Mid-Term Review of FAO-GEF Project

FAO Project ID: GCP /UGA/043/LDF
GEF Project ID: 7997

Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production in Uganda, through a Farmer/Agro-pastoralist Field School Approach

Final Report

MTR conducted in August 2022

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Kampala, Uganda – December 2022

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Acknowledgement

The mid-term review (MTR) team comprised two independent consultants, with Ms. Lilit V. Melikyan as the lead international consultant with the overall responsibility for the methodology and leading the interviews at the national level (with the technical area of expertise in climate change adaptation and project evaluation), and the national consultant, Dr. Julian K. Bagyendera, who covered district level interviews (with a technical area of expertise in monitoring and evaluation of climate change and environmental protection projects, among others).

The MTR was carried out with the invaluable assistance of the FAO staff of the Uganda Country Office and FAO Headquarters (HQ) in Rome. Their insight, knowledge, advice and comments made this MTR possible. The MTR team would like to thank all those who contributed to this MTR, including Robert Kalyebara- the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist for FAO Uganda and the MTR manager; Sheila Kiconco- the National Project Coordinator; Kennedy Igbokwe- the Climate Change Project Manager for FAO Uganda; Antonio Querido- the FAO Representative (FAOR) in Uganda and Priya Gujadhur- Deputy FAOR (DFAOR); Ydidiya Abera in the FAO GEF Coordination Office (FAO GEF CU) and Pierre Bégat- Natural Resources and Climate Finance Specialist at FAO in Rome.

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MTR team
- Ms. Lilit V. Melikyan
- Dr. Julian K. Bagyendera

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- Ydidiya Abera

Acronyms and abbreviations

AWP/Bs	Annual Work Plans and Budget
AFAOR	Assistant FAO Representative
BH	Budget Holder
CBIT	Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency
CAO	Chief Administrative Office
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCD	Climate Change Department
CU	Coordinating Unit
CO	Country Office
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFAs	District Farmers Associations
DLGs	District Local Governments
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOR	FAO Representative
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
FIP	Framework Implementation Plan
FPMIS	Field Programme Management Information System
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
HQ	Headquarters
HS	Highly Satisfactory
IPs	Implementing Partners
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IGA	Income-Generating Activity
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KM	Knowledge Management
KMCT	Knowledge Management and Communication Teams
LOAs	Letters of Agreement
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MAK-CAES	Makerere University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
ML	Moderately Likely
MS	Moderately Satisfactory
MU	Moderately Unsatisfactory
MTE	Mid-term Evaluation
MTR	Mid-term Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MOGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NARO	National Agriculture Research Organization
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NDP	National Development Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPD	National Project Director
MPC	National Project Coordinator
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPR	Project Progress Report
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PTF	Project Task Force
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
SLAs	Savings and Loan Associations
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SO	FAO Strategic Objective
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
S	Satisfactory
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TMU	Technical Management Unit
TL	Team Leader
WB	World Bank
VCHD	Value Chain Development
ZARDI	Zone Agricultural Research and Development Institutes

Project Information			
Project Title:	Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production in Uganda Through a Farmer/Agro-Pastoralist Field School Approach		
Country(*ies*):	Uganda	GEF ID: FAO ID	7997 GCP /UGA/043/LDF
GEF Agency(*ies*):	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Duration in Months:	60
Executing Agency*(ies):*	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	Expected Start Date Actual Implementation Start Date:	01 January 2019 11 July 2019
GEF Focal Area(*s*):	Climate Change	Planned Completion Date: NA	30 June 2024
GEF Grant Amount:	$ 6,886,838	Financial Closure Date:	NA
Expected Co-financing:	$ 29,269,269	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	12 December 2021
Co-financing Realized as of Mid-term review	$ 22,536,369	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	June 2022
Date of First Disbursement:	06 April 2018	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	October 2022
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2022 (USD m):	$ 3,662,100	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	September 2023
		Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	Not applicable

Executive summary

Introduction

1. This report presents the findings and recommendations of the independent Mid-term Review (MTR) of the FAO/GEF/MAAIF project 'Integrating climate resilience into agricultural and pastoral production in Uganda through a farmer/agro-pastoralist field school approach" GEF ID 7997, FAO ID- GCP /UGA/043/LDF). It covers the implementation period from 1 January 2019 (actual- 11 July 2019) to June 2022. The project's planned closure date is 31 December 2023.

2. The objective of the project is to build climate resilience in the agricultural sector as an effective means of reducing vulnerability and disseminating community-level adaptation measures. The project pursues the following four outcomes:

> *Outcome 1: Knowledge on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and disseminated through an integrated knowledge sharing system to male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists, and institutions that support them; the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO), the District Local Government (DLGs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Organizations (CBOs), etc.) to ensure resilience;*
>
> *Outcome 2: Farmers and agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female) adopt gender-responsive improved climate resilient practices (agro-ecological practices, improved soil, water, crop, varietal diversity, crop-associated biodiversity, livestock and ecosystem management practices, integrated pest management practices, etc.) through the agro-pastoralist field school approach (AP/FFS);*
>
> *Outcome 3: Increased institutional capacity of MAAIF and DLG to mainstream gender-responsive CCA into the agriculture sector and districts plans and implement CCA policies, strategies and programs, shifting from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach; and*
>
> *Outcome 4: Project Implementation based on results-based management (RBM) and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated.*
>
> *The primary stakeholders of the MTR who are to use its findings to effect change are the Budget Holder (BH) and Review Manager (RM), Project Management Unit (PMU), MAAIF (national project counterpart), Project Task Force (PTF), Funding Liaison Officer (FLO), Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and other technical staff at headquarters, National Steering Committee (NSC) members, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and other stakeholders. Other governments and non-government stakeholders are secondary users. The results of the MTR are expected to provide primary users with evidence and guidance to understand whether: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework (RF) and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored, and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed global environmental benefits/adaptation*

benefits of the project are being delivered. FAO and MAAIF are expected to use the findings and recommendations to make corrective actions on the design of project interventions, implementation approaches, the financing mechanisms and allocation of resources, partnership arrangements and sharing of responsibilities. The NSC, PTF and the CU are expected to use the MTR findings and recommendations to develop management responses for implementing agreed improvements to the project and future CCA strategies.

Triangulation was the main methodology, coupled with contribution analysis, including 67 Key Informant Interviews (KII), 6 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Direct Observations (DO) and literature review.

Main findings

Relevance - Question 1: *Are the project outcomes congruent with current country priorities, GEF focal areas/operational programme strategies, the FAO Country Programming Framework, and the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (local communities, men and women and indigenous peoples if relevant?*

The overall strategic relevance is highly satisfactory (HS)

The project is aligned with the GEF strategic priorities and contributes to the LDCF Strategic objectives CCA1 (Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate); CCA2 (Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation) and CCA-3 (Integrate climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes).

At the regional level, it contributes to the FAO Priority Area 1 (Production and Productivity of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Commodities) and Priority 3 (Resilience to Livelihoods Threats with Emphasis on Climate Change).

- At the *national* level, it is aligned with the third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Vision 2040 of Uganda, which are both anchored on progress, challenges and lessons learned from the last 10 years, and both identified adaptation to climate change as one of the national development priorities. In addition, the project is also in line with the priorities identified under the Uganda National Agriculture Policy (NAP) 2020, the Uganda Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2021/22-2025/26 and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP, 2015). It also contributes to the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-20 outcomes 1 (*Sustainable production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities for men, women and youth in targeted populations increased*) and 3 (*Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and food and nutrition insecurity, improved*).

  The project is aligned with FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs), namely SO1 (Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; SO2 (Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable); SO4 (Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems); and SO5 (Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises).

The project is highly relevant, focusing on climate change and the cattle corridor in particular. The project is aligned with the national policy documents and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 15.

The project is aligned with other ongoing initiatives implemented by FAO (including "Agrobiodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa" and "Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security") and others (e.g. the EU-funded "Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)", World Bank's (WB) "Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF3)", Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)/Bioversity (in partnership with NARO Plant Genetic Resources Center project on "Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security", International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)/Bioversity International (in partnership with the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and NARO (the Plant Genetic Resources Center) project on "Agro-biodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa"). The complementarities and the additionality of GEF could not have been better identified.

There was no change in project relevance since the formulation of the project (Project Document and the Inception Report) due to adopting policies and project management, as the key country priorities remained the same.

Effectiveness - *Question 2: To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives and what broader results (if any) has the project had at the regional and global levels to date?*

- ***The overall assessment of project results - Effectiveness - is Moderately Satisfactory (MS).***
- ***There was good but somewhat delayed progress for the outputs under Outcome 1-*** except for one output. There was good progress by NARO in producing important research on climate change impact: this research which will lead to reports for each district (forestry, wetlands, water resources, agricultural systems, and soil resources) with recommendations- the first time such reports were ever produced; the completion of one of the studies (study on soil) was delayed due to prolonged discussions related to the adjustments to the Letter of Agreement (LOA). There was good but somewhat delayed progress on producing an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)-based nationwide knowledge management system. There was a substantial delay in the research on biodiversity in project sites with Bioversity International (preliminary activities, e.g., identification of sites has been undertaken in a few target districts including Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Buyende and Napak districts, with the tree nurseries already established). There was no progress yet on establishing a Communication System for the project, as the planned contractor declined the work, and the new one was not on board as yet at the time of the MTR; this has had a negative impact in that the good progress/emergent lessons locally were not being actively captured and disseminated.
- ***There was good progress for Outputs under Outcome 2***, with the number of FFSs supported drastically more than the mid-term target (360 instead of 150). This was led by several factors (high demand, enthusiasm from the district and the local

administrations to have more FFSs, the desire by the project to achieve the target on the beneficiary farmers, etc.). There is, however, a concern that this was achieved at the cost of less in-depth work per school. In all, 79 facilitators and coordinators were trained, mostly from the District Farmers Associations (DFA). There was good progress for the value chain development (VCHD) component with a simplified approach, with the caveat that the opportunities for trading are affected by the scattered pattern of products, which limits the opportunities for economies of scale. The farmers were satisfied with the quality of the training they received and applied the knowledge gained, but several commented in the interviews and FGDs that they needed more. The output, which was somewhat delayed, is related to supporting community seed banks and tree nurseries, but there was ongoing work related to adopting watershed management techniques with resilient tree varieties and tree planting. Farmers were also supported in irrigation - with rainwater harvesting, but, as the field mission indicated, at less than sufficient levels and the community monitoring and maintenance systems were missing.

- ***There was minimal progress for 5 out of 6 Outputs under Outcome 3*** - with three (3) of these related to mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) and gender into several policies, one (1) related to identifying barriers for the farmers in registering crop varieties in the National Register and one (1) other on building institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector at central, regional and district levels. From these, for two outputs, the work was supposed to start in year 2 with mid-term results expected (see next bullet point). The only Output for which there was good progress was related to "*Gender and CCA integration into an effective sub-catchment management system in 13 districts for the sustainable use of land and natural resources, where the report was produced*", undertaken with in-house resources. These belong to the district local governments and at the time of the MTR were still being developed with the implementing partners and the district technical officers. Since they were still in the development stage this evaluation cannot comment on their quality.

- ***Outcome 1 is assessed as Moderately Satisfactory (MS)-*** *with the mid-term targets for two (2) of the Outputs achieved and another three (3) delayed but on track,* ***Outcome 2 as Satisfactory (S)-*** *with only one mid-term target surpassed* ***and Outcome 3 as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU),*** *with two (2) out of three (3) mid-term targets not achieved and only one achieved*. These are described below:
    - ***Outcome 1:*** The targets on the "*Comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts of intervention*", were achieved, but not in full (delayed for the "Soil Study"); the targets for the "*Study on the agrarian systems in place in the 13 districts*', and the "*Study on gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use*" were achieved and the achievement of the targets on the "*Assessment of agrobiodiversity in all project sites*" (the latter to be used to develop local gender action plans) and on the "*Knowledge Management and Communication Teams (KMCT)*" delayed;
    - ***Outcome 2:*** the target on the "Number of FFSs established" was surpassed with 360 instead of 150;
    - ***Outcome 3:*** No progress was made on the targets on "O*ne (1) gender*

responsive Framework Implementation Plan (FIP) mainstreaming climate change developed for the Water for Agricultural Production Policy"; and "*One (1) gender-responsive FIP mainstreaming climate change developed for the Agricultural Mechanization Policy*". The target on "*One (1) inclusive land and natural resources management system including gender and CCA considerations developed per district*" was achieved.

Efficiency - *Question 3: To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively?*

The overall assessment of efficiency is Moderately Satisfactory (MS).

- The rating was based on the delays observed for several outputs (and no progress for 4 of these with targets), which is a result of not only external (COVID-19, presidential and parliamentary elections) but also internal factors (staffing, lack of sufficient planning and risk management, coordination issues across the FAO Uganda units, etc.);
- The project was perceived to be cost effective overall, although there were concerns about extensive training needed for the District Farmers Associations (DFAs) as implementing partners (IPs); and
- The project renovated the infrastructure left behind by the closed projects (e.g., irrigation equipment), which could be considered a synergy. There was good coordination (no duplication) and a basic level of joint planning among the FAO projects, which overlap in several districts. However, joint activities did not go beyond joint training, in-depth synergies were lacking among them, particularly at the implementation level, with the same true also for other projects funded by the EU, IFAD and the WB.

Sustainability *-Question 4: What is the likelihood that the project results can be sustained after the end of the project?*

The overall likelihood of sustainability is rated as moderately likely (ML).

- ***Financial risks were rated as Likely (L)*** *in the light of the lack of allocation of state budget resources to certain programmes, e.g., on watershed management, plus due to some of the activities supported by the project being rather expensive, e.g., tree planting, seeds, etc.*
- ***Socio-political risks were rated as Moderately Likely (ML).*** Strong socio-political support was reported among leaders at the district and community levels. The support was demonstrated by embracing and lobbying for scaling up the FFS approach across other sub-counties and as an approach to the district extension services work. The communities embraced the acquired knowledge and adopted the promoted technologies and climate-resilient farming practices such as energy-saving stoves, water retention ridges, re-afforestation, pasture gardens and alternative sources of income. The FFSs were earning from income-generating activities (IGAs), boosted by proceeds from group savings and low-interest credit accessed from the groups. These IGAs included selling proceeds from adopted technologies such as energy-saving stoves and fees on poultry vaccination; selling animal husbandry, (cows, poultry, sheep, goats) apiculture, acquiring grinding mills, and selling crops such as rice, maize, beans as well as vegetables. Proceeds have enabled members to pay school fees for children, medical bills for family members, and food for home consumption; and have facilitated house refurbishments and expansion of projects.

- ***Institutional risks were rated Moderately Likely (L).*** *While there is no rigorous assessment of the FFS model yet, and it is worth having such a study, the anecdotal evidence and the recent qualitative study by FAO Uganda suggest that they were popular among the districts and farmers. If not all, then most FFSs were likely to be sustainable, supported by the savings and loan associations (SLAs) that operate under each FFS. There were concerns about the sustainability of the DFAs in their current role of training providers for the FFSs. Still, there were good links with the district governments, including the extension workers, that can potentially support advising the farmers, although more engagement with the administration and the political wing in project management and monitoring was being demanded, since they have a strong bearing sustainability (responsible for resource allocation).*
- ***Environmental risks were rated as Likely****, since reversing climate change impacts requires allocating significant amounts of state resources and strict implementation of regulations (e.g., prohibition of illegal tree cutting and wetland encroachment). The project districts were in semi-arid conditions with scanty and irregular rain patterns. But the project was contributing to reducing this risk with improved watershed management/tree planting, supporting biodiversity, promoting the use of energy-efficient cook stoves, and the like.*
- ***The project had a catalytic and replication effects****: The anecdotal evidence suggests that the farmers who did not end up as members of the FFSs supported by the project formed new FFSs, some of which then got supported by the project. The experience related to new practices was being spread not only via training but also by word-of-mouth.*

Factors affecting performance *- Question 5: What are the main factors affecting the project from reaching its results?*

The overall assessment of factors affecting performance is Moderately Satisfactory (MS).

The quality of project design and the extent of readiness were rated as Satisfactory (S)*. The project design was sound overall, with all the components relevant. Some aspects of the design could have been stronger, including: a somewhat ambitious timeframe for such a complex project, having too many IPs, more focus needed on the availability of irrigation water, and less than desired focus on involving marginalized groups and men in the context of FFSs (male engagement), etc. The SLAs' idea was not initially part of the project design, although it proved to be a strong sustainability and empowerment factor. Reliance on LOAs has proved to be a hindrance in some cases, when hiring individual consultants instead of finding qualified companies could have been easier. Choosing DFAs as IPs could be justified by the desire to strengthen these potentially important institutions, but several interviewees commented that their capacity was too weak, and they required extensive assistance, including for association-building, which was not in the scope of this project.*

The overall quality of project implementation was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS), with:

The ***quality of project implementation by FAO rated as Satisfactory (S):*** *The delivery by FAO of oversight, supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) services was Satisfactory, but there could be more engagement with the technical staff at the FAO HQ and regional centers to boost innovation in the project, rather than just get approvals. Also, there was a significant delay before the National Project Coordinator (NPC) was hired, which affected the performance of the project;*

Project oversight was rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)*, given, inter alia, the fact that there was only one National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting so far, and the fact that NSC members did not receive biannual updates (progress reports), implying limited project oversight.*

The quality of project execution and management was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). *The project had strong support from the district administrations. As for the MAAIF, at the national level, while it was engaged and the national ownership could not be put in doubt, there seemed to be an issue of not finding sufficient time (plus possibly other reasons related to restructuring of the MAAIF), for timely assurance that the milestones are met. The PMU had become more active with the NPC hired, who managed to quickly close most of the gaps caused by COVID and elections locally, but its engagement at the central level (with policy departments of the ministries concerned) could be stronger and the PMU would benefit from better planning, better and timely identification and mitigation of risks – something that was clearly affected by understaffing among other factors.*

Financial management and co-financing were rated as Satisfactory (S). *There were no concerns regarding budget execution and the expected co-financing levels remained at the same level as planned. There was, however, a need for budget revision given the doubling of fuel prices and more support for irrigation.*

Project partnerships and stakeholders' engagement were rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS)*. While the project engaged overall well with the stakeholders at the local level, its engagement with the policy circles could be stronger (policy departments of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), and National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)). At the local level, the PMU engaged well with the technical staff of the district governments, but not much with the political offices during project monitoring and evaluation and other IPs working in the same technical areas, as well as at the sub-county level.*

Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products were rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). *While there was a Communication Plan, its implementation had not progressed far; only a few items (like T-shirts, notebooks) had been produced. This was related to the lack of progress in terms of Output 1.4, discussed earlier (Communication system), as well as to understaffing of the FAO Uganda Communications Unit. Given that the project needed to urgently close the*

gap of having communication materials on the good practices coming from the field, it seems necessary to hire a short-term consultant to support the NPC. While the project was putting in place a nationwide system for knowledge management (KM), the immediate need was to share good practices among districts and countrywide, and this was affected by the same situation with communication, as well as the fact that KM Unit at FAO Uganda did not have a lead. There was also a concern that information was not cascading down well from district administrations to sub-county level and the project needed to facilitate this.

The overall quality of M&E was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS) with:

The M&E System rated Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): *The outputs did not have mid-term targets and there was no mechanism in the Project Document for capturing the results for the end-of-project outcome level indicators (e.g. adoption of the new practices by the farmers). With the new M&E Officer coming on board eight months prior to the MTR, the system was being reorganized with an Annual Outcome Survey planned. The implementation of the M&E plan at country office level as per the GEF requirements was complied with, i.e., in the part of monitoring of the Results Framework (RF) indicators (including the Core Indicators), but the monitoring and reporting through Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) lacked systematic nature; and*

The M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources) rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). *There are Monitoring Committees at district level which were formed recently and this was an important achievement. The NSC members were supposed to conduct quarterly visits and to date only the MAAIF had conducted such a visit, while others were yet to submit their plans at the time of the MTR. The M&E system at the CO level was being reorganized with the annual outcome surveys instituted. However, the human resources are insufficient at the CO (on the top of the M&E Officer being new) to support the individual projects.*

Cross-cutting priorities *- Question 6: To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project?*

Gender and other equity dimensions were rated as Satisfactory (S) *in the light of the project's strong gender mainstreaming interventions, emphasizing participation of men and women as FFS members and FFS leadership, where one of the three committee members had to be a woman and data was disaggregated by sex. Women being the vast majority of FFS members (around 90 percent) had benefited from the project and had been empowered through training and IGAs. There was anecdotal evidence that FFS women-members had shown to be receptive to the new knowledge and applied these, earned (more) money, which led them to feel more empowered to make decisions on how to spend (but this would have benefitted from more male engagement). The trainers kept records on the share of participants in the training events who were disabled as well as youth, but there was no data on the share of FFS members who are young or disabled. There should have been a more explicit focus on engaging the disadvantaged, marginalized and the elderly, as well as specific focus on involving young men—as was recommended by the research from the Makerere University; and*

Policy level work in progress, with the reports on "Gender and CCA integrated into an effective sub-catchment management system in 13 districts for the sustainable use of land and natural resources" and on "Gender analysis of the dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use with key recommendations" planned to be used to support the development of district and community gender action plans.

***The human rights issue was rated as Satisfactory (S)**, with respect to decent work embedded and no infringements on human rights (including those of indigenous people) assured. There was evidence of growing incidences of hunger in some districts (Karamoja region) with anecdotal evidence suggesting that at times, farmers were too hungry to have the energy to engage with project activities, leading to the recommendation that perhaps the project needed to consider funding some food relief items.*

***Environmental and social safeguards were rated as Satisfactory (S):** The initial assessment of environmental and social risks was adequate; charcoal production – as a moderate risk; conflict over natural resources - as a low risk; paying inadequate attention to gender- as a low risk, the use of pesticides- as a very low risk; and the situation in the Karamoja region- as a low risk (as the project did not plan (and did not) alter land use patterns). The same ratings would apply at mid-term, but there would be a slightly higher risk for "paying inadequate attention to gender" in the Karamoja region with its more patriarchal and nomadic way of life, leading to the need to employ a more nuanced approach in terms of promoting the participation of women.*

There was evidence of environmental and social benefits. Since the project was rated as Low risk, the project did not have to regularly update it.

Progress towards achieving the project's development objective

***There was good progress towards achieving the project's development objective – rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS),** with the evidence emerging that the farmers were adopting and internalizing practices which were more adaptive to climate change with positive outcomes for their food security and environmental benefits (afforestation, ecofriendly materials and decreased pollution), but the latter needed sustainability-proofing mechanisms, i.e. measures to ensure that environmental integrity was maintained.*

Overall progress on implementation

***The overall progress of implementation was Moderately Satisfactory (MS), with the picture rather uneven**: Satisfactory for Outcome 2 (FFS, training, support to farmers), somewhat delayed for Outcome 1 (research on climate change impacts by NARO and on biodiversity), with a significant delay related to setting up the Communications System for the project and little progress for Outcome 3 where 5 outputs have not started in effect (including two on CCA and gender mainstreaming for which there were mid-term targets), with only one output progressing as planned (gender profile in districts related to climate change).*

Overall risk rating

***The overall risk rating was Low**. The initial assessment of environmental and social risks was overall adequate. There was evidence of environmental and social benefits from the project.*

Progress, challenges and outcomes of stakeholder engagement

***The overall level of stakeholder engagement was Moderately Satisfactory (MS),** with those in the field more actively engaged, but with less-than desired engagement on policy and enforcement issues with some of the government agencies (MoLG, NEMA).*

Progress on gender-responsive measures, indicators and intermediate results as documented at CEO endorsement/approval in the gender action plan or equivalent.

There was good progress on gender-responsive measures (rated as Satisfactory (S), with:

Women benefitting from training and income-generating activities, receptive to the new knowledge and applying it, earning (more) money, feeling more empowered to make decisions on how to spend it (but this would have benefitted from more male engagement); and

Policy level engagement, with several reports produced and planned- to be used to support development of district and community gender action plans.

Knowledge management activities/products

***KM was rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)**. While the project was putting in place the nationwide system for KM, the immediate need in sharing good practices among districts and countrywide, was affected by the Communications Strategy essentially not being implemented (owing to the limited staffing of the FAO Uganda Communications unit), the recruitment of the company to lead on Output 1.4 delayed and the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Unit at FAO Uganda being without a Knowledge Management lead.*

Conclusions

***Conclusion 1: Strategic Relevance.** The project was relevant in addressing the growing threats of climate change for Uganda and focusing on cattle corridor. The project was in line with the national strategies (e.g., the third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Vision 2040 of Uganda, the Uganda National Agriculture Policy (NAP) 2020, the Uganda Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2021/2022-2025/2026 and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP, 2015) and localized SDGs, and with the UN and FAO Uganda strategy documents. It was aligned to GEF and LCDF strategic priorities, and complementary to the initiatives supported by FAO and the development partners.*

***Conclusion 2: Effectiveness.** Good progress was achieved towards the project's objective despite being affected by COVID lockdowns and delays due to Uganda's presidential elections. However, the progress was uneven. Good progress was achieved*

locally, in terms of supporting the FFSs and farmers improving farming practices, learning new-for-them watershed management practices and making plans for value chain development, with the target for Outcome 2 surpassed (number of FFSs). Overall satisfactory progress, albeit somewhat delayed was achieved in terms of supporting important research by NARO related to climate change effects with recommendations for each district (Outcome 1, with the target slightly underachieved), planned to be used to develop action plans for each of them. The concept of the ICT-based learning system was developed, but would require a concerted effort to operationalize. However, the mainstreaming of climate change/gender into selected policies, has not started yet (the targets for Outcome 3 underachieved), needing a change in the approach, e.g., with closer engagement with the ministries and mechanisms for that (e.g., working groups). The work related to setting up an effective system of communication on best practices had not yet started, and there was a need to hire part-time support to the NPC to fill in the gap. Instead of the much higher numbers of FFSs than the target, more in-depth work was needed with each FFS in Value Chain Development (VCHD).

Conclusion 3: Efficiency. *Good adaptive management was displayed to achieve the described progress locally in the light of delays and the related changes in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) due to COVID and elections, but less so in other aspects, like CCA mainstreaming in agricultural policies. The project was delayed, for some outputs, due to internal inefficiencies. A year-long no-cost extension seemed necessary. For cost effectiveness, the perceptions differed, with a few pointing to the extensive needs for the training of the facilitators from the IPs who often lacked experience in the respective topics.*

Conclusion 4: Sustainability. *Certain aspects of the project seemed to have reasonable chances for sustainability, like part, if not most of the FFSs: adding a saving and low-interest credit element was a strong element for that, helped by the formalization of groups as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) at sub-counties (with charters), and joint activities such as energy-saving stoves and cooperative marketing of products. Farmers internalizing the knowledge of some of the new practices they learned and using these was also a good indication of sustainability. However, limited investment in irrigation/water harvesting schemes hampered the achievements and sustainability prospects in the crop husbandry, afforestation and animal fodder, since the prolonged dry spells led to wastages associated with replanting. There were other aspects of the project that had higher risks to their sustainability prospects, like tree planting and other watershed management-related activities, as well as VCHD and engagement of the DFAs in continued support to the farmers.*

Conclusion 5: Factors affecting performance. *The factors affecting the performance positively included: strong presence in the field and close engagement with district administrations, potentially the FFS model itself, which seemed to have proven to work supported by the SLAs, and the overall, with only minor issues, design. The external factors that affected the project negatively included: COVID, elections, increasing costs for food and fuel, increasing hunger in some areas, the prolonged dry*

spell and scanty rains, staff shortages both for the project and in FAO Uganda, and late hiring of the NPC.

The project implementation quality by FAO was overall satisfactory, with some of the issues emanating from highly bureaucratic procedures. There could have been more engagement with FAO HQ staff soliciting technical knowledge and thus bolstering innovation in the project. The project execution was Moderately Satisfactory, with a caveat that the MAAIF seemed to be too busy with many projects, and not finding enough time, as well as facing certain restructuring issues, for example for the regular NSC meetings. The MWE was involved sufficiently in the part of the watershed management component. Similarly, NARO led the research on climate change impacts and recommendations for districts under Outcome 1, but the regional offices (Zone Agricultural Research and Development Institutes (ZARDIs) were yet to get more actively involved. The work of the PMU has markedly improved after hiring the NPC, who has managed to mostly close the gaps in relation to the field level activities, but the work with the policy departments of the ministries concerned (MoLG, NEMA) could have been stronger and there could have been a better planning and risk management system in place. The overall level of stakeholder engagement was Moderately Satisfactory, with those in the field more actively engaged, but with less-than-desired engagement on policy issues with some of the government agencies, as mentioned. While the project was putting in place the nationwide system for KM, the immediate need was to share good practices among districts, sub-counties and countrywide, affected by the Communications Strategy essentially not being implemented (owing to the limited staffing of the FAO Uganda Communications unit). The overall quality of M&E was Moderately Satisfactory, in need of improvement (outputs not having mid-term targets, no systematic progress for regular recording of project progress as per indicators and targets, and no mechanism as per design for capturing the outcome level results). The M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources) was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). The NSC members were supposed to conduct quarterly visits and at the time of the MTR, only MAAIF had conducted such a visit, while others were yet to submit their plans. With the new M&E Officer coming on board eight months prior to the MTR, the system was being reorganized with these drawbacks fixed. Plus, there were Monitoring Committees formed at the district level-an important achievement. Annual Outcome surveys were instituted. However, the human resources for the M&E were insufficient at the CO to support the individual projects.

Conclusion 6: Cross-cutting dimensions. *Gender and other equity dimensions were rated as Satisfactory. Impressive results were seen in terms of women empowerment and participation, with women actively taking part in the FFSs, taking leadership roles, and starting to earn (more) money. In Karamoja region, the project could have employed a more nuanced approach. Also, the project could, have had a more explicit focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged (e.g., disabled, marginalized and elderly), and make a specific effort to include young men, going beyond just recording their share among the training. The human rights issue was rated as Satisfactory, with respect to decent work embedded and no infringements found on human rights (including the human rights of the indigenous people). Environmental and social safeguards were*

rated as Satisfactory: the initial rating at the conception of the project was overall adequate and there was evidence of environmental and social benefits.

Lessons Learned

Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and gender issues into agricultural policies requires special focus and more innovative ways to engage with the government.

In order for the local governments to integrate project interventions and allocate budgets, the political leadership and technical teams have to be brought on board consistently to appreciate project results.

FFS approach looks promising, especially when supported with SLAs. The SLA integration into groups enhanced group functionality and continuity. The groups met weekly to collect savings and share proceeds from the group IGAs, such as energy saving stoves and poultry vaccination, which would ensure continuity of group activities since members directly benefitted from group activities. Given the massive investment (currently and planned) in FFS, the FFS approach requires a rigorous assessment.

Water for production is a very important factor and its scarcity negatively affected afforestation, crops and pasture production. Scaling up access to affordable irrigation technologies will greatly contribute to the project effectiveness.

Recommendations

Recommendations are listed below:

Effectiveness

***B1. Recommendation:** Provide more guidance to the farmers before they venture into an activity, for the crops to be harvested to have economies of scale for VCHD, i.e., focus on fewer animals with better output, drought-resistant varieties and adequate pasture.*

***B2. Recommendation:** Allow for budget revision to allocate more resources to expand access to irrigation, including to reliable/permanent solutions. Support stronger community-level maintenance and management systems (linking FFS and Water User Associations).*

***B3. Recommendation**: Put more effort in achieving progress on the four (4) outputs for which there was no progress at mid-term, but for which there were mid-term targets, namely policy mainstreaming, ICT-based KM system and implementation of the Communications Strategy (ensuring its reach to sub-county level).*

Efficiency

***C1. Recommendation:** Ensure timely achievement of planned results with better oversight (regular NSC meetings, regular progress reports disseminated to the NSC members) and improved planning with adequate tools and LOA review meetings by sub offices, coordinated by NPC.*

***C2. Recommendation:** Issue a 1 year-long no-cost extension*

Sustainability

- ***D1. Recommendation:*** *Pursue closer links with district administrations, including their technical wings, ensuring close engagement with both production and Natural Resource Management (NRM) departments. Involve more and consistently the political wing and district leadership in monitoring to support continuity. Support implementation and enforcement of environmental protection regulations. Participate in district technical working groups and review meetings to enhance cohesion of interventions, coordination and minimize duplication. As part of system strengthening, support the coordinating office under the Chief Administrative Offices (CAO) to conduct coordination activities such as the district coordination and review meetings.*
- ***D2. Recommendation:*** *Work closely with district officials to develop a comprehensive exit strategy and prepare partners for the exit through an official handover.*
- ***D3. Recommendation:*** *Closely engage with watershed management committees and subcommittees (coordination of activities, training) and engage with NEMA, on sensitization and enforcement.*

Factors affecting performance

E1. Recommendation: *Contribute to conducting a rigorous assessment of the FFS model, to assess effectiveness and a closer look at sustainability prospects from earlier interventions).*

E2. Recommendation: *Address the shortage of staffing, e.g., hire part time communications support to urgently close the gap in the immediate need in capturing the results so far and communicating (also using the Eastern Africa FFS Hub, based in Uganda).*

E3. Recommendation: *Revise the budget to accommodate the fuel prices which have increased by more than 50 percent since the project start as well as the purchase of food items for the farmers where there is significant evidence of hunger.*

Cross-cutting dimensions

F1. Recommendation: *Add special focus on vulnerable (especially disabled and elderly) and youth (especially young men) and male engagement (the latter to enhance household harmony and joint planning and household income increment). Add a systematic approach to capturing the engagement of youth, elderly and disabled.*

GEF rating table

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	Highly relevant to country needs and programs, FAO and UN programming, GEF priorities, and complementary to existing initiatives.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	Aligned with FAO strategic priorities, FAO Uganda County policy Frameworks, as well as GEF strategic priorities.
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	Highly relevant to the national, regional and global priorities with the impacts of climate change worsening. The choice of the cattle corridor as the target territory is highly relevant too.
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	S	Complementary to existing initiatives - to FAO-implemented programs, and the programs of other development partners, e.g. the EU, the WB and the IFAD.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	MS	Good progress, especially in the light of COVID, but the performance affected by internal factors too.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	MS	Good progress overall, but no progress for 6 outputs, 5 under Outcome 3.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	MS	Good progress overall but uneven.
- Outcome 1	MS	Good progress but targets delayed for the climate change studies for districts and the study on biodiversity with action plans. And no progress for an ICT system for KM
- Outcome 2	S	Mid-term target surpassed with 360 FFSs instead of 150.
- Outcome 3	MU	Only one (1) of the mid-term targets achieved (gender and climate change adaptation mainstreamed in catchment plans). For the rest, no progress (3 outputs related to mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and gender into policies; an output related to institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector built at central, regional and district levels; and the output on "Barriers to registration of local/farmers crop varieties on the Uganda National Register of Varieties understood").
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes	MS	Good progress with some anecdotal evidence emerging on the adoption of new practices by the farmers. However, the project is not yet tracking adoption rates (an outcome survey expected in December 2022).
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Not rated at MTR	
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	MS	Delays due to COVID and elections, but also for internal reasons. Perceptions both in favour of rating it cost effective (e.g., due to using community structures) and the opposite (related to vast training needs for the facilitators).
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Overall, risks to sustainability are moderately likely.
D1.1. Financial risks	L	State programs without committed budgets (e.g., on watershed management), rising fuel costs, expensive activities like tree planting, seeds production. DFAs likely not able to continue to provide training in the absence of external funding, but the SLAs help the FFSs to sustain efforts.
D1.2. Socio-political risks	ML	Strong socio-political support reported among leaders at the district and community level -embracing and lobbying for scaling up the FFS approach across other sub-counties and as an approach to the district extension services. The communities embraced the acquired knowledge and adopted good practices- such as energy-saving

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
		stoves, water retention ridges, re-afforestation, ppasture gardens and alternative sources of income.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Most FFSs likely to be sustainable. Also close engagement with district and local governments, with focal points being the staff from these bodies point to moderate institutional and governance risks.
D1.4. Environmental risks	L	Environmental risks are likely, due to significant and growing threats from climate change, addressing of which requires commitment of vast state resources. The insufficient enforcement of laws against the growing deforestation and wetland encroachment also contributed to this rating.
D2. Catalysis and replication	S	Anecdotal evidence suggests that (a) the model of FFSs is being picked up and replicated by the farmers themselves when they are not involved in the project supported FFSs; and (b) the benefits of the new agricultural practices are being passed on to the farmers not part of the FFSs by word-of-mouth.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness[12]	S	Overall sound design (FFS model, good presence in the field, close engagement with district administrations), but overly ambitious. Did not have the idea of the SLAs in the design. There are too many Implementing Partners (IPs), more focus was needed on the availability of irrigation water, and on involving marginalized and on male engagement.
E2. Quality of project implementation	MS	Satisfactory implementation by FAO and moderately unsatisfactory project oversight.
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	S	The delivery by FAO of oversight, supervision and backstopping services was satisfactory. However, there could be more engagement with the technical staff at FAO HQ and regional centers to boost innovation in the project, rather than just get approvals. Also, there was a significant delay in hiring the NPC, which affected the performance of the project.
E2.1 Project oversight (NSC, project working group, etc.)	MU	Only one NSC so far. Progress reports not sent to NSC members, only one monitoring visit by NSC members so far. However, some improvements recently with district level monitoring committees formed.
E3. Quality of project execution	MS	The project has strong support from the district administrations. As for the MAAIF at the national level, while the national ownership could not be questioned, there seemed to be an issue with not finding sufficient time for timely assurance that the milestones are met and NSC meets regularly.
E3.1 Project execution and management (PMU and executing partner performance, administration, staffing, etc.)	MS	The PMU has become more active with the NPC hired, with quick closing of the gaps caused by COVID and elections locally, but not so centrally. The PMU would benefit from better planning, better and timely identification of risks and mitigation, but its operation was also clearly affected however by understaffing.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	S	No divergence from the approved funding (budget lines). Co-financing progressing as planned but with the speed dictated by programmatic progress.
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	MS	While the project engages overall well with the stakeholders at the local level, its engagement with the policy departments of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), MoLG and NEMA could be stronger. At the local level, the project engaged well with the technical staff of the district governments, but not much so with the political wing and other IPs working in the same technical areas.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	MU	(1) Very little progress with the implementation of the Communication Plan, (2) While the project is putting in place the nationwide system for KM, the immediate need to share good practices among districts and country-wide is largely not met yet
E7. Overall quality of M&E	MS	Marginally Satisfactory in the light of the Moderately Unsatisfactory M&E design and Moderately Satisfactory M&E plan implementation.

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
E7.1 M&E design	MU	Outputs without targets; no mechanism per design to capture outcome targets, no system for regular collection of the results per indicators.
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	MS	There were improvements after hiring the new M&E officer, including (a) FAO Uganda-wide system for recording the progress of projects along the indicators; (b) planned outcome survey in December 2022 and (c) District level Monitoring Committees instituted. But the FAO Uganda M&E unit is understaffed and doubtful if individually each project receives the needed support.
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	MS	Moderately Satisfactory in the light of the ratings above.
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	S	Women (the vast majority of FFS members) receptive to new knowledge and applying it, earning (more) money and more empowered to make decisions on how to spend but this would have benefitted from a deliberate effort to involve both males and females. A more explicit focus on engaging the disadvantaged, and marginalized residents was needed Policy level engagement is progressing well to support development of district and community gender action plans.
F2. Human rights issues	S	Decent work embedded and no infringements on human rights (including those of indigenous people). However, there is evidence of growing incidences of hunger in Karamoja region with anecdotal evidence suggesting that at times there could be farmers too hungry to have the energy to engage with project activities: perhaps the project needs to consider funding some food relief items.
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	NA	The initial assessment of environmental and social risks was adequate. Since the project was rated as Low risk, the project does not have to regularly update it. There was evidence of environmental and social benefits.
Overall project rating	**MS**	Moderately Satisfactory in the light of the ratings above

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose and scope of the Mid-term Review

The purpose of the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) project "Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production in Uganda Through a Farmer/Agro-pastoralist Field School Approach" (the Project) was to be used as an adaptive management tool by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) agencies and as a portfolio monitoring tool by GEF Secretariat. Specifically, the purpose of the MTR was to (a) assess the progress towards achieving the project's objectives and results, (b) identify lessons learned, and (c) provide recommendations for mid-course corrective actions to ensure intended results will be achieved and sustained after the project.

The MTR provides a systematic analysis of progress in the achievement of expected outcome and output targets against budget expenditures according to Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/Bs).

The MTR contributes to identifying current and potential best practices and major challenges faced during project implementation and suggests mitigation measures to be discussed by the Project's National Steering Committee (NSC), the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (CU)/Funding Liaison Officer (FLO).

The scope of the MTR covers this project from inception till June 2022 inclusive, with the geographic area across 13 districts, and the target population and stakeholders as in the project design.

1.2. Objective of the MTR

The overall objective of the MTR is to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, the factors affecting performance, and cross-cutting issues. The MTR responds to the questions as indicated in Annex 4 which is based on the Terms of Reference (TOR). The revised Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria now include "Coherence", that is, compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution: this is covered under Relevance (as in the ToRs, see also Box 1).

1.3. Intended users

The primary stakeholders of the MTR who were to use its findings to effect change were the Budget Holder (BH) and Review Manager (RM), Project Management Unit (PMU), the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) (national project counterpart), the Project Task Force (PTF), FLO, LTO and other technical staff

at the FAO headquarters, the Project's NSC members, the GEF and other stakeholders. Other government and non-government stakeholders were expected secondary users.

The results of the MTR were expected to provide primary users with evidence and guidance to understand whether: (i) project outputs were produced in accordance with the project results framework (RF) and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes were leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks were continuously identified and monitored, and appropriate mitigation strategies were applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits were being delivered.

FAO and the MAAIF were expected to use the findings and recommendations to undertake corrective actions on the design of project interventions, implementation approaches, financing mechanisms and allocation of resources, partnership arrangements and sharing of responsibilities. The National Project Coordinator (NPC), PTF and the CU were expected to use the MTR findings and recommendations to develop management responses for implementing agreed improvements to the project and future Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategies.

Box 1: Description of the MTR review criteria

Relevance – the extent to which the intervention's design and intended results are consistent with local, national, sub-regional and regional environmental and development priorities and policies and to GEF and FAO strategic priorities and objectives; its complementarity with existing interventions and relevance to project stakeholders and beneficiaries; its suitability to the context of the intervention over time.

Effectiveness – the degree to which the intervention has achieved or expects to achieve results (project outputs, outcomes, objectives and impacts, including Global Environmental Benefits) taking into account key factors influencing the results, including an assessment of whether sufficient capacity has been built to ensure the delivery of results by project end and beyond and the likelihood of mid/longer-term impacts.

Efficiency – the cost-effectiveness of the project and timeliness of activities; the end and intervention has achieved value for resources by converting inputs (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) into results in the timeliest and least costly way compared with alternatives.

Sustainability – the (likely) continuation of positive effects from the intervention after it has ended and the potential for scale-up and/or replication; any financial, socio-political, institutional and governance, or environmental risks to the sustainability of project results and benefits; any evidence of replication or catalysis of project results.

Factors affecting performance – the main factors to be considered are:

- project design and readiness for implementation (e.g., sufficient partner capacity to begin operations, changes in context between formulation and operational start);
- project execution, including project management (execution modality as well as the involvement of different stakeholders);
- project implementation, including supervision by FAO (Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and Funding Liaison Officer), backstopping, and general Project Task Force (PTF) input;
- financial management and mobilization of expected co-financing;
- project partnerships and stakeholder involvement (including the degree of ownership of project results by stakeholders), political support from the government, institutional support from operating partners (such as regional branches of agricultural extension services);
- communication, public awareness and knowledge management; and
- application of an M&E system, including M&E design, implementation and budget.

Cross-cutting dimensions – considerations such as gender, indigenous-peoples and minority-group concerns and human rights; the environmental and social safeguards applied to a project require, among other things, a review of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) risk classification and risk-mitigation provisions identified at the project's formulation stage.[1]

[1] FAO applies an online screening system during the project design phase. This is mandatory, even if the project was approved before FAO adopted the GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards (GEF, 2011) and should review and confirm the ESS assessments and risk status at mid-term and any changes suggested, if needed. The most recent GEF guidance EF project should not cause any harm to the environment or to any stakeholder and, where applicable, will take measures to prevent and/or mitigate any adverse effects.

1.4. Methodology

The MTR adhered to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards and ethical guidelines (2016), in line with the FAO–GEF MTR Guide and annexes detailing methodological guidelines and practices.

The MTR adopted a consultative and participatory approach throughout the MTR process involving and consulting key stakeholders during design, implementation, validation and dissemination of information. This provided opportunities for taking corrective actions in time.

A cross-sectional design was employed utilizing quantitative and qualitative methods for complementarity.

Figure 1: Focus Group Discussions among males and females in Nakasongola District

An evaluation matrix of indicative questions was prepared (Appendix 4. MTR matrix (review questions and sub-questions) and used as a quality assurance tool. In developing it, the gender perspective was kept in focus to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs were incorporated into the report.

Triangulation was the main methodology used, bringing together information gathered from the sources listed in the next paragraph. This method, allowed for a high degree of cross-referencing and finding insights that were both sensitive and informative. In addition, contribution analysis was used when attribution of the observed outcomes to the project was not possible.

The sources of information and data collection methods included:

A. Document review of:

- ✓ ***project documents***, namely (a) documents prepared during the preparation phase (e.g., the Project Document, including the RF); (b) the project reports including the Inception report, annual PIRs, etc. The list of documents is presented in Appendix 5. List of documents consulted ("Reference list").
- ✓ ***Government documents*** (strategies, laws, sector review reports, and policies), and
- ✓ ***third party reports*** (e.g., reports by development partners).

B. **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with (a) national-level stakeholders and (b) stakeholders in the field. A purposive sampling was used, where the more senior staff and project focal point persons were considered for interviews according to Table 1. The respondents were selected based on their involvement in the project either at policy level, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation or beneficiary level (see Appendix 3. Stakeholders interviewed during the MTR). The KIIs covered:

   - **29 national stakeholders**, with project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, the NSC members, academia (Makerere University), central government (MAAIF, MWE Climate Change Department-CCD; NARO); Implementing Partners (IPs); FAO staff, and CSOs, etc.; and
   - **36 respondents at Local Government and community level** (see *Appendix 2. MTR itinerary, including field missions (agenda)*). This included project beneficiaries, local and district governments, etc. The fieldwork for the MTR was implemented in purposively selected 3 out of 13 project districts, based on regional and districts' representation with similar socio-demographic characteristics. Emphasis was also put on districts where Letters of Agreement (LOAs) had been signed. The sampled districts are presented in *Table 2.* The other 10 districts were covered through online KIIs, collection and analysis of secondary data from project reports, etc.

C. **Two (2) Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) per region, giving a total of six (6) FGDs** with (a) male and (b) female beneficiaries, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**. The purpose of the FGDs was to get a homogeneous section of the community to discuss issues related to project interventions. Opportunities, gaps, challenges and possible recommendations were established. The FGD participants were identified with the help of the focal points.

D. **Direct Observations** at project activity sites. An observation checklist was developed entailing aspects like various farming activities that farmers engaged in, types of technologies employed, and the like. This was used during

Table 1 : Key informant respondents

No	Category of Respondents	Sample size
	National Level	Virtual
1)	Academia (Makerere University)	2
2)	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries MAAIF	3
3)	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Climate Change Department (CCD)	2
4)	Research Institution (NARO)	2
5)	FAO Project Management Staff and experts	13
6)	Programme Officer-Field Coordinator	3
7)	Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)	1
8)	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)	1
9)	International development partners: UNDP; Bioversity, EU	3
	Subtotal	**29**
	District Level	In person and virtual
1)	District Local Government	13
2)	Field Farmer School facilitators	13
3)	Implementing partners with LOAs	2
4)	Other IPs	2
5)	Beneficiary households FGDs	6
	Sub-total	**36**

site visits to demonstration farms, and projects in homes of group members as well as communal facilities such as valley dams.

As part of the quantitative analysis and as part of the process to assess effectiveness,

- the ***Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis was conducted:*** the progress made towards the end-of-project targets taken from the 2022 June PIR was compared with the targets where available; and
- *the* ***Tracking Tool of GEF Core Indicators was reviewed***, comparing mid-term results for GEF-7 core indicators achieved with the targets from the version submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement.[2]

The MTR considered the results from the Self-Evaluation and Holistic Assessment of Climate Resilience and Pastoralist (SHARP), report and baseline, that covered a statistically representative sample of 404 households sampled from the 13 project districts. The questions for the households in the FGDs strived to link with those asked in the survey.

In evaluating capacity development and gender mainstreaming, the MTR used the frameworks and definitions adopted in the GEF and/or FAO's tools and guidelines for evaluation of CCA projects.

Table 2: Sampled districts

District	Region	Selected
1. Buyende	East	
2. Kamuli	East	√
3. Kayunga	East	
4. Luwero	Central	
5. Nakasongora	Central	√
6. Nakaseke	Central	
7. Amudat	North East	
8. Amolatar	North East	
9. Napak	North East	
10. Abim	North East	
11. Kaberamaido	East	
12. Amuria	East	
13. Katakwi	East	√

While implementing of the MTR, the following issues were given due consideration.

- ***Synergies across key MTR aspects.*** The link between evaluation questions, data collection, analysis, findings and conclusions were set out in a transparent manner in the presentation of the evaluation findings. A special effort was made to ensure that the sample of project stakeholders consulted equitably represent the various possible perspectives, including in terms of gender balance. It was assured that conclusions and recommendations were underpinned by a strong set of evidence.
- ***Gender issues.*** The data collection was aimed at gathering information about the involvement of women, men and youth in the implementation of the project and how the project has impacted them. Throughout the various categories of respondents, an attempt at understanding gender issues was made.
- ***Transparency, accountability and ethics.*** Transparency, accountability and ethics were at the centre of this assignment and the tools, methods and the purpose of the data gathering process were explained as part of the process to seek consent from the respondents. During the FGDs, the selection process ensured that the respondents

[2] GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01, Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7. 4 June 2018. For projects approved in GEF-6 that have not yet been completed, a shift to core indicators and sub- indicators is required at the next available opportunity in the project cycle (CEO Endorsement/ Approval, mid-term or completion).

have an equal chance to participate. In addition, only willing respondents were interviewed, irrespective of gender, tribe, belief, disability, and other considerations.

- ***Quality assurance mechanisms.*** In executing this assignment, quality assurance throughout the exercise was guaranteed through, in particular (a) correspondence to the ToRs, (b) agreed with the FAO methodology and the evaluation process as per the Inception Report for this MTR; (c) the requirements for the MTRs as stipulated in the guidelines, and (d) addressing the feedback received during the various review stages of the drafts.

  Analysis and Report Writing. *Thematic analysis was used for qualitative data where related themes and respective responses were identified. A systematic approach to analyses was used to get a deeper understanding of the contextual factors affecting the project. Causal analysis was done to establish the underlying causes of various performance trends in consultation with the key stakeholders.*

  Composition of the MTR team. *Lilit Melikyan, the Team Leader (TL) is a socio-economist with more than 25 years' experience in international development, specializing in adaptation and water management issues, carrying out evaluation studies and providing policy advice. Julian K. Bagyendera, PhD is a Project Management and Evaluation Specialist with over 27 years of work experience in climate change, environment, agriculture, HIV/AIDS, socio-economic strengthening, social protection, education, gender mainstreaming and integration, and several other fields.*

  Limitations:

  The initial planned timeline was affected by the (a) revision of the TOR and (b) late recruitment of the MTR Team Leader due to lengthy procedures.

  Due to global virus issues (COVID and Monkeypox), the Team Leader was not able to travel to the country, which imposed limitations.

  Several potential interviewees, identified as important, did not find time for the interviews (Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD), FLO, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) representative and the UNDP portfolio lead for Energy and Environment), private sector players e.g., input service providers at the district level were not included as part of the interviewees by the CO, and this became clear only afterwards.

  The evaluation process was difficult with the support that the authors received affected by the lack of experience in handling GEF evaluations by the CO with this being one of the first decentralized MTRs (and this became evident for example with regard to the need to send comments on all the reports in a consolidated fashion), the insufficient preparedness for the MTR by the CO (e.g., in terms of the documents that were needed to be present by the time the MTR commenced), the lack of adequate planning ahead (e.g. in terms of the clear roles of the MEL and the NPC in the CO to facilitate the MTR), and the challenges emanating from the lack of coordination between various units (e.g. related to the field trip, etc.).

All efforts were put in place to minimize the limitations of this MTR. In particular, the national consultant conducted district-level interviews and supervised research assistants who conducted FGDs in local languages.

Cost-effectiveness of the project was analyzed only in a light-touch way, as an in-depth analysis requires a significant allocation of time and resources. This was agreed upon as part of the Inception Report.

2. Project background and context

Uganda is highly affected by climate change. Results from the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment conducted for the Third National Communication of Uganda (2022) indicated that both temperature and rainfall are expected to increase.[3] *There is still a wide range of possible scenarios and uncertainty, particularly for rainfall*[4]*, but. the country depends largely on rain-fed agriculture, making rural livelihoods and food security highly vulnerable to weather extremes and the consequences of climate change and variability. Climate change is already affecting water availability, quality and security across Uganda for both production and domestic use. The priority sectors for adaptation in Uganda are: ecosystem, water, agriculture, and forestry.*[5]

Fragile policy and regulatory environment and capacity gaps to address climate change impacts were among the barriers in need of addressing, coupled with limited applications of gender responsive CCA approaches, lack of effective participatory advisory services, lack of data and information on the status and evolution of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use, limiting appropriate planning and management, lack of access to markets, and insufficient diversity of crop varieties and barriers to seed distribution systems.

The 4-year project "Integrating climate resilience into agricultural and pastoral production in Uganda, through a Farmer/Agro-pastoralist Field School Approach" (GCP/UGA/043/LDF, GEF ID 7997) was financed from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) managed by the GEF. The GEF contribution amount as LDCF Grant was USD 6,886,838, with expected co-financing 29,957,724 USD, and thus the total project budget as USD 36,844,562 (linked to the Co- financing table in Appendix 7).

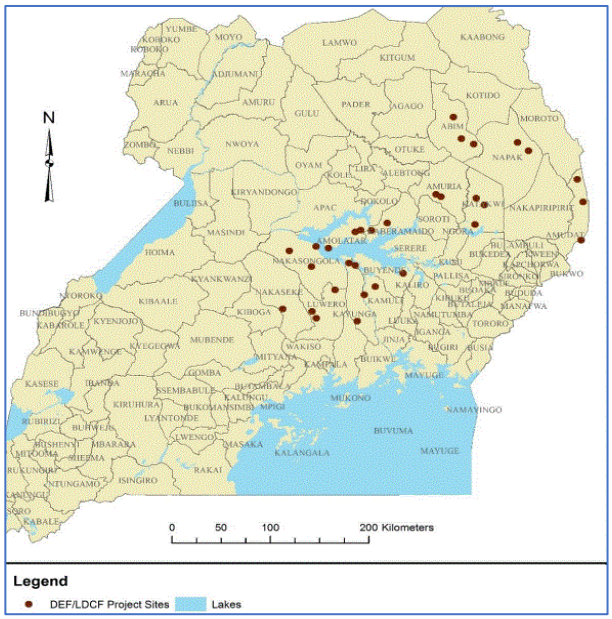
The project resources were to complement/build on the pre-existing initiatives financed by the LDCF, the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+), the Swedish Government, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the European Development Fund (EDF), Government of Uganda and other IP resources.

[3] Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Uganda (2022), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-09/Updated%20NDC%20_Uganda_2022%20Final.pdf
[4] ibid
[5] ibid

FAO was implementing the project in partnership with the MAAIF, the executing partner. The project duration was from July 2019 to June 2024.

The project was being implemented in 28 sub-counties of the 13 districts (out of 121 in the country) located in the arid and semi-arid cattle corridor - namely Nakasongola, Nakaseke, Luwero, Kayunga, Kamuli, Buyende, Amolatar, Kaberamaido, Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Napak, and Amudat (see ***Error! Reference source not found.****). The area of intervention of the project lies across five Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZ) and three regions. The cattle corridor – Uganda's dryland – is dominated by livestock production with scarce water and pasture resources.*

The objective of the project was to build climate resilience in the agricultural sector, as an effective means of reducing vulnerability and disseminating community-level adaptation measures. The project comprises the following four outcomes:

- 

Source: Project Document

Figure 2: Project sites in Uganda

- ***Outcome 1:*** *Knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and disseminated through an integrated knowledge sharing system to male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists, and institutions that support them (MAAIF), NARO, District Local Government (DLGs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and CBOs to ensure resilience;*
- ***Outcome 2:*** *Farmers and agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent female) adopt gender responsive improved climate resilient practices (agroecological practices, improved soil, water, crop, varietal diversity, crop-associated biodiversity, livestock and ecosystem management practices, integrated pest management practices, etc.) through the AP/FFS approach;*

- ***Outcome 3:*** *Increased institutional capacity of MAAIF and DLG to mainstream gender responsive CCA into Agriculture Sector and Districts Plans and implement CCA policies, strategies and programs, shifting from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach; and*
- ***Outcome 4:*** *Project Implementation based on results-based management and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated.*

  The key strategy of the project was to build on pre-existing initiatives to enhance synergies with the existing multi-partner support and holistic approach to CCA. The implementation approach builds on existing farmer organizations using AP/FFS. The implementation of activities was executed through the engagement of Implementing Partners (IPs) under the arrangement of LOAs between FAO and IPs.

  The primary stakeholders were the target beneficiaries, that is, farmers, communities, and CBOs in the cattle corridor. Secondary stakeholders were the agencies with the primary responsibility for implementing various components, generating project outputs and ensuring project success. These include FAO, MAAIF, NARO, MWE/CCD. Tertiary stakeholders were other agencies supporting related complementary interventions, support services and the government oversight. These included the government agencies like the OPM, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD); Equal Opportunities Commission; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED); Ministry of Local Government and District Local Government (MoDLGs); Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Works and Transport; as well as development partners like Bioversity International; AMFRI Farms; NGOs in the project areas; Makerere University and Kyambogo University. Their roles as envisioned are elaborated in F

Table 3 .

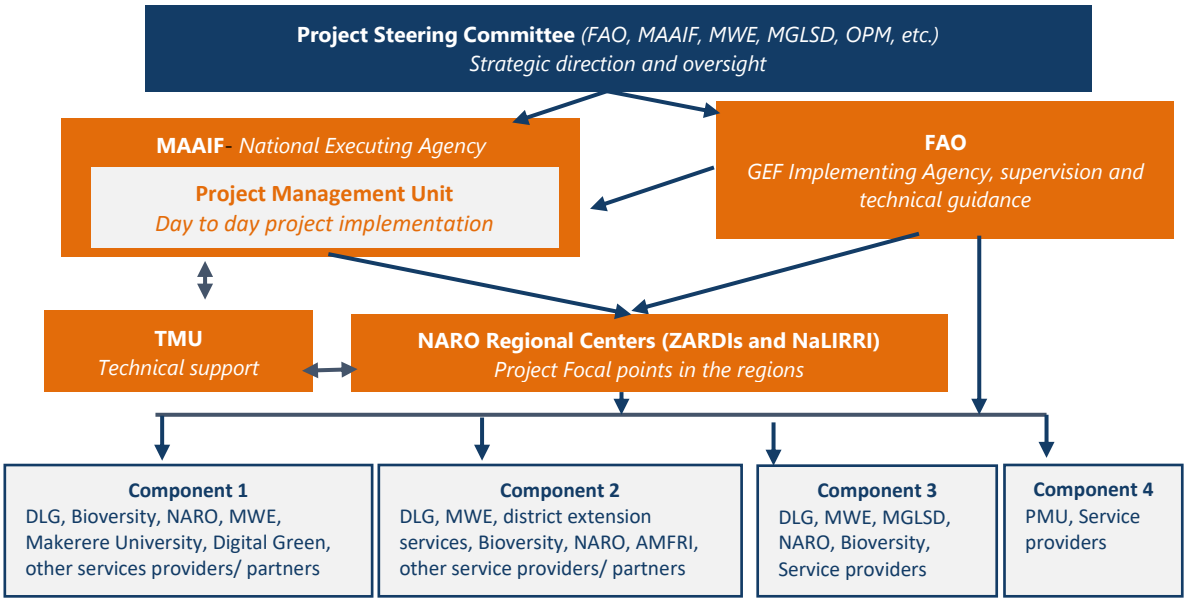
The project, since its start was affected by the COVID, elections and sharply increasing fuel prices. No changes were made to project's design, timeline or budget since the GEF CEO endorsement.

Project governance was to be carried out through 3 levels: National Steering Committee (NSC); Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Technical Management Unit (TMU). The PTF - the management and consultative body - was expected to integrate the necessary technical qualifications from the relevant FAO units to support the project. The PTF was composed of the BH, the LTO, the FLO; and one or more technical officers based at FAO Headquarters (HQ Technical Officer). ***Error! Reference source not found.*** *displays the decision-making mechanism of this project*

As in the Project Document (ProDoc), FAO has a dual role as implementing and executing agency. The FAO Representative in Uganda is the Budget Holder (BH) and is responsible for the management of GEF resources, as applicable. MAAIF is responsible for the overall execution of the project and acts as national execution entity, also referred to as National Operational Partner in FAO terminology. National co-executing agencies are supported by the PSC and the PMU hosted by MAAIF

Table 3: Project stakeholders as planned

Stakeholder Type and Name	Expected role
Primary stakeholders	
Farmers	Participating in AP-FFSs and other farmer-level activities, participating in community-level CCA committees and other fora, leadership in farmer organizations, uptake and upscaling of recommendations.
Communities, Community-Based Organizations (CBO)	Supporting communities to manage community-level programs and projects, participate in planning and implementation of activities, liaison with supporting agencies and government.
Secondary Stakeholders	
FAO	Lead implementer with MAAIF, co-financing, technical support, monitoring and oversight through participation in the Project Steering Committee.
MAAIF	Lead implementer together with FAO, member of the Project Steering Committee, responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment, ensuring coordination and collaboration with all relevant government and non-government agencies in the sector Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) is responsible for coordination of public agricultural advisory and extension services.
NARO	Organizing and co-financing agricultural research activities in collaboration with private and international research centers, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, member of the Steering Committee.
MWE, CCD	Member of the Project Steering Committee; responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for natural resource management sectors; providing coordination and technical guidance in identifying priorities, developing and managing interventions on water management, agro-biodiversity, wetlands and aquatic resources, meteorology and climate change
Tertiary stakeholders	
OPM	Member of the Project Steering Committee; participating in planning, monitoring, and dissemination of information on progress and results
Other ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Equal Opportunities Commission; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; MOLG; Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Works .	Participating in Project Steering Committee meetings on an ad-hoc basis; utilization of project information and results.
DLG under Ministry of Local Government	Participating in planning and implementation of activities, utilization of project information and results.
Bioversity	Participating in planning and implementation of research activities, seed banks, tree nurseries, diversity fairs; utilization of project information and results.
Digital Green	Participating in planning, development and implementation of an ICT system.
AMFRI Farms	Participating in planning and implementation of training and contracting farmers on high value markets.
NGOs	Participating in planning and implementation of community level activities (AP/FFS) activities as facilitators, seed banks, community nurseries, diversity fairs, land and management systems).
Makerere University and Kyambogo University	Participating in planning and implementation of selected research activities, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, participating in developing and implementing the CCA Knowledge Base (CCAKB).



Source: Project Document

Figure 3: Project institutional arrangements

The project was expected to achieve a number of key outputs through the LOAs and individual contracts. The LOAs were expected to be signed between FAO and the respective partners, including government institutions, civil society organizations, and academia, if established in the Annual Work Plans approved by the NSC.

FAO and the implementing partners were expected to work with the implementing bodies of other programmes and projects to identify opportunities and mechanisms to facilitate synergies with other relevant projects supported by the GEF and the projects supported by other donors. This partnership was to be achieved through: (i) informal communications between the GEF bodies and the partners implementing other programmes and projects; and (ii) exchange of information and materials from other projects.

The project is at its mid-term (slightly passed).

3. Theory of change

The Theory of Change (ToC) from the ProDoc is described in Box 2, while ***Error! Reference source not found.*** *describes the revised Results Chain. The version of the Results Chain from the Project Document did not have the links (non-linear) between outcomes and outputs and the latter were missing altogether. The links between outcomes were not elaborated with accompanying assumptions.*

Box 2: TOC from the ProDoc

Livelihoods of farmers and agro-pastoralists in the project districts are vulnerable and likely to worsen due to threats caused by climate change, environment degradation characterized by moderate to severe land degradation, loss of ecosystem services, declining biodiversity, increasing water scarcity, and declining agricultural productivity. The targeted agro-pastoralists are unable to adapt to these threats in order to develop sufficiently resilient livelihoods. A pre-project situation analysis identified the key bottlenecks as: lack of sufficient data and evidence to guide planning of CCA interventions, inadequate tailored extension services, limited capacity of local government and community level organizations to develop and apply gender-responsible CCA approaches, limited access to markets by producers and agribusinesses, low and declining diversity of crop varieties and barriers to access seed, and a fragile policy and regulatory environment. In view of the identified challenges, the project's development hypothesis is that:

IF:

(i) Required data and knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and shared with agro-pastoralists and institutions that support them;
(ii) Effective and gender responsive CCA practices (improved soil and water management, crop and livestock diversity and productivity, community seed banks, crop/tree nurseries, ecosystem management practices, governance systems, value addition, marketing practices and strategies, etc.) are tested, validated, and disseminated/strengthened through the AP-FFS approach;
(iii) The capacity of MAAIF and DLGs to mainstream gender responsive CCA into regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes (into the agriculture sector and district plans and implement a shift from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach is improved);
(iv) Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management systems in MAAIF and DLGs are strengthened and oriented towards providing more systematic data, knowledge and recommendations on lessons learned and CCA best practices; and their effectiveness in guiding prioritization of CCA interventions in sector and district strategies and plans;

ASSUMING THAT:

(i) Sufficient resources and sustainable financing mechanisms are put in place;
(ii) Public extension services tailored to CCA are developed and access by agro-pastoralists is ensured;
(iii) Improvements in CCA-related legislation, policies and regulatory mechanisms are implemented;
(iv) Political commitments by the government to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol are sustained;
(v) A critical number of agro-pastoralist households are willing to participate sustainably in AP/FFSs;
(vi) The impacts of COVID-19, crop and livestock pests and diseases, floods, and conflict, especially on low-income subsistence households are minimized

INTERMEDIATE RESULTS:

(i) Use of improved data and knowledge on CCA best practices and gender mainstreaming will be increased in order to inform improvements in the MAAIF Climate Change Strategy and Plans, the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan and DLG CCA strategies and Plans;
(ii) MAAIF and DLGs will implement a shift from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach;
(iii) CCA policies, strategies, plans, and interventions will be closely and effectively monitored; a knowledge management system v be established/improved and functional; and best practices and lessons will be applied to improve policies, strategies and pla in a sustained manner

AVAILABILITY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS BY TARGETED:

(i) Agro-pastoralists and agribusinesses to information and knowledge, production assets, extension and other services for production will increase;
(ii) Adoption of improved CCA and gender responsive practices by agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female), communities and businesses in the semi-arid corridor will increase;
(iii) Growth and development of marketing systems, value addition, agro-processing and standards enhanced will increase;
(iv) Sustainable management of natural resources will be strengthened;
(v) Livelihoods of targeted vulnerable agro-pastoral households will be protected and diversified
(vi) Capacity of selected communities for climate change adaptation and mitigation will be strengthened

OUTCOME Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and food and nutrition insecurity will be improved and sustained

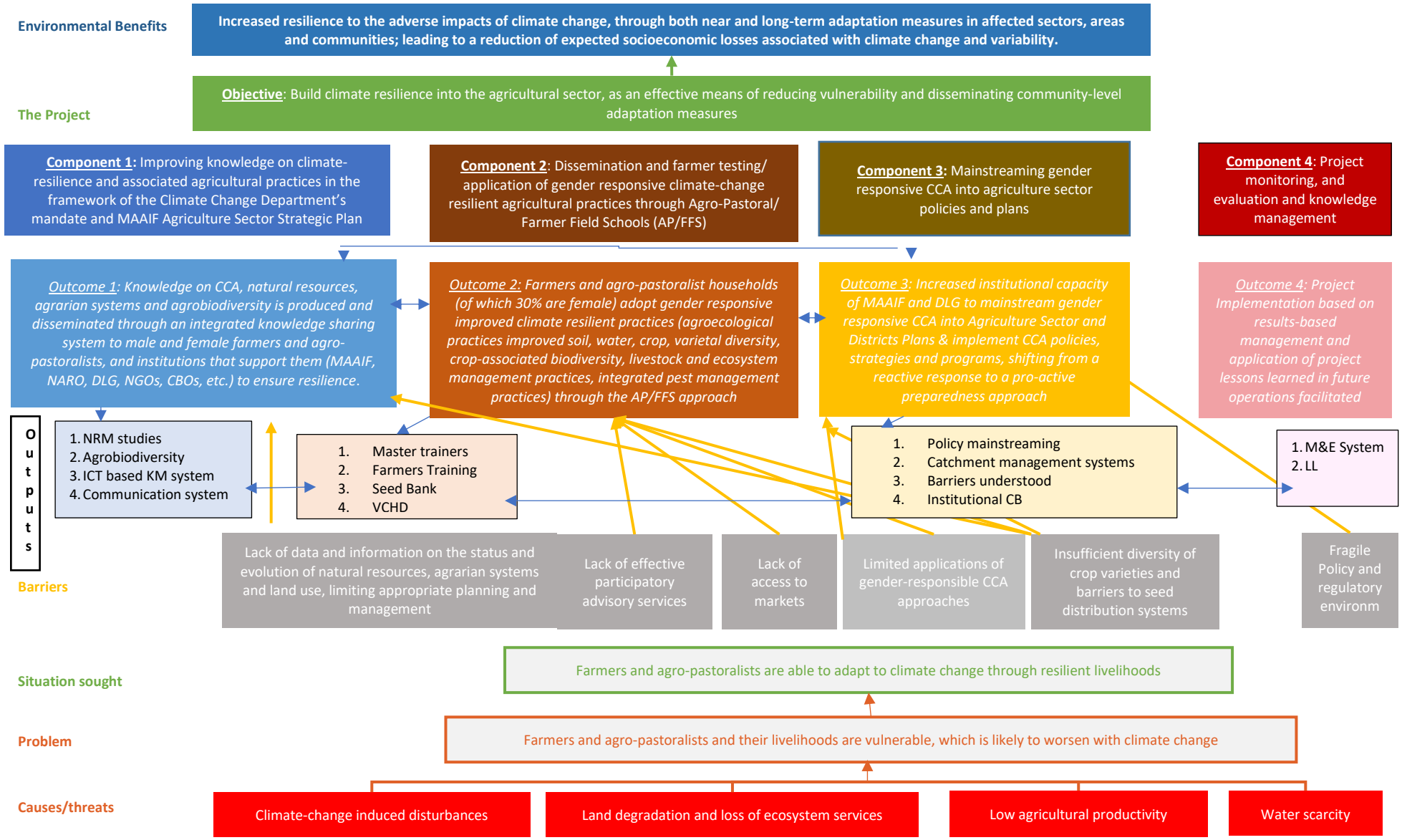


Figure 4: Revised results chain

4. Key findings and MTR questions

4.1. MTR Question 1: Relevance

The Overall Strategic relevance is rated as Highly Satisfactory.

***Finding 1**: **The alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities was rated as Highly Satisfactory (HS).** The project was aligned with the GEF strategic priorities. It also contributed to the LDCF Strategic Objectives CCA1 (Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate); CCA2 (Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation) and CCA3 (Integrate climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes).*

At the regional level, it contributed to the FAO Priority Area 1 (Production and Productivity of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Commodities) and Priority Area 3 (Resilience to Livelihood Threats with Emphasis on Climate Change). At the national level, it contributed to the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-20 Outcome 1 (Sustainable production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities for men, women and youth in targeted populations increased) and Outcome 3 (Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and food and nutrition insecurity, improved).

The project is aligned with four (4) FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs): SO1 (Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition); SO2 (Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable); SO4 (Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems); and SO5 (Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises)

***Finding 2: Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs was rated as Highly Satisfactory (HS)**. Climate change manifesting itself through increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and landslides, is posing a serious threat to Uganda's natural resources and to its social and economic development.[6] Recent studies indicate worsening impacts of climate change with rising temperatures[7], more frequent droughts and floods[8], and growing concerns with deforestation.[9] These point to continued relevance of the project. The project was particularly relevant in its focus on the cattle corridor – Uganda's dryland - dominated by livestock production with scarce water and pasture resources. All district-level respondents pointed out that they witnessed changes in weather patterns*

[6] National Climate Change Policy, 2015
[7] WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal, https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/uganda

[8] Government of Netherlands (2018): Climate Change Profile: Uganda https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/climate-change-profile-uganda
[9] Uganda Deforestation Rates & Statistics - Global Forest Watchhttps://www.globalforestwatch.org

characterized by prolonged dry-spells and short rainy seasons, with some receiving one rainy season in the year instead of the usual two.

The project was aligned with the third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Vision 2040 of the Uganda, both anchored on progress, challenges and lessons learned from the last 10 years, and both identified adaptation to climate change as one of the national development priorities. In addition, the project was also in line with the priorities identified under the Uganda National Agriculture Policy (NAP) 2020, the Uganda Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2021/22-2025/26 and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP, 2015).

The project contributed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): GOAL 1 - No Poverty; GOAL 2 - Zero Hunger; GOAL 5 - Gender Equality; GOAL 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy; GOAL 10 - Reduced Inequality; GOAL 13 - Climate Action; GOAL 15 - Life on Land; and GOAL 17 - Partnerships to achieve the Goal.

Finding 3: Complementarity with existing interventions was rated as Satisfactory (S). *The project complements many interventions, implemented by various agencies, including initiatives implemented by FAO (such as "Agrobiodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa", "Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security") and others (e.g. the EU-funded "Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)", WB's "Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF3)", Swiss Agency for International Development/Bioversity (in partnership with NARO (Plant Genetic Resources Center) project on "Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security", IFAD/Bioversity International (in partnership with the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and NARO (the Plant Genetic Resources Center) project on "Agrobiodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa"). However, these complementarities and the GEF additionality could have been better identified. The extent to which the project managed to utilize to synergies with these complementary interventions is discussed in Section 4.3 on Efficiency.*

4.2. MTR Question 2: Effectiveness

The overall rating of effectiveness is Moderately Satisfactory (MS), *with the delivery of outputs rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Outcome 1- Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Outcome 2 Satisfactory (S), Outcome 3 - Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), and Outcome 4 Moderately Satisfactory (MS). The progress to Project Objective was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS).*

Finding 4: Delivery of project Outputs was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). *The project has produced some good outputs as of the MTR, particularly in relation to Outcome 2 (see* ***Error! Reference source not found.*** *on progress-towards-results in the Appendix 6 of this report, which presents achievements at the mid-term stage and the observations of the MTR team for each output and outcome). These include:*

- 360 new FFSs were established to promote climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices involving 7,800 farmers, of which about 60 percent were women and 40 percent men. This was against the mid-term target of 150 FFSs. Several factors contributed this: high demand from the farmer, the enthusiasm from the district and the local administrations to have more FFSs, the desire of the project to achieve the target on the beneficiary farmers (as the membership numbers at FFS vary and some have 15 members rather than 30 as in the LOA), etc. This has both positive and negative connotations. On a positive note, more people got basic training and self-organized. However, fewer resources were committed per school, and this meant less in-depth work with them. Facilitators needed to cover more schools each, with certain fatigue reported in the interviews and this could be at least one of the reasons behind the high turnover among them. More resources could be allocated per FFS, e.g., advising the farmers as per the crops to focus on.

> ***Box 3: Quotes on training***
>
> *"They trained farmers to grow pasture, and the district is using those farmers as learning sites. 40 hay harvested grass, made hay and silage"* KII respondent, Nakasongola District
>
> *"Even without rain you can still be able to look after your cows because we have been trained on how to grow, harvest and preserve hay for future use."* Male FGD respondent, Nakasongola District
>
> *"We were trained about poultry activities [and] I [now] participate in treating chicken in the village and preventing 'Echoro' (Coccidiosis). This knowledge was given to me by FAO and KADIFA."* Female FGD, Katakwi District
>
> *We were given knowledge through training on how to plant oranges. We used to plant anyhow, [but] FAO taught us how to plant and maintain [them]. Even vegetables for dry season (how to irrigate and eat them when there is drought); that is why I encourage FAO to add that knowledge in the future."*
> Male FGD participant, Katakwi District
>
> *"The fact is, we gained from the training in modern farming and goat rearing."*
> Katakwi District

- In total, 79 FFS facilitators and coordinators were trained. While this was a positive result, many interviews indicated that the need for training in the topics that they deliver was even greater.
- Twenty (20) AP/FFS were selected for value chain development (VCHD). An integrated framework for value chain assessment under climate adaptation was developed and applied to priority commodities such as cocoa, Red Chili 9 under Asante Mama (Sunshine Agro Products Ltd); Cassava value chain under Nakasongola Farmers Association, etc. The priority commodities for value intervention and critical control points for interventions along the value chain were identified. The draft Concept Note was developed for the methodology on integrated VCHD in preparation for piloting in the 13 districts. The draft selection criteria were developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. All the 13 districts have IPs with LOAs signed, although in some of these the implementation has just started. Interviews indicated however that the opportunities would be boosted if the farmers received more guidance at the start regarding crops to be cultivated to allow for economies of scale, i.e., sufficient quantities produced of the same product(s) – in demand – to facilitate trade outside districts.
- Monitoring of interventions for crop and pasture project interventions were conducted in all the 13 districts by FAO, district technical officers, district-level monitoring

committees and the MAAIF.

- FFS groups were trained on how to use climate resilient practices. The farmers were trained in conservation agriculture techniques and given tools for prioritising crops and techniques taking into account availability and quality of water for integrated crop management to minimize the delivery and transport of agriculturally derived pollutants to surface water and for soil protection by reducing soil erosion and improving infiltration. They also participated in the training on Climate Vulnerability Assessment which have helped them to identify at least three (3) improved resilient land management practices.

- FFSs were trained in integrated pest management practices, including pest identification, control and monitoring. The demonstrations and experiments were conducted for specific crops on pest management technologies. The experimentation plots were organized to demonstrate the use of organic pesticides for the control of pest and diseases using locally available materials such as garlic, hot paper and neem leaves.
- FFSs participated in the assessment of watersheds, including delineation of the watersheds in each of the project areas and the development of the micro watershed management plans.
- The farmers from the FFSs got acquainted with innovative ways to optimize water use and promote water use efficiency. This included household level water harvesting technologies for supporting agriculture activities such as contour bands, zaipit, stone line mulching and agroforestry. The adoption of this technology was being piloted among the youth who were harvesting water mainly for vegetable growing. Some of the pasture and hay projects implemented by the FFS groups are presented in *Figure 5.*

  The interviews and FGDs indicated that the participants were satisfied with the training and used the gained knowledge (see Box 3).

  Several respondents expressed desire for more training on environmental management and addressing Gender-based Violence (Katakwi District Farmers Association); pasture management (Abim KII); watersheds management (Abim KII); spacing seedlings (Buyende District); value chains and adding value to products to get

Figure 5: Pasture in Katakwi District (left) and hay barn in Nakasongola District

higher prices, as well as controlling pests and diseases (Kaberamaido District) among others.

The performance in terms of the delivery of the Outputs under Outcome 1 varied.

There was good but delayed progress related to the following outputs under Outcome 1 (see "Progress-towards-results" table in Appendix 6. Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations):

NARO was conducting a comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts in 5 areas - Forestry; Wetlands Mapping; Water Resources, Agro-systems and Soil[10]. The completion of the soil study was delayed due to prolonged discussions related to the modification of the LOA. When completed, these were expected to be pioneering studies as satellite imagery was used and historical data generated with the intention to deliver 13 reports with recommendations - one per district based on which the districts administrations could develop their Integrated Resource Management Plans – something they did not have before- to be integrated into the District Development Plans (DDP) and get funding. FAO could then potentially follow up with assistance to the district administrations with implementation, provided the resource mobilization for that purpose was successful.

Under the Output 1.3, the Makerere University School of Gender developed a report on gender analysis of the dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use study with the key recommendations expected to support the development of the district and community gender action plans. The study was being used by the project at the time of the MTR in integrating Gender and CCA into sub-catchment management systems in the 13 districts (under Outcome 3). This report was presented in a workshop attended by the MAAIF and MoGLSD and was also disseminated to district governments and implementing partners. According to the interviews received by this MTR the overall feedback about its quality was positive.

An LOA was signed with Bioversity International in September 2021 to support the project to "Assess agrobiodiversity and develop action plans in the project sites selected in the 13 districts". This was ongoing at the time of the MTR - delayed due the protracted contracting negotiations, as a result of which it was decided to handle the next stages, i.e., support with the implementation/links with community seed

[10] *Forestry* - assessment and mapping, including forest composition inventory in all the districts completed. *Wetlands mapping*: assessing the distribution and extent of wetlands, the wetland dynamics for all the districts. However, wetland maps and trends on land cover and land use change have only been developed for five districts, namely Buyende, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nakasongola and Kaberamaido. Developing of maps for other districts was ongoing. *Water Resources Mapping*: Water availability and status in each of the 13 districts was assessed. Ground water potential maps for Abim, Amudat, Napak, Kaberamaido and Amolatar were generated. The average runoff depth for 36 years for the different sub-catchments in the project area and the rainfall time series data (1979-2013) were computed for the different sub catchments. However, the projected mean rainfall is yet to be computed. Similarly, ground water availability as well as flood hazard maps, and drought risk maps are yet to be updated. Once these are computed, the final water resources maps will be generated. *Agrarian systems study*: In all the 13 districts biophysical and socio-economic assessment of agrarian systems was ongoing at the time of writing this report. The preliminary findings for 3 districts i.e., Nakasongola, Luweero and Nakaseke were presented. The *Soil study* is delayed due to prolonged discussions related to the modification of the LOA: during implementation, it came to the team's realization that the resources (personnel, time, & funds) required to undertake comprehensive land resources assessment and mapping were under-budgeted. This was brought to the attention of the FAO team in writing and a request was made to adjust the LOA to increase the resources. After a couple of months waiting for the adjustment, it proved impossible to have the LAO adjusted. As a team we, decided to continue with the work until such a point when the resources would be exhausted.

banks - as a follow-up. An inception field visit enabled, among others, participatory selection of the target commodities and the selection of District Agrobiodiversity Assessment Teams.

The Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (MAK-CAES) was developing an integrated KM system to generate and disseminate information on climate risks and emerging adaptation options/best practices at district and national level at the time of the MTR. A Needs Assessment Report was prepared and the capacity needs for stakeholders identified to inform designing of the enhanced toolkit and the manuals. The procurement of the ICT equipment to support the functioning of the KM system was ongoing at the time of writing this report. The needs for setting and strengthening of the district KM and communication teams (KMCT) were identified and the consultations and validation of the proposed structure and the components of the CCA Knowledge-based ICT system were held. This was the second attempt to establish such a system (the first one was under a different project and was not sustained; the lessons were being taken into account).

There was however no progress for Output 1.4: "An ICT system is developed to share knowledge amongst farmers and agro pastoralists on CCA best practices to increase their resilience to climate change" due to the initially identified contractor (Digital Green) not proceeding with it, leading to a new contracting process to start.

The least progress was achieved for the outputs under Outcome 3. By mid-term the Framework Implementation Plans (FIP) were to be present for (a) Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Water for Agriculture Production Policy; and (b) Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Agricultural Mechanization Policy. This was indeed affected by COVID, but also by the approach taken, as initially it was planned to hire individual consultants and it was later decided to find an appropriate company/NGO. The ToRs have been finalized to hire a company for the above tasks, and at the time of writing this report, the project management team was working on the process for hiring the service providers for these by December 2022.

The other Outputs, linked to Outcome targets on (a) CCA mainstreamed in the Gender Policy; and (b) Barriers to registration of local/farmers crop varieties on the Uganda National Register of Varieties understood, were expected to have results after the midpoint.

By mid-term it was also expected to have the institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector built at central, regional and district levels: this was partly met only with the Output on "Gender and CCA integrated into an effective sub-catchment management system in 13 districts for the sustainable use of land and natural resources": the final report was submitted in December 2021 with actionable recommendations.

Finding 5: Delivery of project outcomes was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). *Linked to the progress on outputs, the progress for targets for the outcomes was also mixed (see Appendix 6. Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations).*

A. ***Outcome 1*** *indicator: Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out (AMAT Indicator 6). The achievement of the mid-term targets (as below), for (a) to (d) was delayed but in progress while there was no progress for target (e):*

   a) *"Comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts of intervention" is not achieved completely as yet/delayed for the study on soil;*

   b) *"Study on the agrarian systems" being finalized for 13 districts;*

   c) *"Study on the gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use" delivered;*

   d) *"Assessment of agrobiodiversity in all project sites" delayed/in progress; and*

   e) *"KMCT teams in place in all project districts" delayed but in progress*

B. ***Outcome 2*** *indicators are: (a) "Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/practices (AMAT Indicator 4)" and (b) "Population benefiting from the adoption of diversified climate-resilient livelihood options (AMAT Indicator 3)". Against these there is only one (1) mid-term target as follows "150 AP/FFS set up by project the 13 districts", which was overachieved, as described. There was no system per project design to measure utilization or adoption of the new practices; at the time of the MTR, the tools have been developed to capture progress and an Outcome survey planned for December 2022. The anecdotal evidence pointed to: (a) the adoption of improved/climate resilient practices, e.g., using fertilizers, planting in lines, adding water retainer ridges to control soil erosion; (b) farmers' mindset change, with more involved in identifying local ways of building resilience and generating solutions rather than waiting for the government (such as rain-harvesting and construction of trenches for irrigation); (c) households more food-secure due to improved food production with more balanced diets, as well as (d) using of energy-saving cooking stoves, and so reducing the cutting of trees for firewood. Some of the stoves seen during MTR site visits are presented in Figure 6. The quotes in Box 4 demonstrate the anecdotal evidence mentioned.*

Box 4: Quotes demonstrating the adoption of climate resilient technologies

"I thank FAO; in the past as my group that grows rice, we used to sow rice [and] sowing takes too many seeds and you end up planting in a small portion. But when FAO came, it taught the group how to plant rice in rows [which] uses fewer seeds. That is why I thank FAO for the knowledge they gave us."

Male FGD participant, Katakwi District

"Group members constructed structures for sheep and goats to protect from dogs and wild animals, for example foxes."

FFS Facilitator, Katakwi District

"The group has made me learn that I cannot waste money buying food all the time, but I can dry food that I will eat during the dry spell and also share ideas like other people compared to when I was not a member in a group."

One female FGD respondent, Katakwi District

C. ***Outcome 3*** *indicator "Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures" (AMAT Indicator 13) has the following mid-term targets: (a) one (1) gender responsive FIP mainstreaming climate change developed for the Water for Agricultural Production Policy; (b) one (1) gender responsive FIP mainstreaming climate change developed for the Agricultural Mechanization Policy; (c) one (1) inclusive land and natural resources management system including gender and CCA considerations developed per district. There was progress only for (c), as discussed in the Findings on Outputs earlier.*

D. ***Outcome 4***. *There was a mixed picture in terms of achieving mid-term targets for the indicator "Number and types of documents and tools developed to monitor and evaluate the project and share knowledge":*

M&E framework developed and reviewed. The PMU has developed a performance framework (M&E plan) defining the roles, the responsibilities, and the frequencies for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance. The MTR noted weaknesses in the M&E implementation. For instance, only one NSC meeting had been held since the inception, yet the NSC are instituted to play a key oversight and monitoring function. Co-finance reports were missing. The results framework lacked the mid-term targets for outputs, which delayed the analysis of the achievements against targets; and the project lacked tools for measuring outcome indicators.

The new M&E Officer was hired in February 2021. The M&E plan of the project has been strengthened by (a) generating relevant baseline data for indicators; (b) developing approaches for measurement of indicators; (c) instituting district level monitoring committees and (c) developing monitoring tools used by FFSs.

Box 5: Quotes to demonstrate emerging evidence on enhanced environmental sustainability and resilience of food production systems

"I learnt how to save in a group so that when things get bad and the child wants education, I can also pick money from the group and pay school fees."
Female FGD respondent, Katakwi District

"Food security has improved through early planting, pest and disease management."
KII respondent, Nakasongola District

"It (the chicken and maize project) has solved the challenge of food insecurity in my home because food is always there."
Male FGD respondent, Kamuli District

"I will never find myself without food after I have learnt that I can dry it and use it during the dry season. There is no more wasting money, never. Even if the project leaves."
Female FGD respondent, Katakwi District

"After our savings from VISLA, I bought a pig."

Mid-term evaluation was initiated, although delayed; and

Project communication strategy in place and implemented. The Communications Strategy was developed and by the mid-term, the communication and awareness materials developed include pull-up banners, T-Shirts, bags and notebooks. The tools to guide the documentation of the best practices have been developed for the different components, but the advancement was delayed due to (a) the Communications Unit at FAO Uganda being overburdened with work, covering too many projects; and (b) no progress as yet with Output 1.4, as discussed.

Finding 6: The progress to Project Objective was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). *The indicator for the project's objective is "To contribute to enhancing long-term environmental sustainability and resilience of food production systems in the Karamoja Sub-Region" (does not have a mid-term target). There was emerging evidence on at least some of households being more food secure due to improved food production with*

Box 6: Quotes to demonstrate emerging impact

"Energy stoves saved consumption of firewood."
KII respondent, Katakwi District

"After selling the first batch of my chicken, with the knowledge I got from the project, I added some money and bought a cow."
Male FGD respondent, Kamuli District

more balanced diets – while at the same time there was an indication that hunger was a growing problem due to increased prices. There was also some indication that the use of energy-saving cooking stoves (see ***Error! Reference source not found.****) is reducing cutting of trees for firewood, helped with tree-planting as part of watershed management improvements, thus contributing such environmental benefits as afforestation, ecofriendly materials and decreased pollution.*

The weekly saving culture adopted by the groups, shared out annually and accessed by the members for loans at an interest has boosted household incomes and supported children in schools. The quotes in Box 5 back the above claim.

Likelihood of impact. *The adoption of alternative sources of income has not only reduced pressure on natural resources but has also improved income for the households, thus contributing to improved livelihoods. The project was already having an impact, both in terms of environmental and livelihoods' benefits and resilience. The quotes in Box 6 demonstrate the anecdotal evidence about emerging proof of impact.*

Figure 6: Energy-saving stoves in Katakwi District

4.3. MTR Question 3: Efficiency

The overall rating for Efficiency is Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Finding 6: The opinions about the cost effectiveness of the projects split*, with some viewing the project as cost-effective and the others questioning it on the grounds of spending significant amounts on training of the facilitators with sometimes no background in the topics covered, as opposed to using the district technical staff or experienced local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate the training. However, other strategies used such as the community level FFSs, community-led group initiatives and setting up demonstration firms were deemed cost effective.*

Finding 7: Timeliness of activities*. The project suffered greatly due to the COVID, as a result of which there were the delays described earlier. It was also affected by the elections in Uganda (presidential and parliamentary). But there were inefficiencies also related to internal reasons: highly bureaucratic procedures, staff shortages within the project and at FAO CO, and non-efficient coordination between the programme*

staff and the support services. For example, there was evidence of late delivery of tree seedlings, seeds, prolonged procedures for approvals, etc.

Finding 8: Synergies. *The project coordinated well with the FAO projects operating in the same districts and the presence of the regional coordinators was a strong supporting factor for that. These projects were very similar to the current one- also supporting FFSs, and having components on watershed management and VCHD, but with certain unique features too, e.g., the joint UNDP/FAO project on "Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Karamoja Sub region" had a component, implemented by UNDP on supporting the district administrations to implement regulations. There were, however, not many joint activities, going beyond joint planning/avoiding duplication or using (rehabilitating) the water infrastructure that was supported by the completed projects. There was some degree of coordination with the other GEF projects implemented by other agencies and also with other projects funded by other development funders, but again in-depth synergies were rare (see* ***Error! Reference source not found.*** *in Appendix 9). The following is the most notable synergies observed: under the FAO Uganda GCCA+ project funded by the EU project, there is an LOA with the MWE which was supporting studies on watershed management activities and gender mainstreaming. There are synergies with the current project's activities related to the development of watershed management plans.*

4.4. MTR Question 4: Sustainability

The overall rating for Sustainability is Moderately Likely (ML).

Finding 9: The financial risks to sustainability were rated as Likely (L). *There were notable financial risks to sustainability, given the limited state financial resources, which implied, for example, (a) no significant resources available to the districts under the District Development Plans (DDP) and (b) State Water Resources Management Plan without allocated financial resources. Elements like the rehabilitation or establishing water sources and irrigation, tree-planting, using organic fertilizers, certain value chain activities and pasture planting, had a high risk of not continuing, with added risks of rising fuel prices (currently double the budget price) and other costs.*

Finding 10: The socio-political risks to sustainability were rated as Moderately Likely (ML). *Strong socio-political support was reported among leaders at the district and community levels. The support was demonstrated by embracing and lobbying for scaling up of the FFS approach across other sub-counties and as an approach to the district extension services work. The communities embraced the acquired knowledge and adopted the promoted technologies and good farming practices such as energy-saving stoves, water retention ridges, re-afforestation, pasture gardens and taking up alternative sources of income (see Box 7). The FFSs were earning from income-generating activities (IGAs), boosted by proceeds from group savings and low-interest credit accessed by the groups. These IGAs included selling proceeds from adopted technologies such as energy-saving stoves and poultry vaccination; selling animal husbandry (cows, poultry, sheep, goats), apiculture; acquiring grinding mills, and selling crops such as rice, maize, beans as well as vegetables. The proceeds have enabled the members to pay school fees for children, the medical bills for family members, and food for home consumption and to facilitate some developments in homes such as house refurbishments and expansion of projects.*

Box 7: Quotes from FGDs related to Sustainability

"From my group, I have mainly learnt how to save; I learnt how to save in a group so that when things go bad and the child wants school fees, you can also borrow money from the group. It has even enabled us to know how to save food. Whenever others are looking for food, for us we already saved [for a] long time and when things are hard, we just pick [it]."

FGD respondent, Katakwi District

"The saving culture that we developed has helped us in giving a hand to our husbands in paying school fees for the children as we can borrow or use part of our savings without even giving collateral."

Female FGD participant, Kamuli District

"We also have a saving group that sits every Wednesday. We give out quick loans to members who are in need of money at 5% interest."

Female FGD participant, Kamuli District

Finding 11: Institutional and governance risks were rated as Moderately Likely (ML) *On a positive note, most, if not all, of the FFS were likely to continue as they were supported by the Savings and Loan Associations (SLAs) and linked to district programs. Potentially, the project could have supported business startups for the members of the FFSs. Over 60 percent of the farmers were practicing row planting of crops. Through the vision journey, they were running enterprises such as SLA in their groups, each group had saved UGX 2-15 million by MTR. The quotes in Box 7 illustrate the examples of benefits as expressed by the groups.*

One of the strong factors giving hope for institutional/governance sustainability was related to the strong links with the district/local governments (with the focal points as members) and strong cooperation with the District Farmers Associations (DFAs), as well as the links with the government programs, like the Parish Development Model (PDM). More could have been done however, e.g., stronger links with Zone Agricultural Research and Development Institutes (ZARDIs) and Water Management Committees already by mid-term.

There were positive factors that would support sustainability from the human resource perspective. The planned training of master trainers was one of them. Plus, the Eastern Africa FFS Hub has a pool of master trainers and has been supporting the project in

training of the master trainers because they oversee them all and they can continue engaging them even after the project.

***Finding 12: The environmental risks to sustainability were rated as Likely (L)**. Reversing the environmental damage due to climate change would require large state resources and strict enforcement of laws and regulations (e.g., on illegal tree cutting and wetland encroachment). However, the project contributed to CCA with the activities under watershed management and those planned (e.g., with agroforestry interventions and tree nurseries working closely with district forest officers). Here the project would benefit from sustainability proofing measures, i.e., measures to ensure that environmental integrity was maintained.*[11]

***Finding 13: The extent of catalysis and replication was rated as Satisfactory (S).** The project was having positive unintended consequences in the form of the farmers who would have wanted to be members of the FFS but were not, then forming new FFSs, some of which then engaged with the project. Additionally, the new practices were passed on to other farmers who were not direct participants of the training by word-of-mouth.*

[11] Sustainability proofing needs to be understood as a step-wise process that follows the mitigation hierarchy under which appropriate actions are taken in the following order of priority: (1) avoidance of negative impacts; (2) reduction of negative impacts; (3) rehabilitation/ restoration measures; and (4) compensation measures for significant adverse

4.5. MTR Question 5: Factors affecting performance

The overall assessment of factors affecting performance is Moderately Satisfactory (MS).

Finding 14: The Project Design and readiness were rated as Satisfactory (S). *The project design was overall sound, with strong aspects including (a) using the FFS approach (see Box 9); (b) being close to the field, with 3 field coordinators, in close cooperation with the DFAs and focal points being from the district administrations; (c) using clear LOAs with the IPs; and (d) close oversight by the technical officers (who, however, several other projects to work on). While there was overall positive feedback regarding the FFS approach, there wasn't—as yet—rigorous assessment of this model by FAO Uganda. Meanwhile it had been investing in this approach heavily. A qualitative study was completed recently, but the need for a more rigorous study is obvious, and this project could contribute to the costs.*

Box 8: Quote from a KII on the FFS approach

"It was the first time the Farmer Field Schools Approach was used and it was very exciting. Even the illiterate farmers illustrate and share what they know. We have also embraced the approach in our extension work."

KII respondent, Katakwi District

The project design was participatory: it started by discussing with the communities what problems they had and solutions to them. The ToC was adequate, but the results chain missed identified linkages between the outputs and outcomes.

Project readiness was adequate in terms of the FFS being a familiar approach, but as it turned out the readiness to operate under a systemic shock like COVID-19 was not high. The design lacked the flexibility to accommodate such shocks.

However, there were drawbacks in the project design too, including: (a) an overly ambitious timeframe for such a complex project; (b) less than desired focus on involving marginalized and

Box 9: LOAs signed per Outcome

Outcome 1	• NARO- National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) • Bioversity International • Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovation (MUCCRI)
Outcome 2	• Buyende District Farmers Association • Kamuli District Farmers Association • Kaberamaido District Farmers Association • Katakwi Agro Pastoralists Farmers Associations • Caritas Kasanaensis of The Registered Trustees of Kasana Luweero Diocese • AMOT Farmers Development Association • Kayunga District Farmers Association • Nakasongola District Farmers Association • Arid land Development Programme (ADP)- Abim • Norges Organization (NDO) for Amuria District • Grassroot Alliance for Rural Development (GARD) – for Napak and Amudat districts
Outcome 3	• The LOA with NARO National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) will inform the delivery of this outputs planned for 2022

Source: Project Management Unit

elderly, and male engagement; and (c) SLAs not initially part of the project design; and (d) having too many IPs (see Box 9). Choosing the DFAs as the IPs could be justified by the desire to strengthen these potentially important institutions, but several interviewees commented that their capacity was limited, and they required extensive assistance, including for association-building, which was not in the scope of this project. Also, there was seemingly an underestimated need in water systems and therefore support for those. Prolonged drought in the project districts and very short rainy seasons negatively affected crop and fodder production and tree planting. The project had limited support for basic irrigation technologies, and yet some districts such as Katakwi are surrounded by water bodies (Lake Opeta and Lake Bisina that drain into Lake Kyoga). For some areas, this project was a complete novelty and in those areas, there were high expectations for quickly earning money, so while the farmers were encouraged to go for bulk marketing, some still sold produce individually depending on the need. Also, initially in those areas, there was resistance, as some farmers thought that the intention was to grab their land, meaning more sensitization was perhaps needed at the start.

The overall Quality of Project Implementation was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS).

Finding 15: The quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF) was rated as Satisfactory (S). *FAO was carrying out its dual role as an implementing and executing agency[12] in a satisfactory manner overall. In particular, the supervisory role of FAO and provision of technical guidance during the project implementation included: administration of funds from the GEF in accordance with FAO rules and procedures; oversight of project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers and the FAO rules and procedures; provision of technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality was applied to all activities concerned; conducting regular supervision missions; and reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office through the annual PIRs, on project progress and provision of financial reports to the GEF Trustee. Several interviewees commented however that the solicitation and receipt of technical guidance from the FAO HQ was at a rather limited level and the interaction often boiled down to approvals only. A closer interaction could have stimulated more innovation in the project. Secondly, there should have been more visits, but this was hampered by COVID.*

In accordance with the Project Document and the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) approved by the NSC, FAO was expected to prepare budget revisions to maintain the budget updated in the FAO financial management system; provide this information to the NSC to facilitate the planning and implementation of the project activities; in collaboration with the PMU and the NSC participate in the planning of contracting and procurement processes; and process due payments for the delivery of goods, services and products upon the request of the PMU and based on the AWP/B and Procurement Plans, approved annually by the NSC. The FAO Representative in

[12] It provides project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy; and also, is responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation with the technical backstopping provided by FAO in coordination with government representatives participating in the PSC.

Uganda is the Budget Holder (BH) responsible for managing GEF resources. The only comment that the interviewees had was related to highly bureaucratic processes and the length of approvals. Internal staffing issues with FAO Uganda, where the M&E function was being redesigned at mid-term, the position of the head of the KM unit was vacant, and the Communications Unit being understaffed; were some of the factors affecting the project negatively, along with failing to ensure regular NSC meetings, with only one such meeting held so far.

***Finding 16: Project oversight was rated as Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)**. The project oversight could have been better. This applied first and foremost to putting together the NSC and calling the first meeting on time and then regularly, and also hiring the NPC promptly, rather than only one year ago, despite COVID-19, as remote work was possible, as well as keeping the NSC members in the loop more often than by annual PIRs (i.e., also sending them the biannual progress reports).*

***Finding 17: The overall quality of project execution and management is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**. The MAAIF was responsible for the overall project execution, acting as the national execution entity, also referred to as National Operational Partner in FAO terminology. National co-executing agencies were supported by the NSC and the PMU hosted by MAAIF. The national ownership at the local level was quite high with the district governments engaged and supportive; it was high at the central level too, with a caveat that the MAAIF coordinated many projects: the interviewees commented on the limited time the key staff had for this project, compounded by the restructuring of the MAAIF.*

The performance of the PMU, while good overall in terms of the progress in the districts, could have been better centrally. Poor planning seemed to have been at the core of it, compounded by the shortage of staff at the PMU as a contributing factor. While there was a risk monitoring section in the PIRs, it was handled more as a formality with risks like the ones that led to the delays of several outputs, and the risks associated with the lack of sufficient emphasis on water availability for irrigation not analyzed in a timely manner and acted upon.

The multilayer governance structure of the project and less-than-desired level of smoothness in interaction between various units at FAO Uganda resulted in long approval processes, and consequently, in significant delays (e.g., in the case of the LOA for the soil study by NARO, delays in the transfer of funds to the DFAs, delays in delivering seeds, etc.).

In some cases, the project was focusing on quantity rather than quality: this applied to the much higher number of FFS than planned, leading to limited opportunities for more in-depth engagement with them. This also applied to being selective and strategic in supporting VCHD, perhaps focusing on smaller number of products as well as on certain weak links of the chains only.

***Finding 18: The financial management and co-financing were rated as Satisfactory (S).** There was no divergence from the initial allocation as per budget lines. The most important observation from the review of the budget is the very uneven delivery rate across outcomes and outputs – in line what has been discussed under*

the Effectiveness Section (see Table 4). This points to the core issues – the problems of adequate planning. And this is in the face of already spending 67 percent of the planned PMU costs. There was also a hindrance in terms of the rigidity of the budget, i.e., the lack of flexibility to hire individual consultants instead of LOAs and vice versa, that would require budget revision with the clearance from the FAO HQ needed.

Table 4: Project expenditure by outcome and output at the mid-term stage

Component	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE AT 30 JUNE 2022		
	USD costs inflation total	% USD costs inflation total	USD (Expenditure)	USD Balance	%Spent
Component 1					
Outcome 1.1					
Output 1.1.1	320,850	5%	106,892	213,958	33%
Output 1.1.2	306,990	4%	486	306,504	0%
Output 1.1.3	546,890	8%	214,892	331,998	39%
Output 1.1.4	238,350	3%	14,651	223,699	6%
Component 1 Total	**1,413,080**	**21%**	**336,922**	**1,076,158**	**24%**
Component 2					
Outcome 2.1					
Output 2.1.1	2,125,681	31%	1,065,028	1,060,652	50%
Output 2.1.2	1,713,583	25%	818,146	895,437	48%
Output 2.1.3	414,000	6%	408,663	5,337	99%
Output 2.1.4	180,000	3%	179,537	463	100%
Component 2 Total	**4,433,264**	**64%**	**2,471,374**	**1,961,890**	**56%**
Component 3					
Outcome 3.1					
Output 3.1.1	9,450	0%	-	9,450	0%
Output 3.1.2	9,450	0%	-	9,450	0%
Output 3.1.3	136,200	2%	-	136,200	0%
Output 3.1.4	173,350	3%	12,746	160,604	7%
Output 3.1.5	130,000	2%	60,000	70,000	46%
Output 3.1.6	23,100	0%	-	23,100	0%
Component 3 Total	**481,550**	**7%**	**72,746**	**389,904**	**15%**
Component 4					
Outcome 4.1					
Output 4.1.1	194,000	3%	18,783	175,217	10%
Output 4.1.2	37,000	1%	6,391	30,609	17%
Component 4 Total	**231,000**	**3%**	**25,174**	**205,826**	**11%**
PMC	327,944	5%	219,444	108,500	67%
Grand Total	**6,886,838**	**100%**	**3,125,660**	**3,742,278**	**45%**

Source: FAO Uganda

Increased prices (including fuel prices) negatively affected the project, necessitating revisions. Similarly, in some areas there was an alarming increase in the incidences of

hunger with interviewees reflecting that this affected the ability of farmers to participate in the project related activities. Perhaps a certain level of food support could be considered.

The expected co-financing levels were not altered (see Appendix 7. Co-financing table). Out of USD 29,957,724 planned, USD 22,536,369 materialized at mid-term, with the rest expected by the end of the project. All the co-financing was in-kind - from Ngetta ZARDI, Buginyanya ZARDI, NaLIRRI, NARO-NARL, MoLG, and several projects (FAO_ GCCA+; FAO-CRWEE and FAO- UKAID).

***Finding 19: The project partnerships and stakeholder engagement were rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**. The stakeholder engagement was better locally than centrally. At the local level, the PMU/FAO engaged well with the technical staff of the district governments, although not much with the technical wings and other IPs working in the same technical areas. The DLGs appointed focal points who were either from the production departments (extension services) or Natural Resource Management (NRM) departments: meanwhile both were important to close liaise with. Centrally, the project had poor engagement with some of the stakeholders, like the MoLG.*

***Finding 20: Communication, KM and knowledge products were rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU**). The project was already producing certain good results and it was important to share this in real time with other farmers and districts. Meanwhile the FAO Uganda Communications Department was burdened with other work, having to support many projects and the KM Department at FAO Uganda did not have a leader. The project's Communications Strategy was barely acted upon and at the time of the MTR, only some basic items were produced. On the top of it, the M&E Department was being reorganized and the system of capturing the learning was yet to be operationalized. There was an event where FAO invited the IPs to share experiences, but this was the only one. The majority of interviewees commented that communication needed to be improved. The interviewees also commented on the need to produce popular versions of the academic reports (like the ones being authored by NARO), as was planned under the Communications Strategy. And finally, the interviewees commented on the need to ensure that knowledge was trickled down to sub-county level and did not concentrate only at the district level.*

The overall quality of M&E is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

***Finding 21: M&E design was rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU).** The outputs did not have mid-term targets and there was no mechanism as per design for capturing the results for the outcome level indicators. The NSC members were supposed to conduct quarterly visits, but at midpoint only the MAAIF has conducted such a visit, while others were yet to submit their plans.*

***Finding 22: The M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources) was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS).** With the new M&E Officer coming on board eight (8) months prior to the MTR, the system was being reorganized. Monitoring committees were set up at the district level. The implementation of the M&E plan at country office level as per the GEF requirements, i.e., the monitoring of*

the RF indicators and core (AMAT) indicators, monitoring and reporting through the PPRs and the PIRs lacked systematic nature, but was being improved with the instituting of the FAO Uganda-wide M&E system with individual worksheets for each project in the database. However, the human resources of the M&E Unit were likely insufficient at the CO to support the individual projects.

4.6. MTR Question 6: Cross-cutting dimensions

Finding 23: Gender and other equity dimensions were rated as Satisfactory (S). *The project had strong gender mainstreaming interventions, emphasizing the participation of men and women as the FFS members and FFS leadership, where one of the three (3) committee members had to be a woman. At mid-term, women were making more decisions due to training and they formed the majority of the FFS members at 90 percent. The Project data was disaggregated by sex, however, there was insufficient engagement of men: while there was a positive attitude change by men and reduced GBV cases, more needed to be done to reduce the incidents of men selling-off produce grown by women, because men own the land and because there were neither shared ideas nor vision.*

A more nuanced approach could have been used in Karamoja to ensure high level of women's participation, given that this is a more patriarchal society, with nomadic lifestyle and high levels of insecurity for women.

Disadvantaged/vulnerable/disabled people as well as elderly were not explicitly a target group for the project and there was an understanding at the mid-term that they should have been. There should have been also a specific focus on involving young men, as was recommended by the research from the Makerere University. The reports on the training events showed that the training providers kept records on the share of training participants who were disabled as well as youth, but there were no summary statistics available in terms of FSS membership for these groups, as well as training participation. Elderly people were not mentioned at all.

Finding 24: Human rights issues were rated as Satisfactory (S).

The project ensured that the concepts of decent labour were practiced and there were no infringements on human rights (as defined in Universal Declaration of Human Right). One thing that was brought to the attention of the evaluation team was that in some locations hunger was high and the farmers at times were visibly hungry and unable to work/participate in the project activities.

The project ensured the human rights of the indigenous peoples, especially relevant for the Karamoja region - in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007); and

The project has followed the concept of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in its design period.

Finding 25: Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) were rated as Satisfactory (S). *The project being focused on environmental protection presented*

minimal environmental risk. The initial rating was overall adequate. The environmental and social risks were assessed during the project design (21/07/2016), but because of the risks' classification as "low", an ESS plan was not developed and these risks were not monitored. The assessment was overall adequate, with:

Charcoal production – as a moderate risk. This was considered as an important negative factor, as the project was not expected to affect poverty to the extent to alter this. This risk was still present at mid-term, especially given post-COVID situation, that has affected the livelihoods of many people;

Conflict over natural resources - as a low risk. The same would apply at mid-term;

Paying inadequate attention to gender – as a low risk. A moderate risk would have been a more appropriate rating given the Karamoja region's more patriarchal and nomadic lifestyle with high levels of insecurity for women;

Safe use of pesticides- as a very low risk; and

The conflict-related situation in Karamoja was low risk, but still relevant as the project does not alter land use patterns.

Finding 26: The project was affected by COVID, with two lockdowns after the project start. *As mentioned elsewhere, the project suffered delays as a result of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdowns and changes in the SOPs for FAO Uganda, the effects of which were still evident. The project therefore would need a no-cost extension, as suggested earlier for one year to catch up, especially with the outputs for which there was no progress as yet. This is subject however to some resources being reallocated from other lines and savings to PMU costs or else the CO may leverage resources from other existing FAO projects or reduce staff time/personnel.*

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

Conclusion 1: Strategic Relevance. *The project was relevant in addressing the growing threats of climate change for Uganda (with training, research, immediate actions addressing climate change adaptation, etc.) and focusing on cattle corridor. The project was in line with the national strategies and localized SDGs, and in line with the UN and the FAO Uganda strategic documents. It was aligned to GEF and LCDF strategic priorities, and complementary to the initiatives supported by FAO and the development partners.*

Conclusion 2: Effectiveness. *Good progress was achieved towards the project's objectives despite being affected by the COVID lockdowns and delays due to the elections in Uganda. However, the progress was uneven. Good progress was achieved locally, in terms of supporting the FFSs and farmers improving farming practices, learning new for them watershed management practices and making plans for value chain development- with the target for Outcome 2 surpassed (number of FFSs).*

Overall satisfactory progress, albeit somewhat delayed, was achieved in terms of supporting important research by NARO related to climate change effects with recommendations for each district (Outcome 1, with the target slightly underachieved), planned to be used to develop action plans for each of them. The concept of the ICT-based learning system was developed, but would require a concerted effort to operationalize. However, the policy mainstreaming of climate change/gender into selected policies, had not started yet at mid-term (the target for Outcome 3 underachieved), needing a change in the approach. The work related to setting up an effective system of communication on best practices had not yet started, and there was a need to hire someone (part-time support to the NPC) to fill in the gap. Instead of the much higher numbers of FFSs than the target, more in- depth work was needed with each FFS in VCHD.

Conclusion 3: Efficiency. *Good adaptive management was displayed to achieve the described progress locally in the light of delays to COVID and elections, but less so in other aspects, like CCA mainstreaming work. The project was delayed, for some outputs, also due to certain internal inefficiencies. A year-long no-cost extension seemed necessary. For cost effectiveness the perceptions differed, with a few pointing to the extensive needs for the training of the facilitators from the IPs (DFAs) who often lacked any experience in the respective topics.*

Conclusion 4: Sustainability*. Certain aspects of the project seemed to have reasonable chances for sustainability, like part if not most of the FFSs: adding a saving and low-interest credit element was a strong element promoting sustainability, helped by the formalization of groups as CBOs at sub-counties (with charters), and joint activities such as energy-saving stoves, poultry vaccination and cooperative marketing of products. Farmers internalizing the knowledge of some of the new practices they learned and using these was also a good indication of sustainability. However, limited investment in irrigation/water harvesting schemes hampered the achievements and sustainability prospects in the crop husbandry, afforestation and animal fodder, since the prolonged dry spells led to wastages associated with replanting. This led to the recommendation on the need to add resources for irrigation, including potentially for reliable permanent water sources.*

There were other aspects of the project that had higher risks to their sustainability prospects, like tree planting and other watershed management -related activities, as well as VCHD, and engagement of the DFAs in continued support to the farmers.

Conclusion 5: Factors Affecting Performance. *The factors affecting the performance positively included: strong presence in the field and engagement with district-level governments, potentially the FFS model itself, supported by SLAs, and the overal, design. The external factors that affected the project negatively included: COVID, elections and increasing costs for food and fuel, increasing hunger in some areas, and the prolonged dry spell and scanty rains, staff shortages both for the project and in FAO Uganda, and late hiring of the NPC.*

The project implementation quality by FAO was overall satisfactory, with some of the issues emanating from highly bureaucratic procedures. There could have been more engagement with FAO HQ staff soliciting technical knowledge and thus bolstering

innovation in the project. The Project execution was moderately satisfactory, with a caveat that the MAAIF seemed to be too busy with many projects, and not finding time, for example, for the regular NSC meetings, with the MAAIF restructuring also potentially a contributing factor. The work of the PMU has markedly improved after hiring the NPC, who has managed to mostly close the gaps in relation to the field level activities, but the work with the policy departments of the ministries concerned nationally (MoLG, the NEMA) could have been stronger and there could have been a better planning and risk management system in place. The overall level of stakeholder engagement was Moderately Satisfactory (MS), with those in the field more actively engaged, but with less-than- desired engagement on policy issues with some of the government agencies, as mentioned. While the project was putting in place the nationwide system for the KM, the immediate need was to share good practices among districts (and sub-counties) and countrywide, affected by the Communications Strategy essentially not being implemented as yet at midpoint (with the FAO Uganda Communications Team overburdened with work) and the KM Unit at FAO Uganda without a lead. The Overall quality of the M&E was Moderately Satisfactory (MS), with the original M&E system in need of improvement (outputs not having mid-term targets, no systematic progress for regular recording of project progress as per indicators and targets. and no mechanism as per design for capturing the outcome level indicators). The M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources) was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS). The NSC members- ministries were supposed to conduct quarterly visits and to date only the MAAIF has conducted such a visit, while others were yet to submit their plans. With the new M&E Officer coming on board eight (8) months prior to MTR, the system was being reorganized with these drawbacks fixed. Plus, there were Monitoring Committees at district level formed - an important achievement. Annual Outcome surveys were planned. However, the human resources for the M&E were seemingly insufficient at the CO to support the individual projects.

Conclusion 6: Cross-cutting dimensions. *Gender and other equity dimensions were rated as Satisfactory (S). Impressive results were achieved in terms of women empowerment and participation, with women actively taking part in the FFSs, taking leadership roles, and starting to earn (more) money. In Karamoja, the project could have employed a more nuanced approach given a more patriarchal way of life. While there were records kept by the training providers on the share of disabled participants as well as youth, no summary data were available. Also, the project could, have had a more explicit focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged (e.g., disabled, marginalized, and elderly), as well as young men. The human rights issue was rated as Satisfactory (S), with respect to decent work embedded and no infringements found on human rights (including the human rights of the indigenous people). Environmental and social safeguards were rated as Satisfactory (S): the initial rating at the conception of the project was overall adequate and there was evidence of environmental and social benefits.*

5.2 Recommendations

Table 5 lists the recommendations.

Table 5: Recommendations

Rec no.	Rationale for recommendation	Recommendation	Responsibility	Timing/dates for actions
Strategic relevance				
A.1				
Effectiveness				
B1	Currently, the patterns of crops grown, cattle, etc. are too scattered, hampering the opportunities for economies of scale and so the opportunities for trading/value chain development.	**Recommendation:** Provide more guidance to the farmers at the start based on the crops to be harvested to have economies of scale of VCHD, i.e. to focus on fewer animals with better output, drought-resistant varieties and adequate pasture.	FAO and MAAIF	Starting second half of the project, till end
B.2	Support for irrigation was clearly not enough and this affects many of the other aspects. Some of the infrastructure provided was not functional during the field visit.	**Recommendation:** Support stronger community-level maintenance and management systems (linking FFS and Water User Associations), especially in the context of the proposed expended support to adaptive methods of irrigation. Allow budget revision to allocate more resources for access to irrigation, including for reliable/permanent solutions	FAO and MAAIF	Starting second half of the project, till end
B.3.	There are 5 outputs for which there is no progress so far, 3 of which having mid-term targets (mainstreaming CCA into agricultural and mechanisation policies) and communications.	**Recommendation:** Put more effort in achieving progress on the 4 Outputs for which there was no progress at mid-term, but with mid-term targets, namely policy mainstreaming, ICT based KM system and implementation of the Communication Strategy (ensuring its reach to sub-county level).	FAO and MAAIF	November 2022
Efficiency				
C1.	Some of the oversight mechanisms are not implemented sufficiently, e.g., only 1 NSC meeting, regular progress reports not sent to NSC members).	**Recommendation:** Ensure timely achievement of planned results with better oversight (regular NSC meetings, regular progress reports disseminated to the NSC members, systems for ESS) and improved planning, with planning tools and LOA review meetings by sub offices; coordinated by NPC.	FAO and MAAIF	November 2022 and beyond
C2	Without a no-cost extension, the project is unlikely to manage to implement the activities for which there is no or very limited progress so far, e.g., policy component, ICT system for communication.	**Recommendation:** No-cost extension for 1 year	FAO	November 2022
Sustainability				
D1	While the project works closely with district administrations, this should be even closer for effectiveness and sustainability	**Recommendations:** Closer links with district administrators, both departments- production and NRM • support implementation of regulations • Involve the political wing and district leadership more in monitoring to support continuity • Participate in district technical working groups and review meetings to enhance cohesion of interventions, coordination and minimize duplication • As part of system strengthening, support the coordinating office under the CAO to conduct coordination activities such as the district coordination and review meetings.	FAO and MAAIF	November 2022 and beyond
D.2.	There is no exit strategy	**Recommendation:** Develop a comprehensive exit strategy and prepare partners for the exit through an	FAO and MAAIF	November 2022

Rec no.	Rationale for recommendation	Recommendation	Responsibility	Timing/dates for actions
		official handover.		
D3	While the project interacts with watershed management committees and subcommittees, this engagement should be closer, with assistance to them and coordination with them.	**Recommendation:** Closer engagement with watershed management committees and subcommittees (coordination of activities, training) and engagement with NEMA, on sensitization and enforcement.	FAO and MWE	November 2022 and beyond
Factors affecting performance				
E1	The project and FAO Uganda are investing heavily in FFS and a rigorous assessment of this approach would be beneficial (with a control group design to assess effectiveness and a closer look at sustainability prospects from earlier interventions).	**Recommendation:** Contribute to conducting a rigorous assessment of the FFS model by FAO Uganda		Second half of the project
E2	NPC is clearly overburdened with workload and needs assistance to catch up with the areas where the project is lagging behind, namely communication.	**Recommendation:** Address the shortage of staffing, e.g., hire a part time communications support to urgently close the gap in the immediate need in capturing the results so far and communicating (also using Easter Africa FFS Hub, based in Uganda).	FAO	November 2022
B.3	Fuel prices have increased sharply, affecting the project's ability to deliver on a number of planned results.	**Recommendation**: Allow budget revisions to accommodate the fuel prices which have doubled, as well as allocate some money for food staff in severely hunger stricken districts	FAO	November 2022
Cross-cutting dimensions				
F.1	There was no targeted approach to engage the vulnerable residents in FFS. There were issues observed in some households emanating from the fact that men were not sufficiently involved and aware of the project's activities engaging their wives.	**Recommendation:** Add special focus on vulnerable and male engagement (the latter to enhance household harmony and joint planning and household income increasement). Add a focus on elderly. Add a systematic approach to capturing the engagement of youth and the disabled.	FAO and MAAIF	November 2022 and beyond

6. Lessons Learnt

The points below summarize the lessons learnt so far:

- Mainstreaming requires special focus and ways to engage with the government.
- In order for the local governments to integrate project interventions and allocate budgets, the political leadership has to be brought on board more consistently to appreciate project results, in addition to the technical wing.
- FFS approach looks promising, especially when supported with SLAs: the latter enhanced groups' functionality and continuity. The groups meet weekly to collect saving and share proceeds from the group IGAs such as energy saving stoves which will ensure continuity of group activities since members directly benefit from group activities. However, given the massive investment (current and planned) in FFS), a rigorous study would be beneficial to comprehensively assess the model.
- Water for production is a very important factor that negatively affects afforestation, crops and pasture. Scaling up access to affordable irrigation technologies will greatly contribute to the project effectiveness.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. Terms of reference for the MTR

Introduction

Project/programme background and context

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) have been implementing the project "Integrating climate resilience into agricultural and pastoral production in Uganda, through a Farmer/Agro-pastoralist Field School Approach" from July 2019. The project is part of Uganda's strategy to curb the increasing negative impacts of climate change which have been worsening over the last decade. The country's third national development plan (NDP3) and vision 2040 are both anchored on progress, challenges and lessons learned from the last 10 years, which amongst others identified adaptation to climate change as one of the national development priorities. To address these challenges, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP, 2015) advocates: (i) Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategies that enhance resilient, productive and sustainable agricultural systems; (ii) value addition and improving food storage and management systems in order to ensure food security at all times, as a factor of resilience.

Related challenges and lessons learnt from previous development initiatives:

- Pressure on exploitation of land resources has increased due to high population growth (averaging 3.5%) and associated overdependence on agriculture as the main source of livelihood, rapid urbanisation, increasing unemployment, and high poverty rates in some regions of the country
- Severe reduction in the forest cover as well as wetland degradation and encroachment leading to increased vulnerability to climate change
- Demand for water for production is at its highest due to increasing water shortages and high demand for irrigation to sustain production
- The cost of electricity has remained higher than the targeted 5 cents per unit. This has led to increasing reliance on wood fuel, charcoal being one of the major causes of increasing deforestation and associated greenhouse gas emissions;
- 47 percent of households are still in subsistence agriculture (UNHS, 2020)
- Insufficient creation of quality and gainful jobs in the economy, especially for the youth with an estimated unemployment rate of 13.3 percent
- Widening income inequality, particularly between the regions;
- The quality of education remains low characterized by low levels of literacy and numeracy, coupled with a high rate of school dropout; and,

The intervention comes amidst the exacerbating impacts of COVID-19 which have severely impacted livelihoods and the economy over the last two years. Recent studies show that the pandemic has pushed agriculture-dependent households further into subsistence. According to the 2020 UNHS report (UBOS, 2021), the proportion of households living in the subsistence economy increased from 41 percent before COVID-19 (2019) to 56 percent in 2020.

Climate change in Uganda

Due to the fact that over 90 percent of Uganda's agricultural production depends on rain-fed agriculture, the 70 percent of the population that depend on agriculture for their livelihoods are highly vulnerable to food and income insecurity and undernutrition. Worsening weather extremes: increasing prevalence of drought, rainfall unreliability, increasing temperatures, and floods have severely affected agricultural production mainly in the drier and ecologically vulnerable areas in the east, northern and north western regions which are characterised by unimodal rainfall. The most vulnerable populations are smallholders in general and agro-pastoralists in Uganda's dryland area that stretches from the southwest to the northeast. FAO data shows that average crop yields have stagnated amidst increasing population pressure on land resources; and the carrying capacity of the rangelands is under critical pressure given the increasing levels of overgrazing and water scarcity.

Description of the project, project objectives and components

Financing and implementation arrangements

Project Focus, Strategy and Approach

The project focus was built through a pre-project diagnostic process involving a review of existing baseline initiatives and gap analysis. The following key challenges addressed by the project are also aligned with priorities of the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2020/21-2024/25:

i. Fragile policy and regulatory environment – limited capacity of national and local government institutions responsible for implementing the CCA
ii. Limited applications of gender responsive CCA approaches
iii. Limited/weak agricultural extension and advisory services
iv. Lack of data and information on the status and evolution of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use, limiting appropriate planning and management
v. Lack of access to markets and poor marketing infrastructures for majority of farmer and SMEs
vi. Insufficient diversity of crop varieties and barriers to seed distribution systems

The project sites were selected with the aim of synergizing on ongoing initiatives addressing these challenges upon which the project could build, and availability of co-financing. The following baseline initiatives contribute co-financing, and therefore contribute directly to project results:

- Global Climate Chance Alliance Plus (GCCA+): Scaling up Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change in Uganda.
- Climate Resilient Livelihood Opportunities for Women Economic Empowerment (CRWEE) in Karamoja and West Nile Regions of Uganda
- Ongoing initiatives by the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) of Uganda through
- Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Karamoja Sub-region (GEF funded UNDP-FAO project)
- Supporting DLGs to Establish Knowledge Management System and promote use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Indigenous Knowledge for CCA
- Agrobiodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa
- Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security
- Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)
- Northern Uganda Social Action Fund phase 3 (NUSAF3)

The key strategy of the project is to build on pre-existing initiatives to build synergy on the existing multi-partner support, and a holistic approach to CCA. The implementation approach of builds on existing farmer organizations using Agro-pastoral farmer field schools (AP/FFS). The activities are executed through Implementing Partners (IPs) under the arrangement of Letters of Agreement (LOA) between FAO and IPs.

The project is implemented in 13 districts located in the arid and semi-arid cattle corridor - namely Nakasongola, Nakaseke Luweero, Kayunga, Kamuli, Buyende, Amolatar, Kaberamaido, Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Napak, and Amudat. The project is being implemented in 28 sub-counties.

Objectives and strategic focus

The project's overall objective is to "build climate resilience into the agricultural sector, as an effective means of reducing vulnerability and disseminating community-level adaptation measures".

It is expected to generate four outcomes (see Annex 1):

i. Outcome 1: Knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and disseminated through an integrated knowledge sharing system to male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists, and institutions that support them (MAAIF, NARO, DLG, NGOs, CBOs, etc.) to ensure resilience
ii. Outcome 2: Farmers and agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female) adopt gender responsive improved climate resilient practices (agroecological practices, improved soil, water, crop, varietal diversity, crop-associated biodiversity, livestock and ecosystem management practices, integrated pest management practices, etc.) through the AP/FFS approach
iii. Outcome 3: Increased institutional capacity of MAAIF and DLG to mainstream gender responsive CCA into Agriculture Sector and Districts Plans & implement CCA policies, strategies and programs, shifting from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach
iv. Outcome 4: Project Implementation based on results-based management and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated.

Alignment and strategic fit

The project contributes directly to FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs) 1, 2, 4 and 5:

- SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- SO2: Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- SO4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

At regional level it contributes to Priority Area 1 and 3:

v. Priority Area 1: Production and Productivity of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Commodities
vi. Priority Area 3: Resilience to Livelihoods Threats with Emphasis on Climate Change

At the national level it contributes to the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-20 outcomes 1 and 3:

- Outcome 1: Sustainable production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities for men, women and youth in targeted populations increased
- Outcome 3: Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and food and nutrition insecurity, improved

It also contributes to the LDCF Strategic objectives CCA1, CCA2 and CCA 3:

- CCA-1: Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate
- CCA-2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation

- CCA-3: Integrate climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes

Project stakeholders and their roles

The primary stakeholders are the target beneficiaries i.e., farmers, communities, and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the cattle corridor. Secondary stakeholders are the agencies with primary responsibility for implementing various components, generating project outputs and ensuring project success. These include: FAO, MAAIF, NARO, MWE, and CCD. Tertiary stakeholders are other agencies supporting related complementary interventions, support services and government oversight. These include: Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Equal Opportunities Commission; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Local Government and DLGs; Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Works; Bioversity International;; AMFRI Farms; NGOs in the project area and Makerere University.

Stakeholder analysis matrix

Stakeholder type and name	Role in Project	Reason(s) for inclusion in the MTR	Priority for MTR (1-3)[13]	How and when to be involved
1. Primary stakeholders (at grassroot level)				
Farmers	Participating in AP-FFSs and other farmer level activities, participating in community-level CCA committees and other fora, leadership in farmer organizations, uptake and upscaling of recommendations	Primary beneficiaries	1	Data collection, validation of results
Communities, Community Based Organizations (CBO)	Supporting communities to manage community level programs and projects, participate in planning and implementation of activities, liaison with supporting agencies and government	Primary beneficiaries	1	Data collection, validation of results
2. Secondary stakeholders (Active stakeholders with direct responsibility for the project)				
FAO	Lead implementer with MAAIF, co-financing, technical support, monitoring and oversight through participation in the Project Steering Committee	Executing agency Beneficiary	1	BH, in consultation with the PTF, project team and PSC leads all stages of planning, implementation, validation, reporting and feedback The LTO provides technical backstopping throughout the MTR process (QA, clearance of inception report, report outline, review draft and final MTR reports)
MAAIF	Lead implementer together with FAO, Member of the Project Steering Committee, responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment, ensuring coordination and collaboration with all relevant government and non-government agencies in the sector Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) is responsible for coordination of public agricultural advisory and extension services	Executing agency Beneficiary	1	All stages of planning, implementation, validation, reporting and feedback
NARO	Organizing and co-financing agricultural research activities in collaboration with private and international research centres, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, member of the steering committee	Implementing Partner and indirect beneficiary	2	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
MWE, CCD	Member of the Project Steering Committee; responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for natural resource management sectors; providing coordination and technical guidance	Implementing Partner and indirect beneficiary	2	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback

[13] 1 = essential; 2 = desirable; 3 = if time and resources allow

Stakeholder type and name	Role in Project	Reason(s) for inclusion in the MTR	Priority for MTR (1-3)[13]	How and when to be involved
	in identifying priorities, developing and managing interventions on water management, agrobiodiversity, wetlands and aquatic resources, meteorology and climate change			
3. Tertiary stakeholders				
OPM	Member of the Project Steering Committee; participating in planning, monitoring, and dissemination of information on progress and results. These are Active Stakeholders with authority to make decisions on the project	Implementing Partner and indirect beneficiary	2	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
Other Ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Equal Opportunities Commission; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Works.	Participating in Project Steering Committee meetings on an-ad-hoc basis; utilization of project information and results	Indirect beneficiary	3	Validation, reporting and feedback
DLG under Ministry of Local Government	Participating in planning and implementation of activities, utilization of project information and results	Indirect beneficiary	2	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
Bioversity	Participating in planning and implementation of research activities, seed banks, tree nurseries, diversity fairs; utilization of project information and results	Implementing Partner	3	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
Digital Green	Participating in planning, development and implementation of an ICT system	Implementing Partner	3	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
AMFRI Farms	Participating in planning and implementation of training and contracting farmers on high value markets	Implementing Partner and indirect beneficiary	3	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback
NGOs	Participating in planning and implementation of community level activities (AP/FFS activities as facilitators, seed banks, community nurseries, diversity fairs, land and management systems)	Indirect beneficiary	2	Validation, reporting and feedback
Makerere University and Kyambogo University	Participating in planning and implementation of selected research activities, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, participating in developing and implementing the CCA Knowledge Base (CCAKB)	Implementing Partner and indirect beneficiary	3	Planning, validation, reporting and feedback

Theory of change

Livelihoods of Farmers and Agro-pastoralists in the project districts are vulnerable and likely to worsen due to threats caused by climate change, environment degradation characterized by moderate to severe land degradation, loss of ecosystem services, declining biodiversity, increasing water scarcity, and declining agricultural productivity. The targeted agro-pastoralists are unable to adapt to these threats in order to develop sufficiently resilient livelihoods. A pre-project situation analysis identified the key bottlenecks as: lack of sufficient data and evidence to guide planning of CCA interventions, inadequate tailored extension services, limited capacity of local government and community level organizations to develop and apply gender-responsible CCA approaches, limited access to markets by producers and agribusinesses, low and declining diversity of crop varieties and barriers to access seed, and a fragile policy and regulatory environment.

In view of the identified challenges, the project's development hypothesis is that:

IF:

i. Required data and knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and shared with agro-pastoralists and institutions that support them;
ii. Effective and gender responsive CCA practices (improved soil and water management, crop and livestock diversity and productivity, community seed banks, crop/tree nurseries, ecosystem management practices, governance systems, value addition, marketing practices and strategies, etc.) are tested, validated, and disseminated/strengthened through the AP-FFS approach;
iii. The capacity of MAAIF and DLGs to mainstream gender responsive CCA into regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes (into the agriculture sector and district plans and implement a shift from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach is improved);
iv. Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management systems in MAAIF and DLGs are strengthened and oriented towards providing more systematic data, knowledge and recommendations on lessons learned and CCA best practices; and their effectiveness in guiding prioritization of CCA interventions in sector and district strategies and plans;

ASSUMING THAT:

(vii) Sufficient resources and sustainable financing mechanisms are put in place;
(viii) Public extension services tailored to CCA are developed and access by agro-pastoralists is ensured;
(ix) Improvements in CCA-related legislation, policies and regulatory mechanisms are implemented;
(x) Political commitments by the government to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol are sustained;
(xi) A critical number of agro-pastoralist households are willing to participate sustainably in AP/FFSs;
(xii) The impacts of COVID-19, crop and livestock pests and diseases, floods, and conflict, especially on low-income subsistence households are minimized.

INTERMEDIATE RESULTS:

(vii) Use of improved data and knowledge on CCA best practices and gender mainstreaming will be increased in order to inform improvements in the MAAIF Climate Change Strategy and Plans, the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan and DLG CCA strategies and Plans;
(viii) MAAIF and DLGs will implement a shift from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach;
(ix) CCA policies, strategies, plans, and interventions will be closely and effectively monitored; a knowledge management system will be established/improved and functional; and best practices and lessons will be applied to improve policies, strategies and plans in a sustained manner;
(x) Availability and equitable access by targeted agro-pastoralists and agribusinesses to information and knowledge, production assets, extension and other services for production will increase;
(xi) Adoption of improved CCA and gender responsive practices by agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female), communities and businesses in the semi-arid corridor will increase;
(xii) Growth and development of marketing systems, value addition, agro-processing and standards enhanced will increase;
(xiii) Sustainable management of natural resources will be strengthened;
(xiv) Livelihoods of targeted vulnerable agro-pastoral households will be protected and diversified;
(xv) Capacity of selected communities for climate change adaptation and mitigation will be strengthened

OUTCOME

Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and food and nutrition insecurity will be improved and sustained.

Implementation progress and main challenges to date

This project implementation approach is through implementing partners and the arrangement requires FAO to enter into letters of agreements with the implementing partners. The project signed 13 letters of agreement with implementing partners.
Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies, implementing partner conducted and completed a study on gender analysis to understand gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use in the districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak". This was an assessment of gender and CCA integration into an effective catchment management system in 13 districts for the sustainable use of land and natural resources. National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) conducted a comprehensive study and the report in in final stages. The study is on assessment of natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts. The study will describe natural resources, agrarian systems and land uses in the 13 districts, and their transformation dynamic in a climate change context is in final stages. Biodiversity International implementing Partner is in its initial activities to conduct a study to "Assess agrobiodiversity and develop action plans in the project sites selected in the districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak".

Makerere University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (MAK-CAES) is the implementing partner to develop an integrated knowledge management system to generate and disseminate information on climate risks and emerging adaptation options/best practices at district and national level has progressed as follows:

- They have developed a draft framework for establishing functional knowledge management system for climate change adaptation at district and national level
- Reviewed and updated of the existing (local and national) climate knowledge management systems (KMS in preparation for the needs assessment. This can be accessed on (https://muccri.mak.ac.ug/content/climate-change-adaptation-knowledge-base-0) and National Climate Change KMS (https://muccri.mak.ac.ug/content/climate-change-knowledge-management-system)

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FAO signed eight Letters of Agreement titled "Building Household Livelihoods and Ecosystem Management Capacities using Farmer Field School and Watershed Management Approaches" with 8 implementing partners (non-governmental organizations) covering 9 out of 13 targeted districts. The following achievements have been registered:

- 270 new Agro-Pastoral/Farmer Field Schools have been established to promoting climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices benefitting 6,750 vulnerable farmers, of which about 58 percent are women and 42 percent men.
- 43 Agro-Pastoral (AP)/Farmer Field School (FFS)Facilitators and Coordinators trained

Assessing the percentage progress on the utilization or adoption of the different targets at this stage in the project is not yet done, however the agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups formulated have done assessments and trainings as follows:

- Land management: agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups formulated have been able to participate in Climate Vulnerability assessment trainings which have helped them to identify at least 3 improved resilient land management practices.
- Pest management: agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups formulated have been trained in integrated pest management practices including pest identification, control and monitoring.
- Water management: agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups have participated in assessment of watershed including delineation of the watersheds in each of the project areas. Templates for developing the micro watershed management plans have been shared and drafts submitted for review.
- The agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools have been trained and given tools for selection an prioritizing (1) Farm selection and management taking into account availability and quality of water; (2) Integrated crop management using conservation agriculture techniques to minimize the delivery and transport of agriculturally derived pollutants to surface water; (3) Soil protection by reducing soil erosion and improving infiltration; (4) Innovation to optimize water use and promote water use efficiency, like irrigation.

Involvement of 500 farmers (30 percent female and 30 percent youth) in a sustainable value chain development approach to access high value markets through sustainable production and export opportunities, at least 50 percent of which (an additional 250 farmers) are part of a certification scheme. This has progressed as follows:

- Developed an integrated framework for value chain assessment under climate adaptation, identified value chain development of priority commodities for the following; Cocoa, Red Chilli 9 under Asante Mama (Sunshine Agro Products Ltd; Cassava value chain under Nakasongola Farmers Association
- Identified priority commodities for value intervention and critical control points for intervention along the value chain
- Draft Concept has been developed for the methodology on integrated value chain development in preparation for piloting in the 13 districts.

The main challenge was the second and third wave of COVID-19 global pandemic prompted Uganda to lock down. This led to lockdown travel restrictions, meetings and field activities in all districts, including the project area. Deployment of specialists to support execution of implementation of field activities faced a challenge of movement and travel restrictions and project implementation partners were restricted in community mobilization. On a positive note, the Government put in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide controlled movements, which supplemented virtual interactions to enable implementation of project activities. This enabled continued project implementation with assessment of compliance to government procedures, given the appreciation of agriculture as a priority sector for government support.

MTR purpose and scope

The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is to assess progress made towards achievement of the project's objectives and results, identify lessons learned, and provide recommendations for mid-course corrective actions to ensure intended results will be achieved and sustained after the project.

The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of progress in the achievement of expected outcome and output targets against budget expenditures according to Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/Bs). The MTR will contribute to identifying current and potential best practices, and major challenges, faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation measures to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

The primary stakeholders of the MTR who will use its findings to effect change are the BH and RM, PMU, MAAIF (national project counterpart), PTF, FLO, LTO and other technical staff at headquarters, PSC members, the GEF and other stakeholders. Other government and non-government stakeholders are secondary users. The results of the MTR will provide primary users with evidence and guidance to understand whether: (I) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective;

(iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered. The findings and recommendations will be used by FAO and MAAIF to make corrective actions (if any) on the design of project interventions, implementation approaches, financing mechanisms and allocation of resources, partnership arrangements and sharing of responsibilities. The PSC, PTF and CU will use the MTR findings and recommendations to develop management responses for implementing agreed improvements to the project and future CCA strategies.

The MTR will cover the period from inception on 11 July 2019 to 31 December 2021. It will assess progress in addressing the needs of the agro-pastoral communities in the 13 project districts, implications, responsible district institutions and central government supporting CCSA efforts.

The MTR will assess all the four components of the project, critically examining progress in achieving their outcomes and outputs:

Box I: Project components, outcomes and outputs

Component 1: Improving knowledge on climate-resilience and associated agricultural practices in the framework of the Climate Change Department's mandate and MAAIF Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan	
Outcome 1: Knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity is produced and disseminated through an integrated knowledge sharing system to male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists, and institutions that support them (MAAIF, NARO, DLG, NGOs, CBOs, etc.) to ensure resilience.	*Output 1.1*: Natural resources, agrarian systems and land uses are fully described in the 13 districts, and their transformation dynamic in a climate change context is understood.
	Output 1.2: Knowledge on agrobiodiversity is enhanced and disseminated to increase climate resilience
	Output 1.3: An integrated system to generate and disseminate knowledge on climate risks and emerging adaptation options/best practices is developed at both district level and national level
	Output 1.4: An ICT system is developed to share knowledge across 40 AP/FFS and 2 districts amongst farmers and agro pastoralists on CCA best practices to increase their resilience to climate change
Component 2: Dissemination and farmer testing/ application of gender responsive climate-change resilient agricultural practices through Agro-Pastoral/ Farmer Field Schools (AP/FFS)	
Outcome 2: Farmers and agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female) adopt gender responsive improved climate resilient practices (agro-ecological practices, improved soil, water, crop, varietal diversity, crop-associated biodiversity, livestock and ecosystem management practices, integrated pest management practices) through the AP/FFS approach.	*Output 2.1:* A core group of 40 master trainers and 120 AP/FSS facilitators trained on gender responsive CCA and SLM practices
	Output 2.2: 7,500 famers and agro-pastoralists in the cattle corridor trained on gender responsive CCA/SLM through AP/FFS
	Output 2.3: 4 Community seed banks, 4 community tree nurseries, 13 district tree nurseries and 13 diversity fairs are set up to support smallholder male and female farmers in the diversification of their crop and fruit tree production
	Output 2.4: 500 male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists are involved in sustainable production and export opportunities to access high value markets
Component 3: Mainstreaming gender responsive CCA and resilience into agriculture sector policies and plans	
Outcome 3: Increased institutional capacity of MAAIF and DLG to mainstream gender responsive CCA into Agriculture Sector and Districts Plans & implement CCA policies, strategies and programs, shifting from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach	*Output 3.1*: Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Water for Agriculture Production Policy
	Output 3.2: Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Agricultural Mechanization Policy
	Output 3.3 CCA mainstreamed in the Gender Policy
	Output 3.4: Institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector built at central, regional and district levels
	Output 3.5: Gender and CCA integrated into an effective land and natural resources management system in 13 districts
	Output 3.6: Barriers to registration of local/farmers crop varieties on the Uganda National Register of Varieties understood
Component 4: Project monitoring, and evaluation and knowledge management	
Outcome 4: Project Implementation based on results-based management and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated	*Output 4.1:* Project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcomes and output targets
	Output 4.2: Project-related "best-practices" and "lessons learned" disseminated

MTR objectives and key questions

MTR objectives

The MTR will assess project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, factors affecting performance, and cross-cutting issues. It will analyse the following issues in relation to the MTR questions and other analysis that may be found relevant during inception:

Box II: MTR Objectives

Relevance – the extent to which the intervention's design and intended results are consistent with local, national, sub-regional and regional environmental and development priorities and policies and to GEF and FAO strategic priorities and objectives; its complementarity with existing interventions and relevance to project stakeholders and beneficiaries; its suitability to the context of the intervention over time.

Effectiveness – the degree to which the intervention has achieved or expects to achieve results (project outputs, outcomes, objectives and impacts, including Global Environmental Benefits) (GEF, 2019c) taking into account key factors influencing the results, including an assessment of whether sufficient capacity has been built to ensure the delivery of results by the end of project and beyond and the likelihood of mid- and longer-term impacts.

Efficiency – the cost-effectiveness of the project and timeliness of activities; the extent to which the intervention has achieved value for resources by converting inputs (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) into results in the timeliest and least costly way compared with alternatives.

Sustainability – the (likely) continuation of positive effects from the intervention after it has ended and the potential for scale-up and/or replication; any financial, socio-political, institutional and governance, or environmental risks to sustainability of project results and benefits; any evidence of replication or catalysis of project results.

Factors affecting performance – the main factors to be considered are:

- project design and readiness for implementation (e.g., sufficient partner capacity to begin operations, changes in context between formulation and operational start);
- project execution, including project management (execution modality as well as the involvement of counterparts and different stakeholders);
- project implementation, including supervision by FAO (Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and Funding Liaison Officer), backstopping, and general Project Task Force (PTF) input;
- financial management and mobilization of expected co-financing;
- project partnerships and stakeholder involvement (including the degree of ownership of project results by stakeholders), political support from government, institutional support from operating partners (such as regional branches of agricultural extension services or forestry authorities);
- communication, public awareness and knowledge management; and
- application of an M&E system, including M&E design, implementation and budget.

Cross-cutting dimensions – considerations such as gender, indigenous-peoples and minority-group concerns and human rights; the environmental and social safeguards applied to a project require, among other things, a review of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) risk classification and risk-mitigation provisions identified at the project's formulation stage.[14]

MTR questions
The following questions are recommended; however, they will be refined at inception in consultation with the MTR team

Box III: Evaluation questions

Evaluation criteria	**Questions**
Relevance (rating required)	Are the project outcomes congruent with country priorities, GEF focal areas/operational programme strategies, the FAO Country Programming Framework and the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (local communities, men and women, and indigenous peoples, if relevant)? Has there been any change in the relevance of the project since its formulation, such as the adoption of new national policies, plans or programmes that affect the relevance of the project's objectives and goals? If so,

[14] FAO applies an online screening system during the project design phase. This is mandatory, even if the project was approved before FAO adopted the GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards (GEF, 2011) in February 2015, as FAO had already applied the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines in 2011 (FAO, 2012a) to screen and rate the risks of every FAO project. Consequently, the MTR team should review and confirm the ESS assessments and risk status at mid-term and any changes suggested, if needed. The most recent GEF guidance can be found in GEF (2019b). A GEF project should not cause any harm to the environment or to any stakeholder and, where applicable, will take measures to prevent and/or mitigate any adverse effects.

	are there any changes that need to be made to the project to make it more relevant?
Effectiveness of project results (rating required)	(Delivery of results) To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives? What broader results (if any) has the project had at regional and global level to date? Were there any unintended consequences? Is there any evidence of environmental stress reduction (for example, in direct threats to biodiversity) or environmental status change (such as an improvement in the populations of target species), reflecting global environmental benefits or any change in policy, legal or regulatory frameworks? To what extent can the achievement of results be attributed to the GEF-funded component? Likelihood of impact) Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards and the achievement of the project's longer-term objectives? What can be done to increase the likelihood of positive impacts from the project? To what extent can the progress towards long-term impacts be attributed to the project?
Efficiency (rating required)	To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? To what extent has project management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation? To what extent has the project built on existing agreements, initiatives, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other projects, partnerships, etc. and avoided duplication of similar activities by other groups and initiatives?
Sustainability (rating required)	Sustainability) What is the likelihood that the project results will be useful or persist after the end of the project? What are the key risks that may affect the sustainability of the project results and its benefits (consider financial, socioeconomic, institutional and governance, and environmental aspects)? Replication and catalysis) What project results, lessons or experiences have been replicated (in different geographic areas) or scaled up (in the same geographic area, but on a much larger scale and funded by other sources)? What results, lessons or experiences are likely to be replicated or scaled up in the near future?
Factors affecting progress (ratings required)	Project design) Is the project design suited to delivering the expected outcomes? Is the project's causal logic (per its theory of change) coherent and clear? To what extent are the project's objectives and components clear, practical and feasible within the timeframe allowed? To what extent was gender integrated into the project's objectives and results framework? Were other actors – civil society, indigenous peoples or private sector – involved in project design or implementation and what was the effect on project results? (Project execution and management) To what extent did the executing agency effectively discharge its role and responsibilities in managing and administering the project? What have been the main challenges in terms of project management and administration? How well have risks been identified and m 1. Financial management and co-financing) What have been the financial-management challenges of the project? To what extent has pledged co-financing been delivered? Has any additional leveraged co-financing been provided since implementation? How has any shortfall in co-financing or unexpected additional funding affected project results? Project oversight, implementation role) To what extent has FAO delivered oversight and supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) during project identification, formulation, approval, start-up and execution? (Partnerships and stakeholder engagement) To what extent have stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous populations, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities and the private sector, been involved in project formulation and implementation? What has been the effect of their involvement or non-involvement on project results? How do the various stakeholder groups see their own engagement with the project? What are the mechanisms of their involvement and how could these be improved? What are the strengths and challenges of the project's partnerships? Has the stakeholder engagement plan been adhered to and documented? Have all stakeholders been made aware of the ESS plan and the grievance complaint mechanism? 1 Communication and knowledge management) How effective has the project been in communicating and promoting its key messages and results to partners, stakeholders and a general audience? How can this be improved? How is the project assessing, documenting and sharing its results and lessons learned and experiences? To what extent are communication products and activities likely to support the sustainability and scaling up of project results? (M&E design) Is the project's M&E system practical and sufficient? How has stakeholder engagement and gender assessment been integrated into the M&E system? How could this be improved? M&E implementation) Does the M&E system operate per the M&E plan? Has information been gathered in a systematic manner, using appropriate methodologies? To what extent has information generated by the M&E system during project implementation been used to adapt and improve project planning and execution, achieve outcomes and ensure sustainability? Is there gender-disaggregated targets and indicators? How can the M&E system be improved?
Cross-cutting	(Gender and minority groups, including indigenous peoples, disadvantaged, vulnerable and people with

priorities	disabilities) To what extent were gender considerations taken into account in designing and implementing the project? Has the project been designed and implemented in a manner that ensures gender-equitable participation and benefits? Was a gender analysis done? (ESS) To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project? Has the project been implemented in a manner that ensures the ESS Mitigation Plan (if one exists) has been adhered to?

3.3 Questions on COVID-19 impacts

a) In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted progress and results of the project (delays, cancellation, etc.)?
b) The COVID-19 pandemic has affected global economies, did this impact the project activities? If yes, what are the key impacts, who was affected, and to what extent?
c) Given impacts from COVID-19, at this point in time, will all project activities be successfully completed by the current project end date, or will there be a need for adjustments (in time frame and/or targets)?
d) What are the adaptive measures that have been implemented (e.g., budget reallocations, timeline adjustment, etc.), and which are anticipated going forward to address COVID-19 impacts?
e) What kind of support can this project and its support partners (if any) provide in order to strengthen adaptation to COVID-19 impacts and challenges?

Methodology

The MTR will adhere to the UNEG Norms & Standards and ethical guidelines (UNEG, 2016), and should be in line with the FAO–GEF MTR Guide and annexes detailing methodological guidelines and practices.

Evaluation design

The evaluation will adopt a consultative and participatory approach throughout the MTR process. As part of the MTR inception phase, the evaluation team will be expected to develop an **inception report** that will include a ***methodological note*** based on the desk review, theory of change, M&E plan, and the suggested MTR questions above, and suggesting additional questions or modifications to tailor the MTR to the project needs. Final decisions about the specific design and methodology for the MTR will emerge from consultations between the project team, the MTR consultants and key stakeholders on what is appropriate and feasible in order to meet the MTR's purpose and objectives and answer the MTR's questions.

An **evaluation matrix** will be prepared in line with the project log frame and results matrix both attached in Annex 1; annual work plans and budgets, identifying indicators, sources of information, methods and tools, and a set of criteria to rate the strength of the evidence collected to answer each evaluation question and sub-question accordingly. The evaluation matrix and the various data collection tools will be finalized prior the main evaluation phase.

It should be noted that GEF is placing increased emphasis on gender concerns and how its programmes and projects contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment. Given the focus of the project on gender responsive programming, the MTR will take an overall approach of a gender equality lens, analysing the vulnerability of male, female, and youth in households. Women form at least 30 percent of the AP/FFS participants and of the agro-pastoralists that are engaged in the project. All AP/FFS incorporate the Gender Action Learning System (GALS). MTR should be guided in its assessment of any gender concerns by the GEF Gender Policy and associated guidelines, FAO's guidelines for assessment Gender mainstreaming, policy on Gender etc.

The MTR should, as much as possible, collect and report sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive indicators and results (further questions for assessing gender concerns are suggested in Annex 12 of the MTR Guide). GEF is also paying more attention to stakeholder engagement and development, the use of knowledge products and the identification of good practices. All of these areas require specific reporting in the MTR report. The link between evaluation questions, data collection, analysis, findings and conclusions must be clearly made and set out in a transparent manner in the presentation of the evaluation findings.

The conclusion and recommendations should be underpinned by a strong set of evidences. The evaluation team should ensure that the sample of project stakeholders consulted equitably represent the various possible perspectives, including in terms of gender balance.

The project baseline was established using the Self-Evaluation and Holistic Assessment of Climate Resilience and Pastoralist (SHARP) (http://www.fao.org/in-action/sharp/en/); therefore, the results and methodology will inform the design of the MTR. The baseline covered a statistically representative sample of 404 households[15] sampled from the 13 project districts. The treatment population consist of 6,750 farmers (men and women) organised in 270 FFS groups, benefitting 7 District Farmers Associations (DFAs).

Data sources Data will be collected mainly from three key sources: (1) A desk review of key documents (see annex 4), (2) focus group discussions with farmers applying participatory rapid appraisal methodology or other appropriate techniques, (3) key informants interviews with selected stakeholders from the stakeholder analysis; and (4) direct observations at project activity sites. Channels of communication will include as mix of physical visits where Covid 19 regulations permit, on line surveys and other

[15] The sample was selected assuming a 95% confidence level and 5% margin error.

data collection methods if required. In evaluating capacity development and gender mainstreaming, the MTR will use the frameworks and definitions adopted in the GEF and/or FAO's tools and guidelines for evaluation of CCA projects.

Roles and responsibilities
Persons responsible the MTR include the BH and designated RM, the Project Management Unit (PMU), the national project counterpart, the PTF (including the and the and other FAO technical staff at headquarters), PSC members, the GEF and other stakeholders. The BH/RM. This section briefly describes the different roles that key stakeholders play in the design and implementation of the MTR.

The **BH** is FAO, it is accountable for the MTR process and report informants' preparation. He/She is responsible for the initiation, management and finalization of the MTR process. The BH has designated an MTR Manager (**RM)**, to oversee implementation of the MTR.

MTR team composition and profile
The consultancy will be undertaken by a lead international consultant and a national counterpart.

With the assistance of the project's lead technical officer (LTO) and the FAO GEF coordination unit (CU), funding liaison officer (FLO), the BH/RM is responsible for the drafting and finalizing the terms of reference. The BH/RM is also responsible for identifying and recruiting the MTR team members, in consultation with the FAO GEF CU and the LTO. In collaboration with the FAO GEF CU, the BH/RM also briefs the MTR team on the MTR methodology and process and leads the organization of MTR missions. The BH/RM and the FAO GEF CU's MTR focal point review the draft and final MTR reports to assure their quality in terms of presentation, compliance with the terms of reference, timely delivery, quality, clarity and soundness of evidence and analysis supporting the conclusions and recommendations. The BH is also responsible for leading and coordinating the preparation of the FAO Management Response and the associated follow-up report, supported by the LTO and other members of the Project Task Force (PTF). Further details on the Management Response can be found in the MTR Guide.

The FAO GEF CU will appoint a focal point to provide technical backstopping throughout the MTR process, including guidance and punctual support to the BH/RM and MTR team on technical issues related to the GEF and the MTR. This includes support in identifying potential MTR team members, reviewing candidate qualifications and participating in the selection of consultants, as well as briefing the MTR team on the MTR process, relevant methodology and tools. The FAO GEF CU also follows up with the BH to ensure the timely preparation of the Management Response.

PTF members, including the BH, are required to participate in meetings with the MTR team, make all necessary information and documentation available and comment on the terms of reference and MTR report. However, their level of involvement will depend on team members' individual roles and level of participation in the project.

The National Project Director (NPD) facilitates the participation of government partners in the MTR process and supports the PMU in ensuring good communication across government. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) facilitates government and other partner and stakeholder participation in the MTR process.

The MTR team is responsible for developing and applying the MTR methodology, producing a brief MTR inception report, conducting the MTR and producing the MTR report. All team members will participate in briefing and debriefing meetings, discussions and field visits. They will contribute written inputs to the draft and final versions of the MTR report, which may not reflect the views of the government or of FAO. The MTR team leader will guide and coordinate the MTR team members in their specific tasks and lead the preparation of the draft and final reports. The team leader will consolidate team inputs with his/her own and will have overall responsibility for delivering the MTR report. The MTR team will agree with the FAO GEF CU MTR focal point on the outline of the report early in the MTR process, based on the template provided in Annex 12 of the MTR Guide. The MTR team is free to expand the scope, criteria, questions and issues listed above, and develop its own MTR tools and framework, within the timeframe and resources available and based on discussions with the BH/RM and PTF. Although an MTR report is not subject to technical clearance by FAO, the BH/RM and FAO GEF CU do provide quality assurance checks of all MTR reports.

The relevant GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) must be involved in any GEF project or programme evaluation process, in accordance with the GEF Evaluation Policy (2019). The BH should inform the OFP of the MTR process and the MTR team is encouraged to consult with him/her during the review process. The team should also keep the OFP informed of progress and send him/her a copy of the draft and final MTR reports.

More detailed guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the key individuals and groups involved in the MTR can be found in Annexes 2 and 3 of the MTR Guide.
The lead international MTR consultant should have the following minimum technical requirements:

- An advanced university degree in evaluation, climate studies, economics, agriculture, natural-resource management, social and economic development, or a related field; and a post-graduate diploma in M&E or project planning and management
- Five years of relevant experience in supporting, designing, planning and/or conducting development evaluations related to CCA in Uganda or countries with related social-economic and geographic settings;
- Knowledge of FAO and GEF work/procedures, or other UN agencies, will be an asset

- Proven technical writing skills using English

The MTR consultants should be independent of any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing or advising on any aspect of the project being evaluated in the MTR and should not have been involved in any aspect of the project previously.

The national consultant should have the following experience:
• An advanced university degree in evaluation, climate studies, economics, agriculture, natural-resource management, social and economic development, or a related field; and a post-graduate diploma in M&E or project planning and management
• 3 years of relevant experience in supporting, designing, planning and/or conducting development evaluations related to CCA in Uganda or countries with related social-economic and geographic settings;
• Experience in supporting, designing, planning and/or conducting development evaluations;
• Knowledge of FAO and GEF work/procedures, or other UN agencies, will be an asset
• Proven technical writing skills using English

Both consultants are expected to demonstrate the following competencies:
• Results focus
• Teamwork
• Excellent communication skills (both written and oral) in English
• Building effective relationships
• Knowledge sharing and continuous improvement

MTR deliverables
This section describes the key deliverables the MTR team is expected to produce. At a minimum, these products should include the following:

Box IV: Deliverables

- The MTR inception report. The MTR team should prepare an inception report before beginning data collection. This should detail the MTR team's understanding of what is being assessed and why, and their understanding of the project and its aims (set out in a theory of change). It serves as a map and reference for planning and conducting an MTR and as a useful tool for summarizing and visually presenting the MTR design and methodology in discussions with stakeholders. The inception report details the GEF evaluation criteria, the questions the MTR seeks to answer (in the form of an MTR matrix), the data sources and data collection methods, analysis tools or methods appropriate for each data source and data collection method, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated. The inception report should include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables, designating a team member with lead responsibility for each task or product (as appropriate).
- The draft MTR report. The project team, BH/RM, FAO GEF CU and key stakeholders in the MTR should review the draft MTR report to ensure its accuracy and quality in two review rounds: (a) a first review, taking around 10 working days, by the project team and FAO (BH, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point), then a second review, also taking around 10 working days, by the government counterpart(s), key external partners and stakeholders.
- The final MTR report. This should include the main report and an executive summary both should be written in English. The executive summary should include the following paragraphs in order to update the GEF Portal: (1) information on progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement; (2) information on progress on gender-responsive measures; and (3) information on knowledge activities and products. The template for the MTR report can be found in Annex 11 and guidance on writing the report in Annex 12 of the MTR Guide.
- A two-page summary of key findings, lessons, recommendations and messages from the MTR report, produced by the RM and PMU, in consultation with the MTR team, that can be disseminated to the wider public for general information on the project's results and performance to date. This will be posted as a briefing paper on the project's website.
- Participation in a dissemination workshop – the consultants will prepare a presentation detailing the context, objectives, rational, methodology, key findings, lessons learned and recommendations and present it key stakeholders. The comments by the stakeholders will be incorporated in the report to produce the final MTR report
- Data sets – cleaned quantitative and qualitative data sets used in the final analysis shall accompany the final report. The quantitative data should be formatted in either STATA or SPSS.

MTR timeframe
The MTR will take place between April and July 2022. The suggested timeline is:

Task	Completion Date	When/duration	Responsibility
1. Terms of reference preparation	December 2021	3 months before the MTR field mission	BH/RM, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point

Task	Completion Date	When/duration	Responsibility
2. Terms of reference finalization	2 January 2022	2 months before the MTR field mission	BH/RM
3. Team identification	15 February 2022	2 months before the MTR field mission	BH/RM, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point
4. Team recruitment	10 March 2022	1 month before the MTR field mission	BH with input from the FAO GEF CU for international and national consultants
5. Travel arrangements and organization of the agenda and travel itinerary in country for the field mission	17 March 2022	4–6 weeks before the MTR field mission[16]	BH/RM, project team and MTR team
6. Reading background documentation	24 March 2022	2–3 weeks before the MTR field mission	MTR team in preparation for the MTR
7. Briefing of MTR team	24 March 2022	2–3 weeks before the MTR field mission	BH/RM, supported by PTF and FAO GEF CU as necessary
8. MTR inception report	1 April 2022	2 weeks before the MTR field mission	MTR team
9. Quality assurance and clearance of the MTR inception report	7 April 2022	1 week before the MTR field mission	BH/RM and the FAO GEF CU MTR focal point
10. MTR missions – confirmation of interviews, meetings and visits	15 April 2022	1–3 weeks for the MTR field mission	MTR team with the support of the PMU
11. Data collection planning, training, field work, entry, cleaning, analysis	30 April 2022	2 weeks for the MTR field mission	MTR team
12. De-briefing on preliminary findings	2 May 2022	1 day	MTR team FAO-GEF CU, PTF and Project team to be invited
13. Production of first draft report for circulation	16 May 2022	No more than 3 weeks after the field mission	MTR team
14. Circulation and review of first draft MTR report	25 May 2022	5–10 working days for review	BH/RM, PMU, FAO GEF CU MTR focal point, LTO for comments and quality control (organized by BH/RM)
15. Production of second draft MTR report	31 May 2022	1 week for the inclusion of feedback (recommended; could be less if consultants are available)	MTR team
16. Circulation of second draft MTR report	10 June 2022	5–10 working days for review	BH/RM and key external stakeholders (organized by BH/RM)
17. Production of final MTR report	20 June 2022	1 week for the inclusion of final feedback (recommended; could be less if consultants are available)	MTR team
18. Management Response	20 July 2022	1 month after the final report is issued	BH
19. Follow-up reporting in FAO PPR or GEF PIR	31 December 2022	Maximum 6 months after the MR is issued	BH

[16] Note that FAO rules require all travel authorization to be approved at least 15 days before travel.

Annexes

Annex 1: Documents to be provided to the MTR team ("project information package")

1. GEF PIF with technical clearance
2. Comments from the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) and GEF Council members on project design, plus FAO responses
3. FAO concept note and FAO Project Review Committee report
4. Request for GEF CEO endorsement
5. FAO–GEF project preparation grant document
6. GEF-approved project document and any updated approved document following the inception workshop, with latest budgets showing budget revisions
7. Project inception report
8. Six-monthly FAO PPRs
9. Annual work plans and budgets (including budget revisions)
10. All annual GEF PIR reports
11. All other monitoring reports prepared by the project
12. Documentation detailing any changes to the project framework or components, such as changes to originally designed outcomes and outputs
13. List of stakeholders
14. List of project sites and site location maps (for planning mission itineraries and fieldwork)
15. Execution agreements under OPIM and letters of agreement
16. Relevant technical, backstopping and project-supervision mission reports, including back-to-the-office reports by relevant project and FAO staff, including any reports on technical support provided by FAO headquarters or regional office staff
17. Minutes of the meetings of the PSC, FAO PTF and other relevant groups
18. Any ESS analysis and mitigation plans produced during the project design period and online records on FPMIS
19. Any awareness-raising and communications materials produced by the project, such as brochures, leaflets, presentations for meetings, project web address, etc.
20. FAO policy documents in relation to topics such as FAO Strategic Objectives and gender
21. Finalized GEF focal-area tracking tools at CEO endorsement, as well as updated tracking tools at mid-term for GEF-5 projects (and for GEF-6 and GEF-7 projects with Biodiversity Focal Area (BD) Objective 2 and management of protected areas) and/or review of contribution to GEF-7 core indicators (retrofitted) for GEF-6 projects, and GEF-7 core indicators for GEF-7-approved projects, as defined in the Core Indicators Worksheet (GEF, 2019a)
22. Financial management information, including an up-to-date co-financing table, a summary report on the project's financial management and expenditures to date, a summary of any financial revisions made to the project and their purpose, and copies of any completed audits for comment (as appropriate)
23. The GEF Gender Policy (GEF, 2017), GEF Gender Implementation Strategy (GEF, 2018a), GEF Guidance on Gender Equality (GEF, 2018b) and the GEF Guide to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Projects and Programmes (GEF, 2018c)

The following documents should also be made available to the MTR team on request or as required:

24. FAO Country Programme Framework documents, the FAO Guide to the Project Cycle (FAO, 2012b), FAO Environment and Social Management Guidelines (FAO, 2015), FAO Policy on Gender Equity, the Guide to Mainstreaming Gender in FAO's Project Cycle (FAO, 2017a) and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Manual (FAO, 2016)

Annex 2: Stakeholder roles and responsibilities for project outputs

Stakeholder type and name	Role in Project	Role in Project
Primary stakeholders		
Farmers	Participating in AP-FFSs and other farmer level activities, participating in community-level CCA committees and other fora, leadership in farmer organizations, uptake and upscaling of recommendations	Main project beneficiaries. Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.4: participate in Digital Green ICT system at AP/FFS level • Output 2.2: trained through AP/FFS • Output 2.3: involved in community seed banks, participate in diversity fairs • Output 2.4: involved in value chain development through AMFRI's training and contracting processes
Communities, Community Based Organizations (CBO)	Supporting communities to manage community level programs and projects, participate in planning and implementation of activities, liaison with supporting agencies and government	Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.2: Organize participatory focus groups at the community level to identify needs and priorities regarding agrobiodiversity conservation and enhancement. • Output 2.3: involved in the management of community seed banks and community nurseries, participate in diversity fairs • Output 3.5: participate in the preparation of the development of the land and management systems
Secondary Stakeholders		
FAO	Lead implementer with MAAIF, co-financing, technical support, monitoring and oversight through participation in the Project Steering Committee	Project implementing partner, together with MAAIF Member of the Project Steering Committee
MAAIF	Lead implementer together with FAO, Member of the Project Steering Committee, responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment, ensuring coordination and collaboration with all relevant government and non-government agencies in the sector Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) is responsible for coordination of public agricultural advisory and extension services	Government entity in charge of the overall implementation of the project, together with FAO Member of the Project Steering Committee Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.2: participate in the workshop at the national level to identify priorities and actions to implement for agrobiodiversity conservation and enhancement; and participate in the drafting of an action plan to restore project site's agrobiodiversity • Output 1.3 participate in workshop at the national level on the development of the CCAKB, and support the expansion of the CCAKB at the national level • Output 1.4: support the integration of Digital green ICT system into the CCAKB • Output 2.1: participate in the training of master trainers • Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3: involved in the development of gender responsive climate change mainstreamed FIPs and implementation strategies for the Water for Agricultural Production Policy, Agricultural Mechanization Policy and Gender Policy • Output 3.4: trained in gender and CCA issues • Output 3.5: involved in the development of the land and management systems • Output 3.6: involved in the study in barriers to local seed registration and distribution
NARO	Organizing and co-financing agricultural research activities in collaboration with private and international research centres, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, member of the Steering Committee	Member of the Steering Committee Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.1: research on natural resources, agrarian systems and land uses • Output 1.2: research on agrobiodiversity, together with Bioversity • Output 3.6: involved in the study in barriers to local seed registration and distribution
MWE, CCD	Member of the Project Steering Committee; responsible for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for natural resource management sectors; providing coordination and technical guidance in identifying priorities, developing and managing interventions on water management, agrobiodiversity, wetlands and aquatic resources, meteorology and climate change	Member of the Project Steering Committee Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.2: participate in the workshop at the national level to identify priorities and actions to implement for agrobiodiversity conservation and enhancement; and participate in the drafting of an action plan to restore project site's agrobiodiversity • Output 1.3 participate in workshop at the national level on the development of the CCAKB • Output 2.2: involved in investment pilots on water management practices • Output 3.5: involved in the development of the land and management systems
Tertiary stakeholders		
OPM	Member of the Project Steering Committee; participating in planning, monitoring, and dissemination of	• OPM is a member of the Project Steering Committee to maintain the link with NUSAF3 and DINU programmes

Stakeholder type and name	Role in Project	Role in Project
	information on progress and results	
Other ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Equal Opportunities Commission; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Works.	Participating in Project Steering Committee meetings on an-ad-hoc basis; utilization of project information and results	• Will be regularly informed of project progress • Can be invited on an ad-hoc basis to Project Steering Committee meetings
DLG under Ministry of Local Government	Participating in planning and implementation of activities, utilization of project information and results	Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.2: agricultural extension services trained in improving agricultural productivity with increased diversity • Output 1.3: take part in KMCT, participate in training on CCAKB • Output 1.4: Participate in Digital Green's trainings (video production, facilitation, data entry), participate in stakeholder workshop • Output 2.1: District extension services trained as AP/FFS facilitators • Output 2.2: Act as AP/FFS facilitators • Output 2.3: involved in the establishment of community seed banks, community nurseries, diversity fairs and district managed nurseries • Output 3.4: trained in gender and CCA issues • Output 3.5: involved in the development of the land and management systems
Bioversity	Participating in planning and implementation of research activities, seed banks, tree nurseries, diversity fairs; utilization of project information and results	Involved in the implementation of: • Output 1.2 (research on agrobiodiversity), together with NARO • Output 2.3: supporting the establishment of seed banks, tree nurseries and diversity fairs • Output 3.6: involved in the study in barriers to local seed registration and distribution
Digital Green	Participating in planning, development and implementation of an ICT system	Involved in the implementation of Output 1.4 for setting up an ICT system at AP/FFS-level
AMFRI Farms	Participating in planning and implementation of training and contracting farmers on high value markets	Involved in the implementation of Output 2.4 to train and contract farmers on high value markets
NGOs	Participating in planning and implementation of community level activities (AP/FFS activities as facilitators, seed banks, community nurseries, diversity fairs, land and management systems)	Can be involved in the implementation of: • Output 2.1: could be trained as AP/FFS facilitators • Output 2.3: could support the development of community seed banks, community nurseries, and diversity fairs • Output 3.5: could participate in the development of the land and management systems
Makerere University and Kyambogo University	Participating in planning and implementation of selected research activities, ensuring dissemination and application of agricultural research results to achieve project objectives, participating in developing and implementing the CCA Knowledge Base (CCAKB)	Involved in the implementation of; • Output 1.1: research on natural resources, agrarian systems and land uses • Output 1.2: research on agrobiodiversity, together with Bioversity • Output 1.3 participate in workshop at the national level on the development of the CCAKB, and support the expansion of the CCAKB at the national level • Output 3.5: could participate in the development of the land and management systems

Appendix 2. MTR itinerary, including field missions (agenda)

District Level Itinerary

Fieldwork			
Institution	Respondent	Designation	Date
Travel day to Katakwi and orientation of FGD facilitator and moderator			*8/8/22*
District Local Governments	Nuweabigaba John Patrick	CAO-Katakwi	9/8/22
Katakwi	Ekwith Emmanuel	District Natural Resource Officer	
Field Farmer School Facilitator, Katakwi			9/8/22
Local NGO			9/8/22
Beneficiary households FGDs (2)			9/8/22
Travel day to Kamuli and orientation of FGD facilitator and moderator			*10/8/22*
District Local Governments	Andrew Mawejje	CAO-Kamuli	11/8/22
Field Farmer School Facilitator, Kamuli			11/8/22
Local NGO			11/8/22
Beneficiary households FGDs (2)			11/8/22
Travel day to Nakasongola and orientation of FGD facilitator and moderator			11/8/22
District Local Governments	Alex Felix Majeme	CAO-Nakasongola	12/8/22
Field Farmer School Facilitator, Nakasongola			12/8/22
Local NGO			12/8/22
Beneficiary households FGDs (2)			12/8/22

Appendix 3. Stakeholders interviewed during the MTR

SN	First name	Last name	Position	Organization/location
1	Kennedy	Igbokwe	Assistant Team Leader Climate Change	FAO Uganda
2	Sheila	Kiconco	National Project Coordinator	FAO Uganda
3	Brenda	Piloya	Programme Officer-Field Coordinator	FAO Uganda
4	David	Ogwang	Programme Officer-Field Coordinator	FAO Uganda
5	Michael	Lokiru	Programme Officer-Field Coordinator	FAO Uganda
6	Rosemirta	Birungi	Value Chain Development Officer	FAO Uganda
7	Freddie	Kabango	Assistant Commissioner Department of Infrastructure, Mechanization and Water for Production,	MAAIF
8	Imelda	Kanzomba	Principal Agricultural Officer Kampala'	MAAIF
9	Stella	Tereka	Gender Associate Climate Change	FAO Uganda
10	James Lwasa	Lwasa	Research Associate	NARO
11	Agatha	Ayebazibwe	Communications	FAO Uganda
12	Emmanuel	Tenywa	Climate Change Officer Adaption	MWE-CC
13	Jozeph	Mudiope	Crop Production Specialist	FAO Uganda
14	Robert	Kalyebara	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist	FAO Uganda
13	Drake	Mubiru	Principal Research Officer, Soil	NARO
15	Dr. Revocatus	Twinomuhangi,	Senior Lecturer & Coordinator	Makerere University
16	Andrew	Kasibante	Agricultural Engineer	MAAIF
17	Paul	Emulia	Project Coordinator	FAO Uganda
18	Henry	Manyire	Senior Lecturer in the School of Women and Gender Studies	Makerere University
19	Denis	Mugagga	OFP	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
20	Emmanuel	Ziwwa	Project Coordinator ACREWE	FAO Uganda
21	Priya	Gujadhur,	Deputy County Representative	FAO Uganda
22	Bob	Natifu	Principal Climate Change Officer Outreach	MWE-CCD
23	Sarah	Murabi	UNDP Program Officer (Joint UNDP/FAO Project)	UNDP
24	Teodardo	Calles	LTO	FAO HQ
25	Mike	Elyau	Finance	FAO Uganda
26	Rose	Nankya	Project Manager, Uganda	Bioversity International (CIAT)
27	Stephen	Koma	District Administrations' Inspectorate	Ministry of Local Government
29	Antonio	Querido,	FAOR	FAO Uganda

District Level Key Stakeholders Interviewed				
1.	Elizabeth	Namanda	CAO	Luweero District
2.	Sarah	Nakalungi	CAO	Nakaseke District
3.	Edmond	Mpaata	Focal Point	Nakaseke District
4.	Medard	Kasanaensis Lunninze	Facilitator	IP Caritas Luweero and Caritas Nakaseke
5.	Anna	Ajwang	Watershed Coordinator Luweero	Caritas Kasanaensis
6.	Steven	Tebagalika	Facilitator Nakaseke	Caritas Kasanaensis
7.	Thomas	Orena	Watershed Coordinator Nakaseke	Caritas Kasanaensis
8.	Victoria	Nangobi	Facilitator	Buyende DFA
9.	Peter	Kiraire	Facilitator /Watershed Coordinator	Buyende DFA
10.	Godfrey	Ogwang Okello	CAO	Buyende District
11.	Abdu	Batambuze	CAO	Kayunga District
12.	Dorothy	Apiny	Facilitator	Kayunga FDA
13.	Martin	Musisi	Watershed Coordinator	Kayunga FDA
14.	David	Mugabi	DPO- /Focal Point	Kayunga District
15.	Brenda	Yariwo	Coordinator	Onc Acre Fund
16.	Edith	Nakate	PACAO	Nakasongola District
17.	Sarah	Nakamya	DPO-Nakasongola/ Focal Point	Nakasongola District
18.	Malisa	Mukanga	Country Manager	Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung Africa
19.	Victor	Komakech	Climate Change Coordinator Uganda	Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung Africa
20.	Andrew	Mawejje	CAO	Kamuli District
21.	Richard	Musenero	DPO-Kamuli/ Focal Point	Kamuli District
22.	Brenda	Yariwo	Coordinator	NGO Kamuli (One Acre Fund)
23.	Leonard	Tumusiime	CAO	Amudat District
24.	Newton	Amutale	District Natural Resource Officer	Amudat District
25.	Moses	Anyoule	Field Farmer School Facilitator	Amudat District
26.	Michael	Ngiro	Field Farmer School Facilitator	Napak
27.	Moses	Echat	CAO	Abim District
28.	Jino	Ogwang Owello	DPO	Abim District
29.	Denis	Okello Ayen	FFS Facilitator	Abim District
30.	James	Nangiro	District Forest Officer	Napak, Abim District
31.	John	Stephen Kasada	CAO	Kaberamaido District

32.	Charles	Okello	FFS Facilitator	Kaberamaido District
33.	Joseph	Agaja	District Fisheries Officer	Kaberamaido District
34.	Moses	Okim	Facilitator DAO/DFP	Amuria District
35.	Tonny	Egau	Field Farmer School	Amuria District
36.	Emmanuel	Ekwith	District Natural Resource Officer	Katakwi District

Appendix 4. MTR matrix (review questions and sub-questions)

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
Relevance					
To what extent is the project in line with national and local priorities, the FAO Country Programming Framework and GEF's Focal Area objectives??	*Alignment with national policies and local development plans*	*ProDoc, Inception Report, and AWPs, National strategies, regional development plans*	Comparative analysis		
	Alignment with GEF focal area outcomes and outputs	*GEF documents, ProDoc, PIRs*	*Comparative analysis*		
	Alignment with FAO Country Programming Framework	*FAO documents, ProDoc, Inception Report, PIRs*			
To what extent is the project in line with the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (local communities, men and women, and indigenous peoples, if relevant	*Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*FGDs, KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Has there been any change in relevance in the course of the project?	*Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Effectiveness					
Progress towards Outcomes Analysis:					
To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives? Are the logframe indicators met? If not then why? Are the targets from the GEF Tracking Tool met? If not why?	*Evidence of meeting the mid-term targets, evidence of concurrence of interviewee feedback on the factors*	*KIIs, PIRs, tracking tool*	*Triangulation, contribution analysis, "Progress towards results analysis"*		
What broader results (if any) has the project had at the regional and global level to date?	*Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, tracking tool*	*Triangulation*		
Were there any unintended consequences? Is there any evidence of environmental stress reduction (for example, in direct threats to biodiversity) or environmental status change (such as an improvement in the populations of target species), reflecting	*Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGDs*	*Triangulation, contribution analysis*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
global environmental benefits or any change in policy, legal or regulatory frameworks?					
Likelihood of impact					
Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards and the achievement of the project's longer-term objectives?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGD*	*Triangulation,*		
What can be done to increase the likelihood of positive impacts from the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGD*	*Triangulation,*		
To what extent can the progress towards long-term impacts be attributed to the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGD*	*Triangulation, contribution Analysis*		
What is the likelihood of the intended, positive impacts becoming a reality as defined in project objectives	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGD*	*Triangulation*		
Efficiency					
To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost-effectively? To what extent did the project deliver maximum results within given resources?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGDs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
To what extent has project management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
To what extent has the project built on existing agreements, initiatives, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other projects, partnerships, etc.	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
How has the project avoided duplication of similar activities by other groups and initiatives?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
How timely were the project deliverables? (Planned versus actual timelines)	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
What was the level of application of proper financial management standards and adherence to FAOs/GEFs financial management policies	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Sustainability					
What is the likelihood that the project results will be useful or persist after the end of the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents, FGDs*	*Triangulation*		
What are the key risks that may affect the sustainability of the project results and its benefits (financial, socioeconomic, institutional and governance, and environmental aspects)?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
What are the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the persistence of achieved direct outcomes (i.e., 'Assumptions' and 'drivers')? Some factors may be embedded in the project design and implementation approaches while others may be contextual circumstances or conditions that evolve over the life of the intervention).	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
What project results, lessons or experiences have been replicated (in different geographic areas) or scaled up (in the same geographic area, but on a larger scale funded by other sources)?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
What results, lessons or experiences are likely to be replicated or scaled up in the near future?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
5. Factors affecting progress (ratings required)					
Project design					

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
Is the project design suited to delivering the expected outcomes?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Is the project's causal logic (per its theory of change) coherent and clear?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
To what extent are the project's objectives and components clear, practical and feasible within the timeframe allowed?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
To what extent was gender integrated into the project's objectives and results framework? Were other actors - civil society, indigenous peoples or private sector – involved in project design or implementation and what was the effect on project results?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
How appropriate were the measures taken to either address weaknesses in the project design or respond to changes that took place between project approval, the securing of funds and project mobilisation?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback* *evidence from document review*	*KII, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Project execution and management					
To what extent did the executing agency effectively discharge its role and responsibilities in managing and administering the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents (PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
What have been the main challenges in terms of project management and administration?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents (PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
How well have risks been identified and managed?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents (PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
What changes are needed to improve delivery in the latter half of the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents (PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Financial management and co-financing					
What have been the financial-management challenges of the project?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, CDRs, Board meeting minutes*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
To what extent has pledged co-financing been delivered?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, CDRs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Has any additional leveraged co-financing been provided since implementation?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, CDRs, Board meeting minutes*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
How has any shortfall in co-financing or unexpected additional funding affected project results?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, CDRs, Board meeting minutes*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Project oversight, implementation role					
To what extent has FAO delivered oversight and supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) during project identification, formulation, approval, start-up and execution?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation,*		
Partnerships and stakeholder engagement					
To what extent have stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous populations, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities and the private sector, been involved in project formulation and implementation?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
What has been the effect of their involvement or non-involvement on project results?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes* *KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
How do the various stakeholder groups see their own engagement with the project?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
What are the mechanisms of their involvement and how could these be improved?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
What are the strengths and challenges of the project's partnerships?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Has the stakeholder engagement plan been adhered to and documented?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Have all stakeholders been made aware of the ESS plan and the grievance complaint mechanism?	concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
Communication and knowledge management					
How effective has the project been in communicating and promoting its key messages and results to partners, stakeholders and a general audience?	concurrence of interviewee feedback with evidence from document review; *evidence of appropriate feedback tools used*	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes, other documents KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
How can this be improved? How is the project assessing, documenting and sharing its results and lessons learned and experiences?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback with the evidence from document review*	*PIRs, Board meeting minutes, other documents KIIs*	*Triangulation, comparative analysis*		
To what extent are communication products and activities likely to support the sustainability and scaling up of project results?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback*	*Board meeting minutes, KIIs*	*Triangulation*		
M&E design					
Is the project's M&E system practical and sufficient?	*level of coherence between project objectives and outcomes, and resources*	*ProDoc, Inception report, KIIs, PIRs,*	*Triangulation*		
Are all the indicators SMART and appropriate for tracking deliverables?	*Evidence of the project logframe capturing key*	*ProDoc, Inception report, KIIs*	*Triangulation*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
	results at output and outcome level				
How has stakeholder engagement and gender assessment been integrated into the M&E system? How could this be improved?	*Evidence of the project targets being SMART*	*ProDoc, Inception report, PIRs*	*Triangulation*		
M&E implementation					
Does the project include an M&E plan that is designed to track progress against indicators towards the achievement of the project outputs and direct outcomes?	*level of coherence between project objectives and outcomes, and resources*	*ProDoc, Inception report, KIIs, PIRs,*	*Comparative analysis*		
Does the M&E system operate per the M&E plan?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Has the information been gathered in a systematic manner, using appropriate methodologies?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
To what extent has information generated by the M&E system during project implementation been used to adapt and improve project planning and execution, achieve outcomes and ensure sustainability?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Are there gender-disaggregated targets, indicators and data collection tools? How can the M&E system be improved? Are all the mandatory reports in place and were they submitted on time and in the right formants as per contractual terms?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
6. Cross-cutting priorities					
Gender and minority groups, including indigenous peoples, disadvantaged, vulnerable and people with disabilities	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
To what extent were gender considerations taken into account in designing and implementing the project?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Has the project been designed and implemented in a manner that ensures gender-equitable participation and benefits?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		

Review Question	Indicators	Sources	Methodology	Response / Finding	Opportunities for Improvement
Was a gender analysis done?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Environmental and Social Safeguards					
To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project (review the ESS risk classification and feedback on whether it is still valid)?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Has the project been implemented in a manner that ensures the ESS Mitigation Plan (if one exists) has been adhered to?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
COVID-19 impacts					
In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted progress and results of the project (delays, cancellation, etc.)?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents, FGDs*	*Triangulation*		
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected global economies, did this impact the project activities? if yes, what are the key impacts, who was affected, and to what extent?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
Given impacts from COVID -19, at this point in time, will all project activities be successfully completed by the current project end date, or will there be a need for adjustments (in time frame and/or targets)?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
What adaptive measures have been implemented (e.g., budget reallocations, timeline adjustment, etc.), and which are anticipated going forward to address COVID -19 impacts?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		
What kind of support can this project and its support partners (if any) provide to strengthen adaptation to COVID-19 impacts and challenges?	*concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review*	*KIIs, documents*	*Triangulation*		

Appendix 5. List of documents consulted ("Reference list")

FAO/PMU. 2019. CEO Endorsement Request

FAO/PMU. 2019. Project Document

FAO/PMU. 2019. Project Identification Form (PIF)

FAO/PMU. 2018. Communication plan and Sample of project communications materials

FAO/PMU. 2018. Co-financing data with expected and actual contributions broken down by type of co-financing, source, and whether the contribution is considered as investment mobilized or recurring expenditures

FAO/PMU. 2019. Final Project Document with all annexes

FAO/PMU. 2022. Financial data, including actual expenditures by project outcome, including management costs, and including documentation of any significant budget revisions

FAO/PMU. 2020. Project Inception report

FAO/PMU. 2022. Project Annual Work plan

FAO/PMU. 2022. List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Board members, RTA, Project Team members, and other partners to be consulted

FAO/PMU. 2021. Minutes of Project Steering Committee Meeting

FAO/PMU. 2020. Project Progress Reports

FAO/PMU. 2021. Project Progress Reports

FAO/PMU. 2020. Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)

FAO/PMU. 2021. Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)

FAO/PMU. 2022. Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)

FAO/PMU. 2019. Project Risk Log

FAO/PMU. 2022. Project Monitoring Tracking Tool

FAO/PMU. 2020. Joint MAAI and FAO supervision and Monitoring of the GEF Project Activities

FAO/PMU. 2020. Report of the Capacity Assessment for the 10 District Farmers Associations

UNDP. 2016. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2016-2020). https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-development-assistance-framework

FAO/PMU. 2015. Country Programming Framework (2015-2019)

FAO/PMU. 2020. Portfolio Review Matrix, Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production in Uganda

GEF. 2015. Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy

GEF. 2017. Stakeholder Engagement Policy

GEF. 2018. Gender Guidelines

GEF. 2012. Principled and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

GEF. 2018. Co-financing Policy

Global Forest Watch: Uganda Deforestation Rates & Statistics - https://www.globalforestwatch.org

Government of Uganda (2015) National Climate Change Policy

Government of Netherlands (2018): Climate Change Profile: Uganda https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/climate-change-profile-uganda

Katakwi District Agropastoral Farmers Association. 2021. Project Reports for Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production in Uganda (Jan-Dec 2021).

UNDP. 2018. Advancing on monitoring and evaluation for adaptation in the agriculture sectors

UNDP. 2017. Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP–Ag) Programme - Programme highlights 2015–2017 ()

WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal, https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/uganda

Appendix 6. Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations

As part of the assessment of the delivery of project outcomes and outputs, the MTR assesses progress made towards the mid-term project targets. Where mid-term targets are not given in the project logframe, assessment can be made against end-of-project targets. Assessment of progress should be colour-coded using a "traffic-light system", with a rating assigned to progress on each outcome (but not outputs) using the standard GEF six-point rating scale. Recommendations should be made for those areas marked as "not on target to be achieved" (red).

Progress-towards-results matrix showing the degree of achievement of project outcomes and outputs

Indicator assessment key

Green = Achieved	Yellow = On target to be achieved	Red = Not on target to be achieved

***** As presented in the results framework in the original project document or subsequently updated by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) at project inception
[2] If available [3] Use the six-point progress-towards-results rating scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, H[4] Outputs may not have indicators but should have targets and milestones e.g., two training workshops delivered by end of year

Project Strategy	**Indicators**17	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End-of-project Target**	**Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022**	**Achievement rating**	**Justification for rating**
Objective(s): To contribute to enhancing long-term environmental sustainability and resilience of food production systems in the Karamoja Sub-Region							
Outcome 1: Knowledge on CCA, natural resources, agrarian systems and agrobiodiversity produced and disseminated through an integrated knowledge sharing system to male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists, and institutions that support them (MAAIF, NARO, DLG, NGOs, CBOs, etc.) to ensure resilience	Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out AMAT Indicator 6	There is no in-depth understanding, based on scientific assessments, of the natural resources, the agrarian systems, gender dynamics, agrobiodiversity, and their ongoing transformation under the	Comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts of intervention Study on the agrarian systems in	Comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts of intervention Study on the agrarian systems in place	This outcome contributes to the following Global Environmental Benefits and socio-economic co-benefits - Biodiversity, - Climate Change Mitigation, - Land Degradation • A Letter of Agreement was signed with National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) to conduct a comprehensive study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts The following progress have been registered:	MS	• Delayed studies on soil • Delayed study on biodiversity • Delayed KM system related work Output 1.4. on Communication not started as yet

17 This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
		changing climate in the 13 districts. A CCAKB ICT system has been set up in 3 districts (Luweero, Nakaseke and Nakasongola) under the GCCA project. No ICT system is in place at the AP/FFS level to share knowledge amongst farmers.	place in the 13 districts Study on the gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use Assessment of agrobiodiversity in all project sites KMCT teams are in place in all project districts	in the 13 districts Study on the gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use practices Assessment of agrobiodiversity in the project sites CCAKB in place in all 13 districts, and set up at the national level The Digital green ICT system is used in 40 AP/FFS, and integrated in the CCAKB	○ Draft report with preliminary results from the desk review was submitted. The report has the following information: methodology, process of data collection, tools and data analysis on assessment and mapping of natural resources (water, forests and wetlands) and the main agrarian systems in the districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak. The field activities were largely limited by COVID-19 movement restrictions between 2021-2022. • Progress report on assessment and mapping was submitted. The following aspects have been registered in the progress report: - ✓ Forest assessment and mapping, including forest composition inventory in all the districts. ✓ Wetlands mapping: Data collection assessing the distribution and extent of wetlands, analysis, extraction and quantification of the wetland dynamics for all the districts. However, wetland maps and trends on land cover and land use change have only been developed for five districts, namely Buyende, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nakasongola and Kaberamaido. Developing of maps for other districts is ongoing. ✓ Water Resources Mapping: All the necessary data including secondary and interviews with Key Informants to generate the final water resources maps for all the districts was collected. ✓ Water availability and status in each of the 13 districts was assessed based on rainfall,		

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					runoff and hydrogeological characteristics of the sub catchments found within the study area. Ground water potential maps for Abim, Amudat, Napak, Kaberamaido and Amolatar were generated. Also, the average runoff depth for 36 years was computed for the different sub-catchments in the project area. Also, the rainfall time series data at monthly and annual time scales (1979-2013) were computed for the different sub catchments. However, the projected mean rainfall is yet to be computed. Similarly, ground water availability is as well as Flood hazard maps, and Drought risk maps are yet to be updated. Once these are computed, the final water resources maps will be generated. ✓ Agrarian systems study: Household surveys, Focus Group Discussions, Key Informants Interviews as well as Transect Walks for primary data and Desk review for secondary data were applied to collect qualitative and quantitative data in all the 13 districts for biophysical and socio-economic assessment of agrarian system. All the data were collected and datasets are available with NARO. Analysis is ongoing and preliminary findings for 3 districts i.e., Nakasongola, Luweero and Nakaseke were presented in the report. • A Letter of Agreement was signed with Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies, to conduct study on "Gender analysis to understand gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use in the Districts		

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak". The progress on this study is as follows: o Final report gender analysis of the dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use study was submitted with key recommendations areas to support development of district and community gender action plans. o The results from report will also inform framing of the activities and approach in outcome 3 of this project. • A Letter of Agreement was signed with Makerere University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (MAK-CAES) to develop an integrated knowledge management system to generate and disseminate information on climate risks and emerging adaptation options/best practices at district and national level. The following achievements have been registered: o Needs assessment report was prepared and the capacity needs for stakeholders identified to inform designing of enhanced toolkit and manuals. o Procurement ICT equipment to support the functioning of the knowledge management system is ongoing. o Identification of the needs for Setting and strengthening of district knowledge management and communication teams (KMCT)		

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					○ Consultations and validation of the proposed structure and components of the CCAKB ICT system • Digital Green Foundation turned down the offer to support the project. The PMU is thus sourcing for another potential service provider to support this component. • A Letter of Agreement was signed with Bioversity International in September 2021 to support the project to "Assess agrobiodiversity and develop action plans in the project sites selected in the Districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak". The progress is as follows: ○ Developed and presented detailed work plan and study methodologies on process of data collection, data collection tools, data analysis and budget, including relevant formats/protocols for agro biodiversity assessment. ○ An inception field visit was undertaken to all 13 districts targeted by the project. The visit enabled the following: i) BI staff met with and were introduced to the key partners of the GCP/UGA/043/LDF FAO project; ii) a clear understanding by BI of the project areas including target sub-counties, watersheds, and FFSs; iii) challenges encountered in each district; iv) awareness creation among the project partners on the importance of the assessment results; v) participatory selection of the target commodities and; vi) selection of District Agrobiodiversity Assessment Teams.		

Outcome 2 Farmers and agro-pastoralist households (of which 30 percent are female) adopt gender responsive improved climate resilient practices (agro ecological practices, improved soil, water, crop, varietal diversity, crop-associated biodiversity, livestock and ecosystem management practices, integrated pest management practices, etc.) through the AP/FFS approach	Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/ practices AMAT Indicator 4	<u>Land Management:</u> According to SHARP, 81 percent of the population assessed declared using at least one practice – with an average of two practices - to preserve the quality of the soil on their agricultural land About one-third of the population still practicing techniques that are harmful for the environment such as slash and burn <u>Pest Management</u> Only 65 percent of the people declared to have used any practice or technique to manage pest and diseases, of which 55 percent used synthetic pesticides (of which 66 percent never use protective gear) and 23 percent natural ones <u>Water Management:</u>	150 AP/FFS set up by project the 13 districts	300 AP/FFS in total set up by the project in the 13 districts with at least 30% female and 30% young (age 18-30) participants <u>Land management</u>: at least 90 percent of the AP/FFS participants (at least 30 percent of which are women) use at least 3 improved resilient land management practices <u>Pest management</u>: at least 70 percent of AP/FFS participants (at least 30 percent of which are women) use integrated pest management practices <u>Water management:</u> at least 90 percent of AP/FFS participants (at least 30 percent of which are women) use	This outcome contributes to the following Global Environmental Benefits and socio-economic co-benefits - Biodiversity, - Climate Change Mitigation, - Land Degradation The following achievements have been registered: • 360 new agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools have been established to promote climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices benefitting 7,800 vulnerable farmers, of which about 60 percent are women and 40 percent men. • 79 agro-pastoral (AP)/Farmer Field School (FFS)Facilitators and Coordinators trained in 13 districts Field Schools groups formulated have been trained and have participated **in establishing experiments on how to use climate resilient practices.** This has been done in the Field schools for each group. Although the learning process is well engaged, assessing the percentage progress on the utilization or adoption of the different targets at this stage in the project is not yet done. Tools have been developed to capture progress on utilization and adoption on the following practices; **Land management**: Agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups formulated have been able to participate in Climate Vulnerability assessment trainings which have helped them to identify at least 3 improved resilient land management practices. Farmer field schools through demonstrations were trained in technologies such as making compost manure to improve soil fertility, bio intensive gardening, and kitchen gardening and making liquid fertilizer.	S	• Target for FFSs surpassed • Satisfactory progress on the rest

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
		Two-thirds of the sampled households declared to have used at least one practice to preserve the water quantity in the past 12 months		improved water management practices	**Pest management:** Agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups have been trained in integrated pest management practices including pest identification, control and monitoring. Demonstrations and experiments on the field schools were established for specific crops on pest management technologies. Experimentation plots use of organic pesticides for the control of pest and diseases using locally available materials was demonstrated such as use of garlic, hot paper and neem leaves. **Water management**: Agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups have participated in assessment of watershed including delineation of the watersheds in each of the project areas. Templates for developing the micro watershed management plans have been shared. The agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools have been trained and given tools for selection and prioritising (1) Farm selection and management taking into account availability and quality of water; (2) Integrated crop management using conservation agriculture techniques to minimize the delivery and transport of agriculturally derived pollutants to surface water; (3) Soil protection by reducing soil erosion and improving infiltration; **(4)** Innovation to optimize water use and promote water use efficiency has been implemented. Agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools groups have participated in Household level water harvesting		

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					technologies for supporting agriculture activities such as contour bands, *zaipit*, stone line mulching and agroforestry. Adoption of this technology is being piloted among the youth who are harvesting water mainly for vegetable growing.		
Outcome 3 Increased institutional capacity of MAAIF and DLG to mainstream gender responsive CCA into Agriculture Sector and Districts Plans & implement CCA policies, strategies and programs, shifting from a reactive response to a pro-active preparedness approach.	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13	The GCCA project reviewed several policies, including the Water for Agricultural Production Policy, to evaluate how climate change issues are incorporated, identify gaps and define areas where climate change can be mainstreamed. The GCCA+ project will provide support to finalize the review process of the sectoral policies and develop policy recommendations . No framework implementation plan are developed for the Water for Agriculture	1 gender responsive FIP mainstreaming climate change developed for the Water for Agricultural Production Policy 1 gender responsive FIP mainstreaming climate change developed for the Agricultural Mechanization Policy 1 inclusive land and natural resources management system including gender and CCA considerations developed per district	FIP transformed into a strategy to implement the Water for Agricultural Production Policy, mainstreaming gender and climate change FIP transformed into a strategy to implement the Agricultural Mechanization Policy, mainstreaming gender and climate change Action plan developed to overcome barriers related to trading-in local variety seeds 1 inclusive land and natural resources management	As per work plan, the Terms of Reference for this outcome have been finalized and outsourcing for the implementing partner is ongoing. This planned implementation is scheduled for January 2023.	MU	• No progress for 4 Outputs: mainstreaming and identification of barriers for registration • Progress only for 1 Output

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
		Production Policy nor the Agricultural Mechanization Policy Policy barriers remains for trading-in local variety seeds No land and natural resources management systems - based on assessments of the natural resources, the agrarian systems, gender dynamics, agrobiodiversity, and their ongoing transformation under the changing climate – are in place in the 13 project districts.		system including gender and CCA considerations developed per district			
Outcome 4: Project Implementation based on results-based management and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated	Number and types of documents and tools developed to monitor and evaluate the project and share knowledge	N/A	M&E framework developed Mid-term evaluation conducted Project communication strategy in place and implemented	M&E framework developed Mid-term evaluation conducted Project communication strategy in place and implemented	M&E framework developed and reviewed Mid-term evaluation started on 20 June 2022 and ongoing. M&E Officer hired. The project monitoring and evaluation plan has been strengthened by generating relevant baseline data for indicators and approaches for measurement of indicators	**MS**	The MEL system while somewhat improved is still problematic in terms of implementation (links to communication, only one NSC meeting, progress reports not shared with

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
				Final evaluation conducted SHARP assessment conducted Document on project best practices and lessons learned developed Capitalization document on best practices and lessons learned from AP/FFS in Uganda	The PMU developed a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance. The monitoring and evaluation plan was developed through a review of logical framework and indicators. A Communications Strategy was developed and currently communication and awareness materials that have been developed include pull up banners, T-Shirts, bags and notebooks. The tools to guide documentation of best practices is have been developed for the different components.		the NSC members)
Outputs							
Outputs	**Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)**		**Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)**		**Main achievements**		
Output 1.1.1 Natural resources, agrarian systems and land uses are fully described in the 13 districts, and their transformation dynamic in a climate change context is understood.	Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out AMAT Indicator 6		-Progress Report on the study on natural resources and their evolution in a climate change context (mapping and assessment) in the 13 districts of intervention		Under NARO Letter of Agreement, draft report with preliminary results on the assessment and mapping of natural resources (water, forests and wetlands) and the main agrarian systems in the districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak However, the results for land resource assessment and mapping will be delivered in October 2022.		Soil study delayed

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
			-Progress report on the study on the agrarian systems in place in the 13 districts Final report on the Study on the gender dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use practices		Makerere University School of Gender submitted the final report gender analysis of the dynamics in the management of natural resources, agrarian systems and land use study was submitted with key recommendations areas to support development of district and community gender action plans. The results from report will also inform framing of the activities and approach in outcome 3 of this project. 70 percent achievement assessment by the project The implementation of this assignment is progressing well apart from one component on Land assessment and mapping which will be completed in October 2022.		
Output 1.1.2 Knowledge on agrobiodiversity is enhanced and disseminated to increase climate resilience	Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out AMAT Indicator 6		-Assessment of agrobiodiversity in the project sites in all 13 districts		• A Letter of Agreement was signed with Bioversity International in September 2021 to support the project to "Assess agrobiodiversity and develop action plans in the project sites selected in the Districts of Abim, Amolatar, Amudat, Amuria, Buyende, Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Katakwi, Kayunga, Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Napak". The progress is as follows: • Developed and presented detailed work plan and study methodologies, on process of data collection, data collection tools, data analysis and budget, including relevant formats/protocols for agro biodiversity assessment.		Delayed but started

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					• An inception field visit undertaken to all the 13 districts targeted by the project. The visit enabled the following: i) BI staff met with and were introduced to the key partners of the GCP/UGA/043/LDF FAO project; ii) A clear understanding by BI of the project areas including target sub-counties, watersheds, and FFSs; iii) Challenges encountered in each district; iv) Awareness creation among the project partners on the importance of the assessment results; v) Participatory selection of the target commodities and; vi) Selection of District Agrobiodiversity Assessment Teams • The information generated will inform the CCAKB system 40 percent Implementation of this Letter of Agreement under Biodiversity is progressing well since its inception in September 2021.		
Output 1.13 An integrated system to generate and disseminate knowledge on climate risks and emerging adaptation options/best practices is developed at both district level and national level	Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out AMAT Indicator 6		-Assessment of agrobiodiversity in the project sites CCAKB in place in all 13 districts -Assessment of the project sites for CCAKB in place in all 13 districts and at the national level -Procurement requirements for ICT		Makerere University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (MAK-CAES) conducted assessment and developed a needs assessment report to inform designing of enhanced toolkit and manuals. ○ Needs assessment report was prepared and the capacity needs for stakeholders identified to inform designing of enhanced toolkit and manuals. ○ Procurement ICT equipment to support the functioning of the knowledge management system is ongoing. ○ Identification of the needs for Setting and strengthening of district knowledge management and communication teams (KMCT)		delivered

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
			equipment to support the functioning of the knowledge management system is in procurement process.		Consultations and validation of the proposed structure and components of the CCAKB ICT system at national level conducted 40 percent-achievement assessment by the project The needs assessment (at national and district levels) was delivered		
Output 1.1.4 An ICT system is developed to share knowledge across 2 districts and 40 AP/FFS amongst farmers and agro-pastoralists on CCA best practices to increase their resilience to climate change	Number of relevant assessments/ knowledge products and systems carried out AMAT Indicator 6		-Procurement of the new service provider to replace Digital green ICT system is used in 40 AP/FFS, and integrated in the CCAKB		Digital Green Foundation turned down the offer. The project management unit is sourcing for another potential service provider to support this component. The ToRs reviewed to be based on the current implementation of the ongoing related activities. 5 percent achievement assessment by the project Fast tracking the process of getting another service provider in on going and hope to finalise this process by June 2022		No progress as yet
Output 2.1.1 A core group of 40 master trainers and 120 AP/FFS facilitators trained in gender responsive CCA and SLM practices	Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/ practices AMAT Indicator 4 Population benefiting from the adoption of diversified		40 AP/FFS set up and trained by project the 13 districts 120 AP/FFS facilitators trained in gender responsive CCA		In total, 79 Agro-Pastoral (AP)/Farmer Field School (FFS) Facilitators and Coordinators trained by December 2021 50 percent Training of Master trainers to be informed by the studies to be conducted under Bioversity International work Tools on the needs assessment are also under development		Good progress

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
	climate-resilient livelihood options AMAT Indicator 3		and SLM practices				
Output 2.1.2 7,500 famers and agro-pastoralists in the cattle corridor trained on gender responsive CCA/SLM through AP/FFS high value markets	Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/ practices AMAT Indicator 4 Population benefiting from the adoption of diversified climate-resilient livelihood options AMAT Indicator 3		300 AP/FFS in total set up by the project in the 13 districts with at least 30 percent female and 30 percent young (age 18-30) participants at least all participants trained 20 AP/FFS are selected for value chain development		• 360 new agro-pastoral/Farmer Field Schools have been established to promote climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices benefitting 7,800 vulnerable farmers, of which about 60 percent are women and 40 percent men. • 20 AP/FFS are selected for value chain development All the 13 districts have IPs with Letters of Agreement signed, although some implementation has just started		Good progress
Output 2.1.3 Seed banks, 4 community tree nurseries, 13 district tree nurseries and 13 diversity fairs are set up to support smallholder male and female farmers in the diversification of their crop and fruit tree production	Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/ practices AMAT Indicator 4 Population benefiting from the adoption of diversified climate-resilient livelihood options AMAT Indicator 3		Assessment of the locations for establishment of 4 community tree nurseries, 13 district tree nurseries and 13 diversity fairs are set up to support smallholder male and female farmers		Draft selection criteria were developed in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders A field visit was conducted to sensitize beneficiaries and stakeholders about the agroforestry intervention and finalize the selection criteria A preliminary selection of sites was conducted and hosts for tree nurseries were identified by the IPs working closely with district forest officers CA field verification visit was conducted to confirm selected tree nursery sites and agroforestry tree/systems. A practical training on tree nursery establishment and management was conducted		Delayed but progressing

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
					70 percent achievement assessment by the project The work plan for the agroforestry officer will be informed by the initial activities being implemented by Bioversity International		
Output 2.1.4 500 male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists are involved in sustainable production and export opportunities to access	Extent of adoption of climate-resilient technologies/ practices AMAT Indicator 4 Population benefiting from the adoption of diversified climate-resilient livelihood options AMAT Indicator 3		300 male and female farmers and agro-pastoralists are involved.		The integrated framework for climate adaptation, development of priority commodities has been achieved 70 percent Undertaking commodity value chain assessments and mapping at community level in 13 districts of Uganda's cattle corridor has identified those who will participate in selling and the other end of value chain including certification		Progressing
Output 3.1.1 Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Water for Agriculture Production Policy	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		Terms of reference finalized and implementing partner identified		The ToRs have been finalized and the project management team is working on the process for hiring the service provider for this output by June 2022. The ToRs have been submitted to Procurement for further processing. 5 percent-achievement assessment by the project The service provider to be recruited by December 2022. Implementation will start in January 2023		Not started yet, while there is mid-term target

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
Output 3.1.2 Gender and CCA mainstreamed into the Agricultural Mechanization Policy	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		Terms of reference finalized and implementing partner identified		The ToRs have been finalized and submitted to Procurement for further processing The service provider to be recruited by December 2022. Implementation will start in January 2023		Not started yet, while there is mid-term target
Output 3.1.3 CCA mainstreamed in the Gender Policy	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		Terms of reference finalized and implementing partner identified		The ToRs have been finalized and the project management team is working on the process for hiring the service provider for this output by December 2022. The ToRs have been submitted to Procurement for further processing. The service provider to be recruited by December 2022. Implementation will start in January 2023.		Not started yet, while there is mid-term target
Output 3.1.4 Institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans		Terms of reference		The ToRs have been finalized.		Not started yet, while there is mid-term target

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
built at central, regional and district levels	and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		finalized and implementing partner identified		The service provider to be recruited by December 2022. Implementation will start in January 2023.		
Output 3.1.5 Gender and CCA integrated into an effective sub-catchment management system in 13 districts for the sustainable use of land and natural resources	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		Terms of reference finalized and implementing partner identified		Final report was submitted in December 2021. Final report was submitted in December 2021 with actionable recommendations for this output. 100 percent achievement assessment by the project Actionable recommendations to be utilised in outcome 3. 5 percent-achievement assessment by the project The service provider identified under outcome 3 will support implementation of this output starting January 2023.		delivered

Project Strategy	Indicators17	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress since project start-Level at 30 June 2022	Achievement rating	Justification for rating
Output 3.1.6 Barriers to registration of local/farmers crop varieties on the Uganda National Register of Varieties understood	Regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 12 Sub-national plans and processes developed and strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures AMAT Indicator 13		Terms of reference finalized and implementing partner identified		This is planned for 2023 (Terms of Reference in Progress) 5percent-achievement assessment by the project		Not started yet, while there is mid-term target
Output 4.1.1 Project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcomes and output targets	Number and types of documents and tools developed to monitor and evaluate the project and share knowledge		At least mid-term review conducted		Project Mid-Term review preparation are under way expected to take place starting June 2022 80 percent-achievement assessment y the project The Project Management Unit formalized during FAO-MAAIF Technical Meeting. MAAIF Monitoring & Supervisory work plan for 2022 shared Quarterly monitoring by MAAIF on going	S	
Output 4.1.2 Project-related "best-practices" and "lessons learned" disseminated	Number and types of documents and tools developed to monitor and evaluate the project and share knowledge		At least 2 types of documents and tools developed to monitor activities		Activity level monitoring tool developed Draft Communication Strategy developed The TOR for documentation of best practices is under preparation 90 percent		

Appendix 7. Co-financing table

Name of co- financer	Type of co-financing[6]	Amount confirmed at CEO endorsement/ approval	Actual amount materialized as of (date of MTR)		Actual amount materialized at mid- term or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project	
		In kind (USD)	In-kind (USD)	Cash	In-kind (USD)		In-Kind (USD)
Ngetta ZARDI	• Ngetta ZARDI scientists, technicians and support staff who will be engaged in the project are permanent staff and will not receive salary from the GEF project since they are paid by the Organization • The institute has a fleet of 8 double cabin pick-ups which can be used in implementation of GEF project activities (only service and fueling will be needed) • Office space for staff, IT equipment and utilities • The institute has several investments in pasture seed production and demonstration fields both on station and with farming communities in Amolatar, which was used by the GEF project in production of more improved seed, livestock multiplication and demonstration.	1 310 000	917 000		917 000		1 310 000
Buginyanya ZARDI	• BugiZArDI Scientists, technicians and support staff who are engaged in the project are permanent staff and do not receive salary from GEF project • Vehicles (only fuel and service repair needed from the project) • Office space and utilities (IT equipment). • Investments in seed production and demonstrations fields on station which the project uses in production of more improved seed, livestock multiplication and demonstrations	868 000	478 563		478 563		868 000
NaLIRRI	• NaLIRRI scientists, technicians and support staff whose expertise will be needed for the • Successful implementation of the GEF project, as well institute facilities and vehicles will be available for the success of the project. The total value of co-financing from NaLIRRI, which includes institute facilities, vehicles, and staff.	5 000 000	5 000 000		5 000 000		5 000 000
NARO-NARL	• NARL Scientists, technicians and support staff who are engaged in the project are permanent staff and do not receive salary from GEF project • 2 Vehicles (only fuel)	2 250 000	1 575 000		1 575 000		2 250 000

Name of co- financier	Type of co-financing[6]	Amount confirmed at CEO endorsement/ approval	Actual amount materialized as of (date of MTR)		Actual amount materialized at mid- term or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)		Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
		In kind (USD)	**In-kind (USD)**	**Cash**	**In-kind (USD)**		In-Kind (USD)
	• Office space and utilities (IT equipment)						
Ministry of Local Government	• Staff time from the Ministry, District and sub-county from the 13 districts and 24 sub-counties; and • Ministry vehicles and vehicles at district level; and • Office space and utilities.	11 250 000	7 875 000		7 875 000		11 250 000
FAO_ GCCA+	• The ongoing GCCA+ project • Payment for office space, utilities and staff in Luweero sub-regional office, which oversees and monitors GEF/LDF project activities in the districts of Luweero, Nakaseke and Kayunga, • Procured two vehicles used jointly in the two projects and constructed valley tanks in Luweero and Nakaseke where beneficiary communities are supported by GEF/LDF in climate resilient agriculture interventions and water use.	4 645 500	3 251 850		3 251 850		4 645 500
FAO-CRWEE	• The ongoing CRWEE project • Pays for office space and utilities for the Moroto sub-regional office, staff salaries under for staff who provide planning, training partners and monitoring of GEF/LDF activities. Bought two vehicles used for monitoring activities in Karamoja. • The project partners benefit from capacity development trainings in climate change and watershed management.	4 484 224	3 138 956		3 138 956		4 484 224
FAO- UKAID	• 3 cars and 14 motorbikes from UKAID-funded project for the Karamoja region. • Vehicle for monitoring project activities in Karamoja, • Production assets established in communities such as water infrastructures from which the GEF/LDF project and farmer field schools established.	150 000	300 000		300 000		150 000
	Sub Total from - FAO	**9 279 724**	**6 690 806**		**6 690 806**		**9 279 724**
	Sub Total - from other partners	**20 678 000**	**15 845 563**	**-**	**15 845 563**	**-**	**20 678 000**
	Total	**29 957 724**	**22 536 369**		**22 536 369**		**29 957 724**

[5] Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

[6] Grants, loans, equity participation by beneficiaries (individuals) in the form of cash, guarantees, in kind or material contributions and other (please explain).

[7] The type of co-financing whether cash or in-kind should be indicated separately

Appendix 8. GEF evaluation criteria rating table and rating scheme

Most criteria will be rated on a six-point scale, as follows: highly satisfactory (HS); satisfactory (S); moderately satisfactory (MS); moderately unsatisfactory (MU); unsatisfactory (U); highly unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and the likelihood of impact are rated from likely (L) down to highly unlikely (HU). Explanations as to how to rate the criteria of effectiveness, sustainability and factors affecting performance can be found in the corresponding sections.

MTR ratings and achievements summary table

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	Highly relevant to country needs and programs, FAO and UN programming, GEF priorities, and complementary to existing initiatives.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	Aligned with FAO strategic priorities, FAO Uganda County policy Frameworks, as well as GEF strategic priorities.
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	Highly relevant to the national, regional and global priorities with the impacts of climate change worsening. The choice of the cattle corridor as the target territory is highly relevant too.
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	S	Complementary to existing initiatives - to FAO-implemented programs, and the programs of other development partners, e.g. the EU, the WB and the IFAD.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	MS	Good progress, especially in the light of COVID, but the performance affected by internal factors too.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	MS	Good progress overall, but no progress for 6 outputs, 5 under Outcome 3.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	MS	Good progress overall but uneven.
- Outcome 1	MS	Good progress but targets delayed for the climate change studies for districts and the study on biodiversity with action plans. And no progress for "An ICT system for KM
- Outcome 2	S	Midterm target surpassed with 360 FFSs instead of 150.
- Outcome 3	MU	Only one (1) of the midterm targets achieved (gender and climate change adaptation mainstreamed in catchment plans). For the rest, no progress (3 outputs related to mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and gender into policies; an output related to institutional capacities on gender and CCA in the agriculture sector built at central, regional and district levels; and the output on "Barriers to registration of local/farmers crop varieties on the Uganda National Register of Varieties understood").
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	MS	Good progress with some anecdotal evidence emerging on the adoption of new practices by the farmers. However, the project not yet tracking adoption rates (an outcome survey expected in December 2022).
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Not rated at MTR	
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	MS	Delays due to COVID and elections, but also for internal reasons. Perceptions both in favour of rating it cost effective (e.g., due to using community structures) and the opposite (related to vast training needs for the facilitators).

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Overall, risks to sustainability are moderately likely.
D1.1. Financial risks	L	State programs without committed budgets (e.g., on watershed management), rising fuel costs, expensive activities like tree planting, seeds production. DFAs likely not able to continue to provide training in the absence of external funding, but the SLAs help the FFSs to sustain efforts.
D1.2. Socio-political risks	ML	Strong socio-political support reported among leaders at the district and community level -embracing and lobbying for scaling up the FFS approach across other sub-counties and as an approach to the district extension services. The communities embraced the acquired knowledge and adopted good practices- such as energy-saving stoves, water retention ridges, re-afforestation, Pasteur gardens and alternative sources of income.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Most FFSs likely to be sustainable. Also close engagement with district and local governments, with focal points being the staff from these bodies point to moderate institutional and governance risks.
D1.4. Environmental risks	L	Environmental risks are likely, due to significant and growing threats from climate change, addressing of which requires commitment of vast state resources. The insufficient enforcement of laws against the growing deforestation and wetland encroachment also contributed to this rating.
D2. Catalysis and replication	S	Anecdotal evidence suggests that (a) the model of FFSs is being picked up and replicated by the farmers themselves when they are not involved in the project supported FFSs; and (b) the benefits of the new agricultural practices are being passed on to the farmers not part of the FFSs by word-of -mouth.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness[12]	S	Overall sound design (FFS model, good presence in the field, close engagement with district administrations), but overly ambitious. Did not have the idea of the SLAs in the design. There are too many Implementing Partners (IPs), more focus was needed on the availability of irrigation water, and on involving marginalized and on male engagement.
E2. Quality of project implementation	MS	Satisfactory implementation by FAO and moderately unsatisfactory project oversight.
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	S	The delivery by FAO of oversight, supervision and backstopping services was satisfactory. However, there could be more engagement with the technical staff at FAO HQ and regional centers to boost innovation in the project, rather than just get approvals. Also, the NPC was hired with a significant delay, which affected the performance of the project.
E2.1 Project oversight (NSC, project working group, etc.)	MU	Only one NSC so far. Progress reports not sent to NSC members, only one monitoring visit by NSC members so far. However, some improvements recently with district level monitoring committees formed.
E3. Quality of project execution	MS	The project has strong support from the district administrations. As for the MAAIF at the national level, while the national ownership could not be questioned, there seemed to be an issue with not finding sufficient time for timely assurance that the milestones are met and NSC meets regularly.
E3.1 Project execution and management (PMU and executing partner performance, administration, staffing, etc.)	MS	The PMU has become more active with the NPC hired, with quick closing of the gaps caused by COVID and elections locally, but not so centrally. The PMU would benefit from better planning, better and timely identification of risks and mitigation, but its operation was also clearly affected however by understaffing.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	S	No divergence from the approved funding (budget lines). Co-financing progressing as planned but with the speed dictated by programmatic progress.
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	MS	While the project engages overall well with the stakeholders at the local level, its engagement with the policy departments of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), MoLG and NEMA could be stronger. At the local level, the project engaged well with the technical staff of the district governments, but not much so with the political wing and other IPs working in the same technical

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
		areas.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	MU	(1) Very little progress with the implementation of the Communication Plan, (2) While the project is putting in place the nationwide system for KM, the immediate need to share good practices among districts and country-wide is largely not met yet,
E7. Overall quality of M&E	MS	Marginally Satisfactory in the light of the Moderately Unsatisfactory M&E design and Moderately Satisfactory M&E plan implementation.
E7.1 M&E design	MU	Outputs without targets; no mechanism per design to capture outcome targets, no system for regular collection of the results per indicators.
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	MS	There were improvements after hiring the new M&E officer, including (a) FAO Uganda-wide system for recording the progress of projects along the indicators; (b) planned outcome survey in December 2022 and (c) District level Monitoring Committees instituted. But the FAO Uganda M&E unit is understaffed and doubtful if individual each project receives the needed support.
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	MS	Moderately Satisfactory in the light of the ratings above.
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	S	Women (the vast majority of FFS members) receptive to new knowledge and applying it, earning (more) money and more empowered to make decisions on how to spend but this would have benefitted from a deliberate effort to involve both males and females. A more explicit focus on engaging the disadvantaged, and marginalized residents was needed Policy level engagement is progressing well to support development of district and community gender action plans.
F2. Human rights issues	S	Decent work embedded and no infringements on human rights (including those of indigenous people). However, there is evidence of growing incidences of hunger in Karamoja region with anecdotal evidence suggesting that at times there could be farmers too hungry to have the energy to engage with project activities: perhaps the project needs to consider funding some food relief items.
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	S	The initial assessment of environmental and social risks was adequate. Since the project was rated as Low risk, the project does not have to regularly update it. There was evidence of environmental and social benefits.
Overall project rating	**MS**	Moderately Satisfactory in the light of the ratings above

Ratings for specific criteria

Rating	Description
Highly satisfactory (HS)	*Level of outcomes achieved clearly exceeds expectations and/or there were no shortcomings*
Satisfactory (S)	*Level of outcomes achieved was as expected and/or there were no or minor shortcomings*
Moderately satisfactory (MS)	*Level of outcomes achieved more or less as expected and/or there were moderate shortcomings*
Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)	*Level of outcomes achieved somewhat lower than expected and/or there were significant shortcomings*
Unsatisfactory (U)	*Level of outcomes achieved substantially lower than expected and/or there were major shortcomings*
Highly unsatisfactory (HU)	*Only a negligible level of outcomes achieved and/or there were severe shortcomings*

Unable to assess (UA)	*The available information does not allow an assessment of the level of outcome achievements*

Source: GEF (2017c)

Ratings for factors affecting performance (assess each element separately; M&E is treated differently)

Rating	Description
Highly satisfactory (HS)	There were no shortcomings and quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management and results exceeded expectations.
Satisfactory (S)	There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management and results meet expectations.
Moderately satisfactory (MS)	There were some shortcomings and quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management and results more or less meet expectations.
Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)	There were significant shortcomings and quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management and results were somewhat lower than expected.
Unsatisfactory (U)	There were major shortcomings and quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management and results were substantially lower than expected.
Highly unsatisfactory (HU)	There were severe shortcomings in quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management.
Unable to assess (UA)	The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of design and readiness/project implementation/project execution/co-financing/partnerships and stakeholder engagement/communication and knowledge management.

[13] See further information on GEF rating scales in Annex 2: Rating scales in GEF (2017c).

Ratings for monitoring and evaluation design or implementation

Rating	Description
Highly satisfactory (HS)	There were no shortcomings and quality of M&E design or M&E implementation exceeded expectations.
Satisfactory (S)	There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of M&E design or M&E implementation meets expectations.
Moderately satisfactory (MS)	There were some shortcomings and quality of M&E design or M&E implementation more or less meets expectations.
Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)	There were significant shortcomings and quality of M&E design or M&E implementation somewhat lower than expected.
Unsatisfactory (U)	There were major shortcomings and quality of M&E design or M&E implementation substantially lower than expected.
Highly unsatisfactory (HU)	There were severe shortcomings in M&E design or M&E implementation.
Unable to assess (UA)	The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of M&E design or M&E implementation.

Rating	Description
Likely (L)	There is little or no risk to sustainability.
Moderately likely (ML)	There are moderate risks to sustainability.
Moderately unlikely (MU)	There are significant risks to sustainability.
Unlikely (U)	There are severe risks to sustainability.
Unable to assess (UA)	Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability.

Appendix 9. Other supporting material

Planned Vs achieved synergies

Project	Description	Funders and Implementers	Expected synergy	Factual Synergy at mid-term
Baseline initiatives				
Global Climate Chance Alliance Plus (GCCA+): Scaling up Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change in Uganda.	This 8,000,000 EUR project is the second phase of the GCCA project in Uganda. It is a five-year project to be implemented from December 2017 to December 2022 in nine districts of the cattle corridor in Uganda (**Nakasongola**, **Luweero**, **Nakaseke**, Mubende, Kiboga, Sembabule, Kalungu, Gomba, and Lyantonde). The wider objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable and gender transformative improvement of resilient livelihoods and food security for rural populations in Uganda. The specific objective is to strengthen the inclusive and gender responsive resilience to climate change, of rural populations and agricultural production systems in the central cattle corridor. The project is managed by FAO, and the MWE is responsible for its supervision. The Climate Change Department and Water for Production Department, MAAIF, Ministry of Local Government, MGLSD, and selected Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local actors are beneficiaries and can also in some instances be intermediary implementing partners.	Implementer: FAO	The GCCA+ project overlaps with the proposed LDCF project in three districts, which will create opportunities for synergies,	Coordination, joint training of facilitators
Climate Resilient Livelihood Opportunities for Women Economic Empowerment (CRWEE) in Karamoja and West Nile Regions of Uganda	This five-year project is funded by the Swedish Government – through a USD 9,283,713 budget -over the period from July 2018 to July 2023. It operates in eight districts in the West Nile sub-region (Arua, Adjumani, Zombo, Yumbe, Koboko, Nebbi, Maracha, and Moyo) and 4 in Karamoja sub region (**Abim**, **Napak**,	Implementer: FAO	There is therefore a geographic overlap with the proposed GEF project in Abim and Napak districts	Coordination, joint training of facilitators

Project	Description	Funders and Implementers	Expected synergy	Factual Synergy at mid-term
This five-year project is funded by the Swedish Government – through a USD 9,283,713 budget - over the period from July 2018 to July 2023	Nakapiripirit, and Moroto). The main goal of the project is "to contribute to economic empowerment of women and eradication of feminized poverty in Karamoja and West Nile Regions of Uganda", with the overall objective: "to strengthen inclusive, gender responsive and climate smart resilience of rural women populations depending on agricultural production systems in Karamoja and West Nile Regions".			
National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) of Uganda	NARO is the organization in charge of guiding and coordinating all agricultural research activity in the national agricultural research system in Uganda. NARO works on agricultural applied research, making the link with CCA. NARO is also currently working closely with Bioversity, an international organization that delivers research-based evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural and tree biodiversity. NARO currently have Zone Agricultural Research and Development Institutes (ZARDI), in particular in Buginyanya, Nabuin and Ngetta, in the proposed project intervention areas. In addition, NARO comprises the National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NaLIRRI).	• Buginyanya ZARDI: the institute has ongoing investment in seed production and demonstration fields on station which will be used by the proposed project for seed production and multiplication purposes; • Nabuin ZARDI: the institute has several investments in seed production and demonstration fields both on station and with farming communities. The institutes support 600 host farmers demonstrating climate resilient technologies, drought tolerant pasture and crop demonstration and crop demonstration and multiplication, water harvesting and irrigation structures, with which the proposed project will create synergies and complementarities; • Ngetta ZARDI: the institute has several investments in pasture seed production and demonstration fields both on station and with farming communities in Amolatar which will be used by the proposed for seed production and multiplication purposes. • NaLIRRI: the institute has four programs which will complement the proposed project: the Livestock Nutrition Research Program, Livestock Health Program, Livestock Breeding Research Program and Apiculture Research Program; which are currently executing research and development projects in different parts of the country including in the 13 districts of intervention of the proposed project. In addition, NaLIRRI has recently constructed modern	build on the work of these four institutes that will provide co-financing to the project.	Basic level of cooperation to date

Project	Description	Funders and Implementers	Expected synergy	Factual Synergy at mid-term
		dairy research and production facility which comprises of feed processing unit, biogas production and packaging unit, cattle rearing pens, extensive forage production fields, dairy farm machinery workshop and milk processing plant. The facility shall offer a platform for instructional training and skilling of stakeholders along the dairy value chain. Prospecting dairy farmers in the proposed project districts may access training on dairy husbandry, production, utilization of drought tolerant forages and labour-saving technologies in conservation of forages for dry season use.		
Non baseline				
Agrobiodiversity and landscape restoration for food security and nutrition in East Africa	The overall goal of the project is to contribute to landscape restoration by harnessing ecologically suitable food tree and crop portfolios in ways that enhance livelihood and landscape resilience while addressing food insecurity and improving nutrition.	The project is funded by IFAD and implemented by Bioversity International in partnership with the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), NARO (the Plant Genetic Resources Center) and Local Government; in Nakaseke district, Nakaseke sub-county and Nakasongola district in Wabinyonyi and Kakooge sub-counties.	LDCF project will build upon this project by promoting agrobiodiversity through various activities, as described in detail in 1.3.2.	The planned synergy did not materialize as yet
Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Farmers' Food Security	The intervention strategy focuses on the following general actions: • Integrate local seed producers and local varieties into national seed systems by making use of the flexibilities provided by existing seed policies and laws, or by creating such flexibilities; • Spread knowledge on the status and value of target crops' diversity and continue to induce public policy recognition and market demand for local varieties of these crops; • Ensure sustainable supply of good quality source or foundation seed of local varieties to target local seed producers; • Build the capacities of target seed producer groups (including community seedbanks and cooperatives) for them to be able to sustainably operate as small seed businesses; and	Swiss Agency for International Development and Implemented by Bioversity in partnership with NARO (Plant Genetic Resources Center) in Nakaseke sub-county of Nakaseke district and other districts outside the cattle corridor.	LDCF project will build upon this project and will closely follow and consider the lessons learned and best practices identified as it will work in close collaboration with NARO and Bioversity as well.	The planned synergy did not materialize as yet

Project	Description	Funders and Implementers	Expected synergy	Factual Synergy at mid-term
	• Enhance connections among seed producer groups themselves and among seed producers and seed sellers and consumers, including the municipalities and district agencies as seed distributors.			
Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)	The general objective of the programme is to consolidate stability in Northern Uganda, eradicate poverty and under-nutrition, and strengthen the foundations for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development. Under this general objective,	11th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union and implemented over the 2014-2020 period in the following region of Northern Uganda: Karamoja, Lango, West Nile, Acholi and Teso. The project is implemented under indirect management with several co- financing partners, as well as under indirect management with the government of Uganda with the Ministry of Finance and economic Development being the contracting authority, and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) acting as the programme supervisor.	The operational area of DINU comprises 33 districts, of which Amolatar, Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Napak, and Amudat are also covered by the proposed project. The total cost of the project amounts to EUR 150 632 542. The expectation was to build upon this project and closely follow and consider lessons learned and best practices identified, especially in terms of food diversification and market accessibility in the district of intervention overlapping between the two projects.	Coordination
Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF3)	The project's development objective is "to provide income support to and build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda".. The project comprises the following components: • *Component 1: Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPBW) and Disaster Risks Financing* • *Component 2: Livelihood Investment Support* • *Component 3: Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Anti-corruption* • *Component 4: Safety Net Mechanisms and Project Management*	World Bank loan and implemented by the OPM and the Inspector of Government in 56 Northern Uganda Districts over the 2016-2020 period	LDCF project will build upon the lessons learned and best practices identified through the implementation of the NUSAF3 project, in particular regarding the construction of soil and water conservation infrastructures, environmental rehabilitation, and sustainable agriculture activities.	