



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/39
April 7-8, 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-seventh meeting
Bonn, Germany

Agenda Item 7 h)

LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION SINGLE COUNTRY PROPOSAL FOR UGANDA

Background

1. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

(a) *To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

(i) *To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*

(ii) *To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*

(iii) *To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*

(Decision B.30/42)

2. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph b (ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

3. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

4. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

(a) *To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

[...]

- (iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;*
- (iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and*

[...]

(Decision B.31/32)

5. Having recognized that there was a high level of interest among the Fund's stakeholders on Enhanced Direct Access (EDA), a specific funding window on EDA was included in the MTS implementation plan to complement the Fund's existing funding window for single-country projects.

6. At the second session of its thirty-fifth meeting the Board considered the document AFB/PPRC.26.b/18, Window for Enhanced Direct Access under the MTS and the Board decided:

- (a) To approve the pilot for projects submitted through the window for enhanced direct access (EDA) to promote EDA and further promote locally led adaptation under the Fund;*
- (b) That the pilot window to promote EDA projects/programmes shall be available to national implementing entities (NIEs) only, in the form of a grant up to a maximum of US\$5 million per country;*
- (c) That the window for EDA will not count against what the country could access under the country cap established by the Board for regular concrete projects/programmes;*
- (d) That the execution costs for proposals submitted under the EDA window should be up to a maximum of 12 per cent of the total project/programme budget requested before the implementing entity fees, and should not exceed 1.5 per cent in cases where the Implementing Entity has also taken on the role of Execution Entity for the proposed project/programme activities, and that the implementing entity fee should be up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the total project costs;*
- (e) That NIEs submitting proposals through the EDA window should do so using the existing approved proposal template and guideline materials for regular concrete projects/programmes nonetheless taking note of the project fees in subparagraph (d) and that EDA proposals submitted through the two-step project approval process are eligible for the project formulation grant and project formulation assistance grant as per the approved criteria by the Board for those grants;*
- (f) That the review cycle and approval of projects/programmes submitted through the EDA window shall follow the review and approval process as well as reporting*

requirements for regular projects/programmes under the Fund notwithstanding adherence to subparagraph where it concerns the review and approval of project fees; and

(g) To request the secretariat to present to the PPRC at its twenty-eighth meeting, an analysis of the project review cycle for EDA projects including an update on the implementation status of the EDA window.

(Decision B.35.b/10)

7. The Adaptation Fund Board adopted at its thirty-ninth meeting in October 2022 the medium-term strategy of the Adaptation Fund for the period 2023-2027 (MTS-II). The strategy introduced a special emphasis on promoting locally led adaptation (LLA) in the Fund's work and included a new cross-cutting theme to "Promote locally based and locally led adaptation action including by devolving access and decision-making on adaptation finance to national, subnational, and local levels."

8. Three modalities were proposed through Decision B.40/72 in March 2023:

(a) Enhancing the existing Enhanced Direct Access window,

(b) Establishing a new Global MIE Aggregator programme for channeling grants for LLA to non-accredited entities,

(c) Opening the option for EDA-type national programmes for MIEs and RIEs.

9. The Adaptation Fund Board at its forty-second board meeting in April 2024, considered the paper entitled 'Additional delivery modalities for expanding support to locally led adaptation' and the Board decided:

Single country locally-led adaptation projects and programmes

a. To merge the window for enhanced direct access into an expanded and enhanced window for single-country locally led adaptation (LLA) projects/programmes as contained in paragraphs 37–42 of document AFB/PPRC.33/39;

b. That the window for single-country LLA projects/programmes will be available for access by eligible countries through national, regional or multilateral implementing entities, in the form of a grant of up to a maximum of US\$ 5 million per project;

c. That the window for single-country LLA programmes will continue to be financed outside the country cap established by the Board for regular concrete projects/programmes;

d. That single-country LLA proposals can be submitted through the three-step project approval process and are eligible for a project formulation grant (PFG) for a maximum of US\$ 150,000 as per the approved criteria by the Board for those grants;

e. That an additional PFG amount (inclusive of the management fee) can be provided on a case-by-case basis for LLA projects up to a maximum of US\$ 100,000, and that such amount should be dedicated to support activities that enable decision making by local actors over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed and implemented;

- f. *That, for a PFG at the pre-concept stage, up to 20 percent of the maximum amount of the PFG set in subparagraphs (d) and (e) above could be granted;*
- g. *To approve the revised proposal template and project review sheet contained in annex 3 and annex 4 to document AFB/PPRC.33/39, respectively;*
- h. *To request the secretariat to develop instructions for preparing requests for proposals and additional guideline materials for projects/programmes under this window;*

[...]

(Decision B.42/37)

10. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Board decided to include in its work programme for fiscal year 2026 a provision for an amount of US\$ 26.5 million for single country LLA grants (B.44/41).
11. The following concept note proposal document titled “*Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation through Devolved Climate Financing for Resilient Communities in Uganda*” was submitted for Uganda by Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), which is a National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.
12. This is the fourth submission of the concept note proposal using the two-step submission process.
13. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-sixth Board meeting. The secretariat carried out four technical reviews of the project proposal, with the Project ID number AF00000467.
14. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with MoWE and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.
15. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25/15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted or with track changes.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: LLA Single country concept note

Country/Region: Uganda
Project Title: Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation through Devolved Climate Financing for Resilient Communities in Uganda
Thematic Focal Area: Locally Led Adaptation Investments for Resilient Communities
Implementing Entity: Ministry of Water and Environment
Executing Entities: Ministry of Water and Environment, Districts
AF Project ID: AF00000467
IE Project ID: **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** 5,000,000
Reviewer and contact person: Rywon Yang **Co-reviewer(s):** Alyssa Gomes
IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary:	<p>The project “Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation through Developed Climate Financing for Resilient Communities in Uganda” aims 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 Devolved Climate Financ(DCF) mechanism. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> 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 (USD 3,500,000);</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Strengthening Capacity for Inclusive and Participatory Climate Governance Structures for Effective Climate Finance Utilization (USD 503,091);</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Knowledge Management and Learning for sustainable Locally Led Adaptation Action and Adaptive Management (USD 536,909).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 68,295 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 4,608,295 Implementing Fee: USD 391,705 Financing Requested: USD 5,000,000</p>
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	<p>A project formulation grant (PFG) of USD 249,920 is requested.</p> <p>The first technical review raises several issues, including limited detail on beneficiaries, the LLA and USP approaches, stakeholder consultations, gender and vulnerability inclusion, and alignment with the AF Results Framework, as reflected in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The second technical review finds that majority of the CRs and CARs raised in the review have been addressed. However, a few pending clarifications remain related to the consultation process and gender policy as well as some corrections in the PFG application form.</p> <p>The third technical review found that all but one issue have been cleared, with the remaining issue related to the PFG.</p> <p>The fourth technical review finds the pending CAR to be addressed.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat’s review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE’s accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board’s decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Date:	February 13, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments 1 st Review [November 5, 2025]	Comments 2 nd Review [December 22, 2025]	Comments 3 rd Review [February 12, 2026]	Comments 4 th Review [February 13, 2026]
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes.	-	-	-
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. Uganda is a least developed country in East Africa, ranked 18th most vulnerable and 28th least prepared globally (ND-GAIN 2022), that is highly exposed to climate change due to its reliance on climate-sensitive sectors — especially agriculture,	-	-	-

		<p>which employs about 70% of the population and is dominated by rainfed smallholder systems. The country faces rising temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall, and recurrent floods and droughts that threaten livelihoods, food security, and infrastructure, further exacerbated by poverty, weak institutions, and limited adaptive capacity.</p>			
Project Eligibility	<p>1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/program me?</p>	<p>Yes. As per the Endorsement letter dated August 25th, 2025.</p>	-	-	-
	<p>2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than fifty (50) pages for the Concept note project document, including its annexes?</p>	<p>Cleared. The proposal amounts to 48 pages.</p>	-	-	-

	<p>3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country and/or the local actors in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The programme clearly supports concrete adaptation actions through the established DCF mechanism, which channels predictable climate finance to local governments and communities for the implementation of locally identified priorities. Component 1 provides a well-defined framework for delivering tangible adaptation measures—such as water management, ecosystem restoration, and climate-resilient infrastructure—selected through participatory processes led by Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCC).</p> <p>However, while Component 1 presents detailed activities and implementation steps, Components 2 and 3 remain more descriptive, focusing on capacity-building and learning systems without equivalent</p>			

		<p>granularity at the activity or output level. Recognizing the importance of robust capacity building and learning system, there is a need to clearly specific anticipated outputs and activities.</p> <p>CR 1: Please clarify and structure the description of Components 2 and 3, to match the level of operational detail provided in Component 1, by outlining the planned activities and expected outputs more clearly, to the extent possible at the concept note stage</p> <p>The proposal clearly defines Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) as the core local governance structure leading the identification, prioritization, and monitoring of community adaptation investments. While the PCCCs prepare draft proposals based on community consultations, technical review and</p>	<p>CR 1: Cleared. (pages 30-34)</p> <p>The revised proposal structures Components 2 and 3 by presenting distinct activities, roles, and implementation arrangements.</p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please further specify activity-level targets and indicators, and reflect this to the project results framework.</u></i></p>		
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		<p>consolidation are undertaken by sub-county and district technical planning committees, with possible NGO or CSO support. However, although each parish establishes a PCCC, only a limited number of community investments—around 12 across four districts—will ultimately receive Adaptation Fund financing.</p> <p>CR 2: Please clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how many parishes within the 33 AF-supported sub-counties are expected to establish PCCCs, and on what basis these parishes will be identified. • whether all established PCCCs will develop investment proposals or if proposal development will be limited to selected parishes prioritized through the CRVA and LIFE-AR criteria; and 	<p>CR 2: Cleared. (page 18, 25-26)</p> <p>The revised proposal clarifies that all parishes within the 23 AF-supported sub-counties will establish PCCCs, and each PCCC will develop an investment proposal. Proposals will be competitively prioritized through the DCF process based on CRVA and LIFE-AR strategic and technical criteria, with three community-level USP investments funded per sub-county, resulting in a total of 69 adaptation sub-projects.</p>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how these proposals will relate to the twelve community adaptation investments to be financed under the programme (i.e., whether they will correspond to twelve specific PCCCs or be selected from among multiple submissions). <p>CR 3: Please clarify the expected size and composition of each PCCC, the measures to sustain participation—including any remuneration, allowances, or non-financial incentives such as training, recognition, or leadership opportunities—that will encourage continued engagement.</p> <p>While the proposal states that the PCCCs will be established “operationalizing the provisions of the National Climate Change Act 2021,” it does not specify</p>	<p>CR 3: Cleared. (page 15, 32-33, 41)</p> <p>The proposal clarifies that each PCCC consists of 14 members with mandated representation from vulnerable groups, including youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, CSOs, cultural institutions, and the private sector. Participation is sustained through the integration of PCCCs into permanent local government structures, community elections, leadership and training opportunities under Component 2, and existing district forums, with LIFE-AR experience showing sustained engagement even without financial incentives.</p> <p>CR 4: Cleared. (pages 23-24)</p> <p>The proposal clarifies that Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) are legally recognized lower local</p>		
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	<p>whether these committees have, or will have, formal legal status within the local government framework.</p> <p>CR 4: Please clarify whether PCCCs are recognized as official sub-committees under local government law, and how their continuity and accountability will be maintained beyond the project period.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, the project results framework should include the expected number of direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, along with clearly defined targets and indicators—specified per activity—to enable effective monitoring of progress and impact.</i></p> <p>The proposal emphasizes institutionalizing the DCF mechanism as a sustainable system for devolved climate</p>	<p>government climate change committees established under the National Climate Change Act (2021). As statutory bodies embedded within Uganda’s local government system, their continuity and accountability extend beyond the project period and are not dependent on project financing.</p>		
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CAR 1: Cleared.

		<p>finance, with twelve community adaptation investments intended to demonstrate its practical application. While this aligns with the “test and evolve” phase of LIFE-AR, the interventions remain largely undefined, indicating the use of a USP approach that is mentioned only briefly in Section K in relation to environmental and social safeguards.</p> <p>CAR 1: Please ensure that the USP approach is consistently and explicitly integrated throughout the proposal—not only in relation to the Environmental and Social and Gender Policies, but also within the strategies for sustainability, capacity building, stakeholder consultation, and knowledge management—clarifying how sub-projects will be identified, implemented, and supported. Please refer to the updated guidance for use of USP: https://www.adaptationfund.org/wpcontent/upload</p>	<p>The USP approach has been integrated across the proposal including in sections on safeguards, sustainability, capacity building, etc.</p>		
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		s/2022/10/PPRC.30.54-Updatedguidance-onUSPs-with-Annex.pdf			
	<p>4. Does the project/programme enable devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level? Does it give 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.</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The project outlines a clear framework for devolving decision-making to the parish level through the DCF mechanism, with PCCCs as the main community governance structures. The approach aligns well with the principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) through participatory consultations and community awareness activities. However, while community engagement is strong during the establishment of PCCCs, the proposal provides limited detail on how direct beneficiaries will remain involved afterward, as participation appears largely confined to information-sharing and accountability meetings.</p>	<p>CR 5: Cleared. (pages 22, 27-29) The proposal clarifies that direct beneficiaries continue to participate in decision-making and implementation</p>		

		<p>CR 5: Please clarify how direct beneficiaries will continue to participate in decision-making and implementation after PCCCs are established, including whether and how participatory monitoring, community contracting, or feedback mechanisms will be used.</p> <p>Financial management authority remains with the Ministry of Water and Environment and district governments.</p> <p>CR 6: Please clarify how the project will strengthen the financial management capacity of district and sub-county governments to ensure transparent and efficient use of devolved climate finance, including any measures for training, institutional strengthening, or improved local financial oversight.</p>	<p>beyond the establishment of PCCCs across multiple stages of Component 1, including documented participation in project identification and prioritization, participatory monitoring during implementation through periodic community-validated progress reporting.</p> <p>CR 6: Cleared. (pages 31-32) The response clarifies that financial management and fiduciary capacity strengthening for district and sub-county governments will be delivered primarily through embedded training under Component 2, using the established DCF training curriculum.</p>		
	5. Does the project / programme	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The project is expected to generate economic,</p>			

	<p>provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund? Does the project/programme address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?</p>	<p>social, and environmental benefits by improving livelihoods, enhancing food and water security, and promoting ecosystem restoration in highly vulnerable rural communities. Its participatory design, particularly through parish-level consultations and the inclusion of at least 40% women in PCCCs, demonstrates an intent to promote inclusivity and gender responsiveness.</p> <p>However, the discussion of economic impacts remains generic, with no quantitative data from LIFE-AR or DCF pilots to substantiate projected gains. The proposal also lacks information on the scale and profile of direct beneficiaries and does not specify how vulnerable groups—such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, and marginalized communities—will be</p>	<p>CR 7: Cleared (page 40) The revised proposal indicates that the project is expected to</p>		

		<p>identified and prioritized.</p> <p>CR 7: Please provide, to the extent possible at the concept note stage, preliminary estimates of the expected scale of direct and indirect beneficiaries, even if indicative, and include a basic demographic profile (e.g., gender, age, displacement status) to illustrate who is likely to benefit from the project.</p> <p>CR 8: Please clarify how vulnerable groups will be identified, prioritized, and monitored beyond general representation targets.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please include, if possible, indicative quantitative data from LIFE-AR or DCF pilots to support the expected economic benefits (e.g., livelihoods, income, productivity).</i></p> <p>Gender considerations focus mainly on</p>	<p>benefit approximately 380,000–400,000 people, with an indicative demographic profile reflecting gender balance and age distribution based on LIFE-AR pilot experience.</p> <p>CR 8: Cleared. (pages 14-15) The revised proposal clarifies that vulnerable groups will be identified and prioritized through participatory Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs), supported by gender and social analysis tools (e.g. PAMOJA), and through mandated representation within PCCCs. Monitoring of inclusion goes beyond representation targets through the MEL system, which includes gender-disaggregated data, indicators, and beneficiary feedback mechanisms.</p>	<p>CAR 2: Cleared. (pages 33- 34, 59-61)</p> <p>A standalone initial gender assessment has been added as Annex 3, consolidating CRVA, CNA, and pilot district findings, clearly</p>	

		<p>representation rather than addressing structural inequalities in access to resources and decision-making. In addition, an initial gender assessment is not included. A preliminary gender analysis at the project/program identification stage is required for the project/programme pre-concept/concept notes to inform the eventual design and further planning stages of the measure.</p> <p>CAR 2: Please include an initial gender assessment to demonstrate how gender considerations have been incorporated into the project design. Please provide information on how the unique concerns of women and youth were incorporated into project design.</p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please include an in-depth gender analysis and</u></i></p>	<p>CAR 2: Not cleared. While the proposal references gender-related findings from the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) and Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA), including household survey data and identified structural barriers affecting women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, the concept note does not yet clearly present these elements as a concise initial gender assessment, nor does it sufficiently demonstrate how the identified gender- and youth-specific concerns have directly informed key project design choices at concept stage, as required under the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy.</p> <p>The information provided is dispersed across sections and focuses largely on planned processes, anticipated benefits,</p>	<p>identifying differentiated vulnerabilities of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, and explicitly linking these findings to key project design and investment decisions at concept stage. The proposal further confirms that a comprehensive Gender Action Plan, including disaggregated data, targets, budgets, and monitoring indicators, will be developed and validated with communities at the full proposal stage in line with the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy.</p>	
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		<p><i>gender action plan that includes disaggregated data for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups, and provides specific strategies to address their unique vulnerabilities.</i></p>	<p>and future actions at the full proposal stage, rather than clearly summarizing: (i) the key gender and youth-related vulnerabilities identified, and (ii) the corresponding design responses already reflected in the proposed LLA mechanism and investment focus.</p> <p>Please consolidate the existing CRVA and CNA findings into a short, stand-alone initial gender assessment (1–2 pages or a summary table), clearly highlighting:</p> <p>(i) Key differentiated vulnerabilities and constraints faced by women, youth, PWDs, and elderly groups; and any preliminary sex- and age-disaggregated insights available at this stage;</p> <p>(ii) Explicitly link these findings to project design decisions at concept stage, for example: How identified issues such as time poverty, GBV risks, limited access to</p>		

			<p>resources, or youth unemployment have informed the choice of investment types, governance arrangements (e.g. PCCCs), participation quotas, or prioritization criteria; and (iii) Confirm that a full gender analysis and Gender Action Plan, including disaggregated data, targets, budget allocations, and monitoring indicators, will be developed and validated with communities at the full proposal stage, in line with the Gender Policy.</p>		
	<p>6. Is the project / programme cost effective?</p>	<p>Needs clarification. The proposal provides a qualitative justification for cost-effectiveness, noting that it builds on existing LIFE-AR and DCF institutional mechanisms to reduce transaction costs and avoid duplication. However, it does not include any comparison with alternative approaches that could achieve similar adaptation outcomes in</p>			

		<p>the same sectors or regions.</p> <p>CR 9: Please include a brief comparison of the proposed DCF-based approach with alternative models that could deliver similar adaptation outcomes in the same sectors or regions.</p> <p><i>At fully developed proposal stage, please include quantitative estimates of cost-effectiveness, where feasible.</i></p>	<p>CR 9: Cleared. (pages 44-45) The revised proposal compares the proposed DCF-based approach with an alternative government-led financial management model and explains the relative cost-effectiveness, transparency, and long-term objective of transitioning to full use of national government systems.</p>		
	<p>7. Is the project / programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The proposed project is aligned with national laws such as the Local Governments Act, National Climate Change Act, Water Act, National Environment Act, National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, Land Act, and Equal Opportunities Act, as well as with national policies and strategies including Uganda Vision 2040, the National Climate Change Policy, the</p>			

	<p>programs of action and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p>National Environment Management Policy, the National Water Policy, the Decentralization Policy, the National Gender Policy, the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and the Tenfold Growth Strategy.</p> <p>CR 10: Please review the project's consistency with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Technology Needs Assessment (TNA), and Technology Action Plan (TAP), as applicable.</p>	<p>CR 10: Cleared. (page50) The proposal is consistent with Uganda's TNA, TAP, and relevant NAP priorities by aligning community-level investments with climate-resilient technologies and adaptation measures addressing climate risks identified through CRVAs.</p>		
	<p>8. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The proposal outlines general compliance with national environmental and procurement regulations, referring to the PPDA Act, the Public Finance Management Act, and the LIFE-AR Training Manual in line with the Adaptation Fund's</p>			

	<p>Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?</p>	<p>Environmental and Social Policy. However, it does not specify which national or sectoral technical standards will apply to community-level interventions.</p> <p>CR 11: Please clarify which national or sectoral technical standards will be applicable to the sub-projects.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please further elaborate and reflect in the activities the application of safeguards and capacity-building measures, with greater specificity on technical requirements, safeguards implementation, and local capacity-building arrangements, taking into account the USP approach.</i></p>	<p>CR 11: Cleared. (page 52) While the concept note explains compliance with general national service delivery and procurement standards, it does not yet specify which sector-specific technical standards (e.g. water, infrastructure, ecosystem restoration) would potentially apply to USPs.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please indicate the potentially applicable sector-specific technical standards that would guide USP implementation once specific investments are identified.</i></p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please further elaborate and reflect in the activities the application of safeguards and capacity-building</i></p>		

			<i>measures, with greater specificity on technical requirements, safeguards implementation, and local capacity-building arrangements, taking into account the USP approach.</i>		
	<p>9. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources? Does the project enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?</p>	<p>Cleared. (pages 39-41)</p> <p>The proposal confirms there is no duplication with projects such as LoCAL, CRAKS, and SACRIAC as each operates in different thematic and geographic areas, and Adaptation Fund resources will complement rather than duplicate LIFE-AR funding. To avoid duplication and ensure alignment, strong coordination mechanisms are in place at both national and local levels. National coordination is facilitated through a whole-of-government platform of task teams, technical working groups, and steering committees that promote collaboration across ministries,</p>	-		

		departments, agencies, and non-government actors. At the local level, the DCF mechanism integrates duplication-avoidance criteria into its investment selection process.			
	10. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capabilities?	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>Component 3 focuses on documenting lessons, good practices, and innovations emerging from the DCF mechanism through partnerships such as with the LUCCC, supported by the MEL Technical Working Group and Communities of Practice (CoPs) to promote adaptive management and knowledge exchange. A knowledge hub under the Ministry of Water and Environment will consolidate outputs, while institutions such as the Uganda Management Institute will embed DCF lessons into training. However, further clarity is needed on how</p>			

		<p>these processes will operate in practice.</p> <p>Similarly, while the proposal emphasizes the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge, it does not specify how such documentation and integration will be conducted at the community level.</p> <p>CR 12: Please consider including clear and functional feedback mechanisms that enable sub-grantees and communities to report on implementation challenges and successes in real time, allowing for adaptive management and timely project adjustments.</p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please provide more detailed descriptions and operational arrangements for the learning and knowledge management activities under Component 3. In particular, specify:</u></i></p>	<p>CR 12: Cleared. (page 55) The revised proposal clarifies that functional feedback mechanisms will be implemented through designated MEL focal persons at community, district, and national levels, supported by existing structures such as quarterly district barazzas and MEL Technical Working Group processes to enable adaptive management.</p>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the composition and functioning of the MEL Technical Working Group;</i> • <i>how the Communities of Practice (CoPs) will be structured and managed;</i> • <i>the scope and implementation steps of the dedicated Knowledge Management Plan; and</i> • <i>how the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge will be practically realized.</i> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please include quantitative targets and indicators for key knowledge-sharing and documentation activities in the project results framework.</u></i></p>			
	<p>11. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved and encouraged all key stakeholders,</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The proposal outlines that the project has been informed by multi-stakeholder consultations but provides no accompanying</p>			

	<p>and vulnerable groups, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions? Did the consultative process consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>stakeholder list, consultation dates, or documentation of engagement processes. There is also no indication of how vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were encouraged to participate and influence adaptation decisions.</p> <p>Moreover, the reference to the establishment and election of PCCCs appears inconsistent, as these processes are described as part of the project's implementation rather than activities already completed.</p> <p>The proposal also lacks clarity on how the USP approach will ensure their inclusion during sub-project design, selection, and implementation.</p> <p>CAR 3: Please provide a detailed stakeholder list and the initial stakeholder</p>	<p>CAR3: Not cleared. While the proposal appropriately notes that more detailed consultations will be undertaken at the full proposal stage, the concept note is still required to demonstrate evidence</p>	<p>CAR 3: Cleared. (pages 17-19, 59-61)</p> <p>While the evidence provided is sufficient at concept stage, the Full Proposal should clearly document consultations conducted in newly</p>	

		<p>consultation report, including information on the dates of the stakeholder meetings, the number and composition of participants, disaggregated by gender and vulnerability status, to demonstrate the inclusiveness of the consultation process.</p> <p>CR 13: Please clarify how gender considerations and the concerns of vulnerable and marginalized groups—including Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities—were addressed during the consultation process, particularly how the process sought to identify and overcome gender-based, economic, and social inequalities.</p> <p>CR 14: Please clarify that the establishment and election of PCCCs are planned activities under the project rather than consultations already completed.</p>	<p>of initial stakeholder consultations undertaken during preparation, in line with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP).</p> <p>The proposal describes a multi-level consultative process, including inception meetings with district leadership, establishment and training of District LIFE-AR Task Teams, engagement with sub-county governments, and community-level processes such as the formation of Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) with representation from women and other vulnerable groups, and the use of participatory tools such as PAMOJA. However, beyond the national-level task team meeting documented in Annex 1, the concept note does not yet provide verifiable evidence that these local- and community-</p>	<p>selected sub-counties and parishes under AF funding, including how community inputs inform final investment selection.</p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please further detail how the participation of vulnerable groups will be operationalized and monitored in newly selected sub-counties, including indicators for effective participation beyond representation.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, the proposal should include concise and verifiable documentation of community-level consultations in newly selected sub-counties, such as representative attendance records or visual evidence, to complement the narrative description.</u></i></p>	

		<p>CR 15: Please describe the mechanisms that will ensure the meaningful inclusion and leadership of these vulnerable and marginalized groups throughout project implementation under the USP approach.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, in-depth consultations should be conducted, and a comprehensive stakeholder consultation report—including a full list of participants and key outcomes—should be provided, detailing 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.</i></p>	<p>level consultations have taken place (e.g. dates, locations, participant composition), nor does it clearly demonstrate how inputs from vulnerable groups informed key design decisions reflected in the concept.</p> <p>Please provide a brief summary table or annex listing consultation activities conducted during concept preparation (e.g. national task team meeting, district inception meetings, ToT-linked engagements), including indicative dates, locations, stakeholder types, and gender composition where available; Clarify whether the community-level structures and consultations described (e.g. PCCCs, identified investments in the four districts) are based on prior or ongoing DCF/LIFE-AR processes, and how these informed the</p>		
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		<p>decision to deepen investments in the selected districts.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please provide more comprehensive stakeholder consultation documentation.</i></p> <p>CR 13: Cleared. While the proposal notes prior consultations under the broader DCF programme, application-specific consultations addressing gender-based, economic, and social inequalities including engagement with vulnerable and marginalized groups are expected to be undertaken and documented at the PFG and fully developed proposal stages.</p> <p>CAR6 (New): The PFG is well received but needs to be revised to include 2 separate tables. Table 1 for the USD 150,000 along with the</p>	<p>CAR 6: Not cleared. Please complete Section C by providing the required Implementing Entity information, including the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator, as well as the contact details.</p>	<p>CAR 6: Cleared Name and signature is now included.</p>
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			<p>activities and budget notes. Table 2 for the additional USD 100,000 along with a clear justification for the additional amount requested, including the activities and budget notes.</p> <p>CR 14: Cleared. The establishment and election of PCCCs are planned activities under the proposed AF project, while references in the text reflect experience from existing LIFE-AR areas.</p> <p>CR 15: Cleared. (pages 32-33) The revised component 2 now outlines mechanisms—primarily through targeted training under Activity 2.3—to ensure the meaningful participation and leadership of vulnerable and marginalized groups across the USP lifecycle.</p>		
	12. Is the	Yes.	-		

	<p>requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p>The proposal provides a clear rationale for the requested funding under the full cost of adaptation principle, explaining that it will address Uganda’s growing climate-induced vulnerabilities—such as erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods—by financing additional measures through the Devolved Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism to enhance community and ecosystem resilience beyond existing development efforts.</p>			
	<p>13. Is the project / program aligned with AF’s results framework?</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The concept note does not include the alignment table with the AF Strategic Results Framework.</p> <p>CAR 4: Please include alignment with the AF Strategic Results Framework (SRF) outcomes in the description of the components. https://www.adaptationfund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-of-</p>	<p>CAR 4: Cleared (pages 64-68) The revised proposal includes an alignment table with the AF Strategic Results Framework.</p>		

		<u>theadaptation-fund-amended-in-march-2019/</u>			
	<p>14. Has the sustainability of the project/program me outcomes been taken into account when designing the project? Does the project/programe support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The project's sustainability rationale focuses on institutionalizing the DCF mechanism within existing government systems but provides limited detail on how operational and financial sustainability will be maintained after project completion. The proposal lacks sufficient detail on how districts and sub-counties will continue providing technical support, how the Communities of Practice (CoPs) and adaptive management systems will be sustained and financed, and how the twelve community adaptation projects will be maintained and scaled beyond project support.</p> <p>CR 16: Please clarify, to the extent possible at the concept note stage, how the long-term sustainability of</p>	<p>CR 16: Cleared (pages 58-60)</p> <p>The revised proposal clarifies that USPs will be anchored in districts for post-project operation and maintenance, supported by user committees and continued technical</p>		

		<p>outcomes—especially at the sub-project (USP) level—will be ensured, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the arrangements for operation, maintenance, and follow-up of USP activities after project closure; • how communities and institutions will be supported to mobilize resources or access funding once the project ends; and • how the capacities of local beneficiaries will be strengthened to sustainably design and implement adaptation sub-projects over time. <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please explain further on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continuity of district and sub-county technical support after project completion and enabling mechanisms</i> • <i>Clear reflection of local governance resource allocation</i> 	<p>backstopping through ministry regional centers, while long-term financing is to be pursued through integration of local climate action plans into district/national planning and budgeting frameworks and resource-mobilization training.</p>		
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		<p><i>commitments on operation needs in the project budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sustainability and financing of Communities of Practice (CoPs) and adaptive management systems after project closure</i> 			
	<p>15. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Needs clarification.</p> <p>The proposal outlines the project's commitment to comply with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, referencing Appendix VII of the LIFE-AR Training Manual, as the guiding framework for screening and mitigation. (page 32)</p> <p>CAR 5: Please indicate the project's environmental and social provisional risk category (A, B, or C) in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and clarify the rationale for this classification.</p>	<p>CAR 5: Cleared. (pages 21, 60-61)</p> <p>The proposal explains that, based on precedent LIFE-AR investments, the anticipated environmental and social risks are predominantly Category B and C, and that final categorization will be</p>		

		<p>Given the nature of the USPs, a robust Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be essential to ensure compliance and consistency across sub-projects.</p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please include a detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) with a comprehensive risk analysis and categorization, outlining procedures for screening, mitigation, and monitoring of sub-projects under the USP approach.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>At the fully developed proposal stage, please provide detailed information on how the LIFE-AR Training Manual (Appendix VII) will be operationalized to demonstrate compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social and Gender Policies.</u></i></p>	<p>determined through USP-level screening once activities are identified.</p>		

Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	Yes. The requested financing is USD 5,000,000.	-		
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	Yes. The Implementing Entity Management Fee is 8.5% of the total project budget before the fee, which is within the cap.	-		
	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	Yes. The execution costs are within the cap at 1.4% of the total project/programme budget. By the full proposal stage, all EEs need to be specified.	-	-	-
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has	No. The accreditation expired on the 14 March 2024, and the implementing entity is currently undergoing	No. <i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or</i>	No. <i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or</i>	No. <i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or</i>

	<p>been accredited by the Board?</p>	<p>the re-accreditation process.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p><i>prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p> <p>Note that even if the proposal is technically cleared, and taken to the Board for endorsement, the PFG amount will not be approved until the IE's status changes to "Accredited".</p>	<p><i>prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p> <p>Note that even if the proposal is technically cleared, and taken to the Board for endorsement, the PFG amount will not be approved until the IE's status changes to "Accredited".</p>	<p><i>prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p> <p>Note that even if the proposal is technically cleared, and taken to the Board for endorsement, the PFG amount will not be approved until the IE's status changes to "Accredited".</p>
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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

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

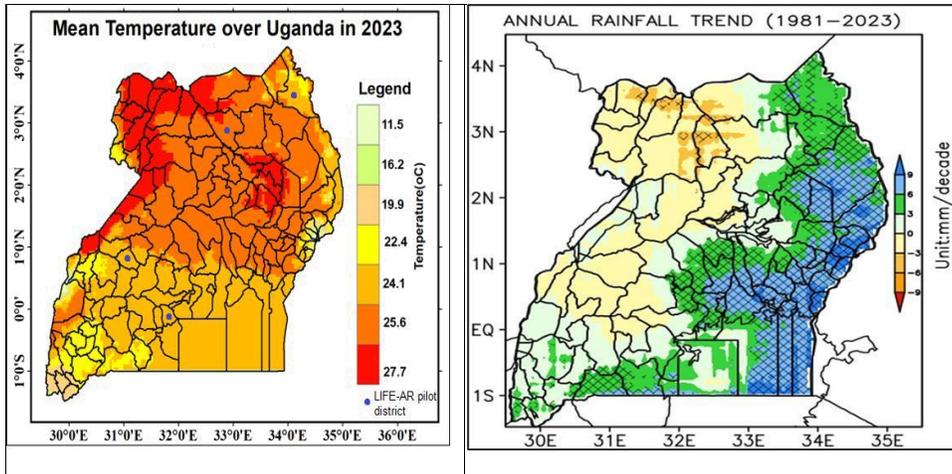
Uganda, a least developed country in East Africa with a population of 45.9 million (2024), depends heavily on climate-sensitive sectors—especially agriculture, which employs 70% of the population and is dominated by smallholder farmers relying on rainfed production. The country’s climate is changing rapidly: annual rainfall has shown a long-term declining trend, while temperature has risen by 0.23°C per decade since 1950, with record highs in 2018 and 2023. Projections for mid-century indicate further warming of 1.5–3°C and highly variable rainfall patterns, increasing climate uncertainty and stressing ecosystems, agriculture, water resources, and rural livelihoods.

These shifting climate patterns are worsening Uganda’s exposure to hazards such as droughts, floods, heat stress, and erratic rainfall, undermining food security, damaging infrastructure, and deepening poverty. With Uganda ranked 18th most vulnerable and 28th least prepared globally (ND-GAIN 2022), the impacts of climate change interact with existing development challenges—water scarcity, weak infrastructure, and widespread dependence on subsistence farming—to heighten vulnerability. Building adaptive capacity and resilience across communities, landscapes, and local economies is therefore essential to safeguard livelihoods and sustain development gains in the face of increasing climate risks.

1.2 Climate context for Uganda

Uganda’s climate varies significantly due to its equatorial location and diverse elevations, with average temperatures around 25°C but ranging from cool highland conditions to hot lowland environments exceeding 30°C. Recent warming trends are pronounced: 2023 was the hottest year on record, with temperatures 0.52°C above the long-term average and anomalies reaching 2.4°C in western Uganda, the Central region, and southern Karamoja. Rainfall follows a bimodal pattern driven by the ITCZ, with rainy seasons in March–May and September–December, though regional differences are substantial. Between 1981 and 2023, rainfall increased in eastern Uganda and parts of the southwest, while declines were recorded in the north. In 2023, Lake Victoria and Mt. Elgon received the highest rainfall totals, whereas Karamoja recorded the lowest.

<i>Mean temperature anomaly (UNMA report, 2023)</i>	<i>Mean rainfall anomaly (UNMA report, 2023)</i>
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This climatic variability has led to a rising frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Uganda has experienced recurrent floods and droughts, with major flood years documented in 2007, 2010, 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020, and prolonged droughts occurring in 1998–2000, 2005–2006, 2010–2011, and 2016–2017. These extremes have caused extensive damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and water resources, reflecting a broader trend of climate change–induced intensification of hazards. These patterns indicate a shift in climate extremes, with recent studies suggesting that climate change is intensifying their frequency and severity¹. The increasing unpredictability of rainfall and rising temperatures underscore the country’s growing vulnerability and the urgent need for strengthened adaptation measures.

Sectoral impacts

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Uganda’s economy, employing approximately 70% of the workforce. In recent years, Uganda has experienced erratic rainfall patterns, leading to both floods and prolonged dry spells - representative of Uganda’s climate variability. These extreme weather events have resulted in livestock losses and substantial crop losses, particularly affecting staple foods such as maize and beans. Farmers have reported decreased yields, impacting income and wellbeing as most households do not have a safety net. 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 levels².

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 2050³.

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

¹ Uganda - Vulnerability | Climate Change Knowledge Portal

² Climate Risk Profile: Uganda (2021): The World Bank Group

³ ibid

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 2050⁴.

Climate change has exacerbated **health** challenges in Uganda, including the spread of climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria and cholera⁵. 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 change⁶.

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 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.

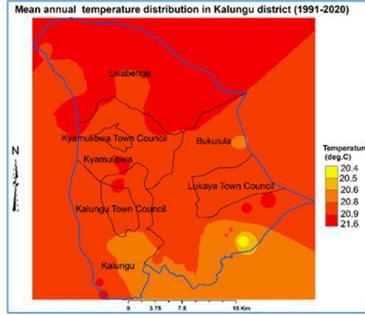
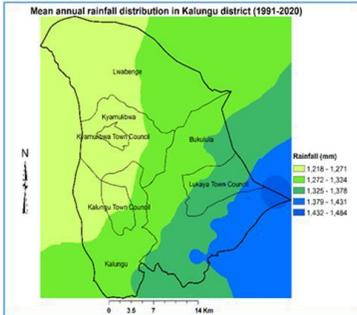
Kalungu (Victoria water management zone)

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 21.4°C varied between 20.4°C and

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *final_chasa_report_19may2020.pdf*

⁶ *ibid*



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/(km²)⁷, 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 has an impact on socio-economic activities in Kalungu district.

Kaabong District (Kyoga water management zone)

Based on the District CRVA Report, Kaabong 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 (period 1990-2020). 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

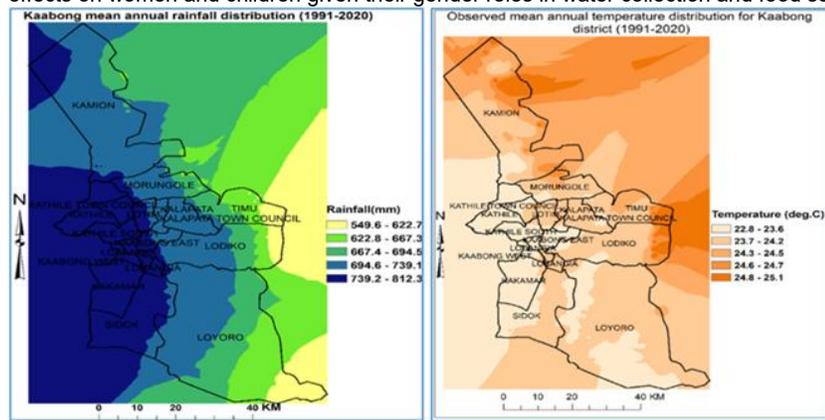
⁷ Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda

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 . 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.

Temperatures are projected to rise to 27.6- 28.7°C from the observed 22.8- 25.1°C especially during the hot and dry JJA and DJF periods.

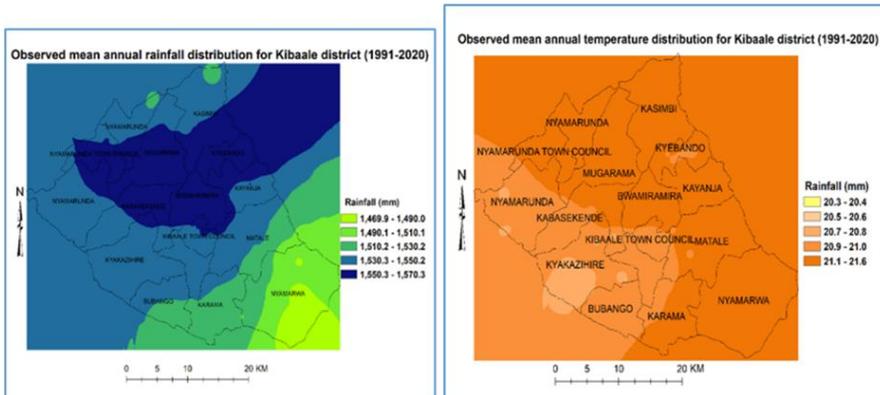
The projected climate variability threatens existing livelihood systems which are extremely exposed and vulnerable to climate shocks. Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities are most exposed and vulnerable, prone to drought, livestock losses and pasture degradation; water resources degradation and 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 observed key hazards 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.

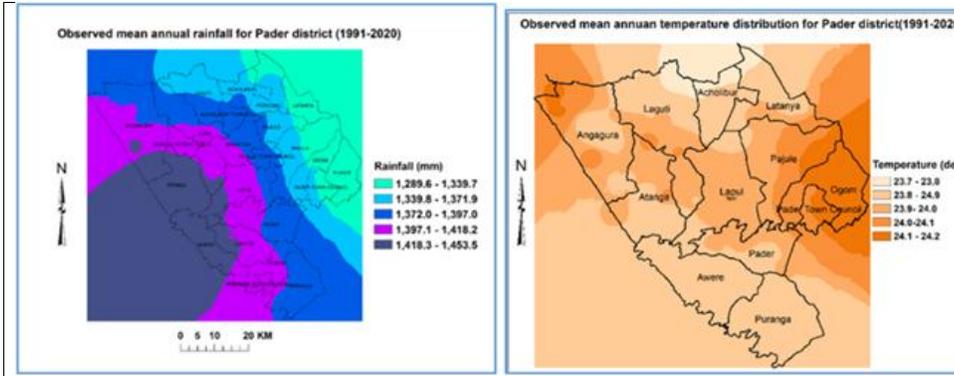
The district, with a population of 237,649 people and a growing population density of 206.1 people per km² is heavily reliant on agriculture with 86.2% of the population engaged in farming⁸. Farmers cultivate crops like bananas, tobacco, coffee, maize, beans, and tea. With agriculture being primarily 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 resources⁹. 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)

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.

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

⁹ [Comparison of measured multi-decadal rainfall variability with farmers' perceptions of and responses to seasonal changes in western Uganda | Request PDF](#)



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 km²¹⁰, 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. 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 notable¹¹. 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 so that countries can access international climate finance directly. 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.

¹⁰ Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2024: The National Population and Housing Census 2024 – Preliminary Report, Kampala, Uganda

¹¹ <https://www.necoc.opm.go.ug/HzNorthern2/Pader%20District%20HRV%20Profile.pdf> p.16

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, and 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, where it is needed, as local government structures, systems and capacities are not ready to manage the volume and quality of finance flows needed.

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 district¹², which sharply falls short of the required financial resources.

LIFE-AR, launched by the LDC Chair at COP24 (2018), [reviewed evidence on adaptation and resilience](#), guided by LDC advisers and partners, with a view of reshaping the climate finance landscape. This review shaped the [LDC Vision](#), Asks and Offers, and the “[Business Unusual](#)” approach, which underpin LIFE-AR’s design and principles. The Vision promotes a principles-based partnership between LDCs and development partners, inviting global collaboration to tackle climate challenges. The LIFE-AR Compact, built on five principles— inclusion, participation, justice, equity, and leaving no one behind—reflects this vision. By Sept 2024, 11 development partners and 10 LDCs, including Uganda, had signed.

To achieve LDC Vision 2050, the 10-year initiative begins with a 2-year establishment phase to set national platforms and develop roadmaps. The next 3–4 years focus on implementing adaptation investments to test climate finance systems, followed by a 4–5-year scale-up phase enabling access to broader funding. This AF investment is part of this 10-year path, building systems for long-term climate finance access.

Table 1: LDC Offers and Asks

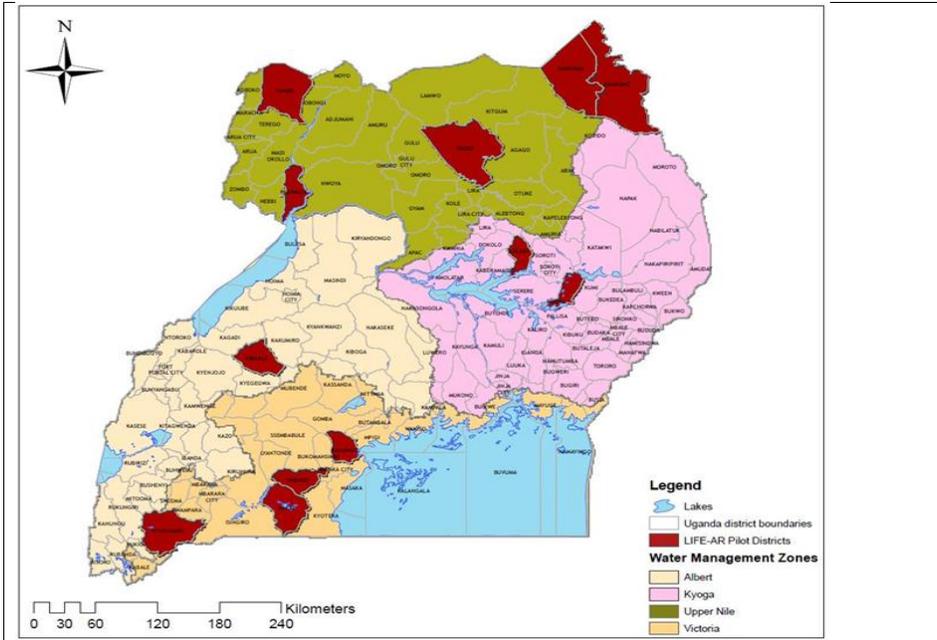
	LDC Offer from LDC Governments	LDC Ask of International Community	Joint Principles of Partnership Compact
Coordination	We will work with the whole of society to achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient future	Work together to reduce transaction costs and ensure mutual accountability behind LDC leadership	Work together jointly on a shared and equal platform
Finance	We will develop strong climate finance architecture, with at least	Provide high-quality, predictable and accessible finance and	Commit to a shared goal of 70% finance flows

¹² Kaabong District Approved Budget Estimates (FY 2023/24), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

	70% of flows supporting local-level action by 2030	support the LDCs' intention of at least 70% financial flows supporting local-level action by 2030	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. Climate projections show rising temperatures in all four districts, with more rainfall in Kalungu, Kaabong, and Kibaale, but less in Pader, worsening water stress. All districts face moderate to very high exposure to hazards like droughts, heatwaves, and floods, affecting key sectors such as agriculture, water, health, transport, and education. Adaptive capacity is lower than sensitivity¹³, 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.

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. 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

¹³ 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>

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, empowering those on the frontlines of climate change to shape their own resilience pathways. It combines financial support with institutional strengthening, ensuring that local capacities are built through participatory, gender-responsive climate vulnerability assessments. 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, supported with training. Minimum conditions exist to access the CRF to encourage responsible financial management, transparency and accountability. 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 undertaking the CRVA, information on how specific climate hazards (floods, drought, landslides etc) impact the vulnerable and marginalised is collected from the community together with proposed strategies for adaptation and resilience. For all community engagements undertaken at parish and community level, representatives of youth, women, elderly, and PWDs are purposely targeted, with the use of participatory and gender analysis tools (PAMOJA - a tool, that provides information on the gender issues regarding ownership, access and control of resources and helps to prioritise climate adaptation actions for the vulnerable and marginalised). The DCF further operationalises the Parish Climate Change Committee (PCCC), responsible for coordination and mobilising communities for climate action and ensuring that community projects are assessed for special needs and barriers. The PCCC constitutes 14 members, with representatives of the vulnerable including, two youth, two elderly, two women, one PWD, and one representative of CSO, two representatives of cultural institutions, and representative of the private sector among others. 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. The MEL provides for collection of gender disaggregated data and gender indicators with opportunities for beneficiary feedback mechanisms.

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 USA¹⁴) 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 launched in April 2025.

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 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.

¹⁴ 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).

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. A **Summary of the theory of change states taht:**

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.**

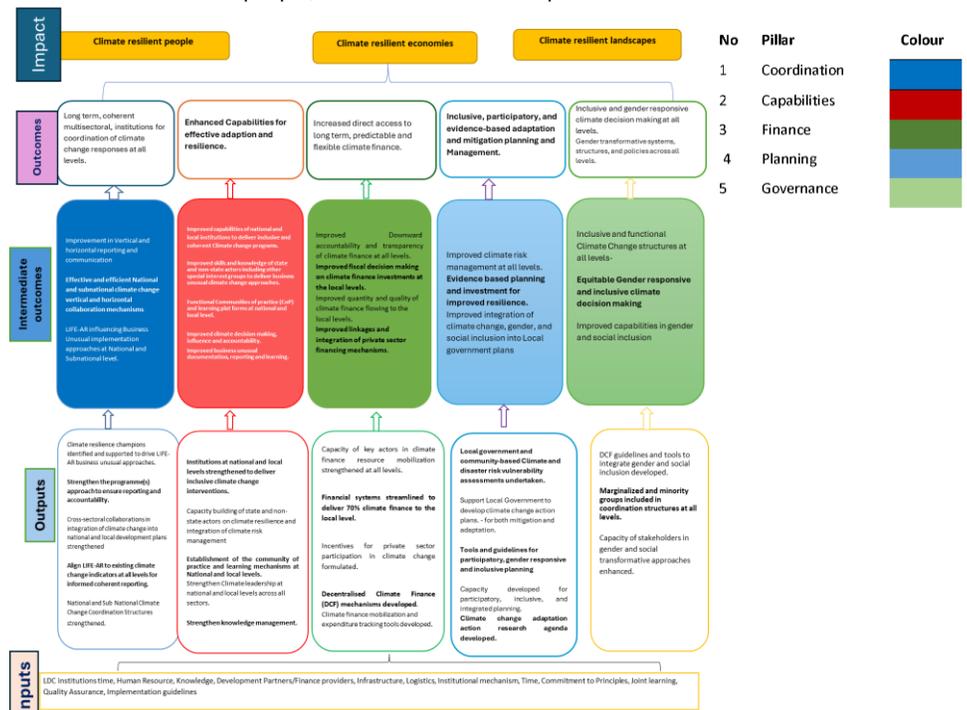


Figure LIFE-AR National Theory of Change

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community led adaptation investments mapped and prioritized to deliver resilient landscapes, economies, and people. 69 adaptation investments implemented (21 in Pader, 18 in Kaabong, 12 in Kalungu, 18 in Kibaale) 	<p>Enhanced Community Adaptive Capacity and Resilience in LIFE-AR districts of Kalungu, Pader, Kibaale and Kaabong.</p> <p>Climate resilient landscapes owing to restored ecosystem functions and increased biodiversity</p>	\$3,500,000
Component 2: Strengthening Capacity for Inclusive and Participatory Climate Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political and technical leaders at district and sub-county levels trained in LIFE-AR, DCF, and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved effectiveness, inclusivity and transparency of local governance structures for adaptation planning and decentralized 	\$503,091

Structures for Effective Climate Finance Utilization	<p>USP governance and oversight.</p> <p>2. Community governance structures (especially PCCCs) trained to lead participatory planning, USP screening, supervision, and community accountability processes.</p> <p>3. Community members—including women, youth, elderly, PWDs, and other marginalised groups—trained and empowered to participate in USP identification, planning, monitoring, and decision-making.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>climate finance management, including operationalized tracking, accountability and reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>2. Increased meaningful participation of youth, women, PWD, the elderly and other marginalised groups in climate risk identification, planning and decision-making processes</p>	
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning for sustainable Locally Led Adaptation Action and Adaptive Management.	<p>1. LIFE-AR MEL system strengthened and operationalized for investment and USP tracking and adaptive management</p> <p>2. Inclusive learning platforms established and supported at community, district, and national levels.</p> <p>3. Knowledge management system developed and used to document, store, and disseminate lessons and good practices (including USP lessons).</p> <p>4. National and cross-country knowledge exchange strengthened through learning visits, partnerships, and engagement with regional/global platforms.</p>	Enhanced Knowledge generation, management and dissemination for continuous improvement of locally led adaptation approaches and processes.	\$536,909
Project/Programme Execution cost			\$68,295
Total 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 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	
Project/Programme Closing	June 2030
Terminal Evaluation	November 20 30

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 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 AF programme, this will result in fully Unidentified Sub-Projects.

Furthermore, in line with the LIFE-AR principle of inclusive governance, consulted and meaningfully engaged stakeholders were drawn from national, district and community levels including; national and sub-national technical officers, political leaders, women groups, youth representatives, village and parish leadership, cultural institutions, civil society and community-based organizations. This is

demonstrated by consultation meeting dates, locations and stakeholder attendance lists disaggregated by Gender Equity and social inclusion, as captioned in tables hereto.

Special measures like separate focus group discussions with women, youth and elderly, use of local language and strategic timing of meetings to align with livelihood duties of different gender groups were undertaken to ensure inclusive governance, in line with LIFE-AR principles. This meaningful engagement will certainly continue throughout project implementation to inform learning and adaptive management. To ensure a two-way continuous feedback loop beyond scheduled consultation events, community meetings and barazas were held and parish and village level leadership assigned focal point roles with clear direct communication channels with the district and national team for information sharing.

Stakeholder consultation feedback significantly informed project design to align with adaptation needs of targeted communities. For instance, investment sites in Kalungu and Pader were changed because the elderly, women and People with disability expressed distance concerns which would exacerbate safe water access challenges. Additionally, noting that water affects livelihoods beyond domestic use, projects in Kalungu and Pader were revised to include water for production facilities to hedge against climate induced crop and animal losses triggered by the dry season that compounds water stress.

Key issues of consultation and engagement entailed; explanation of the DCF mechanism, identification, selection and prioritization of adaptation investments and project sites to ensure that adaptive capacity and resilience is built where it is needed and most urgent. Whilst there is a criterion for selection of the most vulnerable districts, selection of investment sites and parishes went beyond the technical criteria of the CRVA to capture social aspects such as proximity to beneficiary households, accessibility by elderly and people with disabilities, in line with community recommendations captured during consultation.

To ensure effective community attendance and participation in scheduled consultation events, community mobilization strategies such as radio announcements, village and market drives, use of local leaders (parish chiefs and local council) and door to door word-of-mouth dialogues were deployed to inform community members about upcoming consultation activities which resulted into massive turn ups. Every daily community engagement was accentuated with an evening community call-in radio talk show that discussed LIFE-AR program and associated potential to address prevailing community level climate change effects.

Table 3: Community Level Consultations and Engagement

No.	District	Date	Stakeholder Categories	Gender		Youth	PWDs	Total
				Male	Female			
1	Pader	28 th -31 st August 2024	8 national team ,6 District team ,3 Journalist and 6 parish leaders, 708 community meeting	389	342			731
2	Kibaale	5 th -10 th August 2024	10 national team ,6 District team ,9 and 140 community members	248	363			611
3	Kalungu	16 th - 23 rd July 2024	5 national team, 6 district and 282 community members	193	100	20		293

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4	Kaabong	30 th July – 3 rd Aug 2024	6 national team, 4 district team and 419 community.	220	207	168		437
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Source: Uganda LIFE-AR Annual Progress Report (April 2024-March 2025)

A training focused on sensitizing the Parish Climate Change Committee about their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the Decentralized Climate Finance Mechanism was held across all four pilot districts on dates captured in the table below. It also entailed positioning the Parish Climate Change Committee as partners in undertaking effective Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning of the adaptation investments.

Table 4: Representation in the Training of Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCC)

No.	District	Date	Stakeholder Categories	Gender		Youth	PWDs	Total
				Male	Female			
1	Pader	16 th -18 th Oct 2024	8 national team, 10 district team, 3 journalist and 56 PCCC	52	25	29		77
2	Kibaale	16 th – 18 th Oct 2024	5 national team, 10 district team, 1 journalist and 51 PCCC	40	26	23		66
3	Kalungu	23 rd -25 th Oct 2024	6 national team, 14 district team, 1 journalist and 61 PCCC	33	48	20		81
4	Kaabong	23 rd – 25 th Oct 2024	6 national team, 15 District team, 2 journalist and 59 PCCC	57	25	38		80

Source: Uganda LIFE-AR Annual Progress Report (April 2024-March 2025)

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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. To frame this within the ESP risk categories, the community prioritised investments have been mainly Category B and C. It is anticipated that the USPs in the AF-funded programme will similarly be category B and C however it will depend on community choice: at inception project activities are unknown, but through the DCF process the AF's ESP and GP will be addressed via the EMSP process.

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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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Occurrence of Climate Hazard ● Climate Vulnerability ● Gender and Equity ● Equitable representation of the Water and Management Zones in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. The AF Programme 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 LIFE-AR funding arrangements, 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. MoWE’s NIE status will aid the transition to let 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 (unidentified sub-projects), 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 6 sub-counties 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 . 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.

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 . Aligning investment selection to the participatory CRVA will not only inevitably reduce exposure to climate related hazards and threats but also strengthen awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level, thereby directly contributing to the AF Strategic Results framework outcomes 1 and 3. The selection process for new investments in the sub-counties will follow the same participatory guidelines outlined by the DCF mechanism (with modifications to comply with AF's policies) 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, and potential risks and hazards to communities such as floods, earthquakes, economic downturns and public health crises.

Additionally, resource mapping was conducted to (a) identify and map existing community assets, including infrastructure, social networks, local organizations, and human capital and (b) to 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 (including relevant policies). 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.

In Uganda, the Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) established under the National Climate Change Act, 2021 have a formal legal status within the local government structure. The Act provides for the establishment of climate change committees at both the district and lower local government levels. A PCCC is a type of "lower local government climate change committee". The District Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) is designated as the primary committee responsible for climate change matters in a district. The Act stipulates that a local government shall appoint lower-level climate change committees based on the advice of the District ENR Committee. Hence, this appointment process gives the PCCCs a legal mandate from their respective local

governments to address climate change issues within their local jurisdictions. Besides, the Act empowers farmers and other local stakeholders to participate in the design of ordinances and bylaws related to climate change through these lower-level committees

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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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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-counties 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: Selection and prioritization of potential investments will follow the Decentralized Climate Finance (DCF) guidelines, beginning with community-generated lists of climate adaptation and resilience priorities. Direct beneficiaries will continue to participate actively in decision-making at the selection of projects. At parish level, communities contribute to needs identification and the selection of investments, with documented evidence of participation. The PCCC will evaluate the proposed projects using the strategic and technical criteria outlined below, ensuring that selected AF –supported investments are high-impact public goods that deliver measurable and sustainable resilience benefits. As part of this process, all proposed investments will also undergo the AF ’s required screening for USPs . This includes an initial risk identification step that examines potential environmental and social impacts in line with the Fund’s 15 Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) principles and Gender Policy (tool to be developed using PFG).

Table 7: Technical and strategic criteria for investment prioritization

Strategic criteria for Climate resilience investments	Technical Criteria for Climate Resilience Investments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.

As specific USP activities become more clearly defined during parish-level planning, the screening process becomes iterative, requiring updated assessments proportionate to the level of risk identified. The responsible district officers (with the aid of PIU if needed) will support the PCCC to ensure that each USP complies with the AF’s safeguards, that findings are documented, and that required mitigation measures are integrated into the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Any proposed activity that poses unmanageable risks (as per the strategic criteria) or contravenes AF principles will be rejected. The screening process also links directly to the community feedback and grievance mechanism to ensure that concerns arising from USP design or implementation are addressed promptly. Through this combined prioritization and USP screening process, the programme ensures that investments are community-driven, technically feasible, socially inclusive, environmentally sound, and fully compliant with Adaptation Fund safeguard requirements.

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. Where ESMPs are required, in line with the AF's ESP and GP these will be done at this stage for relevant USPs. A tool to aid this will be developed using PFG

**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.

Direct beneficiaries will continue to participate actively in decision-making during procurement because at least two PCCC members from the beneficiary parish are required to join the development of specifications, review bidding documents, witness bid opening, and sit on bid evaluation committees to ensure transparency and local relevance.

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. Thus, the PCCCs take on a formal contract-management role on behalf of the community—conducting regular site checks, verifying materials, liaising with technical staff, and flagging design or performance issues. Because Component 1 contains fully unidentified sub-projects (USPs) —with locations known but activity types finalized during implementation—the delivery approach follows both the LIFE-AR Implementation Guidelines and the Adaptation Fund's Updated Guidance on USPs (Decision B.39/52).

In the project, no USP may begin implementation until its environmental and social risks have been identified, consultations have been held, gender considerations have been integrated, and the project's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been updated to include the USP-specific mitigation measures.

Once an activity has passed the USP screening and safeguards process, the PCCCs are responsible for ensuring that approved USP investments are executed in line with agreed timelines, budgets, safeguard requirements, and technical specifications. With the aid of responsible officers, PCCCs also document each USP's compliance process, including consultations and local verification of safeguards measures.

Where Service Providers are engaged to deliver specific interventions, the PCCCs oversee their work and ensure that contractual terms—including adherence to USP-related risk management, ESMP provisions, and community engagement requirements—are met (with the aid of responsible officers where needed for USP-related issues). Service Providers must follow the procedures outlined in the USP screening tools and are required to report on any environmental or social issues emerging during execution.

Sub-counties and districts provide technical backstopping throughout the USP identification and implementation cycle. Their responsibilities include:

- supporting PCCCs to apply USP screening tools,
- ensuring compliance with national procurement, financial management, and environmental regulations,
- verifying that any required permits or environmental approvals (such as from NEMA) are in place before implementation,
- and strengthening PCCC capacity where gaps exist, especially related to safeguards and supervision.

Each PCCC plays a direct role in ensuring that implementation—especially for USPs—is inclusive, transparent, and accountable to community members. This includes mobilising local labour where applicable, tracking progress on delivery, monitoring the application of safeguards at the USP level, and engaging community feedback and grievance mechanisms so that concerns related to USP risks or impacts can be raised and addressed early.

Monitoring and evaluation: For Component 1, which includes fully unidentified sub-projects (USPs), the monitoring and evaluation system will follow both the LIFE-AR Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework and the Adaptation Fund's USP monitoring and reporting requirements. This means that monitoring will track not only progress and contract performance, but also the environmental and social risk status, safeguards compliance, gender actions, and community feedback for each USP from screening through implementation. The PFG will be used to adapt existing MEL frameworks to do this.

Participatory monitoring will be institutionalized through periodic community-validated progress reports prepared by the Parish Chief and PCCC, while community contracting may be used where feasible to promote local labour and suppliers. Continuous community feedback will be ensured through publicly displayed procurement results, parish-level meetings, and reporting channels that allow beneficiaries to raise concerns throughout construction and operation. Thus, the PCCC will implement the monitoring plan approved in the project proposal and prepare Project Monitoring Reports using the LIFE-AR reporting template, supplemented with USP-specific monitoring forms required by the Adaptation Fund. Each PCCC will therefore track, with escalation to the appropriate responsible officer in local government where required:

- Progress against activity timelines and budgets; Compliance with USP safeguards screening, mitigation measures, and ESMP updates; Gender-responsive actions and inclusiveness of implementation; Community feedback and grievances raised through the GRM; Any changes in USP environmental or social risks requiring adaptive management
- Performance of Service Providers against USP-related conditions; Where monitoring reveals that a Service Provider is not meeting contract conditions—or is not complying with USP safeguards measures—the PCCC will:

- Advise the STPC immediately regarding any suspected misappropriation or diversion of funds, or possible fraud, corruption, or failure to comply with environmental and social obligations under a USP
- Require corrective measures to ensure the Service Provider meets contractual terms and USP safeguards requirements
- If non-compliance persists, terminate the contract, initiate community-based protective measures, and seek to recoup any funds disbursed
- Document all actions and report them upward using the USP incident-reporting procedure

Capacity building for PCCCs, including training on USP monitoring, safeguards compliance, and incident reporting, is provided under Component 2.

Assessment of project completion: Upon completion of the project or each USP—or at the completion of the construction phase where applicable—the PCCC will:

- Conduct a USP completion assessment, including verification that all safeguards and ESMP mitigation measures have been implemented
- Review sustainability requirements and establish or strengthen sustainability committees
- Document immediate results, early outcomes, and any emerging risks
- Confirm whether any post-completion monitoring obligations are required under the ESMP
- Verify completion to the STPC, district authorities, and the PIU

Each USP completion report will be consolidated into the district and national reporting system to fulfil the Adaptation Fund’s Project Performance Report (PPR) requirements.

Where necessary, the PIU may request an independent completion evaluation, especially for higher-risk USPs or those with significant infrastructure elements. Independent evaluations will assess adaptation outcomes, compliance with safeguards, gender responsiveness, and community satisfaction.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mapping <input type="checkbox"/> Climate information -	<input type="checkbox"/> PCCC consults community,	<input type="checkbox"/> Written record of consultations
2. Proposal Development at Parish level	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposal guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Criteria for funding guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Support from district/subcounty technical staff and/or local NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/> PCCC writes proposals and draw up draft budgets <input type="checkbox"/> Parish proposals consolidated & forwarded to subcounty	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposal, draft budget and written record of meetings including disaggregated attendance lists.

3. Proposal review and approval at Subcounty, District and national levels	<input type="checkbox"/> STPC meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Following up PCCC meetings as necessary <input type="checkbox"/> DTPC meeting <input type="checkbox"/> TWG meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Steering committee meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> STPC is convened <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC reps to take part <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented <input type="checkbox"/> SC proposals consolidated and forwarded to district <input type="checkbox"/> DTPC is convened <input type="checkbox"/> STPC reps to take part <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented <input type="checkbox"/> District proposals consolidated and forwarded to PIU <input type="checkbox"/> TWG is convened <input type="checkbox"/> DTPC reps to take part <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual endorsement and amendments agreed and implemented <input type="checkbox"/> National proposals consolidated and submitted to Steering Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Record of meeting including disaggregated attendance lists
4. Procurement	<input type="checkbox"/> Call for Proposals <input type="checkbox"/> Tender documents <input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider contract <input type="checkbox"/> Initial payment under contract	<input type="checkbox"/> PCCC review tenders <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC finalize proposal budget <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC Secretary issues contract with copy to PIU	<input type="checkbox"/> Quotes from tenders <input type="checkbox"/> Record of PCCC decision <input type="checkbox"/> Final budget <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes <input type="checkbox"/> Written Committee recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider contract
5. Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Work plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Communities, including PCCC, CMOs & SPs	<input type="checkbox"/> Record of activities undertaken
6. Monitoring of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings and field visits	<input type="checkbox"/> PCCC visits & report to STPC (as appropriate). <input type="checkbox"/> STPC & DTPC visits projects & report to PIU <input type="checkbox"/> PIU visits projects <input type="checkbox"/> Auditors and other independent evaluators conduct periodic visits/reviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Record of field visits <input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider progress report <input type="checkbox"/> Auditors' reports
7. Payments to Service Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider Budget Control report <input type="checkbox"/> Progress report <input type="checkbox"/> Letter requesting payment to SP approved by PCCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider sends report (plus receipts) to PCCC <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC reviews Service providers' reports/receipts and completes Budget Control report and sends to STPC for information. <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC approves payments to Service Provider. <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC requests PIU to make payment to Service Provider, providing copies of all relevant paperwork as needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Control reports <input type="checkbox"/> Invoices <input type="checkbox"/> Progress reports
8. Assessment of project completion	<input type="checkbox"/> Fulfilment report <input type="checkbox"/> Independent completion evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Letter requesting payment to SP approved by PCCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Service provider sends completion report to PCCC. <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC checks Service provider report and manages independent technical review and approves final payment to Service Provider. <input type="checkbox"/> PCCC requests PIU to make final payment to Service Provider.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fulfilment report <input type="checkbox"/> Independent completion evaluation report

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

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.

In view of this, the intended outcome of this component is enhanced capacity of sub-county and parish-level governance structures to plan, deliver, and oversee climate finance in an inclusive, accountable, and climate-responsive manner, aligned with LIFE-AR principles of locally led adaptation.

The outputs of the component include:

1. Political and technical leaders at district and sub-county levels trained in LIFE-AR, DCF, and USP governance and oversight.
2. Community governance structures (especially PCCCs) trained to lead participatory planning, USP screening, supervision, and community accountability processes.
3. Community members—including women, youth, elderly, PWDs, and other marginalised groups—trained and empowered to participate in USP identification, planning, monitoring, and decision-making.

To achieve the above outcome and outputs, the AF programme will implement three specific activities: Training Political and Technical Leaders at District and Sub-County Levels; Training Community Governance Structures (PCCCs and Community Committees); Training Community Members, Including Women, Youth, Elderly, and Marginalised Groups;

Component 2: Activity 2.1 Training Political and Technical Leaders at District and Sub-County Levels

This activity builds the capacity of district and sub-county leaders—both political (DEC, SEC) and technical (DTPC, STPC)—to oversee decentralized climate finance and fulfil their governance, fiduciary, and safeguards roles under LIFE-AR and the Adaptation Fund. The district political and technical leadership are already engaged 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 newly included sub-counties. Here, technical leadership is provided by the Sub-County technical planning committee (STPC), which 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 training of the political and technical leadership 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; USP Requirements, Including Screening, Safeguards Sequencing, And Documentation (pending development of training using USP using PFG); 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. This training will ensure that the political and technical leadership can: verify that USPs are screened and risk-assessed before approval; review and endorse community-generated proposals; ensure compliance with government procedures and AF safeguards; and provide technical oversight and support to PCCCs during USP implementation.

Component 2: Activity 2.2 Training Community Governance Structures (PCCCs and Community Committees)

At the community level, the key structure for implementation of LIFE-AR activities is the PCCC. Under this activity, PCCCs and relevant community committees will be trained to: Conduct community mobilization and facilitate participatory planning; Apply the USP screening tools required by the Adaptation Fund; Use the DCF strategic and technical criteria to prioritize investments; Document community consultations and ensure inclusive decision making; Monitor USP implementation, safeguards compliance, labour mobilization, and grievances; and, Prepare USP progress reports using LIFE-AR reporting templates. Relevant officers from Sub-county level will provide assistance and backstopping where needed.

The training of the PCCCs will draw on the established DCF curriculum and include: Roles and responsibilities of community structures; USP monitoring, safeguards compliance, and incident reporting; Environmental and social safeguards; Climate risk assessment methods; Community procurement and contract supervision; and Tools for resilience planning and community visioning. Besides, specialized training on GESI integration and MEL will be delivered to PCCC members and Sub-County technical staff.

Component 2: Activity 2.3 Training Community Members, Including Women, Youth, Elderly, Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups

This activity will (a) help strengthen the capacity of community members – especially the women, youth, elderly, disabled, most marginalized and vulnerable – to participate meaningfully in: Climate risk identification; USP identification and prioritization; Planning and budgeting of investments; Monitoring, feedback, and grievance reporting; and Sustainability and management of completed USPs (b) ensure that women, youth, people with disabilities, any disadvantaged groups, and the elderly can influence decisions at every stage—including decisions around USP design, risk mitigation, and monitoring.

Community members will receive training in Understanding the DCF cycle and how decisions are made; Access, use and documentation of gender disaggregated data, Representation and participation of all groups especially the most marginalised in decision making; Rights-based approaches to participation; Roles of communities in safeguards implementation and oversight, and Utilization of the Pamoja Voices Toolkit for participatory resilience planning. They will also be trained in GESI integration and MEL, ensuring GESI principles and the needs and voices of marginalized groups are prioritized, including within plans for ecosystem restoration. 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.

Component 3 has the following outputs:

1. LIFE-AR MEL system strengthened and operationalized for investment and USP tracking and adaptive management
2. Inclusive learning platforms established and supported at community, district, and national levels.
3. Knowledge management system developed and used to document, store, and disseminate lessons and good practices (including USP lessons).
4. National and cross-country knowledge exchange strengthened through learning visits, partnerships, and engagement with regional/global platforms.

Based on the above, the component has four activities, namely, Strengthening the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System for LIFE-AR and USP Tracking; Establishing and Facilitating Inclusive Learning Platforms at Community, District, and National Levels; Developing a National Knowledge Management System for Documenting and Sharing Lessons, Stories of Change, and Good Practices; and, Facilitating National and Cross-Country Knowledge Exchange, Learning Visits, and Participation in Regional and Global Adaptation Networks.

Component 3: Activity 3.1: Strengthening the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System for LIFE-AR and USP Tracking

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. In this regard, the LIFE-AR MEL WG has already developed several tools to operationalise the national MEL plan (some aspects of which outlined in Component 1 activity 1.4).

In view of the above, this AF Programme under Activity 3.1 will ensure that LIFE-AR's MEL system—at national, district, and community levels—is fully functional and able to collect, analyze, report and use data on: performance of investments including USPs; compliance with AF safeguards and ESMP requirements; gender-responsive and socially inclusive outcomes; community perceptions and Most Significant Change (MSC) stories; and, effectiveness of institutional arrangements and governance.

The specific activities to be supported include: rolling out finalized LIFE-AR MEL tools (self-assessment, MSC storytelling, community monitoring templates, USP documentation templates); training district MEL teams and DNROs on investment and USP-specific data requirements; improving data flows from PCCCs and STPCs to districts and the PIU; and, consolidating USP screening, ESMP updates, and monitoring results for reporting in AF Project Performance Reports (PPRs). As a result of this activity, it is envisaged that Uganda will be able to generate reliable evidence on the performance, risks, and outcomes of investments including USPs and adjust implementation as needed.

Component 3: Activity 3.2: Establishing and Facilitating Inclusive Learning Platforms at Community, District, and National Levels

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.

In view of the above, this activity will support structured learning processes among local actors, government institutions, academia, and communities of support will cover (i) establishing/strengthening community and district learning platforms (ii) convening regular reflection sessions —including learning focused on investments and USPs. This is to reflect on investment and USP implementation progress, risks, safeguards performance, and community experiences (iii) holding at least three knowledge-sharing events annually per district (iv) facilitating feedback loops from communities and districts to the PIU (v) supporting the Climate Change Department (CCD), Makerere University, LUCCC, and other partners to convene national learning dialogues. The learning, challenges, and experiences obtained from the platforms will be fed back into policy, planning, and programme design.

Component 3: Activity 3.3: Developing a National Knowledge Management System for Documenting and Sharing Lessons, Stories of Change, and Good Practices

A KM system strengthens evidence-based decision-making and supports replication and scaling of effective investments and USPs across districts and LDC countries. Hence, this activity will build a structured knowledge management (KM) system to accordingly capture lessons from the roll-out of LIFE-AR and USP implementation.

The KM system will be supported to: collect and curate learning from USP screening, ESMP updates, community monitoring, and completion assessments; maintain a national repository of stories of change, case studies, best practices, and guidance notes; support PIU reporting and adaptation of the LIFE-AR model; generate targeted knowledge products (briefs, summaries, guidance notes, infographics); and tailor products to different user groups (communities, district leaders, national policymakers, regional LDC networks). In general, knowledge products will be co-designed with users to ensure uptake, and communications will be localized and tailored to reach diverse audiences with specific needs.

Component 3: Activity 3.4: Facilitating National and Cross-Country Knowledge Exchange, Learning Visits, and Participation in Regional and Global Adaptation Networks

This activity will support the programme to expand knowledge sharing beyond project districts by leveraging national, regional, and global platforms. The activity will include: (a) facilitating district-to-district learning visits focused on successful USP implementation (b) hosting national-level learning events involving CCD, LUCCC, Makerere University, and other national bodies (c) supporting participation in platforms such as NCCAC, Uganda Water and Environment Week, agriculture shows, and NRCLWM programme dialogues (d) promoting cross-country learning through webinars, virtual workshops, and South-South exchanges among LDCs (e) sharing Uganda's experiences with USP governance, safeguards, and MEL through LDC-wide and global adaptation networks. A multimedia communication strategy will be used to support dissemination of investment and USP lessons to a broad audience.

It is envisaged that through this activity Uganda will be better positioned as a contributor to the global adaptation learning community and for strengthening sustainability and scaling of the LIFE-AR approach.

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 AF's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy. The strategic criteria (Table 4) guiding the prioritization of investments under Uganda's DCF mechanism are intentionally designed to promote gender equality and social inclusion by focusing on public goods that benefit a broad population, particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other marginalised groups. Investments will strengthen climate resilience, reduce vulnerability to climate shocks and foster social cohesion through fosters trust, inclusivity and shared responsibility within communities, promoting collective action inclusive governance structures that empower historically excluded groups to participate in decision-making.

Initial gender assessment and integration into design

As part of the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), ~~and Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) and community consultations undertaken in the four pilot districts,~~ the programme has conducted ~~two~~ preliminary gender assessments ~~to identify differentiated climate vulnerabilities and structural constraints affecting women, youth, PWDs and the elderly (Annex 3), through household surveys.~~ For the CRVA, the ~~assessment collected data and analyzed structural barriers affecting women, youth, PWDs, and other marginalized groups across dimensions such as access to land and resources, decision making power, exposure to climate hazards, access to climate information, education, mobility, and participation in adaptation planning.~~ This information will be validated with communities through consultations facilitated by the Pamoja Voices Resilience Planning Toolkit. The toolkit addresses structural inequalities by creating safe spaces for marginalized voices, ensuring separate group discussions on climate challenges, decision making dynamics over key resources and priorities for adaptation and resilience.

~~Across pilot districts, consultations engaged over 3,000 participants, with strong inclusion of women, youth, elders and PWDs, providing preliminary sex- and age-disaggregated insights.~~

~~Initial findings from the CRVA~~ Findings show that:

- ~~—women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid labor (water and fuel collection, weeding, post-harvest processing)~~
- ~~- have limited control over productive resources~~
- ~~- face heightened risks of gender-based violence during periods of resource scarcity~~
- ~~- Youth experience high unemployment and restricted access to land and financial services.~~
- ~~— The elderly and PWD face mobility constraints and reduced find it difficult to access to basic social services during floods and extreme weather events, and health care facilities and services during flooding periods, hence making them more vulnerable due to immobility challenges~~
- ~~- Despite strong participation, women, youth and PWDs continue to face barriers to meaningful influence in local decision making.~~

~~For the CNA the programme collected information on gender inclusion and participation in climate change interventions. The study findings indicate the following gender inclusion structures within districts.~~

~~These differentiated vulnerabilities have directly informed project design choices in the initial pilot areas. Specifically:~~

- ~~• The first round of Investment priorities focus on water access, agroforestry and climate-resilient infrastructure to reduce women and girls' time poverty, lower exposure to risk and ease care burdens.~~
- ~~• Inclusive governance arrangements have been embedded through Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) with a mandatory 40% quota for women and marginalized groups, and deliberate placement of women in leadership roles.~~

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- Participatory planning approaches, including the Pamoja Voices Resilience Planning Toolkit create safe spaces for women, youth and PWDs to articulate priorities and influence investment decisions.
- Youth-focused livelihood pathways are integrated through climate-resilient value chains and employment-generating investments.
- Accessibility considerations guide engagement processes and investment screening to address the mobility constraints of PWDs and the elderly.
- Multi-channel communication strategies (radio, road drives, community meetings) ensure equitable access to climate information for groups with limited literacy or digital access.

- ~~— There is a gender unit at the district and subcounty level that is responsible for women, youth, elderly, community development and probation activities.~~
- ~~— There elected special interest committees for women, youth and PWDs at the village level which act as avenues for engagement and participation of special interests groups in the development process.~~
- ~~— Women are represented on Parish Development Committees (PDCS) responsible for identifying local needs and development priorities at parish level. The PDC provides for one third of members on the executive committees to be women and with representation of women, youth and disabled.~~

~~The following gender issues were identified by the programme CNA:~~

- ~~— Gender based violence was reported especially during the time of harvesting crops for sale.~~
- ~~— Passive involvement of women during community meetings especially when men and in laws are in attendance.~~
- ~~— The majority of men stay away from community meetings and a few that attend control meetings.~~
- ~~— The opinions of women, youth and PWDs are often not considered or prioritised.~~
- ~~— Limited participation of PWDs in meetings due to lack of transport facilitation~~
- ~~— Men usually bar women from taking up leadership roles in the community~~

Insights from this applied experience will inform the design of USPs under the proposed Adaptation Fund programme.

Building on this initial gender assessment, the programme will undertake a full gender analysis at full proposal stage, including including development of a Gender Action Plan with clear targets, budget allocations, monitoring indicators and disaggregated data (sex, age, disability and social group). This will be validated through community consultations during implementation, ensuring full alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy and strengthening accountability for equitable outcomes.

~~Insights from the studies and processes will inform programme design by embedding measures that dismantle structural inequalities such as prioritizing investments that reduce time poverty for women, improving accessibility for PWDs and the elderly etc.~~

~~At the full proposal stage, the programme will use findings from the CRVA and CNA to develop a comprehensive Gender Action Plan that will be validated with communities during implementation. This plan will translate identified structural inequalities and differentiated vulnerabilities into actionable measures with clear targets, budgets and monitoring indicators. It will include disaggregated data (sex/age/social group) and outline strategies to ensure equitable access to resources, decision-making and benefits for women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.~~

Economic benefits

- 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. Based on the beneficiary data from the first 12 LIFE-AR pilot sub-counties (which reached an estimated 203,000 people), the proposed expansion to 23 additional sub-counties with AF support is projected to benefit approximately 380,000 - 400,000 people. Each sub-county is estimated to reach around 16,900 people, assuming similar investment priorities. Beneficiaries will include diverse groups, with an indicative demographic profile of 55% female and 45% male and 55% under 18 years. These estimates reflect the gender and age distribution observed in pilot interventions such as borehole installations and woodlot management. The anticipated benefits include improved access to water, enhanced connectivity, ecosystem restoration, livelihood diversification and strengthened local governance. These figures are preliminary and will be refined during the full proposal development.

Social benefits

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 (Table 1). Inclusive governance through Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) with a mandatory 40% representation of women and marginalized groups, ensures equitable participation. Women are appointed to leadership roles in project committees and participatory tools such as the *Pamoja Voices Toolkit* enable marginalized groups to meaningfully articulate priorities. Adaptation investments such as boreholes and agroforestry will reduce gender-based violence linked to resource scarcity, improve food security and enhance health outcomes. Awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives will further empower vulnerable groups to engage in adaptation planning.

i.

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. ~~Vulnerable groups will be prioritised using inclusion mechanisms institutionalised under LIFE AR. These include GESI sensitive Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) that encompass a 40% quota for women as well as quotas for youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly. 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.~~
- ~~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. ~~P participatory planning tools such as the simplified Pamoja Voices Toolkit have already ensured representation of vulnerable groups in the pilot areas. 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.~~
- iv. ~~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.~~
- iv. ~~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.~~
- iv. ~~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.~~

Commented [LM1]: Already covered above

Mitigating Environmental and Social negative impacts

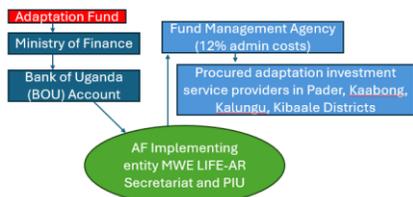
- i. The program incorporates environmental stewardship and social safeguards into its design. District Natural Resources Officers serve as focal points to oversee the implementation of investments and ensure compliance with environmental standards at the district level. These efforts are complemented 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.

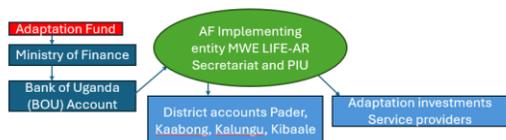
To address the persistent challenge of insufficient climate funding reaching local levels, Uganda has developed a nationally owned Devolved Climate Finance (DCF) mechanism, which forms the backbone of this programme. The DCF is specifically designed to operationalise the LIFE-AR Offers, aiming to create 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.

Under the pre-AF funding LIFE-AR arrangements, a Financial Management Agent (FMA) is being used to execute transactions based on the guidance of the Ugandan LIFE-AR PIU. The Adaptation Fund programme could continue to use this arrangement (known as “option 1”). However, with MoWE’s status as a National Implementing Entity, option 2 would be to use the government system and separate account at the Bank of Uganda (BOU) to execute transactions. Ultimately, the goal is to channel climate finance through government systems and eliminate the cost of intermediaries altogether. The assessment of the cost effectiveness is as follows:



Option 1: Use of DCF/LIFE-AR Mechanism including existing FMA: The funds from AF would be channeled through the FMA (currently IUCN) where separate accounts would be opened for national and district implementers. The LIFE-AR PIU would be engaged in the processing of payment requests submitted by the service providers used by the MoWE, districts and communities. The LIFE-AR PIU will be responsible for the technical management aspects of the support while the FMA will be exclusively involved in handling

payments; the FMA will not make decision on what to pay or not to pay because this will have been handled at the PIU level before the request for payment is sent to the FMA for final verification of payments. Currently, UK FCDO, Canada and Irish Aid are channeling finance through IIED, the designated interim fund manager of LIFE-AR, who then grants it to IUCN for financing LIFE-AR activities in the country in conjunction with MoWE. The reflection of this flow of funds under a scenario of receiving funds from AF not IIED is illustrated in the figure below:



Option 2: Use of DCF/LIFE-AR Mechanism, with financial management through the Government System and Separate Account in Bank of Uganda: In this option, the government finance management system would be used. In so doing, a separate designated account at BOU would be created for receiving AF

funds earmarked for LIFE-AR activities in the country, making it simpler to keep and trace funding sourced for LIFE-AR from AF. BOU would then open MoWE Operational Account for LIFE-AR and District LIFE-AR Holding Accounts. MoWE would develop executing partner agreements with the Districts to ensure transparent fund management. The PIU at MoWE would be engaged in triggering any disbursements from the two accounts to the service providers engaged by MoWE and the districts. Currently, MoWE has many donor projects that use this approach.

Figure 3: 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.

Cost-effectiveness comparison of two options:

Aspect	Option 1 (FMA)	Option 2 (Government DCF)
Transaction costs	High intermediary fees; less funds reach communities	Minimal intermediary costs; more funds available for direct investment

Operational efficiency	Some duplication between FMA and PIU	Fully integrated with existing MoWE systems; marginal additional cost
Sustainability	Dependent on external agency	Builds national capacity, strengthens government systems, and supports direct access to finance
Alignment with local priorities	Limited; FMA primarily administrative	Fully aligned with DCF mechanism and sub-national planning
Risk of leakage	Higher due to multiple intermediaries	Reduced; funds managed in government systems with full traceability
Donor confidence / scalability	Limited to FMA model	Increases confidence in national systems; enables scaling to other funding sources
Time to implementation	Moderate; reliant on FMA coordination	Immediate; existing government systems in place and functional
Institutional strengthening	Minimal; capacity remains outside government	High; civil servants gain hands-on experience in fund management

The selection of DCF as a model for adaptation action in Uganda was chosen after careful consideration during the Establishment Phase of LIFE-AR. Four models were compared, namely, Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grants (PBCRGs), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Parish Development Model (PDM) and Devolved Climate Finance (DCF). While PBCRGs strengthen local government systems, they rely heavily on administrative capacity and may not consistently reflect community priorities without strong participatory mechanisms. VSLAs empower households and small groups through micro-loans for resilience-related livelihoods; however, they operate at a limited scale, cannot finance larger public-good investments (e.g., water infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, drainage works etc), and do not directly connect to government adaptation planning or safeguards systems. PDM is a national economic transformation model that mobilises communities effectively, but its mandate is primarily economic rather than climate-focused, and it lacks the structured climate risk analysis, safeguards, and technical processes required for high-quality adaptation investment.

DCF was found most easily adaptable for empowering PCCCs and sub-county structures to identify, prioritize, procure, and manage adaptation investments—guided by safeguards, transparency rules, and technical oversight. Unlike other models, DCF enables communities to influence decisions across the entire investment cycle (planning, procurement, implementation, and monitoring), including for larger public goods. The DCF mechanism was the preferred model because it specifically and systematically targets climate resilience using inclusive, community-led planning that is integrated into Uganda’s formal local government budgeting and oversight systems. Value for Money: 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 reduces climate risk but also spurs 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 of 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. 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.
- 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 Plans and 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 2020/3 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.
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA 2022) and Technology Action Plan (TAP) call for deployment of environmentally sound technologies that support climate smart interventions to build resilient communities and ecosystems. This affirms the overall impact of proposed investments which is to build resilient communities, ecosystems and economies. Many

recommended adaptable technologies in the TAP (eg modern fishery technologies and low-cost appropriate water for production facilities in water stressed areas) may suit action in climate induced dry spells and crop failures highlighted in Kaabong and Pader CRVA analysis reports.

- National Adaptation Plan: Although Uganda's NAP process is at CRVA level, it has developed sector specific NAPs for the Agriculture (NAP-Ag) and Health sector (H-NAP) respectively. Though DCF does not operate in sectors, the NAP-Ag and H-NAP remain relevant (the former provides for resilience measures including establishment of water for production facilities and timely dissemination of climate information to inform farming decisions, the latter seeks to align resilient health systems through integration of climate change adaptation strategies). The 2024 LIFE-AR CRVA Report of pilot districts flagged failed agriculture seasons and higher incidences of water borne diseases induced by extreme weather events. Therefore, the proposed AF program will directly contribute to the building the implementation of Uganda's NAPs.

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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			
i. Community and district inclusive learning platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved learning outcomes and acquired skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge systems for scaling up adaptation. 	SDG 4 – Quality Education

<p>established and facilitated to function.</p> <p>ii. At least three knowledge sharing events held annually in each selected district.</p> <p>iii. A knowledge repository to distil change stories and lessons developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased accountability, stability and civic participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>SDG 13 – Climate Action</p> <p>SDG 16 – Peace & Institutions</p>
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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.

At community and investment implementation level, relevant governance organs such as the PCCC, district LIFE-AR Team and the National Secretariat will be established, sensitized and trained through case studies to ensure a common understanding of the applicability and compliance with service delivery standards for local governments in Uganda. The local government service delivery standards provide for adherence to principles of client focus, transparency, accountability, cost efficiency, effectiveness, participation and equity. Measurement of adherence to these principles will be expressed through parameters of quantity, quality, cost, time, process workflow, coverage and

accountability to ensure consistency and uniformity in delivery of climate adaptation services to targeted communities. The PFG will be used to adapt exiting MEL to track these aspects too.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 global [LIFE-AR strategy](#) is dedicated to systematically capturing lessons, documenting good practices, developing tailored knowledge products and disseminating them across multiple platforms and audiences. Component 3 of this programme is dedicated to knowledge management and learning, as described in Section A.4.

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. This will be used in this AF-funded programme to support the outcomes in Component 3. 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. Participation in this feedback mechanism will be facilitated through existing structures like quarterly district barazzas organized by districts. Continuous reflection includes assessing LIFE-AR's implementation through structured learning questions related to its principles, the Ask & Offer approach and the DCF mechanism. There will be designated MEL focal persons at district, community and investment level to ensure functional feedback mechanisms. These focal persons will undergo hands-on training on the applicability of developed MEL tools to collect and share information, using practical examples from prior LIFE-AR investments implemented in other sub-counties. This will build capacity readiness to seamlessly engage with the national MEL focal person and participate in quarterly MEL working group meetings hinged on capturing key emerging lessons, achievements, challenges and trigger factors thereof. These meetings will be crowned with quarterly MEL bulletins and briefs to build a body of knowledge that facilitates evidence based adaptive management.

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 (Component 3 Activity 3.3), 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. Examples of this are the utilisation of existing district structures for example the District Natural resource officer, subcounty officer and community development officers. 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 LUGCC 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 to ensure long-term sustainability by embedding adaptation actions within existing government systems, strengthening local governance structures and strengthening individual and institutional capacities.

All community-level investments (USPs), are formally anchored within district sector departments (e.g. Works, Water, Production, Forestry), which assume responsibility for operation, maintenance and monitoring after project closure. Districts integrate these assets into annual workplans, asset registers and budgets while trained User Committees and grievance mechanisms manage day-to-day oversight and minor maintenance contributions from communities. Technical supervision and guidance will continue through Ministry Regional Support Centers, ensuring quality standards for infrastructure, natural resource management and climate-smart practices. For example, community access roads will be overseen by the Ministry of Works and Transport with maintenance fully integrated into district work plans.

To sustain local governance and technical support, the programme strengthens Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) and other community structures to lead participatory planning, resource mobilization, procurement and monitoring. Capacity strengthening is embedded in all phases including the programme's Training of Trainers (ToT) approach that has created a pool of skilled facilitators at national and sub-national levels, ensuring the continued rollout of LIFE-AR's delivery model. Partnerships with academic institutions like UMI and Makerere University (through LUCCC) institutionalise adaptation knowledge, enabling continuous learning and nationwide scale out.

Long-term financing is supported by integrating Local Climate Change Action Plans into district development plans, annual budgets and national frameworks (District Development Plans, Annual Budget Framework Papers, Fourth National Development Plan, updated NDC and the Public Investment Plan). This makes the plans eligible for financing through national budget allocations, conditional grants and the Ministry of Finance's climate budget tagging system. This institutional pathway reduces dependence on project-based financing. Targeted training in resource mobilization will enable districts and communities to independently mobilize resources from a wider range of sources including the GCF and MDBs for maintaining and scaling the USP investments beyond the project period.

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. These systems are embedded within existing government coordination mechanisms and low-cost digital platforms to facilitate ongoing learning and adaptive management. Their operational costs will be absorbed within district budgets and sector coordination activities ensuring continuity beyond the project.

Finally, the USPs provide proof of concept for scalable investments. Their sustainability is secured through formal handover to districts, community-led operation and maintenance, continuous technical backstopping and integration into sub-county and district adaptation plans. This approach ensures that local communities can continue to implement, monitor and scale adaptation actions effectively without dependency on project-based donor funding, while fostering long-term institutional ownership, transparency and resilience.

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

The proposed programme builds on the LIFE-AR initiative’s foundational principles of locally led adaptation and devolved climate financing. While the actual investments to be supported by the Adaptation Fund (AF) will be determined through inclusive, community-driven processes, the programme draws on precedent interventions from the initial round of LIFE-AR implementation to anticipate potential environmental and social impacts.

To anticipate and prepare for potential environmental and social impacts, the programme has provisionally screened likely intervention types based on past community priorities. These examples are illustrative and not prescriptive. The screening matrix below reflects the types of impacts and risks that similar community-driven investments may generate and will be updated once specific interventions are finalized.

Project component	Identified Risk	AF Risk Category	Justification for Category	Environmental & Social Impacts
Deep borehole construction	Groundwater depletion; construction disturbance; noise and dust	Category B	Localized, reversible impacts mitigated through governance and training	Improved water access; strengthened governance via water user committees
Wetland restoration	Temporary habitat disruption; risk of non-native species introduction	Category B	Restoration may cause short-term disturbance but yields long-term benefits	Ecosystem services restored; biodiversity enhanced
Drought-tolerant fruit trees	Non-Significant	Category C	No adverse impacts; nature-based and community-led	Climate-resilient agriculture; improved food security
Access road rehabilitation	Erosion; disruption during construction; sediment runoff	Category B	Infrastructure works are reversible and mitigable	Improved mobility and access to services
Sustainable waste management	Mishandling of waste; exclusion of vulnerable groups	Category B	Risks are minor and mitigable with proper systems	Reduced pollution; improved public health
Valley tanks for water production	Land use change; water system pressure; potential for waterlogging	Category B	Moderate, site-specific impacts; mitigable through planning	Supports irrigation, livestock, aquaculture
Agroforestry and ecosystem restoration	Non-Significant	Category C	Nature-based, low-risk, and community-driven	Biodiversity, soil health, and livelihoods improved

All environmental and social risks will be assessed transparently by the EOs at the district level once the specific activities are determined. There is reference in the PFG to ongoing work to strengthen this process.

Given the use of USP, The sub-projects under Component 1 are currently **fully unidentified sub-projects (USPs)** meaning specific districts and sub-countries 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.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		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.
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.

ANNEX 1 - Section of minutes from the cross-governmental task team meeting, demonstrating the discussion and backing of starting this CN to expand the DCF mechanism

Min. 4: Considerations for the Adaptation Fund Application Under the LLA Windows.

The discussion led by the Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Water and Environment focused on the following; LIFE-AR is drafting a proposal for funding by the Adaptation Fund under the LLA window.

- The process has commenced with a concept note that needs to be completed by 28th February 2025 to allow the secretariat

acquire the endorsement from the NDA and submit to the Adaptation Fund by Task team was tasked to guide the decision making around the coverage to be considered within the application. Two options were fronted (see attachment); (1) Additional funding for the first four (4) districts of Kalungu, Kibaale, Kaabong and Pader, or (2) Funding for all the 12 districts (first four plus remaining 8)

- The meeting agreed to the approach of Deepening within the four districts with additional funding for 2-3 new sub-counties per district. The argument was that the first four districts have already been prepared and have identified investments. Secondly, the existing funding for investments is very minimal and will not cause great impact given the geographical wideness of most of the sub counties
- The need to enumerate the criteria for provision of additional funding for first set of sub-counties (e.g. the nature of public Investment selected) by latest 15th March 2025.
- The task team was also requested to support the development of the concept note.

Agreed Action

- Concept note to be shared with the Task team for input.
- Feedback expected by 15th February 2025
- Lule will assign the sections of the concept note to specific members of the Task team. However, all members of the task team are encouraged to input and, in all sections, where possible

ATTENDANCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Gender M / F</u>	<u>PW D</u>	<u>Age (18-35 ; 36-60; >60)</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Nagaddva Ruth</u>	<u>Gender Officer</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development</u>
<u>Atwine Peninah</u>	<u>Programme Officer</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>36-60</u>	<u>Environment Alert</u>
<u>Ovat Michael</u>	<u>Senior Gender Officer</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>36-60</u>	<u>Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development</u>
<u>Atim Joel</u>	<u>Senior Inspector</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>36-60</u>	<u>Ministry of Local Government</u>
<u>Kvomuhendo Harriet</u>	<u>AC Policy Analysis/ LIFEAR Alternate Focal Point</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>36-60</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment/ Policy and Planning Department</u>
<u>Lule Joseph</u>	<u>Senior Policy Analyst</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment/ Policy and Planning Department</u>
<u>Scovia Akot (Chair)</u>	<u>Ag. SCCO/LIFEAR National Focal Point</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment/ Climate Change Department</u>
<u>Ageno Joyce</u>	<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment</u>
<u>Okello Enock</u>	<u>ITO</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment</u>
<u>Ismail Hiire</u>	<u>Communications Officer</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>18-35</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment</u>
<u>Acen Deborah</u>	<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>36-60</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and Environment</u>
<u>Namuviga</u>		<u>F</u>		<u>26-60</u>	<u>Ministry of Water and</u>

<u>Winnie</u>					<u>Environment</u>
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Members sent with apologies include representatives from National Planning Authority, Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI), Ministry of Local Government

ANNEX 2: ALIGNMENT WITH THE ADAPTATION FUND STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<u>Project Objective(s)</u>	<u>Project Outcome Indicator</u>	<u>Adaptation Fund Outcome</u>	<u>Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator</u>	<u>Grant Amount (USD)</u>
1. To channel predictable climate finance towards community led adaptation for resilient landscapes, people and economies.	Amount of annual predictable climate finance flowing to districts and communities to implement locally led adaptation investments. Percentage of climate allocations reaching communities within stipulated timelines.	Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.	6.1. Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets. 6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods.	3,500,000
2. To Strengthen Inclusive and participatory climate governance.	Inclusive locally led climate governance structures institutionalized and functioning effectively.	Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	2.1. Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased.	503,091

Project Objective(s)	Project Outcome Indicator	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
3. To generate and apply learning from implementation, strengthening adaptive management for sustained locally led adaptation.	<p>Evidence based rollout of effective and proven community led adaptation strategies and models.</p> <p>Inclusive institutional arrangements for facilitating cross-sectional adaptation learning established and effectively functional</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level.</p> <p>Outcome 8: Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies.</p>	<p>3.1. Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses.</p> <p>3.2. Percentage of targeted population applying appropriate adaptation responses.</p> <p>8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level.</p>	536,909
Enhanced Community Adaptive Capacity and Resilience in LIFE-AR districts of Kalungu, Pader, Kibaale and Kaabong.	No. of Locally led adaptation investments implemented in each of the four districts.	<p>AF Output 6</p> <p>Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability.</p>	<p>AF Output indicator 6.1.1</p> <p>No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies.</p>	3,500,000
	Percentage of households (disaggregated by gender) reporting increased resilience to climate impacts such as floods and droughts.	<p>AF Outputs 1.1: Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted and updated.</p> <p>AF outputs 1.2: Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk</p>	<p>AF output 1.2.1</p> <p>Percentage of target population covered adequate risk-reduction systems.</p>	

Project Objective(s)	Project Outcome Indicator	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
		reduction systems.		
	Hectares of degraded ecosystems restored to build resilient landscapes.	AF Output 5: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability.	AF Output indicator 5.1 No. of natural resource assets created, maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by type and scale).	
Improved inclusivity, effectiveness and transparency of governance structures for climate change and climate finance.	Percentage increase of marginalized groups (women, youth, PWD, and elderly) representation in LLA investments decision making, planning and implementation.	AF Output 3.1: targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities. Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate	3.1.1 No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic. 3.2.1 No. of technical committees/associations formed to ensure transfer of knowledge.	503,091

Project Objective(s)	Project Outcome Indicator	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
		knowledge and learning		
Improved knowledge and skills of sub-county, parish and community leaders in LIFE-AR governance and management processes.	No. Of community leaders trained in LIFE-AR governance and LLA management.	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centers and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather events	AF Output indicator 2.1.1 No. of staff trained to respond to and mitigate impacts of climate related events (by gender).	
Enhanced knowledge generation, management and dissemination for continuous improvement of locally led adaptation	No. Of Community/district inclusive learning platforms established and facilitated to function.	AF output 3.1 Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities.	3.2.1 No. of technical committees/associations formed to ensure transfer of knowledge	536,909

Project Objective(s)	Project Outcome Indicator	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
approaches and processes.	No. Of tools and guidelines developed for continuous learning.	.AF Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning.	AF output indicator 3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed and shared with relevant stakeholders.	
	A digital knowledge repository to distil change stories and lessons developed.	AF Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning.	AF output indicator 3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral and institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholders.	

Annex 3: Initial Gender Assessment

1. Purpose

This Initial Gender Assessment consolidates findings from the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) and community consultations undertaken in pilot districts including Pader, Kaabong, Kalungu and Kibaale. It identifies differentiated climate vulnerabilities affecting women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the elderly and explains how these findings have informed project design at concept stage in line with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy.

2. Participation and preliminary disaggregated insights

Community consultations in pilot districts engaged over 3,000 participants with strong inclusion of women, youth, the elderly and PWDs. In Pader alone, consultations reached 2,191 participants (54% women), Kaabong district engaged 93 (42% female) parish and district stakeholders including Parish Climate Change Committee (PCCC) members and local leaders, Kalungu district engaged 725 participants (47% women) and Kibaale engaged 90 participants (48% women). Across the three districts, consultations provided preliminary sex- and age-disaggregated insights, confirming that while participation levels are high, meaningful influence in decision-making remains uneven, particularly for women, youth and PWDs.

3. Key differentiated vulnerabilities and structural constraints

3.1 Women and girls

Across the pilot districts, women:

- bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid labour including water collection, fuelwood gathering, weeding and post-harvest processing, intensifying time poverty during climate shocks.
- have limited control over productive assets, particularly land and livestock despite their central role in agriculture.
- face heightened risks of gender-based violence, especially during periods of resource scarcity and harvest seasons.
- experience restricted participation in public decision-making with patriarchal norms limiting voice in meetings dominated by men and elders.
- carry increased care responsibilities during floods and disease outbreaks, increasing physical and emotional strain.

3.2 Youth

Youth face:

- high unemployment and limited access to land, finance and productive resources.
- livelihood instability exacerbated by climate shocks.
- active participation in consultations but limited influence in governance structures, constraining their role in shaping adaptation priorities.

3.3 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

PWDs experience:

- mobility constraints, particularly during floods and extreme weather events.
- limited access to services (health, meetings, markets) due to distance, terrain and lack of transport support.
- under-representation in local planning and leadership, despite formal inclusion mechanisms.

3.4 Elderly

Older persons face:

- physical vulnerability to heat stress, flooding and disease outbreaks.
- Difficulty in accessing social services and health care facilities leading to dependence on others for access to services and information during emergencies.
- risk of social isolation during climate-induced displacement.

4. Cross-district validation of gender and inclusion dynamics

Gender analysis undertaken during CRVA dissemination and investment selection in Kaabong District confirmed patterns identified in Pader and other pilot areas. Community group work highlighted that:

- decision-making power over land, livestock and water is predominantly held by men, reinforcing women's marginalisation in livelihood and adaptation choices.
- women bear primary responsibility for water collection yet have limited influence over water management decisions.
- access to and control over resources (land, livestock, credit) remain highly unequal, restricting women's adaptive capacity.
- these dynamics exacerbate poverty and vulnerability among women and their households, particularly during climate shocks.

This cross-district consistency demonstrates that gender-differentiated vulnerabilities are systemic rather than isolated, strengthening the evidence base for embedding gender-responsive design in the Adaptation Fund programme.

5. How findings informed project design

The differentiated vulnerabilities identified above and gender analysis activities have directly shaped the programme's design in the initial pilot areas including:

- Investment prioritisation in water access, agroforestry and climate-resilient infrastructure to reduce women's time poverty, exposure to risk and care burdens
- Inclusive governance arrangements through Parish Climate Change Committees (PCCCs) with a mandatory 40% quota for women and marginalized groups, and deliberate placement of women in leadership roles.

- Participatory planning approaches, including the Pamoja Voices Resilience Planning Toolkit, creating safe spaces for women, youth and PWDs to articulate priorities.
- Youth-focused livelihood pathways embedded in climate-resilient value chains and employment-generating investments.
- Accessibility considerations in engagement processes and investment screening to address the mobility constraints of PWDs and the elderly.
- Multi-channel communication strategies (radio, road drives, community meetings) to ensure access to climate information for groups with limited literacy or digital access

Summary Table: Vulnerabilities and Design Responses

<u>Vulnerabilities</u>	<u>Design response embedded in AF concept</u>
<u>Men dominate decision-making over land, livestock and water</u>	<u>40% quota for women & marginalized groups in PCCCs; women in leadership roles</u>
<u>Women bear burden of water collection but lack control</u>	<u>Prioritization of water infrastructure investments</u>
<u>Unequal access to productive resources for women</u>	<u>Focus on public-goods investments that reduce dependence on private asset ownership</u>
<u>Youth face unemployment and limited livelihood pathways</u>	<u>Climate-resilient value chains and youth-focused livelihood investments</u>
<u>Mobility barriers for PWDs and elderly</u>	<u>Accessibility criteria in investment screening and engagement design</u>
<u>Poverty of women exacerbated by inequality</u>	<u>Targeting criteria prioritise highly vulnerable groups and parishes</u>
<u>GBV risks during scarcity</u>	<u>Focus on reducing competition over scarce resources + grievance mechanisms</u>
<u>Exclusion from climate information</u>	<u>Multi-channel communication embedded in programme design</u>

Insights from this applied experience will inform the design of USPs under the proposed Adaptation Fund programme.

6. Looking ahead

Building on this initial gender assessment, the programme will undertake a full gender analysis at full proposal stage, including:

- collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data in specific parishes selected.
- development of a Gender Action Plan with targets, budget allocations and monitoring indicators
- validation of gender actions with communities through participatory processes.

The full Gender Action Plan will systematise good practice already tested in pilot districts, ensuring full alignment with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and strengthening accountability for equitable outcomes.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government¹⁵ 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 Rathaman Ggoobi Permanent Secretary/ Secretary To the Treasury Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development	Date: (Month, day, year) 08-25-2025
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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, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this programme.	
<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Alfred Okot Okidi Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment Head of the NIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph Lule Implementing Entity Coordinator</p>	
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	

¹⁵ 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

Telephone : 256 41 4341305/230487
Fax : 256 41 4233524
Email : finance@finance.go.ug
Website : www.finance.go.ug
Plot No. 2-8 Apollo Kaggwa Road
In any correspondence on
This subject please quote No.DARC 158/550/04



Ministry of Finance,
Planning & Economic
Development,
P.O Box 8147
Kampala, Uganda

25th August, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board,
C/O Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat,
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org,
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

**ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR THE PROJECT TITLED “ENHANCING
LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION THROUGH DEVOLVED CLIMATE
FINANCING PROJECT”**

In my capacity as the National Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Uganda, I confirm that the above regional project/ programme is in line with Uganda’s priorities in implementing adaptation actions to reduce the adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Uganda.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above national project/programme proposal to be supported by the Adaptation Fund.

If approved, the project/ programme will be implemented and executed by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

Ramathan Ggoobi

PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Copy to: Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic
Development
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment

Mission

“To formulate sound economic policies, maximize revenue mobilization, ensure efficient allocation and accountability for public resources so as to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development”



Revised PFG Submission Form¹ (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date:

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country/ies: Uganda

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

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): National Implementation Entity (NIE)

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda.

Executing Entity/ies: Ministry of Water and Environment and District Local Governments

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	March 2026
Completion date of PFG	October 2026

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
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¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

<p>1.Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan.</p>	<p>Develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework, with an in-depth gender analysis and Gender Action Plan.</p> <p>GESI specific Capacity Strengthening conducted</p> <p>Adapt the ESIA tool to include the USP requirements for use by PCCCslocal governance structures (risk screening, risk management)</p> <p>Development of training module as referenced in Component 2 on use of USPs for sub-national government</p>	<p>\$85,900</p>	<p>Hire a local consultant to undertake Environmental and Social Assessments and participatory Gender Needs Assessment/ Gender Analysis, and develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework and a Gender Action Plan.</p> <p>Environmental Expert (team leader, with expertise in occupational health and safety) \$15,000 (\$300 x 50 days)</p> <p>Gender and Social Development Expert \$ 12900 (300 x 43 days spent across 23 sites)</p> <p>Car Hire Costs \$ 8,000 (\$ 200 X 2 vehicles X 20 days)</p> <p>Verification/ dissemination and production of the Environmental and Social Management Framework and dissemination \$10,000</p> <p>Develop a Training Materials for ESMP and USPs and under capacity Strengthening on ESMP at District and Sub-county level (\$40,000)</p>
<p>2. Enhancement of MEL framework to support Local Government Service Delivery tracking</p>	<p>Update of the MEL framework to embed indicators for tracking Local Government Service Delivery, USP progress contract performance, environmental and social risk status, safeguards compliance, gender actions, and community feedback for each USP from screening through implementation.</p>	<p>\$10,050</p>	<p>Hire of a local consultant to update the MEL framework (inclusive stakeholder consultation) \$10,050</p>

3. Development of a consolidated National Project Proposal	Project Proposal developed	\$42,305	Professional expertise for proposal writing \$18,900 (\$300 X 63 days) Travel facilitation to the field. \$6,000 Workshop with technical team and Project validation workshop with local and national stakeholders \$15,000 Communication, printing and stationery \$2,405
Total project Cost		\$138255	
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (Maximum of 8.5%)		\$11745	
Total Project Formulation Grant		\$150,000	

The management fee will be used to manage and execute the following activities.

Activity	Budget USD
Coordination meetings	3915
Supervision and Monitoring	4900
Reviewing and Reporting	980
Communication	980
Office Supply	970
Total	11745

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

All aspects of the PFG (both the main PFG and LLA specific parts) are designed to work together, rather than exist as independent pieces of work. The overarching themes of work to be done using PFG are:

- a. Soliciting expert support to assist with the production of the full LLA Application
- b. Improving existing MEL frameworks to align with the AF's results framework and include the various measures needed to track quality standards and USP progress.
- c. Full consultation on the AF proposal and initiating awareness raising on the use of USPs within this proposed programme
- d. Preparing suitable environment and social frameworks assessments where possible ahead of Proposal submission and preparing tools for assessment of environment and social risks when soliciting USPs during the programme
- e. Conducting a full gender analysis, production of an action plan and manual with which to train stakeholders involved once the programme begins to ensure capacity to enable equitable decision making at the local level.

Activity 12: Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a full gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan (GAP) shall be developed during the project formulation period.

~~The ESMF will incorporate AF's USP guidance to ensure all unidentified sub-projects undergo rigorous environmental and social risk screening, gender analysis and stakeholder engagement before approval. GAP will provide technical guidance on environmental and social assessments, management, and gender inclusion during the preparation and implementation of the selected priority sub-projects and activities.~~

The ESMF is selected because the project portfolio remains uncertain regarding its size and design. Furthermore, the exact locations of all sites are not yet fully confirmed, and a detailed site-specific assessment of potential environmental and social impacts, along with appropriate mitigation measures, must be carefully guided, in line with the AF's USP guidance. The ESMF will incorporate AF's USP guidance to ensure all unidentified sub-projects undergo rigorous environmental and social risk screening, gender analysis and stakeholder engagement before approval. The ESMF will be prepared following international best practices, incorporating the AF guidelines and relevant national legislation.

~~Justification for having USP integrated in the ESIA, and development of a training module for USP required.~~

Key activities proposed for the consultants to develop a comprehensive project ESMF include the following:

- (i) Provide clear procedures and methodologies for environmental and social assessments, E&S risk assessment tools, stakeholder engagement reviews, and approvals to be adopted for investments under the project.
- (ii) Specify the appropriate roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and outline the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring environmental and social requirements related to project investments.

- (iii) Identify training needs, capacity building, and technical assistance required to effectively implement the provisions of the ESMF [\(which is in line with USP guidance\)](#), as well as the subsequent ESIA/ESMPs and stakeholder engagements where applicable. [This produces the output of a training module as referenced in Component 2 on use of USPs for sub-national government](#)
- (iv) Prepare a costed Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project.
- (v) Prepare samples of site-specific Terms of Reference for additional or detailed studies, such as Environmental and Social Impact Studies and project briefs.

Key activities for the Gender Action Plan shall include the following:

- a) Conduct a gender analysis to identify gender gaps, inequalities, and barriers in the proposed project area.
- b) Define objectives, activities, and strategies for the GAP.
- c) Establish indicators and targets for the GAP.
- d) Provide cost estimates for implementing the GAP.
- e) Define and assign roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the GAP

[The output of this work will be picked up by the gender related work in the LLA part of the PFG, listed below.](#)

Besides having a detailed project ESMF and GAP, the project proposal will include a comprehensive description of the key costed processes and actions that will be implemented during the project to ensure compliance with the ESMF and GAP and Capacity Strengthening for the same.

A total of \$85,900 is estimated to cover hiring professionals, facilitate the field teams, and support the verification and dissemination of the developed project ESMF and GAP. It will be buttressed by additional work for LLA projects that requires extra PFG investment as outlined in the table below.

Activity 32. Enhancement of the MEL Framework to support tracking of Local Government Service Delivery Standards.

[To suitably update the existing MEL framework used for LIFE-AR/DCF to also track the detailed required by AF and mentioned in the Concept Note, a MEL expert is required to assist the process of developing indicators for tracking the utilization of the DCF mechanism as an approach to enhance service delivery by the Local Government. Additionally, they will ensure the framework is in line with the AF Results Framework and is capable of tracking USP progress, contract performance, safeguarding compliance etc, as outlined in the 'output' section of the table above. ~~is necessary and missing component of the existing MEL framework.~~](#)

A total of \$10,0500 is estimated to engage a consultant/ professional to improve the MEL framework with tracking indicators for Local Government Service Delivery.

Activity 43: Development of a consolidated National Project Proposal. This activity includes the professional services fees for hiring an expert/[expert team](#) to develop a comprehensive, final project proposal. The professional(s) will [ensure the comments from AF reviewers are taken onboard in the full programme](#)

proposal, detail the USP screening process including templates for site-specific ESMPs and gender-responsive safeguards, ensuring compliance with AF standards. review relevant national frameworks, reports, project documents, and reports prepared during the project formulation process (Stakeholder Consultations, designs, ESMF and GAP), conduct national and regional consultations, develop a draft project proposal, organise and facilitate validation workshops, ~~and prepare for the submission of~~ a detailed proposal.
~~The consolidated proposal will detail the USP screening process including templates for site-specific ESMPs and gender-responsive safeguards, ensuring compliance with AF standards.~~

A project management fee is applied to these activities, as listed in the small table above.

A total cost of \$~~421,340~~150,000 is estimated for the above activities.

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

List of proposed project preparation activities	Output of the PFG activities	Amount (US\$)	Budget note
<u>1. Production of GESI Manual and Capacity development to support use of Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan and Safeguard compliance.</u>	<u>GESI manual developed and validated to guide application of ESMF and GAP</u> <u>Enhanced institutional capacity at national and sub-national levels to implement GESI-responsiveness and environmental and social risk management</u> <u>GESI Capacity Strengthening at the National and Sub-National (including development of a GESI Manual) officials</u>	50,000 <u>\$50,000</u>	\$50,000 <u>Hiring of a local consultant \$ 14,100 (\$300 x 47 days). 21 days for developing a GESI manual; 23 days for Sub-national training, 3 days for national level training</u> <u>DSA for district & Subcounty officials \$7,820 (\$17 x 20 officials' x 23 days)</u> <u>Car hire for consultant \$ 5,000 (\$200 x 1 vehicle x 25 days</u>

			<p><u>Venue for meetings \$ 2,600 (\$100 x 26 days)</u></p> <p><u>Refreshments sub-national \$ 16,100 (\$14 x 50 participants x 23sub-counties)</u></p> <p><u>DSA for National officials \$3,384 (\$47 x 24 officials' x 3 days)</u></p> <p><u>Refreshments National \$1,004 (\$14 x 24 participants x 3 days)</u></p>
<p><u>24</u>. Local Community/stakeholder Consultations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain stakeholder input, views and concerns on the Devolved Climate Financing (DCF) and implementation modalities particular to the AF at both the National and Sub-National level • Obtain stakeholder input on the 23 targeted sub_counties • Obtain information on proposed investments, outputs • Stakeholder awareness on the AF USP requirements • Stakeholder Engagement Plan <p>Gender and Social inclusion (GESI) support during the consultations to facilitate constructive engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups.</p>	\$ 42,095	<p>Consultations in 4 districts (Kalungu, Kaabong, Pader and Kibaale) with 23parishes targeted.</p> <p>27 consultation meetings in 4 districts and 23 sub-counties</p> <p>Hiring of a local consultant \$ 13500 (\$300 x 45 days)</p> <p>DSA for district officials \$2295 (\$17 x 5 officials' x 27 days)</p> <p>Car hire for consultant \$ 7000 (\$200 x 1 vehicle x 35 days)</p> <p>Venue for meetings \$ 2700 (\$100 x 27 days)</p>

			Refreshments \$ 5,600 (\$14 x 100 participant's x 4 districts) National workshop to disseminate findings (including validation of stakeholder consultation report) \$ 3,000 GESI draw down to facilitate constructive engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups. (\$8,000)
Total project Cost		\$92095	
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (Maximum of 8.5%)		\$7825	
Total Project Formulation Grant		\$99,920	

The management fee will be used to manage and execute the following activities.

Activity	Budget USD
Coordination meetings	2600
Supervision and Monitoring	3260
Reviewing and Reporting	660
Communication	655
Office Supply	650
Total	7825

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

Activity 1: GESI Manual, Institutional strengthening and Safeguards Compliance~~Production of GESI Manual and capacity development to support use Gender Action Plan.~~

~~xxx~~

This activity will institutionalise gender equality, social inclusion and environmental and social safeguards within devolved climate finance mechanism by equipping national and sub-national actors with practical tools to operationalise the Gender Action Plan and the ESMF in decision-making, resource allocation and monitoring.

A GESI and Safeguards Manual will be developed as a mandatory reference for all locally led adaptation investments under the programme. The manual will provide step by step procedures for:

- Integrating gender equality and social inclusion considerations into sub-project identification, appraisal and approval processes
- Applying environmental and social screening tools and risk categorisation in line with the ESMF
- Designing and implementing appropriate mitigation measures for identified environmental and social risks
- Ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups in local adaptation decision-making
- Operationalising grievance redress, incident reporting and accountability mechanisms at community and local government level

Capacity strengthening activities will focus on embedding these practices within existing national and sub-national institutions/structures to consistently apply the safeguards and inclusion standards in practice. Targeted training will be provided to technical officers and local oversight structures on:

- Compliance with the ESMF and site-specific ESMPs
- Gender-responsive planning, budgeting and monitoring
- Safeguards supervision, reporting and adaptive management

Activity 24. Local Community Stakeholder Consultations. Programme beneficiaries and interested entities must be actively engaged consulted to gather their views on the purpose of the LLA Programme proposed here, the benefits of it, any potential impacts and any other concerns related to the structure and approach of the proposed programme. Stakeholders at the district, subcounty and parish levels will be active decision makers in the DCF approach and so it is necessary to meet them to introduce the initiative, to ensure parish and sub-county stakeholders can identify the people responsible at the district and national levels, and to learn about the principles by which the initiative is governed and their responsibilities in participation. Stakeholder consultations will therefore be conducted in the proposed programme areas, specifically in the districts of Kalungu, Pader, Kaabong, and Kibaale, as well as within the 23 target sub-counties. At the district level, officials are already well aware of DCF, LIFE-AR, and locally led adaptation, having been leaders of the LIFE-AR work to date. The

purpose of visiting them will be to hear how any implications of using AF funding to expand the DCF approach to climate action in their districts might impact them (in comparison to using instead of the financing from the LIFE-AR pooled fund, as they have been using so far). The use of AF funding requires compliance with USP guidance, ES Policy, Gender Policy, and other aspects beholden to AF operating guidelines. This will require changes to the way they have been working and the consultation provides an opportunity to unpack those changes and plan for how they will be facilitated to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented.

The consultation will also involve visits to participating sub-counties. The consultations shall identify and map key project stakeholders (including vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities); obtain input, views, and concerns on the DCF and implementation modalities; and collect any nascent information on proposed programme activities and outputs. The information gathered will provide valuable insights into local contexts that help shape the project’s objectives and scope, ensuring that adaptation investments address the needs of women, youth, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups. This will enhance both the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions and will support the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to be utilized during project formulation and implementation. The budget includes reference to the GESI drawdown budget line to facilitate the participation of marginalised groups through means that best suit their needs. This is for the direct purpose of making these consultations as inclusive as possible, in line with the principled approach of LLA and LIFE-AR.

A total of \$ 43,5952,095 is estimated for this activity and the costs includes; professional fees for the consultant facilitation for district officials and refreshments for community members and costs to meet venues and meeting materials.

A project management fee is applied to these activities, as listed in the small table above.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board’s procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund’s criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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