

STRENGTHENING THE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIIES IN UGANDA’S WATERSHEDS-AWOJA CATCHMENT (SACRiAC) PROJECT.

Project Brief:

The project’s (SACRiAC) objective is to build adaptive capacity of rural communities and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and improve rural livelihoods, and food security through integrated watershed management, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable agriculture. It will be financed with USD 8.95 Million from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through African Development Bank (AfDB)>

SACRiAC will be implemented in Bukedea, Sironko, Kapchorwa and Bulambuli districts, within the Awoja catchment downstream of the sub-catchments of Komirya, Sironko, Simu-sisi, Muyembe and Sipi. It will be implemented, with focus on catchment management and improving rural livelihood. The project will comprise the following 4 components:

1. Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development and Livelihoods:

- Developing gender-sensitive integrated watershed management plans and implementing related activities such as Reforestation, agroforestry, and soil erosion control,
- Construction of climate-resilient community water supply systems, community-based water harvesting, storage, and distribution systems including valley tanks/small earth dams and community rainwater harvesting tanks for communal use.
- Initiating alternative livelihood options, such as fish farm integrated units, fruit orchard, honey production, ecological briquette production, etc.

2. Institutional and Community Capacity Development:

- Community trainings on reforestation, forest management, riverbank & wetland management, and soil conservation

- Technical advice and support to local governments (district and sub-county level) and sub-catchment and micro catchment management committees in the integration of climate resilience into development plans.

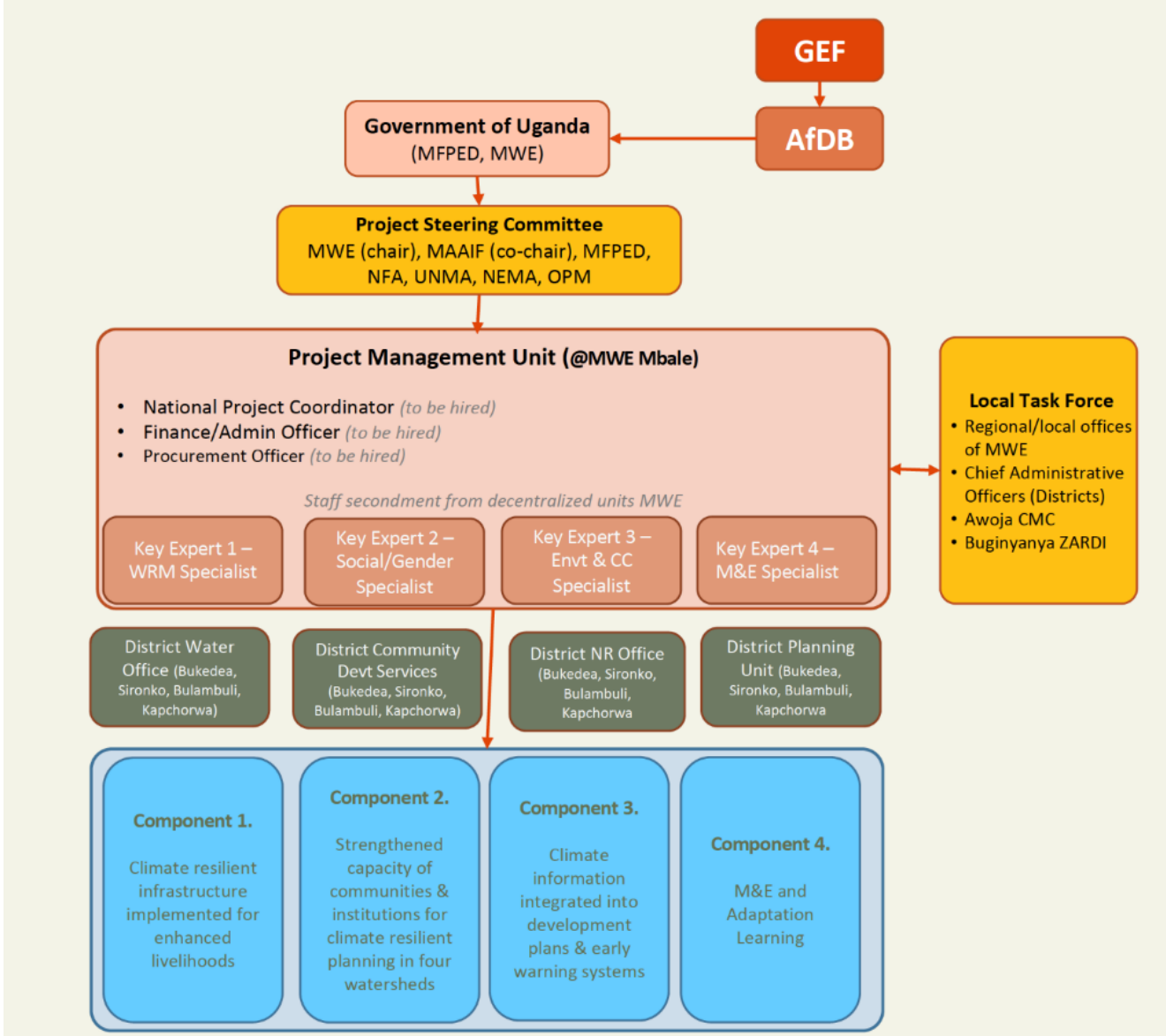
3. Climate information and early warning systems:

- Expansion of weather forecasting meteorological stations, and expansion of hydrological stations
- Implementation of a Flood Early Warning and Response System (FEWS) linked to the existing systems and use real-time hydro-met data, as well as community-based information and communication systems;
- Strengthening of human capacity at all levels in weather observing, forecasting and information management.
- Development of Water Resources Management information and knowledge management guidelines.

4. Project Management and Adaptation Learning:

- Development of information and knowledge management activities, including lessons learned.
- Formulation and implementation of a gender sensitive and participatory M&E system
- Baseline survey, stakeholder and gender analysis, environmental and social impact assessment
- Facilitate financial management and procurement related activities.

The Project's Executing Agency will be MWE, who will be responsible for the overall implementation and management of the Project. The MWE will coordinate implementation of activities being undertaken by its Directorates and Authorities, namely DEA, DWD, DWRM, NEMA, NFA, and UNMA. Implementation arrangements are summarised in the figure below:



Project progress

- All the key project experts have been recruited. These include; the Water Resources Specialist, Social and Gender Specialist, Environment and Climate Change Specialist and the M&E Specialist.
- All the managers of the regional de-concentrated units have been availed with project working documents. The key project documents shared include the following;
 - The request for endorsement project document detailing the project background, key project components, project outcomes, expected project outputs, project indicators, key stakeholders, gender action plan, expected project risks and benefits, project structure, project implementation framework, financial management arrangements, project results framework and project estimated budget.
 - Signed grant agreement
 - Project procurement plan
 - Project work plan and budget
- The Project experts made a presentation about the project in a joint stakeholder consultative meeting held to create awareness and discuss land availability for SACRiAC project organized by Water for Production Regional Office-East. Key issues highlighted were; project objectives, project components, implementation arrangements and land acquisition for structural development for both Water Supply and Valley Tanks.
- The project experts have held planning and consultative meetings with Managers and staff of the de-concentrated regional units.
- Under the output of construction of climate-resilient community water supply systems in rural areas focusing on unserved areas, six towns of Bulegeni, Kikobero, Zema in Bulambuli District; Buyobo and Nasutani in Sironko District are lined up for rehabilitation and expansion of existing WSSS; Kolir in Bukedea District is linedup for construction of a new WSSS. WSDf-E has undertaken water resources assessments; water quality assessments; is currently finalizing feasibility studies and design of WSSS and land acquisition for structural development.
- Under the output of climate-resilient community-based water harvesting, storage, and distribution systems (valley tanks/small earth dams), 4 valley tanks are planned for Bukedea District, 3 for Bulambuli District and 3 for Sironko District. WfPRC-E

is in the process of acquiring sites for construction of valley tanks and is undertaking designs for valley tanks.

- Both WSDF-E and WfPRC-E together with the project experts have held a number of community engagements to create awareness about the project and gain support for the project.
- WSDF-E has signed Memorandums of understandings (MOUs) with the District leaders of Bukedea, Bulumbuli and Sironko that spell out roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and implementation arrangements for development of WSSS.
- For expansion of meteorological and hydrological stations, UNMA and KWMZ are planning to site and install meteorological and hydrological stations in house.
- The project is planning to conduct ESIA's and get certification approval from NEMA for all sites to be developed as a requirement from the signed grant agreement.
- AfDB had requested the project to procure consultancy services for design review and construction supervision of water supply systems and valley tanks. The procurement process is ongoing. Bidders submitted EOIs and evaluation process is underway.
- It should be noted that there is no counter funding under financial arrangements of the project.
- The project Budget does not cater for software activities under the project.
- **A project bank account was opened. Pliz indicate the bank if relevant.**
- A request for first disbursement was made by the MWE to AfDB