE-AR global secretariat currently does under existing workplans.

The district political and technical leadership have already been trained through the initial efforts of LIFE-AR. The focus under the AF Programme will now shift to sensitizing the political and technical leadership at the sub-county level in the newly included sub-counties, as well as training the newly established PCCCs. At the sub-county (lowest level of local government), technical leadership is provided by the Sub- County technical planning committee (STPC). The STPC mirrors the responsibilities of the district technical planning committee (DTPC) including providing technical input and financial oversight on CRF proposals, ensuring feasibility and financial viability, reviewing and recommending community climate resilience project proposals, and allocating technical expertise for proposal development. Proposal approval is done by the sub-county executive council (SEC)- the political leadership at this level- prior to onward submission to the district executive council for endorsement before final approval to the PIU.

To ensure clarity on roles and responsibilities in the DCF process, the AF Programme will provide resources for sensitizing the political leaders and training of both the STPC members and newly formed PCCCs using an established DCF curriculum. This training will cover key areas including the roles of PCCC, STPC & DTPC In DCF Process; Community Structures And Their functions; LIFE-AR Fund Structure And Allocation; Minimum Conditions, Strategic And Technical Criteria; The DCF Project Cycle; Institutions in Project Planning; Environmental And Social Safeguard; Finance, Project Management And Conflict Management; Flow of AF Funds for LIFE-AR Investments; Procurement Under LIFE-AR; Tools For Resilience Planning; Community Visioning & Gender Responsive Participation; Climate Information In Resilience Planning; Access, Dissemination And Uptake Of Climate Information; and monitoring, evaluation and learning under LIFE-AR. The depth and coverage of the topics will be determined by the Training Teams.

At the community level, the key structure for implementation of LIFE-AR activities is the PCCC. With its wide composition that includes 40% of membership being females, the PCCC is empowered by the Climate Change Act (2021) with responsibilities to mobilize communities towards climate action and monitoring. This is the linchpin in the community-led local adaptation activities.

Specialized training on GESI integration and MEL will be delivered to PCCC members and Sub-County technical staff. This training aims to strengthen their ability to embed GESI principles into climate adaptation planning and implementation, ensuring the needs and voices of marginalized groups are prioritized, including within plans for ecosystem restoration. Some of the key focus areas will be on representation and participation of all groups especially the most marginalised in decision making, documentation of gender disaggregated data and utilization of the Pamoja Voices Toolkit for participatory resilience planning. The toolkit enables a systemic approach to defining inclusive decision-making and ensures the active involvement of women, youth, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in climate adaptation strategies. Training on the tool improves uniformity across Uganda in terms of issues of social inclusion and gender equity.

The MEL training will equip participants with essential skills to implement their M&E framework in a manner that captures gender-responsive and inclusive outcomes. Training will cover tools for operationalizing the MEL plan, including reporting templates, the self-assessment toolkit and the most significant change (MSC) stories. Participants will also receive training on community visioning techniques to support the development of theories of change during community consultations, further enhancing the alignment of local adaptation actions with the needs of all community members.

A.4 Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning

This component relates to continuous learning and documentation of lessons from the roll out of locally led adaptation approaches. Its main outcome is the enhanced generation, management and dissemination of knowledge, enabling continuous improvement of locally led adaptation processes and adaptive management strategies. This is envisaged to foster evidence-based decision-making and facilitate dynamic in-country peer to peer learning driving programme sustainability and scale up. Lessons can be shared to the global community of practice between LDCs participating in LIFE-AR. With global adaptation finance flows falling short of adaptation investment requirements, it is prudent to keenly harvest lessons that enhance the effectiveness of climate finance in building resilience.

Component 3 has the following outputs:

i. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system for LIFE-AR strengthened and functional
    a. This includes strengthened data collection, analysis and reporting systems at district and community levels, enabling evidence-based decision-making and tracking of adaptation investments and results.
ii. Inclusive learning platforms established and facilitated at community and district levels
    a. Community and district learning platforms regularly convened to reflect on adaptation actions, share experiences, and support joint learning across stakeholders, with at least three knowledge-sharing events held annually in each selected district.
iii. Knowledge management system developed to capture, document and disseminate lessons and good practices
    a. A knowledge repository established and maintained to distil and share stories of change, lessons learned, and best practices, including targeted dissemination to support uptake and scaling.

Uganda's MEL framework measures how the DCF contributes to LIFE-AR's five LDC Offers and the LDC 2050 Vision. A DCF Pilot MEL will test the assumptions underpinning the financing model, while project-level MEL will assess community investment outcomes.

The LIFE-AR MEL WG has developed several tools to operationalise the national MEL plan. Accordingly, this AF Programme will support the roll out of the finalized data collection tools, including institutional self-assessments and most significant change stories to track key outcomes and outputs of the programme. The tools will also be shared with the district MEL teams and DNRO (LIFE-AR focal point) to capture learning at that level and share it with the PIU, which will use it in reporting and incorporating future LIFE-AR initiative programming and processes. Similarly, the learning framework with clear learning questions developed by the PIU will be activated to capture lessons from DCF implementation through AF support, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptation of the approach.

LIFE-AR advocates for the functionality of communities of practice (CoP) to support clusters of implementers and those taking similar approaches to sub-national adaptation planning and financing. The goal is to distill national and LDC wide lessons of good practice and develop guidance and peer support, with a focus on engaging those LDCs often left behind. The Programme will activate a learning framework with clear learning questions to continuously adapt and improve the approach. Through LIFE-AR, Uganda has already determined the structure of its community of practice, with the climate change department (CCD) of MoWE being the host the LDC University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC, another of the 3 LDC initiatives alongside LIFE-AR), facilitating with Makerere University and other national institutions.

Through Makerere, LUCCC will collaborate with this AF Programme to support the country to activate inclusive learning platforms at national and district levels as part of the CoP:

- Convene learning dialogues at national and sub-national levels.
- Connect local actors with national decision-makers to influence adaptation planning and resource allocation.
- Promote cross-country knowledge exchange through webinars and virtual workshops.
- Link with global adaptation networks to share experiences and best practices.

A multimedia communication strategy, including virtual events, webinars, and interactive platforms, will facilitate widespread knowledge sharing. Communication will be localized to reach different user groups and tailored to specific needs.

The LIFE-AR Communication Plan outlines national engagement opportunities and will guide alignment with LDC priorities. Knowledge products will be co-designed with users to support uptake.

Knowledge sharing will be enhanced through structured partnerships, learning visits, and study tours, both within and outside project areas. The Programme will leverage existing platforms such as:

- National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC),
- Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management, NRCCLWM Programme,
- Uganda Water and Environment Week,
- Agricultural shows and regional events.

These activities will promote mutual learning across districts, sectors and countries, contributing to a growing body of LLA knowledge across LDCs.

B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. In particular, specify how the project/programme is addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups.

The AF Programme as part of the LIFE-AR Initiative is designed to deliver significant economic, social, and environmental benefits to vulnerable communities while addressing structural inequalities and ensuring compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. The strategic criteria (Table 4) guiding the prioritization of investments under Uganda's DCF mechanism are intentionally designed to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits for the most vulnerable communities, with a strong emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion. By prioritizing public goods that benefit a broad population, particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and the elderly, the mechanism ensures that marginalized groups gain equitable access to climate-resilient infrastructure, services, and livelihood opportunities. The requirement for investments to strengthen climate resilience directly enhances communities' adaptive capacities, reducing vulnerabilities to climate shocks and stressors. Additionally, the emphasis on social cohesion fosters trust, inclusivity and shared responsibility within communities, promoting collective action in climate adaptation efforts. Strengthening cooperation and reinforcing local governance structures ensures that marginalized groups, often excluded from decision-making processes, can actively participate in shaping adaptation solutions. The focus on minimizing environmental impact safeguards the sustainability of natural resources, which many vulnerable communities rely on for their

livelihoods. Restoration of ecosystems on which people rely is considered as a cross-cutting issue in most, if not all, community investments rather than a standalone activity. Finally, aligning investments with national development priorities ensures that these initiatives contribute to broader economic and social transformation while integrating gender-responsive adaptation measures to promote equitable benefits for all.

Economic benefits

i. DCF has been designed as a response to the challenge of delivering climate finance to the community level, governed by a well-structured and inclusive nationally owned decision-making structure. This is in line with the LDC Offer that at least 70% of climate finance should be spent behind community priorities. The DCF mechanism facilitates communities to plan against a known budget (contrasted with regular development planning) to help prioritisation over a series of years. This approach tests the assumption that greater transparency with communities on available finance leads to better informed decision-making on investments at community level. Minimum standards incentivize improved economic and climate risk management.

ii. Judging by the projects/ investments selected by sub-counties involved with LIFE-AR so far (but not funded as part of this AF programme), the following observations about economic benefits can give a flavour of what might transpire under the AF Programme:
    a) projects like integrated water for production systems with aquaculture ponds will provide resilient livelihood options for communities thereby enhancing their economic resilience during prolonged dry spells when crop failures are rampant.
    b) The projects will stimulate local economic growth by creating employment opportunities especially for the youth, enhancing income-generating activities, diversifying economic activities and entrepreneurship such as farming, sustainable fishing and honey production.
    c) Infrastructure improvements, particularly climate-resilient roads, will enhance transportation, ensuring year-round access to markets, reducing travel time and facilitating trade. High-quality road construction will also lower maintenance costs, minimize flood-related damage, and extend the lifespan of infrastructure, providing long-term economic benefits
    d) Additionally, strengthening local cooperatives and farmer associations will improve organization, resource-sharing, and financial stability. Well-managed cooperatives will help farmers and businesses integrate into larger markets, support value addition and reduce losses while maximizing long-term gains.

iii. Improvements to the economy, livelihoods or important services on which most people depend will have multiplier effects. For example, through reduced water scarcity, improvement in hygiene and sanitation, or a reduction in waterborne diseases, community members would save money that would be spent on medication, and livestock health/numbers would improve due to water availability. This all contributes to building resilience to climate change, encouraging harmony, as well as building relations and understanding in the community

Social benefits

i. Uganda's work under LIFE-AR, since 2022, has been to design a way to deliver adaptation finance to communities in line with the LDC Offers and in accordance with the Principles of LIFE-AR, most of which are structured for benefiting communities and societies. See Table 1 for details.

ii. The DCF mechanism takes a people-centred approach to adaptation planning, that is very participatory and context specific. The social benefits of having PCCCs elected from the communities in which project activities happen is positive, increasing the ownership of adaptation planning and spending, as well as providing a structured forum for debate on addressing the communities' vulnerabilities. The inclusive design of these committees ensures

representation of marginalized groups, not only by removing literacy barriers, but also by actively engaging women, youth, persons with disability and the elderly. With 40% female representation, the mechanism is testing the premise that wider public participation results in investment plans that respond to the differentiated impacts of climate risks on specific groups and the needs of those with particular vulnerabilities.

iii. In terms of social benefits from the projects funded by the LIFE-AR global secretariat, social benefits that give an indication of what might come to be under the AF Programme are as follows:
    a. Adaptation investments such as integrated water for production system will ensure access to water all year round thereby saving time for women and girls to engage in other economic empowering activities. It is expected to reduce gender based violence and social unrest triggered by conflict over resources that become scarce during climate induced intense dry spells.
    b. Agroforestry and sustainable agriculture will provide social benefits through improved food security and nutritional and health benefits especially to the vulnerable people (women, youth, boys, girls, the disabled, the elderly);
    c. Provision of deep water and boreholes will reduce risk of water borne diseases in the community, improve general household hygiene and sanitation, reduce distances to water sources which will address the challenges of gender-based violence, defilement, early marriages and school dropouts and improve livestock health and numbers. Vulnerable people like women, young people, persons with disabilities, elderly, boys and girls will have easier access to quality water and sanitation.

iv. The Programme's awareness-raising activities will enhance understanding of its goals and benefits, fostering strong community support, better resource allocation and more equitable adaptation measures. Inclusive decision-making will promote collective responsibility and local ownership, ensuring the long-term maintenance of projects. Additionally, it will create leadership opportunities for historically underrepresented groups, promoting more inclusive participation and contributing to stronger social cohesion by ensuring diverse voices are heard in decision-making. By fostering collaboration and inclusive participation, the Programme will help reduce conflicts over resources, leading to greater unity and collective responsibility for the public assets created within the community.

Environmental benefits

i. The DCF Mechanism is designed to facilitate community choice and prioritisation of investments with strategic and technical criteria that protect against environmental degradation, maladaptation, require the use of climate information and resilience planning tools in project conception and strong assessment of the environmental impact of the investment.

ii. Strong enforcement of environmental bylaws will ensure responsible land use, conservation efforts and effective waste management, preventing overexploitation of natural resources and promoting long-term environmental sustainability and ecosystem restoration. This will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging sustainable agricultural and waste management practices that minimize deforestation, soil degradation and the need for harmful chemicals. Strengthened governance and compliance with these regulations will enhance communities' ability to respond to climate challenges through better planning, resource allocation, and environmental stewardship, ultimately leading to reduced emissions and healthy resilient ecosystems.

iii. Several aspects of the existing projects lead to environmental benefits, being indicative of what might be the benefits under the AF programme:
    a. The initiative's ecosystem restoration efforts will enhance biodiversity, restore soil health, and improve overall ecosystem stability. Regrowing native vegetation will strengthen natural habitats and increase soil fertility, expanding the vegetation cover, which promotes carbon sequestration helping mitigate climate change by storing carbon in the soil and vegetation. This restoration will also support flood-resistant infrastructure, providing long-term protection against flooding and reducing community

vulnerability to climate shocks. Climate-proofing strategies for community access roads will extend their lifespan while minimizing ecological harm, ensuring infrastructure resilience with minimal environmental impact.

b. Integrated water management will support efficient irrigation, mitigate drought effects, and reduce over-reliance on natural water sources, promoting sustainable water use. By implementing water conservation techniques and adopting solar powered irrigation systems, energy consumption and associated emissions from irrigation systems will also be reduced. Sustainable waste management practices, including recycling and composting, will not only reduce pollution and land degradation but also lower methane emissions from waste decomposition. Furthermore, transitioning to more sustainable practices will foster circular economies that help reduce the carbon footprint associated with waste disposal.

Gender and Equity Considerations

i. A pillar of LIFE-AR is the commitment to using adaptation planning processes as well as investments/projects to address gender equity and social inclusion. There are gender focal point officers at national and district levels to drive the implementation of agreed gender actions and strengthen coordination on gender-responsive programming. At district level, community development officers also serve as gender focal points, playing a crucial role in integrating gender considerations into project activities and providing technical support to stakeholders.

ii. To promote inclusive decision-making, the program mandates a 40% representation quota for women and marginalized groups in the Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs). Women are also appointed to leadership positions, including Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer roles in project management committees. These measures foster equitable representation and ensure that diverse perspectives shape adaptation strategies.

iii. The program uses gender and equity considerations as key criteria for selecting pilot districts, sub-counties, and parishes, ensuring that the most underserved areas are prioritized.

iv. The DCF mechanism uses participatory tools such as the simplified Pamoja Voices Toolkit to ensure that women and other marginalized groups actively contribute their knowledge and experiences to investment prioritization and resilience strategies. Gender analyses, focusing on ownership, access, and control of community and household resources, guide the selection of investments, ensuring they address structural inequalities and benefit those most in need.

v. The program allocates specific budgets for meaningful community engagement activities and capacity-strengthening initiatives at the community level. These resources enable targeted training for stakeholders at the national, district, and parish levels, equipping them with the skills to mainstream gender and equity considerations into program implementation effectively.

vi. Inclusive representation extends to awareness-raising campaigns and skills development activities, designed to ensure that marginalized groups are informed about and can engage with the program. To enhance accessibility, the program employs diverse communication methods, such as radio broadcasts, road drives, and community meetings, catering to populations with limited literacy or technological access.

vii. To monitor the program's impact, disaggregated data by gender, age, disability, and social group will be collected and analyzed, tracking how equitable the outcomes are. This data, alongside qualitative assessments and participatory monitoring, helps assess whether the program is achieving equitable outcomes for all groups in line with the theory of change. Grievance management committees, established at the project level, provide transparent mechanisms for addressing gender-related complaints, promoting accountability and trust within communities.

Mitigating Environmental and Social negative impacts

i. The program incorporates environmental stewardship and social safeguards into its design. District Natural Resources Officers serve as focal points to oversee the implementation of investments and ensure compliance with environmental standards at the district level. These efforts are complemented by PCCCs, comprising representatives of women, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, and representatives of catchment management committees, who coordinate local activities. Meaningful community engagement through these inclusive structures ensures that the potential social and environmental impacts of investments are thoroughly considered at every stage, with input from primary and secondary stakeholders.
ii. To systematically manage risks, all proposed investments will be screened for environmental and social risks, with a particular focus on potential impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups using the ESS assessment tool in Appendix VII of the training manual. This screening process informs the categorization of investments and determines whether a detailed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. This screening process categorizes investments into three risk categories:
    - Category A: Investments that have significant adverse environmental or social impacts, which are generally irreversible.
    - Category B: Investments that may have limited adverse environmental or social impacts, which are reversible or can be mitigated. For these projects, an appropriate level of assessments may be used and environmental and social management plans prepared accordingly.
    - Category C: Investments with minimal or no adverse environmental or social impacts.
iii. Where such assessments are deemed necessary, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) are developed to guide stakeholders through all phases of the project lifecycle, from design and procurement to implementation, monitoring, and decommissioning. These plans provide detailed frameworks to mitigate risks, minimize harm, and ensure compliance with environmental and social safeguards. Uganda understands that the AF will not finance any A-rated projects. Most of the investments proposed so far fall in categories B & C. ESMPs will be developed to ensure potential impacts are effectively managed and the projects comply with environmental and social safeguards.
iv. The program also emphasizes the importance of ongoing monitoring and reporting to ensure that investments adhere to established safeguards and deliver intended benefits. Regular assessments and thematic reports provide insights into the performance of adaptation activities, particularly their impact on vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Through these measures, the program not only mitigates potential harm but also maximizes environmental and social benefits, ensuring that adaptation actions are equitable, sustainable, and aligned with the needs and aspirations of vulnerable populations.
v. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is described in question E below.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project / programme., focusing on the implementation and execution arrangements, in particular the mechanism which will provide more direct access to finance.

To address the persistent challenge of insufficient climate funding reaching local levels, Uganda has developed a nationally owned Devolved Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism, which forms the backbone of this programme. The DCF is specifically designed to operationalise the LIFE-AR Offers, aiming to create climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies. It enables the direct flow of funds from international climate finance sources to national and sub-national levels, where local governments work with communities to prioritise and implement adaptation investments.

The DCF mechanism ensures value for money by using existing local planning processes, government financial systems and public-sector infrastructure. It avoids duplicative and bespoke delivery mechanisms for each funding stream thereby lowering transaction costs and building a scalable pipeline of climate-resilient investments across Uganda. This structure also supports long-

term capability strengthening of public institutions including government departments, universities and civil society organisations, contrasting with short-term, consultant-driven project models that often close after a few years.

Significant foundational work undertaken during the LIFE-AR establishment phase reduces high-cost setup for this AF-supported programme. For instance, LIFE-AR has supported establishment of strong governance structures, training materials and mindshift changes, MEL structures and plans, preparing for learning frameworks, and securing buy-in from across government and society eliminating the need for set-up costs for this programme. The initiative embeds full-time civil servants in key roles such as the LIFE-AR national focal point seconded from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), ensuring alignment with national mandates and continuity. District-level coordination is similarly integrated, with District Natural Resources Officers serving as LIFE-AR focal points.

The MoWE-hosted Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is composed of existing ministry staff, supporting district governments with technical assistance. LIFE-AR only funds marginal costs such as fuel, communication and per diem, a model that will apply to the AF-funded programme. Office space, vehicles and administrative support are already in place, allowing implementation to begin immediately with minimal overhead. Instead of relying on costly short-term consultants, AF funding will support recruitment of a full-time Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) specialist for the Programme's duration. This role is essential for tracking implementation progress, ensuring alignment with the program's Theory of Change and AF MEL requirements.

Fund Flow: Funds shall flow through existing government processes that include the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Bank of Uganda and the AF Designated Authority – Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE). A dedicated account at the Bank of Uganda (BOU) will receive funds, which will then be disbursed to MoWE's operational account and to district-level LIFE-AR holding accounts. Execution agreements between MoWE and participating districts will define roles and accountability. This model is already used successfully in several MoWE donor-funded programmes.

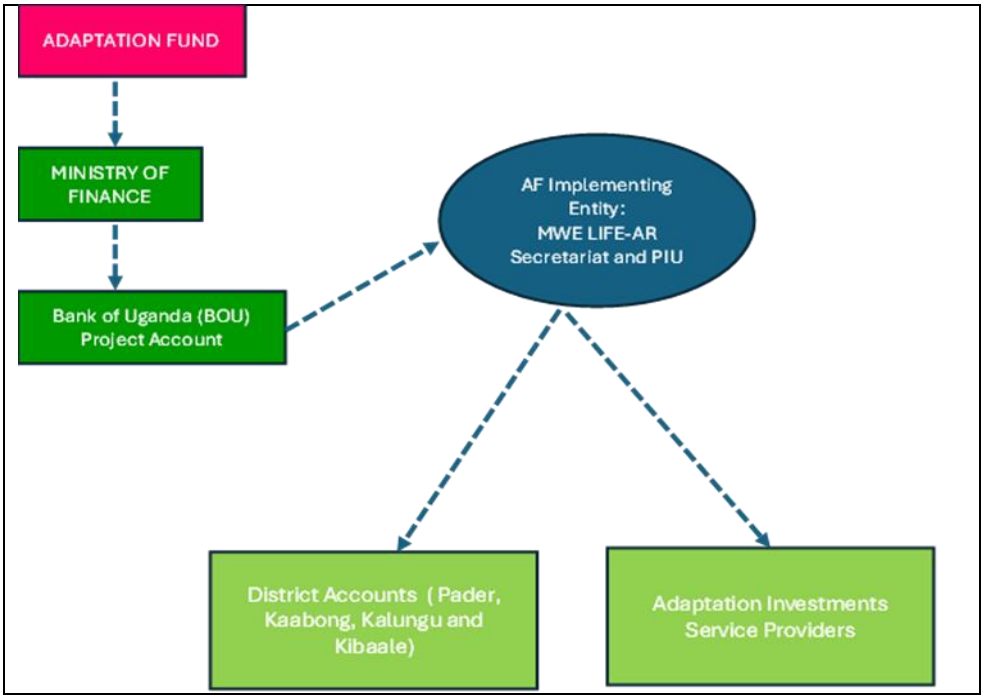


Figure 2: Fund flow through Existing Government Processes

Positive attributes of the proposed fund flow and its Cost effectiveness

- Administrative savings, as no external fund manager is needed, releasing more funds for adaptation delivery. Additionally, it further strengthens donor confidence in government systems, potentially unlocking further funding for local-level implementation.
- Enhanced national ownership under Uganda's National Implementing Entity (NIE) status, strengthening government capacity to manage and scale climate finance.
- Full integration with Uganda's IFMIS, which is operational at central and local government levels with trained personnel and modern infrastructure, meaning that only a relatively small investment would be required to exploit the potential and benefits of the IFMIS of government, increasing the viability and effectiveness of the system.

Value for Money: The 5 E's Framework

The DCF mechanism has been designed in alignment with the FCDO's Value for Money (VfM) 5 E's: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Equity, and Cost-Effectiveness.

Economy: All funded projects undergo detailed cost assessments to ensure they use the right inputs at the lowest possible cost. Community proposals are developed with technical support from district engineers to prepare accurate Bills of Quantities (BoQs). Investments in public goods such as resilient roads and water infrastructure not only reduce climate risk but also spur local economic development. All procurements follow Uganda's Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act, ensuring competitive pricing and quality delivery.

Efficiency: This is to ensure that (a) the quality and quantity inputs procured are appropriate to achieve the expected outputs (b) resources are managed in an efficient way. To address the former, by financing projects chosen by communities where they have input in assessing project designs and BOQs, there is efficiency through using their more complete knowledge of local ecosystems and society to ensure what is procured is precisely what is wanted. To address the latter, LIFE-AR has streamlined procurement processes through the government system and adequate project management structures (PIU) have been put in place within MoWE in order to minimize administrative overheads. Additionally, procuring smaller goods and services at lower local government level will support local businesses, reduces administrative and logistical costs and shortens procurement timelines further optimizing resource use. Operational costs will also be reduced because allowable and non-allowable expenses have been identified and all stakeholders have been sensitized accordingly.

Effectiveness: In the design of the Initiative, to ensure that the outputs are most likely to result in the desired outcomes, effort was made to have the Initiative and this AF Programme aligned with national climate adaptation strategies. Communities work with district staff to develop simple theories of change to link the climate vulnerabilities experienced with the investments they are seeking. These form part of the project proposal documentation. Where possible, evidence demonstrating the viability and expected success of the proposed interventions were sought from literature. For instance:

- An earlier evaluation of water projects[16] indicated that in all regions of the world the cost-benefit ratio (CBR) for community-based water projects was significantly greater than 1 due to improved health outcomes and time savings

[16] Hutton, G., Haller, L. Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level.. Water, Sanitation and Health Protection of the Human Environment. World Health Organization. Geneva 2004. WHO/SDE/WSH/04.04

- Agricultural adaptation projects under IFAD's ASAP[17] yielded an average return of $1.77 per dollar invested with internal rates of return of 15-35% and climate change adaptation strategies contributes to direct beneficiaries' local wealth growth by 24% with contribution to national GDP rising up to up to 0.72% of its value over a 20 years' timeframe (0.04% of the GDP annually).
- Investments in early response[18] in disaster prone regions are significantly more effective than reactive humanitarian aid and soil and water conservation practices alone would decrease aid costs from $452m to $77m over a 20-year period by effectively increasingly land productivity and agricultural returns.

LIFE-AR also leverages existing technical working groups to support district-level capacity building, using minimal resources while embedding long-term knowledge.

Equity: The programme mandates inclusive representation and leadership at all decision-making levels. At least 40% of Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) must be women, and women are prioritized for roles such as chairperson and treasurer on project committees. This inclusive approach ensures that adaptation investments are responsive to the needs of women, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups, enhancing both the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions. Inclusive design also increases community ownership, reducing future maintenance and corrective costs.

Cost-Effectiveness: The combined effect of using national systems, local planning processes, embedded technical staff, and pre-existing coordination structures results in a highly cost-effective model. The programme maximises the share of funds reaching vulnerable communities and delivering tangible climate resilience outcomes. Moreover, LIFE-AR's "Test and Evolve" phase will document implementation lessons to refine approaches and scale successful models nationwide.

D. Describe how the project / programme is consistent with national, sub-national and local sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national, sub- national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

The DCF mechanism is fully embedded within Uganda's legal, policy, and institutional frameworks. It strengthens existing decentralized governance structures, aligns with national development and climate priorities and supports inclusive, locally led adaptation planning and investment.

Alignment with National Laws

- Local Governments Act (1997): Provides for decentralization and local governance structures down to the village level. The programme aligns with provisions enabling community participation, local revenue management and decentralized environmental governance.
- National Climate Change Act (2021): Establishes Uganda's climate governance framework, including mandates for climate finance and decentralized climate action through district-level structures. DCF supports these mandates by funding local governments to prepare and implement adaptation investments.

[17] Ferrarese C., Mazzoli E., Rinaldi R. 2017. Review of economic and livelihood benefits for ASAP-supported investments. IFAD Publications, Rome, Italy.

[18] Venton, C.C., L. Coulter, & H. Schmuck. 2013. The Economics of Early Response and Resilience: Lessons from Mozambique Report to DFID.; Venton, C.C., S. Majumder. The Economics of Early Response and Resilience: Lessons from Bangladesh Report to DFID. 2013.

- Water Act (1997): Governs rational and sustainable water resource use. Programme activities will align with provisions for agriculture, livestock and ecosystem use while minimizing environmental harm.
- National Environment Act (1995): Guarantees the right to a healthy environment and promotes public participation in environmental management. Investments in ecosystem restoration under this programme reflect the Act's intent.
- National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003): Aims to conserve forests and promote sustainable use. The programme supports agroforestry and tree planting activities at household and institutional levels in line with this Act.
- Land Act (1998): Emphasizes responsible land use in accordance with environmental and natural resource laws. Programme activities will be implemented with this in mind.
- Equal Opportunities Act (2007): Promotes non-discrimination and equitable access to resources. The DCF mechanism ensures gender-responsive planning and inclusive investment processes.

Alignment with National Policies

- Vision 2040: Uganda's long-term development blueprint promotes resilience, sustainability and local economic development. The DCF mechanism is consistent with Vision 2040's goals by empowering local governments and communities to lead climate action.
- National Climate Change Policy (2015): Promotes coordinated, low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The programme supports this by funding local adaptation priorities, strengthening governance and contributing to broader development goals.
- National Environment Management Policy (1994): Advocates integration of environmental concerns in all development planning. The programme's governance and capacity-building component supports this integration at the local level.
- National Water Policy (1999): Guides sustainable water use, including for agriculture. AF-funded activities will promote efficient and equitable water use for domestic and agricultural purposes.
- Decentralization Policy (1997): Empowers local governments to deliver services and engage communities in decision-making. LIFE-AR's community-driven investment approach directly supports this policy.
- National Gender Policy (2007): Seeks to mainstream gender in development. The DCF promotes inclusive planning and decision-making, particularly for women, youth, persons with disability and other marginalized groups**.**

Alignment with National Strategies

- Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV, 2025/26–2029/30): Prioritizes climate change resilience, sustainable natural resource management, water access and environmental health. The programme supports all these objectives through targeted adaptation investments.
- Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): Uganda's NDC prioritizes adaptation, particularly in vulnerable sectors and among marginalized groups. The programme aligns with NDC goals by addressing water, ecosystems, agriculture, forestry and gender-responsive adaptation across local government plans.
- Tenfold Growth Strategy. The strategy, seeking to expand the Ugandan economy from USD 50 billion in 20203 to USD 500 billion by 2040, is anchored on agro-industrialization, tourism, mineral development, and science and technology innovation (ATMS) to accelerate growth. The sustainability and climate resilience of Uganda's natural capital is named as key to this strategy and the impacts of climate change are a stated risk. This AF programme is in

alignment with the tenfold growth strategy by addressing key community climate risks, addressing poverty, and improving agricultural adaptation in line with the LIFE-AR goal for climate resilient economies, ecosystems and people.

Table 9: Programme Alignment with NDP IV, Updated NDC 2.0 and SDGs

Project/Programme Components & Outcomes	NDPIV (2025/26-2029/30) Key Result Areas	Updated NDC (2.0) Priority Area	SDGs
Component 1: Implementation of Locally Led and Community Prioritized Adaptation Investments for Enhanced Resilience in LIFE AR districts of Pader, Kalungu, Kibaale and Kaabong			
Locally led and community prioritized adaptation investments implemented in each of the four districts.	• Climate Resilient Economy • Improved Quality of Life • Increased land under irrigation. • Higher Household Incomes • Increased access to clean, reliable, affordable and climate smart energies. • Improved transport services, Connectivity and cost effectiveness usability.	• Ensure resilient access to water supply for domestic and productive purposes • Scale up integrated water resources management approach and use efficiency. • Build climate resilient roads, bridges, water, and rail transport infrastructure systems. • Enhance biodiversity conservation and management. • Promote afforestation and reforestation to reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems.	SDG 1 – No Poverty SDG 6 – Clean Water SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 14 – Life Below Water SDG 15 – Life on Land
Component 2: Strengthening Capacity for Inclusive and Participatory Climate Governance Structures for Effective Climate Finance Utilization			
i. Governance and institutional capacity in adaptation planning and investment management in selected districts strengthened. ii. Decentralized climate finance tracking, accountability and reporting mechanism operationalized. iii. Capacities of women, youth, elderly and other marginalized groups built in climate risk and investment identification, investment management, and monitoring.	• Youth, Women and other categories empowered. • Improved access to services for social care, protection, safety and equity. • Increased accountability, stability and civic participation. • Increased government effectiveness, access to public goods and services.	• Enhance women participation in decision making processes across all levels to enable their contribution in needs assessment and prioritization of climate action. • Expand the mainstreaming of gender and climate change in all budget framework papers and local government plans.	SDG 5 – Gender Equality SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions SDG 17 – Partnerships
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning for sustainable Locally Led Adaptation Action and Adaptive Management.			
i. Community and district inclusive learning platforms established and facilitated to function. ii. At least three knowledge sharing events held annually in each selected district. iii. A knowledge repository to distil change stories and lessons developed	• Improved learning outcomes and acquired skills. • Increased accountability, stability and civic participation.	• Develop knowledge systems for scaling up adaptation. • Improve education and awareness raising on climate change. • Informed citizens to address climate change. • Develop gender disaggregated data for the updated NDC implementation plan. • Develop skills and capacity on gender and climate change.	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 16 – Peace & Institutions

E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Also describe, as needed, how the project/programme will provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards.

Compliance with Relevant National Technical Standards

The LIFE-AR programme ensures strict adherence to Uganda's national technical standards throughout the project cycle. During the initial screening of potential investments under the DCF mechanism, climate adaptation priorities identified by communities are compiled by the PCCC, with support from the Community Development Officer (CDO). These are assessed using LIFE-AR's established strategic and technical criteria.

To enhance technical soundness, the PCCC may receive support from an NGO, CSO, or CBO upon formal invitation by the Parish Chief. Investments are prioritized using a pre-approved ranking tool embedded in LIFE-AR procedures (see Table 4). Prioritized proposals are developed using a standardized template that includes technical elements such as a Bill of Quantities (BoQ) and cost estimates.

Investment plans are then reviewed and approved at the sub-county and district levels, ensuring:

- Alignment with LIFE-AR principles and offers
- Technical and strategic compliance
- Benefit to the community
- Adherence to sub-national budget ceilings.

At each level, plans undergo additional quality checks to confirm consistency with national standards and final approval is conducted by the LIFE-AR Implementation Unit.

Procurement Compliance

All procurement of goods and services will comply with:

- The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (PPDA) 2003 and its amendments
- The Local Government (PPDA) Regulations, 2023
- The Uganda Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)
- International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Procurement will occur at national, local government and community levels with due consideration for environmental standards (e.g energy efficiency, pollution control), value for money and sustainability.

Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy

All proposed investments are screened for environmental and social risks through LIFE-AR's DCF mechanism. This screening determines the appropriate safeguards and mitigation measures, ensuring alignment with the AF's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). A summary of how the DCF mechanism supports compliance with each AF principle is presented below:

Table 10: Programme Compliance with AF Principles

	AF Principles	DCF Mechanism
1.	Compliance with the Law	All interventions comply with applicable national and local laws
2.	Marginalized and vulnerable groups	Targets the most vulnerable and often marginalized groups, including women, youth, persons with disability and others that are often excluded
3.	Human rights	Ensuring that all activities uphold community rights throughout the project cycle
4.	Gender equality and women empowerment	Promotes inclusive participation and gender-responsive planning, implementation and monitoring
5.	Core labour rights	Upholds national and international labour standards
6.	Involuntary resettlement	Minimizes involuntary resettlement by ensuring that adaptation solutions prioritize alternatives to displacement

7.	Protection of natural habitats	Encourages actions that safeguard natural habitats and ecosystems
8.	Conservation of biological diversity	Integrates considerations for biodiversity conservation in all interventions
9.	Climate change	Explicitly focuses on enhancing adaptation and local climate resilience
10.	Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	Encourages projects to incorporate pollution prevention and to promote resource efficiency in adaptation measures
11.	Public health	Integrates health considerations in climate risk management
12.	Physical and cultural heritage	Ensures that projects do not damage or disrupt local traditions and historical sites.
13.	Lands and soil conservation	Promotes sustainable land management practices.

Projects are categorized into three tiers based on potential impact:

- Category A: High risk – project is not pursued under LIFE-AR.
- Category B: Moderate risk – ESIA and/or Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) required.
- Category C: Low risk – minimal or no adverse impacts; most LIFE-AR interventions fall in this category.

Projects involving forests, wetlands or riverbanks automatically require an ESIA using a dedicated LIFE-AR screening tool.

To ensure effective local compliance:

- PCCC members, community leaders and district-level stakeholders are trained in simplified versions of national laws, climate finance criteria and the AF ESP.
- NGOs, CSOs and CBOs may be engaged to provide technical guidance.
- Technical officers from the MoWE including engineers and natural resource specialists provide mentorship and review support.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The project uses MoWE's existing GRM framework, detailed on the Ministry's website [http://www.mwe.go.ug/]. Key features include:

- Community training on rights and grievance channels
- Accessible GRM committees at village, sub-county, district and national levels
- Clear escalation procedures
- Regular monitoring and reporting of grievance resolution across all LIFE-AR projects.

F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any. Describe how the project/programme will ensure coordination of different initiatives, sub-projects and small grants towards a common goal, enhances collaboration across sectors and outlines how activities avoid duplication and enhance efficiencies and good practice.

Uganda hosts a variety of adaptation initiatives implemented by government entities and development partners including international efforts such as the UNCDF's LoCAL programme and ongoing national development projects. To avoid duplication and ensure alignment, Uganda has instituted strong coordination mechanisms at both national and local levels. At the national level, coordination is facilitated through a whole-of-government governance platform comprising task teams, technical working groups, and steering committees. These structures promote collaboration across ministries, departments and agencies and non-government actors to ensure that adaptation initiatives operate in distinct geographical areas and are thematically aligned.

At the local level, the DCF mechanism integrates criteria into its investment selection process to avoid duplication with existing or planned initiatives by government or non-government actors in the same area. As part of the LIFE-AR design process, a comprehensive mapping and review of ongoing adaptation initiatives was conducted during climate risk and vulnerability assessments in pilot districts. This ensured that the Programme addresses gaps rather than duplicating existing efforts. Where complementary

initiatives exist, LIFE-AR will pursue active synergies to maximise learning and impact. For example, in Kalungu District, the IDRC-funded CRAKS project ("Building Community Resilience through Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation Knowledge Systems") presents an opportunity to localize adaptation knowledge, integrate indigenous practices and promote gender-transformative approaches that dismantle socio-cultural barriers to participation.

The table below compares LIFE-AR with three related projects, highlighting differences in funding, geography, oversight and implementation, while illustrating alignment and complementary approaches.

Table 11: Coordination with complementary initiatives to maximise impact and avoid duplication

Programme/Project	**Synergies**	**Avoided duplication**
LIFE-AR	The funding from the Adaptation Fund will work alongside and complement the (insufficient) funds from the LIFE-AR Global Secretariat, building on the groundwork laid and expanding the reach of the DCF mechanism in additional sub-counties	1. Funding for AF Programme activities in the AF-supported sub-counties will be managed separately and will not be blended with concrete adaptation activities financed through LIFE-AR. 2. The new AF-funded sub-counties are geographically distinct from existing LIFE-AR-funded sub-counties with different administrative units which will avoid duplication 3. Where foundational work has been done to establish the enabling environment for this AF Programme (eg DCF guidelines developed, training manual developed) there is no corresponding budget line for AF-funding
Enabling Locally-led Adaptation in Uganda through the Establishment of LoCAL: Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grant (PBCRG) facility	Both programmes seek to fund sub-national climate action and there is scope to learn from each approach. Both have involved significant inclusive consultation and CSO involvement in accountability mechanisms.	No geographic overlap, Engagement of MOFPED in both projects avoids duplication by ensuring shared knowledge, as do the common stakeholders and oversight bodies.
IDRC-funded 'Building Community Resilience through Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation Knowledge systems in Uganda (CRAKS)	Localizing adaptation knowledge by integrating indigenous systems and gender-transformative practices to remove barriers to marginalized groups' participation; both projects working in Kalungu district, there is value of knowledge sharing.	There is no risk of duplication, as CRAKS and LIFE-AR operate in different sub-counties within Kalungu district. CRAKS focuses solely on the agriculture sector, facilitating collaboration among extension workers, meteorologists, farmers, and input dealers to integrate local and scientific knowledge for climate-responsive farming.
Strengthening Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Communities in Uganda's Watersheds - Awoja Catchment (SACRiAC)	By drawing support from the same technical staff of the MOWE through the respective PCUs, there will be synergy and learning from both projects	There is no geographic overlap between the two projects, as LIFE-AR operates in 12 distinct districts, separate from the four Awoja Catchment project districts- Bukedea, Sironko, Kapchorwa, and Bulambuli. In addition, the Permanent Secretary of MoWE, serving as the Accounting Officer and Chair of both Steering Committees, provides oversight to ensure coordination and prevent duplication.

Adaptation Fund resources will complement- not duplicate- the existing and limited funding from the LIFE-AR Global Secretariat. Effective coordination will be ensured through the LIFE-AR governance structure and the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) with the following safeguards in place:

1. Separate financial management: Adaptation Fund resources will be managed independently from LIFE-AR funds. AF funding will not be blended with existing concrete adaptation investments financed by the LIFE-AR Secretariat.
2. Geographic focus: The sub-counties targeted under the AF Programme are geographically distinct from those previously funded under LIFE-AR with separate administrative units, eliminating the risk of duplication.
3. Leveraging existing enabling environment: Foundational resources developed under LIFE-AR (e.g DCF guidelines, training manuals) will be utilised to support the AF Programme but without duplicating associated costs. There are no corresponding budget lines under AF for these pre-existing materials.

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned and how this contributes to building and institutionalizing local capabilities. Provide details on managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant.

The LIFE-AR programme places learning and knowledge management at the core of its strategy for sustainable, locally led climate resilience. Component 3 of the LIFE-AR strategy is dedicated to systematically capturing lessons, documenting good practices, developing tailored knowledge products and disseminating them across multiple platforms and audiences.

A comprehensive learning framework is being developed in partnership with the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) to institutionalize insights from programme implementation at local, national and global levels. LUCCC's involvement ensures long-term knowledge generation, supports LDC institutions for public benefit and strengthens domestic learning systems.

In the design note for the DCF delivery mechanism, the piloting phase is expected to give answers to questions such as:

a) What are we learning along the process of the development of the DCF mechanism?
b) What are the lessons learnt in the process of rolling out the DCF mechanism in the pilot districts and at the parish level?
c) How do PCCCs function in identifying the investments and what have we learnt in the process?
d) What do we learn from the way the pilot districts and parishes are adapting to the business unusual approach in implementing the DCF mechanism?
e) What do we learn from the process of selection of investments for DCF mechanism at the PCCC and district levels?
f) What is the added impact of GESI integration at different stages of rolling out the mechanism?

The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Technical Working Group will guide continuous reflection and adaptive management, informed by real-time evidence and feedback. This includes assessing LIFE-AR's implementation through structured learning questions related to its principles, the Ask & Offer approach and the DCF mechanism.

Communities of Practice (CoPs) will be established at national and sub-national levels to foster knowledge exchange across sectors. These multi-stakeholder platforms will document experiences, promote collaboration and feed into the global LIFE-AR learning community. CoPs will be integrated within the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) to ensure alignment with government policies and long-term sustainability.

With LUCCC's support, lessons from locally led adaptation will be synthesized into policy briefs, technical papers and case studies. A knowledge hub, linked to MoWE's existing information systems will serve as a central repository for these resources, accessible to stakeholders at all levels. A dedicated knowledge management plan will guide content generation and dissemination across local, national and international platforms.

Institutional capacity will be further embedded by integrating the DCF and LIFE-AR approaches into academic and training institutions. Notably, Uganda Management Institute (UMI) plans to introduce a climate change course based on the DCF model, embedding practical adaptation knowledge into the national curriculum. This contributes to long-term institutional learning and supports Uganda's ambition to scale up locally led adaptation.

The programme's emphasis on using government personnel and existing systems for implementation not only strengthens capacity at all levels including PCCCs but also supports sustainability beyond Adaptation Fund support. Additionally, the efficiency gains and cost savings from DCF have sparked national dialogue on establishing a permanent climate finance vehicle to ensure predictable and inclusive funding.

Importantly, the programme values traditional and indigenous knowledge. Local communities will be engaged in documenting and integrating traditional climate insights into adaptation planning and learning processes. This ensures that scientific and local knowledge are combined to inform investment decisions and foster contextually relevant, community-accepted solutions.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. Provide details on how the consultative process considered and addressed gender-based, economic and other inequalities and encouraged vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.

A deliberate and inclusive consultative process was central to the design and preparation of LIFE-AR in Uganda. The extended establishment phase prioritized stakeholder engagement across all levels of government and society, in line with the LIFE-AR WOS approach and in compliance with the AF's Environmental and Social and Gender Policies.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) led coordination efforts by establishing platforms to guide programme preparation, implementation and monitoring. A DCF Working Group was formed to design a delivery mechanism tailored to Uganda's context. This group brought together government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), academia and civil society. Key MDAs included those responsible for environment, finance, local government, gender and planning. The involvement of academia such as Makerere University and Uganda Management Institute also reflects the intended synergy with LUCCC under the broader LDC vision.
The DCF Working Group consisted of two key teams:

1. Technical Design Team – Experts from national institutions and MDAs with competencies in finance flows, governance, gender, planning and budgeting, climate information, vulnerability assessments, and MEL.
2. Technical and Practical Support Team – Institutions with experience in capacity building, training, research and documentation including support from IIED and national NGOs.

To design the mechanism, the team was structured into four sub-groups aligned with DCF components: (i) climate resilience fund, (ii) participatory planning, (iii) climate information and planning tools and (iv) MEL. Design efforts included desk reviews, field consultations and learning from global best practices.

At the local level, consultations began with inception meetings involving district political and technical leadership to secure buy-in and integrate LIFE-AR within existing government structures. District LIFE-AR Task Teams were established and capacitated through Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops on program principles, DCF guidelines and implementation responsibilities. These teams then engaged sub-county governments, which interface directly with communities.

At the community level, democratic and participatory elections were held to form PCCCs. These governance structures ensure community representation, ownership and legitimacy. PCCCs include diverse stakeholders - women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), CSOs, private sector and opinion leaders. To ensure gender equity, a minimum 40% women's representation is mandated. Women also hold leadership positions such as Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer in project management committees.

PCCCs lead consultations on community needs and identify resilient investments, supported by local government technical staff. Consultations employ participatory tools such as PAMOJA, which integrates local and traditional knowledge and ensures that women and other marginalized groups actively shape adaptation priorities. PAMOJA also incorporates gender analysis tools to examine access, ownership and control of resources at household and community levels ensuring gender-responsive planning.

This inclusive and layered consultative structure ensures that LIFE-AR's design and implementation reflect the needs, priorities and leadership of vulnerable and marginalized groups while institutionalizing their role in decision-making across all governance levels.

I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

Uganda is among the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts and more frequent extreme weather events are severely affecting ecosystems and livelihoods, particularly in rural areas reliant on rainfed agriculture. These climatic threats compromise food and water security, undermine biodiversity and disproportionately impact women, youth and other marginalized groups.
Yet, Uganda's capacity to respond to these challenges is severely constrained by limited public financing. Key factors include:

- High public debt and rising debt servicing costs, which limit fiscal space for climate spending
- Persistent domestic arrears due to weak financial management systems
- A low tax-to-GDP ratio (below 15%), making Uganda heavily reliant on external aid
- Limited incentives for private sector investment in climate adaptation
- A national budget that prioritizes infrastructure and security over local-level adaptation.

Currently, most of the climate finance in Uganda is centralized, with minimal resources reaching local governments and communities. Access is further hindered by bureaucratic procedures, institutional bottlenecks and structural inequalities such as gender-based land tenure restrictions, which prevent many women and youth from leveraging land or collateral for finance.

The DCF mechanism under LIFE-AR directly addresses these barriers by enabling local governments and communities to access and manage climate finance. However, the mechanism remains underfunded. The withdrawal of international funding commitments including the recent suspension of U.S. contributions to LIFE-AR and to global climate action more broadly has created additional resource gaps, threatening the momentum and sustainability of LIFE-AR interventions.

Baseline Scenario (Without Adaptation Fund Support)

Without financing from the Adaptation Fund, Uganda will be unable to scale up or sustain its current locally led adaptation initiatives. The consequences include:

1. Inadequate support for vulnerable communities: LIFE-AR's limited current funding cannot meet growing demands for adaptation in sub-counties already engaged, let alone reach new districts and ecosystems facing climate stress.
2. Increased vulnerability and delayed action: Failure to scale up proven interventions will exacerbate climate risks, raising long-term costs and locking communities into deeper cycles of vulnerability.
3. Missed national and international targets: Uganda's ability to meet its NDCs and national climate goals, including resilience by 2030 will be seriously undermined.
4. Weakened institutional capacity: Without additional funding, efforts to technical and institutional capacities and mainstream climate resilience into development planning and public finance systems will stall, reducing Uganda's capacity to influence global climate finance architecture and negotiations.

Project Scenario (With Adaptation Fund Support)
With support from the AF, the proposed programme will have transformative impacts on both climate resilience and socio-economic outcomes. Specifically, it will:

- Enable the implementation of locally led adaptation interventions that respond directly to the needs of vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk
- Operationalize the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach embedded in LIFE-AR, breaking down siloes and enabling integrated planning across sectors and actors
- Deepen the devolution of climate finance by ensuring 30% of AF resources strengthen local government capacity for bottom-up planning and oversight
- Direct 70% of funds to community-prioritized investments, supporting locally relevant solutions that enhance food and water security, reduce disaster risks and improve livelihoods
- Promote inclusive participation and cost-sharing through in-kind contributions of time, expertise and indigenous knowledge.

By funding the cost of scaling Uganda's LIFE-AR model, the AF will play a catalytic role in transforming how climate adaptation is financed, implemented and governed, delivering measurable resilience outcomes at scale for those most at risk.

J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme. In particular, describe how the project/programme supports long-term development of local governance processes, and improves the capacity of local institutions (including through simpler access modalities), and how it can ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions, facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding.

The LIFE-AR programme has been designed with a strong focus on long-term sustainability, by embedding adaptation planning into local governance structures and strengthening individual and institutional capacities. By integrating climate adaptation into existing government planning and budgeting cycles, the programme reduces dependency on project-based donor funding and fosters ownership at all levels.

LIFE-AR's three impact areas - Resilient People, Resilient Economies, and Resilient Landscapes - align with Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan, updated NDC and the Public Investment Plan. This strategic alignment positions the programme to attract government co-financing and full financing over time. Strong engagement with key government agencies, particularly the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, has fostered national ownership and increased the likelihood of sustained domestic support.

Extensive awareness-raising and training across all levels of government have built local commitment and equipped stakeholders with the skills to manage devolved climate finance effectively. Rather than creating parallel systems, LIFE-AR strengthens existing institutions. Through partnerships with institutions like UMI and Makerere University (through LUCCC), adaptation knowledge is institutionalized and continuously updated.

The programme's Training of Trainers (ToT) approach has created a pool of skilled facilitators at national and sub-national levels, ensuring the continued rollout of LIFE-AR's delivery model. Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) have been trained to lead participatory planning, resource mobilization, procurement and monitoring. These structures ensure transparency, community ownership and long-term oversight of investments. To reinforce these efforts, districts and sub-counties will provide continuous technical support, strengthening PCCCs' capacity while ensuring that community priorities are integrated into sub-county and district development plans, aligning local adaptation initiatives with broader development goals.

To sustain local governance structures, the programme allocates resources for operational needs such as PCCC meetings, consultations, and monitoring. Consolidated sub-county and district adaptation plans will be integrated into annual development and budget plans, enhancing the chances of securing future funding through national allocations. This also opens opportunities for co-financing from local governments and development partners.

A core LIFE-AR principle is strengthening climate capabilities and continuous learning. Adaptive management systems including regular monitoring, peer learning and feedback loops allow institutions to adjust strategies based on evolving climate risks. Communities of practice will further distil and disseminate lessons to support nationwide scaling of the delivery mechanism.

Finally, the programme's design including initial investments in DCF design, training and piloting lays a strong foundation for scale. Accessing AF resources enables strategic expansion. Uganda aims to leverage complementarity between AF and GCF funding and the pathway for scalable programmes between the two entities using the Ministry of Water and Environment's direct access accreditation to secure long-term adaptation finance.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

The sub-projects under Component 1 are currently **partially unidentified sub-projects (USPs)** meaning specific districts and sub-counties have been selected, but the exact activities are yet to be determined. This classification allows the programme to proactively apply the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP) early in the process, ensuring activities are tailored to local conditions and safeguards are integrated from the start.
The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), together with district and sub-county teams will:

- Screen all sub-projects for environmental and social risks
- Select context-appropriate activities that align with environmental and social safeguards
- Build local capacity and carry out preparatory actions prior to implementation.

The PIU has already institutionalized a process whereby all sub-projects undergo environmental and social screening, ensuring full compliance with ESP and GP. During implementation, the project will:

- Monitor safeguard measures included in sub-project proposals
- Report on progress with gender-disaggregated results and track social inclusion outcomes
- Conduct district-level training on ESP/GP compliance
- Operate a grievance mechanism to address any issues and reinforce accountability.

Based on experience to date, LIFE-AR sub-projects present low risk, with impacts that are minor, site-specific and reversible through established mitigation measures.

Table 12: Compliance with Adaptation Fund Environment and Social Principles

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law		**Low risk.** There is a potential risk of non-compliance with national and international environmental regulations and social laws. The LIFE-AR programme will ensure that all activities and investments approved and implemented adhere to the national and international regulatory framework.
Access and Equity		**Low risk.** While the risk is low, there is potential for marginalised and vulnerable groups—such as women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and displaced populations—to be excluded from project benefits. To mitigate this, the project will ensure their representation in governance and implementation structures, provide targeted capacity building, and prioritise their needs in investment proposals in line with DCF guidelines.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		**Low risk.** There is a potential risk that marginalised and vulnerable groups such as children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous peoples, displaced persons, refugees, persons with disabilities, and those living with HIV/AIDS may not fully benefit from project interventions. To address this, the programme will ensure their representation in governance and implementation structures, build local capacity in gender and social inclusion and prioritise their needs in investment planning. All proposals will adhere to DCF guidelines to safeguard inclusivity.
Human Rights		**Low risk**. There is a potential risk that the programme may not respect national and international human rights. The programme will ensure the enjoyment of rights and freedoms, including freedom of association, expression, thought, conscience and religion, and access to information, without discrimination based on political opinion, sex, race, colour, religion, social standing, and disability.
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		**Low risk.** There is a risk that project benefits may not be equally shared between men and women. To address this, the programme will promote equal gender representation in governance and capacity-building activities, integrate gender and social inclusion into planning and outcomes, and conduct gender analysis during vulnerability assessments. A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Plan will be developed, and gender-responsive tools will be created for monitoring and evaluation, alongside integrating gender equality and social inclusion indicators in the results framework for LIFE-AR.
Core Labour Rights		**Low risk.** The programme shall ensure that a labour right is adhered to as provided for in the relevant National and International Labour laws.
Indigenous Peoples		**Low risk.** There is a potential risk of non-compliance with national and international laws on Indigenous peoples' rights, particularly concerning the IK community in Kaabong District. To mitigate this, LIFE-AR will uphold the IK's rights to cultural identity and self-determined development, in line with the Uganda Constitution and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Inclusion of minority and unique groups is embedded in the programme's principles and operational guidelines.
Involuntary Resettlement		**Low risk.** The programme may carry a minimal risk of involuntary resettlement. However, investments are designed to avoid displacement wherever possible. If unavoidable, the programme will ensure due process, informing affected persons of their rights, consulting them on options and providing fair, feasible alternatives or adequate compensation
Protection of Natural Habitats		**Low risk.** There is a potential risk that the project could affect natural habitats. The LIFE-AR will ensure that all investments comply with the National Environment Act, 2019, which advances the protection of critical natural habitats, including those that are legally protected and those recognised as protected by traditional or Indigenous local communities.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Conservation of Biological Diversity		**Low risk.** The LIFE_AR Programme will ensure that investments comply with the relevant National laws that support the conservation of Biological Diversity for example the National Environment Act 2019.
Climate Change		**Low risk.** The potential risk of the programme increasing greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change is minimal. The CRVA will help inform project interventions against the above.
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		**Low risk.** There is potential risk of pollution and inefficiency in resource utilisation. Measures to minimize risks of pollution and resource inefficiency shall be applied based on existing national laws.
Public Health		**Low risk.** In accordance with the National Public Health Act, the programme shall ensure that implemented activities avoid potentially significant negative impacts on public health.
Physical and Cultural Heritage		**Low risk.** The National Environment Act, 2019, prescribes the identification, protection, preservation, conservation, and transmission of physical and cultural heritage to benefit present and future generations. Projects must be designed and implemented to promote these principles.
Land and Soil Conservation		**Low risk.** The LIFE-AR programme primarily promotes investments that support land and soil conservation and ecosystem restoration. However, some programme investments could pose risks to land and social conservation. The programme will ensure that all interventions conserve land and soil based on existing National guidelines.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. **Record of endorsement on behalf of the government**[19] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

Enter: Name, Position, Ministry	Date: (Month, day, year)
Rathaman Ggoobi Permanent Secretary/ Secretary To the Treasury Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development	08-25-2025

B. **Implementing Entity certification** *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (….list here..) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this programme.	
Dr Alfred Okot Okidi Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment Head of the NIE Joseph Lule Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date (Month, Day, Year): 08-25-2025	Tel. and Email: josephlule2@gmail.com +256773313107
Project Contact Person: Scovia Akot	
Tel and Email: scoviaakot@gmail.com	

[19] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities